

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



August 2026
No. 557

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Editorial

Well, it's August and the busiest month of the year on the Isle of Wedmore, although a number of clubs and societies take a summer break, so please check their listings in this issue. To entertain the kids, don't forget to register for the children's tennis clubs and Bumblesnouts. I also hope you have your tickets for the wonderful Harvest Homes across the area. There are also some interesting charity events including an open garden and supper in the orchard.

Please don't forget to register for the Wedmore in Focus photographic competition and get your entries in. Even if you don't enter, then please get down to St Mary's over the Bank Holiday Weekend to view the entries and vote for a 'people's choice' award.

Finally, scrape the rust and mud off your bike and get yourself entered for the Wedmore 40/30. This event goes from strength to strength each year and there are classes for all levels of cyclist.

I hope you all have a great month and enjoy the 'Summer Holidays'. Just stay safe if we have another of the succession of heatwaves.

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

This month's cover photo celebrates the Wedmore Harvest Home traditional procession, taking place on 15 August.

Mike

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE: 1 August 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.

Blackford Harvest Home – 1 August

A village event for everyone, with a speaker, live disco, raffle, and bar.

Bumblesnouts Summer Holiday Course for 5- to 11-year-olds – 3 to 7 August

Children are invited to join Green Wedmore, Messy Church and the Bumblesnouts aliens for a creative, fun week.

Tennis Club Summer Camps – 3 to 7 August

These sessions are always popular and provide a great opportunity for young players to develop their skills and have fun on court.

Wedmore Harvest Home – 15 August

This is one of the major annual events for the village with a procession, luncheon, children's tea, and afternoon and evening entertainment.

Open Garden at Moorland Farm for Weston Hospicecare – 16 August

Come and join us for a lovely afternoon in a beautiful garden with a lake and wild garden.

Wedmore Twinning Trip to Saint-Médard-de-Guizières - 20 to 23 August

Interested in travel, culture, or simply meeting new people? Twinning is a fantastic way to experience it all.

Supper in the Orchard for Weston Hospicecare – 25 August

Ashgrove Farm will be hosting this event in aid of Weston Hospicecare. Why not come and join us in our beautiful marquee, with glorious views and music.

Wedmore in Focus Exhibition – 29 to 31 August

Come to St Mary's Guild Chapel and view the exhibition of photographs in this prize competition and vote for your favourite!

Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride – 30 August

Registration is now open for this year's 40/30 charity bike race in support of Weston Hospicecare.

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.

3Cs Harvest Supper – 4 September

Family event with delicious locally sourced food, raffle, bar and dancing.

Theale Show – 5 September

Join the traditional friendly festival of baking, flowers, veg growing, craft and more. Come and join us for an afternoon of family fun and entertainment.

Crook Peak Music Festival – 8 to 29 September

Enjoy these wonderful concerts, spread over four Tuesdays during September hosted in four local churches.

Cuppa with a Local Foster Carer – 15 September

Interested in fostering, now or in the future? Learn more by chatting to local foster carers over a coffee and slice of cake.

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!

Lights, Camera... Opera! – 10 October

Wedmore Opera is bringing an evening of great music, feel-good fun, and fundraising to St Mary's Church.

The Turnip Prize – Entry Submission from 1 November

The Turnip Prize is a spoof art award of the lesser-known Turner Prize. Entries should take the least amount of effort possible to create.



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www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk

(702)



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Events coming up in August:

Sat 1st - Stevie Nicole Brown

Fri 7th- Quiz Night

Sat 8th - Tim Faulks

Sat 15th - Hidden Coves

Fri 21st - Music Bingo

Sat 22nd - St Fian

Sat 29th - Young Martyrs

Sun 30th - Emma Harris Jazz

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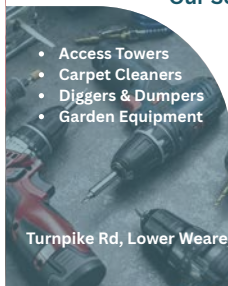
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News

Tessa Munt MP's Update

It's been another busy month, both here and in Westminster.

Locally, the 'Sunlit Solar' team got me up on a village hall roof while Mike explained how the array of solar panels he and his team had installed work, meaning that most of the year the hall is using its own generated electricity and exporting power to the grid, rather than having to pay heating and hot water bills.

It was absolutely amazing to see the huge local support for Awareness Fest at The George Inn, fundraising in memory of Adam Stimpson for The Brain Tumour Charity. I'm proud to support this very special cause. David and I also enjoyed Open Farm Sunday, visiting Rachel and Dom at Lane End Farm, Brinscombe. There were masses of visitors, tasty cakes and a bit of a 'social' for the farming community too.

In Westminster, I met with Lord Timpson, the Prisons Minister, to draw his attention to a case of a man who has been locked up for 38 years, 22 years more than his sentence, but hasn't been released because he maintains his innocence. I've also met Stephen Timms, Minister for Social Security and Disability, about problems with the Access to Work Scheme, which supports those with a disability or health condition to start or stay in work; and Polly Miller-Perkins, the first ever Armed Forces Commissioner.

In Parliament, I've requested a debate about an extraordinary High Court decision which will allow building on flood plains; filed two amendments to the Health Bill relating to the new 'Single Patient Record'; and to following NICE 2021 guidelines which the NHS has implemented inconsistently, leading to a 'postcode lottery' for patients with ME. I voted for a 'minority report' on the Courts and Tribunals Bill in Committee, as the Government is set to remove the centuries-old right to a Jury trial in many cases. I also spoke in the debate about Child Sexual Offender Data.

I've asked questions about: Priddy Folk Festival's supply of water from Bristol Water and its contractor, Aquam, protecting agricultural land to ensure our food security into the future; speeding up free court transcripts for victims; raised concerns about the lack of funds for the Music and Dance Scheme which benefits young people from less privileged backgrounds; repayment of overpaid tax from HMRC which can't be cashed as they're in the wrong name; quashing convictions for victims of child sex abuse who have been coerced into criminal activity; contracting newly qualified dentists to work in the NHS for a period of at least three years; the use of shell companies and flags to disguise Russian shadow fleet activities and evade sanctions; introducing a 'right to be forgotten' to ensure that children's data footprints are destroyed on



request; a local company waiting months to be paid for defence and security work relating to submarine disposal; the lack of a special 'rural' mileage supplement for mobility vehicle users who travel great distances to access health and care facilities in rural areas

My next local surgeries will be on Saturday 8 August from 9.00am to 10.00am at The Bluebird Café, Wedmore and on Friday 14 August from 8.00am to 09.00am at Edelweiss Café, Cheddar but please visit my website or call my office for the full list. There's no need to make an appointment - it's first come, first served. 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). To keep updated on my work as your MP, find me on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and LinkedIn. 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, I hope you've all been enjoying the summer. It certainly feels as though the village has been buzzing over the past few weeks. Local events and people simply making the most of our wonderful village and open spaces, it's been lovely to see so many people out and about.

One thing that always strikes me is just how much of what makes Wedmore special comes from local people giving their time. Whether it's maintaining footpaths, organising community events or quietly helping neighbours, there's a huge amount of goodwill that often goes unnoticed, but it really is what makes our parish such a wonderful place to live.

One of the highlights for the Parish Council this month has been supporting some fantastic local organisations through our Community Grant Scheme. We were delighted to award grants totalling £3,144.50, including support for Wedmore Village Hall towards a replacement cooker for the kitchen, Wedmore by Lamplight to help with this year's event, and Theale Show towards essential safety arrangements. These facilities and events are at the heart of village life, and we're proud to be able to lend a helping hand.

Planning also continues to keep us busy. Alongside considering individual planning applications, we're looking ahead at the bigger picture as Somerset develops its new Local Plan, helping to ensure that any future development reflects the character of Wedmore while protecting everything that makes our parish so special.

We've also been approached by Somerset Council about the possibility of taking on responsibility for maintaining some local assets and open spaces. At this stage we've simply asked for much more information. Before any decisions are made, we'll want to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and long-term implications to make sure any proposals represent good value for residents and are in the best interests of our community.

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Behind the scenes we're continuing to improve the way the Council operates, reviewing our policies and investing in better technology so we can deliver services efficiently, work securely and continue to provide the best service we can for residents.

A huge thank you once again goes to Wedmore Men's Shed for their fantastic work clearing and improving footpaths ahead of the Big Ramble. Their efforts, alongside so many other volunteers across the parish, make a real difference and are greatly appreciated.

The numbers: Total payments approved during June: £7,799.72; Community grants awarded: £3,144.50.

Did you know? Wedmore Parish is home to around 3,288 residents and covers more than 4,100 hectares (around 10,300 acres), making it one of Somerset's larger parishes geographically. But the parish is much more than the village itself. It also includes Blackford, Cocklake, Crickham, Heath House, Theale, Sand and several smaller hamlets, all represented by your Parish Council.

Finally, a little reminder that we all play a part in keeping Wedmore looking its best. If you're able to spare a few minutes while you're out and about, please pick up any litter you spot, trim back hedges that overhang pavements or footpaths, pick up after your dogs and report any damaged benches, signs or fly-tipping to clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk. Lots of small acts soon add up and really do make a difference. Every month I'm reminded just how fortunate we are to live in such a caring, active and community-minded parish. Thank you to everyone who volunteers, supports local organisations, runs community events or simply takes pride in the place we all call home. Every contribution, however big or small, helps keep Wedmore a wonderful place to live!

*Lindsey Baker, Clerk,
Wedmore Parish Council*

Somerset Council – Call for Volunteer 'Independent Visitors'

As we head towards summer, it is easy to be drawn into thoughts of lazy holidays and family get-togethers. But you might be looking for something else, a way of giving back to your community and the children of Somerset.

The number of children coming into the care of the Local Authority is at its highest level ever, at over 700. As a result, Route1 is seeing an increase in the number of children who are asking for an Independent Visitor.

What is an Independent Visitor? An Independent Visitor (IV) is a volunteer who makes a commitment to one child in care. They visit the child once or twice each month to build a trusting, supportive relationship and friendship that can sometimes last many years. The visits might involve going out for coffee and a chat, having a picnic, or going for a dog walk. The relationship can bring life-changing experiences and opportunities to a child or young person – and their IV!

Here's what one of volunteers said: 'I have been a volunteer with Route1 for five years now. Supporting a child in care has been one of the most rewarding things I have done. Last week I had the privilege of taking my young person to the beach for the first time. The joy on their face will remain with me always.'

It sounds rewarding but too difficult for me... Our youngest volunteer is 19 and or oldest is over 80! Some have experience of being with children, but many don't. If you are kind, fun and reliable then we can support with the rest. There is extensive, free training which is delivered face-to-face – no Zoom breakout rooms for us! And once trained there is ongoing support.

Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills. Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability.

No time to volunteer but you'd like to help out? You can donate to the Route1 fund, set up to help enrich the lives of children in care and managed by Somerset Community Foundation. The friendly Route1 team members are always happy to talk to individuals, groups, and businesses. You can also make a donation at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/route1fund>

For more information about Route1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors, you can contact us by emailing route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk calling 01749 822801 or visiting our website at www.route1advocacy.co.uk or via the QR code. You can also follow us on social media.



Somerset Council

Blackford Harvest Home

A village event for everyone! This year's event will be held on Saturday 1 August, Church Lane, Blackford. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm Harvest Supper, including a speaker, followed by a live disco, raffle and bar.

Tickets are £25 for adults, £10 for children under 14; and £2 for children aged 5 and under. For further details and tickets, please phone 01934 440015.

Jane Hicks

Bumblesnouts Summer Holiday Course for 5- to 11-year-olds

The Bumblesnouts will be visiting St Mary's Church, Wedmore on 3 to 7 August from 9.30am to 12.30pm each day. Children are invited to join Green Wedmore, Messy Church and the Bumblesnouts for a creative, fun week. The Bumblesnouts are aliens who travel from out of space in a funny old spaceship to show humans how to take better care of the planet. Through songs, mask making, spaceship building and storytelling children will meet characters like Mrs Fizzy, Tree Fellas and Jock the Croc. Parents can enjoy a performance on the final day. The course will cost £10 per child. Application forms from lizandersoncello@gmail.com Applications must be submitted by Wednesday 15 July.

Liz Anderson

Tennis Club Summer Camps

Wedmore Tennis Club coach, James, will once again be running summer camps for juniors on 27 to 31 July and 3 to 7 August; tots from 9.00am to 9.45am and juniors from 10.00am to 3.00pm. These sessions are always popular and provide a great opportunity for young players to develop their skills and have fun on court. Details for contacting James can be found on our website at www.wedmoretennis.co.uk.

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Wedmore Harvest Home

This is one of the major annual events for the village and will be held on Saturday 15 August. This amazing event starts with a procession through the village and the crowning of the Harvest King and Queen. This is followed by the amazing luncheon in the big marquee at Wedmore Village Field, next to the playing fields and the Children's tea. Finally there is the ever-popular evening entertainment, so something for everyone!



**Wedmore
Harvest
Home**

The running order of events starts at 9.00am with the road closures; at 9.30am – Procession assembles in Church Street; 9.45am – Judging and photographs; 10.00am – Crowning of the Harvest King and Queen; 10.30am – Church service and prize giving; 11.00am – The procession departs!

There are a variety of classes you can enter for the procession: 1) Single Pedestrian; 2) Group Pedestrian; 3) Decorated Pram; 4) Push Bike; 5) Dance Group; 6) Horse Class (Adult); 7) Horse Class (Child); 8) Vintage Car; 9) Vintage Tractor; 10) Classic Commercial Vehicle; 11) Vintage Bike; 12) Decorated Float (Any size trailer/vehicle, no theme); and 13) Best Dressed Dog. All classes are judged separately for children up to 14 years, adults or mixed ages.

Please note that all vehicles must be insured by the owner. Everyone takes part at their own risk. If you would like to participate but need help organising a vehicle or trailer, please speak to Claire on 07546 479876.

Also, don't forget the floristry classes: 14) Decorated Hanging Arrangement; 15) Best Table Arrangement; and 16) Arrangement on pedestal stand or milk churn. Decorated Hanging Arrangements must be submitted at the Marquee, Wedmore Village Field by 7.00pm on Friday 14 August. They will be judged accordingly with the announcement of placing and prizes presented at the luncheon.

At 12.30pm we sit down for the luncheon for ladies and gentlemen over 16 years, the guest speakers this year will be Les Davis and Olly Seymour. During the afternoon, entertainment will be provided by Edward Crowley, The Human Juke Box.

At 4.45pm the Children's Tea will commence, with Disco Queen as entertainment! Come along and enjoy sandwiches and cakes.

At 7.30pm, the evening entertainment will include Juice, Snake in the Footspa, and DJ Olly from Enhanced Entertainment. Food will also be available from Rachel's Grill.

Tickets for this year's event are: £35 ticket for the luncheon including entry to the afternoon and evening entertainment. If you want to attend the afternoon and evening entertainment only, then £10 tickets can be obtained on the door from 3.00pm onwards. For the Children's Tea, children are free, but adults will need an afternoon ticket. All tickets for all sessions can be obtained from Wedmore Village Store or by contacting Rachel Bennett on 07807 156069.

The Wedmore Harvest Home Committee would like to extend grateful thanks to all our advertisers, sponsors, and to the many helpers who put in countless hours and much effort throughout the year to maintain the tradition of the Harvest Home and we look forward to seeing everyone on the big day!!

Wedmore Harvest Home Committee

Open Garden at Moorland Farm for Weston Hospiccare

There will be an open garden event at Moorland Farm on Sunday 16 August, from 12.00 noon to 4.00pm, at Moorland Farm, Chapel Allerton in aid of Weston Hospiccare. Come and join us for a lovely afternoon in a beautiful garden with a lake and wild garden where refreshments will be available. The Cheddar Valley Singers will be entertaining you during the afternoon. Entry is free but if you have any queries, please contact Shirley Wederell on 01934 712089 or 07812 391962.

Shirley Wederell

Be Part of Wedmore Twinning

Did you know Wedmore has been twinned with the charming village of Saint-Médard-de-Guizières, near Bordeaux, for over 50 years? Many local families have enjoyed unforgettable exchange visits, building lasting friendships across the Channel.

Our twin village is just a stone's throw from the famous wine region of Saint-Émilion, so you can expect sunshine, beautiful scenery, and of course some of the world's finest wines! We'll be heading to France again from 20 to 23 August and we'd love you to come along! Whether you're interested in travel, culture, or simply meeting new people, twinning is a fantastic way to experience it all. If you're interested, and would like to be part of this long-standing tradition, and make memories that last a lifetime, please get in touch with Andy on 07801 718202 or email wedmoretwinning1@gmail.com

Andy Reeson

Supper in the Orchard for Weston Hospiccare

Ashgrove Farm will be hosting supper in the orchard on Tuesday 25 August, from 6.00pm at Ashgrove Farm, Sand (Cider Festival site) in aid of Weston Hospiccare. Why not come and join us in our beautiful marquee, with glorious views and music. Bring your own tableware, food and drink. There is ample parking on site and toilets available.

Tickets are £10 each for tables of 6 or 8 (non-refundable) and are available from Sally Lee on 07557 912468 or by email at sallya.lee@gmail.com

Shirley Wederell

Wedmore in Focus Photographic Competition

We have a photogenic village and the sun is shining, perfect conditions for your photos for the Wedmore in Focus competition. 'Sunshine and Shadow' is one category and the other is 'Brick and Stone', for all ages and abilities. But time is now going fast with only two weeks left to enter this popular event! Register your intention to enter by 14 August at www.bit.ly/iowspphoto There you will find the entry form and all the rules. Bring your (potentially) winning photo for that £25 prize to my house (address in the rules) on either 17 or 18 August to be judged. Entries will be displayed in St Mary's Church Guild Chapel over the August Bank Holiday weekend, with the prize giving at 3.00pm on Monday 31 August.

Everyone is invited to view the exhibition over the Bank Holiday and vote for their favourite photo. This is an event we can all take part in and come together to celebrate the Parish of Wedmore.

Jean Gregory





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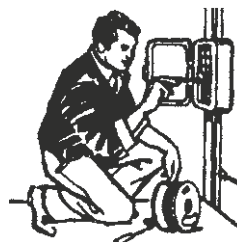
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Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride



Registration is open for the Wedmore 40/30 on Bank Holiday Sunday, 30 August. We are hoping to beat the record 320 who turned out last year!

The routes have been refreshed and revised this year and are set up for every ability level. There is a 12-mile route which is a fun, family-friendly, beginner pedal. Then we have the 30-miler, which is on quiet, flat, roads across the beautiful Somerset Levels. For the more adventurous we have the 40-mile route, a slightly tougher, scenic climb into the Mendip Hills. Or why not combine these and do the full 70 miles of the 40/30, the ultimate challenge for regular cycling enthusiasts!

Every ticket sold directly helps Weston Hospiccare continue providing free, expert palliative care across Sedgemoor and North Somerset. Enter today at www.westonhospiccare.org.uk/event/wedmore-40-30

A very big thank-you to our sponsors: Sunlit Solar for the medals; Wedmore Dental Practice for help with the new signage; Bicycle Chain who will be supplying maintenance support at the start and finish; Somerset Larder for the splendid spread that awaits returning riders. Thanks in advance to the big team who set up the routes and help with registration, car parking and the welcome back. Last, but not least, our thanks to Wedmore Playing Fields Association for the splendid venue and to Nick and his team at the Post and Wicket for everything else!

David Hopkins

3Cs Harvest Supper

The annual 3Cs Harvest Supper will be held on Friday 4 September at 7.00pm. Don't miss this wonderful family event, with delicious locally sourced food, a raffle, bar, and dancing. Please contact ccc.the3cs@gmail.com for further information and tickets.

Lucy Woodford

Theale Show

The 81st Theale Show will be held on 5 September, and you can now see the classes on our website at www.thealeshow.com. This year the novelty dog show classes have been included early, but there's still time to teach your dog the best trick, so get training!



We're well into the growing season, and our fruit is looking very healthy. 'Ted's Taters' and the 'Grow a Geranium' competitions have had a great take-up. Lots of entries are the lifeblood of the show, and planning any entry is the best way to support us, and also, most important, great fun.

Thanks to all the helpers who have offered their time on the show weekend. Many hands make light work, and if you're free on the weekend of the show and would like to help, then please contact us via our website www.thealeshow.com/contact/, send Richard an email at richard.atkin@live.com or leave a message on 01934 806157. We're looking forward to seeing you all there!

Richard Atkin

Cuppa with a Local Foster Carer

Interested in fostering, now or in the future? Learn more by chatting to local foster carers over a coffee and slice of cake.

Fostering In Somerset are holding a relaxed 'Cuppa with a Foster Carer' event at the Bluebird Café between 6.00pm and 8.00pm on 15 September. This informal session is a fantastic opportunity to gain a realistic insight into the challenges and rewards of the role by talking to Somerset foster carers over a coffee and slice of cake, provided free of charge. The fostering team will also be happy to chat and answer any questions you might have about application and assessment, training, support, and payments.

There is no pressure to take your interest any further, and you're not committing to anything by coming along. This is just a relaxed opportunity to chat and learn more about fostering from those who know the role better than anyone, so you are better equipped to consider whether fostering might be something you'd like to explore in the future. You are also very welcome to bring friends or family members along with you.

*Michelle Mitchell, Fostering Lead,
Somerset Council*

Crook Peak Music Festival

The Crook Peak Music Festival is returning for four Tuesdays in September, with early evening concerts from 6.00pm to 7.00pm across the area. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or local Badgworth Brewhouse beer on arrival.

On Tuesday 8 September at St. Andrew's, Compton Bishop there will be a solo violin recital. Philippa Mo is an international violinist feted for her "faultless technique and unfailing insight." St. Andrew's perfect acoustics will resound to the ravishing sounds of her historic instrument.

On Tuesday 15 September at St. Congar's, Badgworth we present an organ recital. Robert Anderson will pull out all the stops of the mighty digital organ with a programme of organ show pieces ranging from Henry Purcell to William Walton.

Then on Tuesday 22 September at St. Gregory's, Weare there will be a recorder ensemble. Toot Suite is a recorder group playing music spanning the 15th to the 21st centuries. From the tiny bird-like sound of the Soprano to the mellow tones of the enormous Great Bass, these local musicians will delight.

Finally, on Tuesday 29 September at St. Mary's, Wedmore, you can enjoy a solo percussion recital, featuring Harriet Riley, virtuoso percussionist, who will astound

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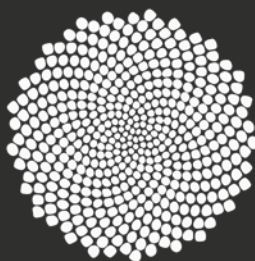
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Tickets are £10.00 on the door for each concert. For further details please contact Debra Anderson on 01934 732537 or 07881 955804 or via email at email debratanderson16@gmail.com

Debra Anderson

Wedmore Real Ale Festival Silver Ju-Beer-Lee

We hope you can join us on 18 to 20 September for another year of festivities, fundraising and, of course, real ale!

We are pleased to announce that 'No Limits' will be headlining Saturday night this year, bringing you live covers of the best 90s dance anthems! The theme for fancy dress is 'Silver Ju-beer-lee', with prizes to be won for the best-dressed!

There is plenty more live music throughout the weekend. On Friday night, 'One for the Road' return to headline, and throughout Saturday you can see Holly Gray, Jenny M, Silverline and Luke Potter. See our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/wedmorealefestival>) for more details.

As a reminder of what it's all about, Wedmore real ale festival has 3 main objectives, which form the WRAF brand values: Charity - Raising money for local worthy causes; Education - Expanding people's knowledge and awareness of real ale; Community - Providing a fun, family-friendly event that brings the local Wedmore community together.



Sara Hamilton

Lights, Camera... Opera!

Join Wedmore Opera for a sparkling evening of music on Saturday 10 October at St Mary's Church, as we present our next fundraising event: 'Lights, Camera... Opera!' This specially curated programme is perfect both for devoted opera lovers and for those who feel they don't yet know opera - but may be surprised at how familiar much of it sounds! The evening will feature beautiful operatic music that has become famous through its use in film, offering a fresh and accessible way into this wonderful repertoire.

The concert will bring together Wedmore Opera performers from past, present and future, for an uplifting and entertaining evening filled with talent and variety. Please note that, despite the title, this is a live musical performance. There will be no film screening!

The dress code is 'red-carpet glamour', so feel free to dress up and add a touch of cinematic sparkle to the evening! Tickets are £15 standard or £10 for concessions (under 25s) and will be available from 9.00am on 1 August from Wedmore Village Store, or online at www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-qmaerrk or via the QR code. All are warmly welcome, whether you're a seasoned aficionado or simply curious to discover something new. We look forward to seeing you there for a memorable night of music in the beautiful setting of St Mary's. Visit www.wedmoreopera.com to find out more.



Ellie Oliver

Wells Cathedral School Soloist Concert

On Tuesday 6 October, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church, the Wells Cathedral School's specialist music pupils will present an inspiring concert featuring six exceptional soloists.

The Music Department at Wells Cathedral School is privileged to work with some of the finest young musicians in the United Kingdom. Each year, pupils in the Upper Sixth prepare for auditions to apply for top music conservatoires across the UK and internationally. Join us for a special evening in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Church, where six outstanding young musicians will perform a varied programme of solo repertoire. Tickets and prices to be announced next month.

Phil Butterworth

Wedmore Festival 2027

Wedmore Festival will return from 8 to 16 May 2027, so please pop the dates in your diary now.

A huge thank-you to everyone who made this year so special - our wonderful Friends, dedicated helpers and generous sponsors. We couldn't do it without you, and we're already excited to bring the community together again for another fantastic week.

Phil Butterworth

Wedmore Art Group – New Members Welcome!

The Wedmore Art Group will resume its weekly Friday sessions from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Wedmore Scout Hut, in September, offering a friendly and relaxed space for anyone who enjoys drawing or painting. The group welcomes people of all abilities, from complete beginners to those with years of experience.

Members work on their own projects in a supportive, sociable atmosphere, sharing ideas and enjoying the chance to unwind creatively at the end of the week. Alongside the regular sessions, the group also organises occasional workshops and demonstrations, giving members the chance to explore new techniques and learn from visiting artists.

September is an ideal time to come along, particularly for new members who may be looking to try something different or return to art after a break. For further details please contact Jim Collett on 01934 712663

Jane Allen

King Alfred and the Peace of Wedmore Project - what do you think?

In 878 King Alfred of Wessex and Guthrum, the leader of the defeated Danish Vikings, agreed the Peace of Wedmore. The treaty, witnessed by this village, was a key moment in the creation of the English nation half a century later. What do you think of the idea of having a sculpture to remind future generations of this significant moment in the history of Wedmore and of England?

Please tell us by completing a short survey (just four questions). There are paper copies in the porch of St Mary's Church, and the completed forms can be left there too until the end of August. The survey can also be found online through the QR code or web address below. If you would prefer to send an email, the address is kingalfredwedmore@gmail.com Thank you very much.



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The Turnip Prize

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

To enter post or leave your entry at The New Inn, Wedmore. Please note that, due to increased skip hire charges, only one



entry per person is allowed. There should be no paper or cardboard or photocopied entries. Please include your name or pseudonym, contact phone number and the title of your entry.

Entries will close on 21 November, and judging will take place on 22 November. Then early December (date to be confirmed), at 6.00pm, the winner will be announced at The New Inn. All entries must then be immediately removed from the New Inn.

For more info visit The New Inn, our Facebook page, or contact Trevor by phone on 07812 848011.

Trevor Prideaux



Women Wheelers Chase the Sun!

Wedmore Women Wheelers is about friendship, cycling and chat, but sometimes some of our members take that extra step towards glory, while the rest of us glow in their light.

Jess and Lara, are two wonderfully supportive members and powerhouses who have time and energy to build their own strengths, whilst encouraging and sticking with those of us for whom cycling is just an excuse to eat cake. As we approached the longest day, they headed to Sheerness in Kent to tackle 'Chase The Sun South', a one-day ride from the Medway coast at dawn, to Weston-super-Mare at dusk. I mean, why would you? I've no idea but wow, they did it, with an hour to spare!

Lara has overcome significant physical challenges in recent years, but you absolutely wouldn't know it now, our very own Wonder Woman. Jess is a big heart on wheels, and she took on this daunting challenge to support PROMISEworks, a local charity offering mentoring to disadvantaged young people aged between 5 and 25 across Somerset.

Jess, also a member of Mendip CC, commented: 'What a day! 207.5 miles coast to coast. Serious training, putting in the miles on the bike and in the gym, paid off. I feel blessed to have my health to do it and the time as well. Raising money for





PROMISEworks kept me focussed and inspired, and I owe enormous thanks to everyone who donated. And I have to mention the amazing support given by my husband Dave, and Pete our dog, who kept up with us and ensured we were fed and watered. Now for the next adventure!

Lara added: 'I need a challenge, and last year I decided on 'Chase the Sun 2026'. I was nowhere near fast enough a year ago, and I've been training all winter to get there. As we nervously lined up in the pre-sunrise gloom on Sheerness seafront, I was really not sure that I'd done enough. The support of friends and family, along with the adrenalin of the event and the roadside crowds helped. Reaching the familiar Mendips climbs gave us a boost, and a speedy descent of Cheddar Gorge, followed by a sprint into Weston-super-Mare, meant completing over an hour ahead of the sunset. The finish was an emotional celebration. I am so glad we did it! Now what next?'

Sam Brown, who started the club with a couple of friends in 2019, must take credit for everything that this club means to so many of us. From novices through to superstars, the Wedmore Women Wheelers has something for everyone. As Sam explains, 'I had been a Breeze Champion for British Cycling, an initiative to encourage more women into the sport, and when we founded the Wheelers, we followed a similar ethos, to provide a supportive friendly environment for all levels. We have an amazing bunch of can-do women who continue to inspire others. Everyone has their own story and what we all have in common is our love of cycling and the freedom it gives us. Long may the Wedmore Women Wheelers continue. Genuine friendships have been formed, and I look forward to our 8th year of adventures to come.'

To which all I can add is Hear! Hear! We each have our own version of a Chase the Sun challenge, be it riding our first 30 miles across the Levels, climbing the Gorge, or simply enjoying the beauty of the countryside around us on two wheels and in great company. If you'd like to try us, you can find us on our website at www.facebook.com/wedmorewomenwheelers

Lexie Gower

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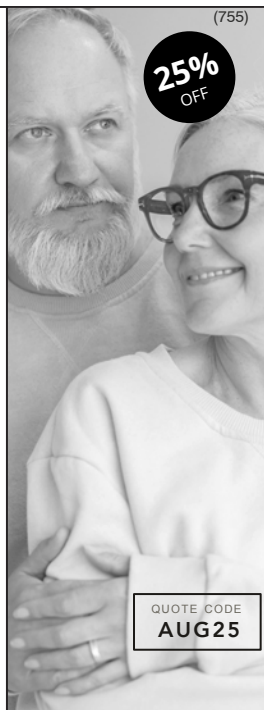
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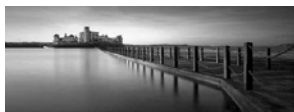
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Awareness Fest Raises £17,035 for The Brain Tumour Charity

Awareness Fest returned to Wedmore for its third year and delivered its biggest celebration yet — raising an incredible £17,035 for The Adam Stimpson Fund, supporting The Brain Tumour Charity. Hosted at The George Inn, the day brought together live music, a rodeo bull, great food, sunshine, and an extraordinary community spirit, creating a heart-warming tribute to Adam, who passed away aged 20 in 2023. The event was supported by an amazing network of locals, friends, generous businesses, individuals, and volunteers who helped make the day possible. With record numbers attending, the pub garden came alive, transformed into a vibrant festival of music, dancing, and togetherness.

The Adam Stimpson Fund was created to raise money for high-grade brain tumour research, a desperately underfunded area receiving less than 1% of national cancer funding, despite brain tumours being the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40.

In just three years, thanks to the unwavering support of family, friends, and the wider community, the fund has now surpassed £90,000, raised through a series of extraordinary fundraising efforts. The last 12 months alone saw 11 of Adam's closest friends complete the gruelling 24-hour Three Peaks Challenge, raising £6.8k; Adam's father, Garry, hosted the second charity golf day, raising £5.3k; and Adam's sister, Debs, achieved an extraordinary milestone by completing the London Marathon in Adam's memory, raising nearly £5k.

Garry and Annette are deeply grateful for all of these incredible efforts, and for the continued support that drives forward vital brain tumour research and keeps Adam's legacy alive. A final word from them: 'Wedmore and all our friends, you are incredible. Thank you so much — and we can't wait to see you next year for more live music, dancing and fun at Awareness Fest 2027.'

Annette Stimpson



Cheque presentation photo, from left to right Annette Stimpson, Stuart Kerley, Catherine Vaughan, Stephen Wagner, Garry Stimpson, Stacey Vincent (representative from the charity)

Regular Features

Thought for the Month

Harvest Home season will soon be upon us. I have always loved these opportunities for a community to stop and celebrate and sit down to eat together. As society grapples with forces that seek to sow division or with the consequences of spending too much time in online spaces, these traditional days when belonging and community is celebrated seem even more precious.

Blackford Harvest Home is on Saturday 1 August, the 3Cs gather on Friday 4 September, while Theale Show makes a welcome return on Saturday 5 September. This year Wedmore Harvest Home shares its day with Mary, the mother of Jesus, for 15 August is the feast day of Mary, when the church remembers her being taken into heaven to join her son once more. In past days 15 August was the signal for great village festivals and in England and Ireland, it was seen as good fortune to bathe in local rivers and lakes on that day. I'm not sure any bathing can be done in The Lerne, though if the weather matches the heatwaves of June and July, maybe some paddling to cool off on the day wouldn't go amiss.

Harvest Home has long been a time to give thanks for the abundance of the earth. It reminds us that, despite all our planning and labour, we remain dependent on gifts beyond our control: sunshine and rain, fertile soil, and the mysterious power of life itself. To celebrate the first fruits of the harvest is to acknowledge that what we receive is ultimately gift, and that thanksgiving is the proper response to abundance. The Church has often seen Mary in similar terms. She is, in a profound sense, the first fruit of God's redeeming work: one in whom divine grace bore its richest harvest. Her song of praise, the Magnificat, is itself a great act of thanksgiving: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.' Mary receives God's gift with humility and returns it in joyful praise.

At Harvest Home we bring together the fruits of the fields; on this feast day we remember one whose whole life was an offering to God. Both celebrations speak of completion and fulfilment, not as endings, but as moments of gratitude that point us towards new beginnings. In a world often inclined to take much for granted, perhaps these twin observances offer a timely reminder. The harvest in our barns and gardens, the love of family and community, the beauty of creation itself: all are gifts to be cherished, shared, and offered back with thankful hearts.

May this Harvest Home season remind us not only of what we have gathered but also be an opportunity to cultivate that spirit of gratitude which Mary herself so beautifully exemplifies.

*Your vicar
Rev'd Prebendary Richard Neill*

This Month in the Garden

August is a popular month for holidays so the garden will need preparing for a short time of neglect whilst you're away enjoying yourselves. Before you leave, make time to cut the lawn down low, it's amazing how fast turf can grow especially if we

have a rainy month at home. I was reminded of this during a June visit to my son in Sweden. Returning to an extremely hot few weeks and not helped by 2 short but torrential downpours, my grass leapt up and it was a tough job to cut after about 4 weeks of 'neglect'. Michael's lawn in Sweden has been beautifully controlled by his robot mower. Out almost every day, it cuts little but regularly so you can't see the clippings which disappear into the turf to constantly feed the grass. Neighbours have all got these now and only rarely do you hear a motor mower having to be used and the birds can be heard once more!

But it's not only the lawn that needs cutting. The hardy geraniums, cat mint and *Alchemilla* need a hard cutting back in early August, if not done earlier, and this will yield fresh new leaves and even a few repeat flowers in a mild autumn. Lavender also needs a shear trimming but not cutting into the hard wood. It can be propagated easily at this time, as can many other shrubs, and this is a most rewarding sort of garden job. Although lavender is a perennial, on some soils they do better if renewed every 5 years or so and this is when propagating them is a really good strategy.

Harvest vegetables and flowers in the early morning when everything is full of moisture. Peas and beans are snap fresh and delicious raw or steamed, keep tomatoes well-watered with old leaves and sideshoots pinched out as soon as seen (unless you're growing the bush type). Onions and garlic should be ready for lifting and drying off, together with shallots of course. Test sweet corn cobs when the tassels at the top of the cobs are brown but they may need a few days longer for the kernels to be fully ripe (watch out for those badgers though! – Ed). Keep on top of the courgette harvest as well as the climbing and runner beans.

A bowl of succulents makes a pretty and interesting talking point for those outdoor socials. Sedums, *Echeverias*, *Sempervivums* and *Haworthias* are all drought tolerant and you could also add other small leaved alpine. Rocks and gravel provide a landscape effect and maintenance will be minimal. Just the job for the BBQ table.

Watch out for and remove earwigs on dahlias, chrysanthemums and sometimes clematis but they are a useful predator on apple trees where aphids are a problem. An old trick to catch them is to stuff a plant pot with straw of dry grass and balance on top of a cane. Once a week shake out on apple trees or where green or blackfly are a problem. In the greenhouse, red spider mite thrives in warm dry conditions so if the fine webbing is seen on the undersides of leaves the mites will be present. Maintaining a humid atmosphere will deter them or a biological control insect is very effective.

I know it's the cricket season, but have you seen any flying bats at dusk? Quite common are pipistrelle bats (3 sorts) as they emerge in the fading light to feed on midges, moths, and other small flying insects like codling moths, which are a pest on apples. They do no harm to plants and hibernate in small holes in trees, lofts and of course bat boxes, from November through to April. They are a protected species so must not be handled but they are just a wonderful example of one of nature's miracles of wildlife to be encouraged and admired at a distance.

Happy gardening!

Tony Connell

Poetry Corner

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

The Treaty of Wedmore

The great northern hordes swept through Mercian ground
But on that May morning fearsome warriors they found
All augured well, that they might win the day
The chroniclers of that lore do say.

But Viking blood soaked Edington's fields
In the marshes of Wessex did the heathens yield
Norse steel splintered on Saxon shield wall
This unbreakable barrier proved too strong to fall.

Onwards to Wedmore they brought Guthrum the Old
A proud northern king, no longer so bold
Baptised into Christendom, to Alfred he swore
He paid his obeisance and they forged the Dane Law.

As millennia pass, we walk the same lanes
Touched by the past in a Wedmore much changed
A cradle of peace our village renowned
That once helped a kingdom join under one crown

Bill Hayley

*Don't forget to complete the survey for the 'King Alfred and the Peace of Wedmore Project'.
See the News section for more information.*

Tasty Morsels – Kung Pao Chicken

Ingredients

Chicken and marinade

680g boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut into bite-sized chunks

1 tsp soya sauce

1 tsp Shaoxing wine (or dry sherry)

1 tsp sesame oil

2 tsp corn flour

Pinch of salt

Stir Fry

3 tbsp vegetable oil

1 large red bell pepper – cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ inch dice

1 large green bell pepper – cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ inch dice

3 stalks celery cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ inch slices

100g roasted peanuts

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2 cloves garlic -minced
2 tsp minced ginger (5g)
1 spring onion – minced
8 small dried chilis (or ½ tsp crushed red pepper flakes)

Sauce

3 tbsp chicken stock
1 tbsp soya sauce
1 tsp Shaoxing wine (or dry sherry)
1 tsp white vinegar
1 tsp sesame oil
2 tsp corn flour

Method

Mix together the chicken and remaining marinade ingredients in a medium bowl. Set aside to marinate for at least 20 minutes.

While the chicken marinates, prepare the vegetables and in a separate small bowl mix together the ingredients for the sauce.

When everything is prepared, and the chicken marinated, heat a wok over high heat. Once up to temperature, add the vegetable oil and chicken. Cook the chicken in a single layer, without moving, until brown (about a minute). Continue cooking, turning frequently for about 2 to 3 minutes longer (the chicken will not be all the way cooked through at this point). Remove the chicken onto a plate and set aside. Add the bell peppers and celery to the wok, and cook for about 1 to 2 minutes, until brown spots appear (the vegetables should remain slightly crisp). Add the peanuts and cook for 1 minute. Make a small well in the centre of the wok and add the garlic, ginger and spring onion. Cook until fragrant (about 30 seconds to 1 minute), then add back the chicken and pour in the sauce. Stir and cook until all the ingredients are coated in the sauce and the chicken is cooked through (1 to 2 minutes).

Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

Country Lane Walker

So, in reflective mood/mode this month, following the succession of heat waves. The one in May hit hard, didn't it? Totally wrong moment without the chance to acclimatise to the heat. I started off 82 years 'young', and five days on, with no exercise, I felt like 82 years 'old'! What I should have done is walk really early before the heat built up. But I didn't, so suffered. Five days without exercise and my ability to be active diminished. Just shows how movement is so important. And I didn't even do any chi kung, as so weary.

So, now in the midst of the second heat wave I have been walking early and slowly regaining my ability. It just shows a few days without exercise how quickly we can go



What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sat	1	Blackford Harvest Home	6.30pm	Church Lane, Blackford
Mon	3-7	Bumblesnouts Summer Holiday Course for 5- to 11-year-olds	9.30am to 12.30pm	St Mary's Church
Mon	3-7	Tennis Club Summer Camps	See News for details	Wedmore Tennis Club
Sat	15	Wedmore Harvest Home	See News for details	See News for details
Sun	16	Open Garden for Weston Hospicecare	12.00 noon to 4.00pm	Moorland Farm, Chapel Allerton
Thu	20-23	Wedmore Twinning Trip to Saint-Médard-de-Guizières	See News for details	Saint-Médard-de-Guizières
Tue	25	Supper in the Orchard for Weston Hospicecare	6.00pm	Ashgrove Farm, Sand
Sat	29-31	Wedmore Photographic Competition Exhibition	See News for details	St Mary's Church
Sun	30	Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride	See News for details	Start/Finish Wedmore Playing Fields

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 (not August)	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 (not August)	Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Friday	HeadsUp Carer's Support Group	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Swan
2nd and 4th Fridays	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
4th Saturday	Theale Community Café	10.00am to 12.00 noon	Theale Village Hall

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

down. For all you folk who don't do any exercise, it is likely to be considerably more difficult. This takes me back to the first few articles when I was advocating starting with a 50-metre walk and building up from there. For many that still is the way to start. Maybe 50 metres twice a day, then 70 metres two or three times a day.

For me, since the stroke two years ago, I have had to come down from 3 miles a day at non-stop speed, to 1 to 1.5 miles each day-ish, with occasional 2-mile walks and the odd 3 miler with occasional 20+ second rest stops. But I am still at it, still appreciating the countryside (always), and still nagging you – nicely!

Legs are more numb than they used to be, and I am a bit more puffed, so requiring more effort. The Nordic walking poles are still a great asset and compensate greatly. And consultant says heart as good as before the heart attack 7 years ago.

So keep on walking, humming, chi kung-ing, and get touch if you wish to. As always, you can contact me on 01934 712404, 07976 288535, WhatsApp or at melvyn@gmx.co.uk Love to hear from you. Keep on walking!

Melvyn Firmager

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

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.

Inspired by the summer of sport?

It's been quite the summer of sport with the football World Cup and Commonwealth Games drawing to a close. So what next? The legacy of such large sporting events has led researchers to study their 'inspirational effects' – the process through which individuals are inspired to get more active themselves. Being active is really important for our physical health, whatever our age or stage of life. The top-class athletes we have been watching this summer may well be younger, fitter and healthier than us, but we can still be inspired by them, whatever our own circumstances. Being active supports our heart, lungs, bones, muscles and joints, and improves our strength and fitness, mobility, flexibility and balance. It is good for our mental health too, raising our self-esteem and confidence, and improving our mood and sleep.

But will watching top-class football or gymnastics really get us more motivated? NHS guidance suggests aiming for about 20 minutes a day of moderate-intensity exercise – exercise that raises our heart rate, makes us breathe faster and feel warmer. As we get older, doing activities that improve our strength, balance and flexibility become increasingly important.

But let's be realistic here. Firstly, if you have not exercised for some time, you can contact one of the Health Coach team at Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice so that you can make sure your activity and its intensity are appropriate for your fitness.



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Let's serve up some fun at Wedmore Tennis Club

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Secondly, going from 0-20 overnight is unlikely to be sustainable (or necessarily good for us), no matter how much our favourite football player has inspired us. Starting small, by finding easy ways to fit more activity into our daily life and building up from there, is more likely to be successful and sustainable.

The NHS Better Health website suggests six ways to help us be more active:

1. Find something you enjoy – we are far more likely to stick with something if we enjoy it.
2. Do it together – in person or online – doing exercise with someone else can help us through encouragement, motivation and simply having fun together.
3. Make it a habit – getting into a routine can help.
4. Reward yourself - by setting achievable goals that will further motivate you.
5. Track your progress – so you can see how far you have come.
6. Go from strength to strength – add in strength-building exercises to keep you active for longer.

A good place to start is the Virtual Village Hall, a free online activity hub and community, designed by Royal Voluntary Service. Here you'll find a wide range of exercise, dance and movement classes to help you feel healthy, fit and well, including adapted, chair-based and dementia-friendly sessions. No special equipment is needed, just space to move, something sturdy to hold onto if you are less mobile, and some water to stay hydrated. As well as live activity sessions every weekday, there is a library of over 3,000 sessions to view on demand, all led by expert tutors and presenters, including some well-known faces. No sign-in or subscription is required, just visit the website at www.virtualvillagehall.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/benefits/do-exercise-be-more-active

Our local village halls also boast a wide variety of exercise classes, many of which are listed in this magazine in the centre pages. Do contact the organiser for further information - they would love to hear from you!

Now that's the sort of inspiration we need!

www.patient.info is a website and accompanying app, which states that 'Our clinical information meets NHS England's Information Standard.' 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 August 2026. You can reach them all with just one click and find out more interesting facts, figures and insights. You can also contact Cathy Butterworth on 01934 806266 or by email at cb@theconsultant.org

Cathy Butterworth

HeadsUp Support Group

Do you care for or support a person living with dementia? Then this friendly informative group is for you! Come along on the first Friday of the month to The Swan Hotel, Wedmore between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. The next meeting will be on Friday 7 August. 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.

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 – Undaunted by Rising Fuel Costs

Wedmore Good Neighbours offers practical help, mainly in the way of providing transport to and from medical appointments or helping with simple tasks around the house. However, we believe there's a less tangible and obvious benefit – but one that's equally important.



About 40 years ago I stumbled across a book called Megatrends, by John Naisbitt, an American futurist. Published in 1982, one of the 10 trends he identified was what he called 'high tech – high touch'. He introduced the principle that as societies become more saturated with high tech (advanced, automated, digital systems), they simultaneously develop a stronger need for high touch (human connection, empathy, personal interaction). This made a lot of sense to me, and I started to see examples of this playing out all around me – and it's even more obvious now. It explains why so many people like to go to festivals and live events when we have so many cheaper and more convenient streaming options. Why physical shopping trips are so popular in the age of online retail and home delivery. Why most of us would like to resolve issues with essential services (banking, insurance, utilities, travel) with a real human rather than an AI chatbot, and why we still value sitting down in the same room as a doctor rather than a telephone consultation or a digital session with eConsult.

What has this got to do with Wedmore Good Neighbours? Our volunteers not only provide practical assistance but also the human contact that is progressively being driven out of life by relentless digitisation. Big corporations are selling us on the idea that technology 'empowers us to do more things ourselves'. But what if we don't want to do it all by ourselves? That's why our volunteers are increasingly popping in

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to see neighbours for a cuppa a chat and the occasional slice of cake. Why we offer transport to those who'd like to attend a local club meeting or social event. And why those that request transport remark that it's more personal and pleasant being driven by a friendly neighbour than taking a taxi (as well as cheaper!). All of this improves that nebulous thing called 'wellbeing' – a thing that wasn't such a thing before technology started to take over so many aspects of our daily lives!

It is now well documented that having regular contact with others, plentiful personal relationships and a sense of belonging to a community all help to reduce stress, boosts physical health and combats things like depression and loneliness. We think this is just as important a part of what we do as the more obvious practical services we provide.

If you'd like to contact us with a request call 01934 806299 and leave a message - a human being will reply within 24 hours. If you'd like more detailed information about the group and how it operates, or about the other ways to get local wellbeing support, visit the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website www.whawb.co.uk Finally, there's also ample evidence that the act of volunteering is also very good for one's mental wellbeing, so if you want get involved with Wedmore Good Neighbours give us a call to find out more.

Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Green Wedmore

You may have spotted some new water butts around the village. There's one outside Wedmore Village Store and the Village Hall to help Wedmore In Bloom with their watering. It's great to have this project completed and will certainly help with surface water run-off and saving water in this hot weather. Some have also been provided to volunteers in their own gardens to enable them to water the communal tubs in the village and this will help keep their water bills down.



Another Green Wedmore project to look out for is the swift boxes which are appearing on houses around the village. Fitted with electronic callers, this Wilder Wedmore legacy project will hopefully attract more swifts to the village to nest. The Wedmore Men's Shed have built a number of excellent swift nest boxes and a couple have already been installed. Following a previous item in this publication we received a number of requests for the boxes which we will get to soon, not least as we had a kind offer of a cherry picker to help with the installation. Due to work pressures only a couple have been installed to date. If you are interested in having them installed later this year, for use next spring, please do contact Geoff by email at geoff_carss@hotmail.com or by phone on 07740 921640.

Green Wedmore is also pleased to be supporting Bumblesnouts Summer Holiday Course this August in association with St Mary's Messy Church.

Remember, no committee meeting in August as we take our Summer break but do join us on 09 September at 7:30pm at The George.

Liz



Burton

Wedmore Footpaths Group

We've had a busy few weeks making the footpaths more accessible for walkers. Members of the Wedmore Men's Shed have been working on projects for us, including clearing overgrown vegetation on the way to Terry's Wood at Latcham.

We hope people will enjoy walking local paths in and around Wedmore during August but don't forget to protect yourself and your family from tick bites. Ticks are small, bloodsucking, spider-like creatures that live in grassland and woodland. Some of them can pass on infectious diseases, such as Lyme disease, when they bite you or your pets.

Take these simple precautions when you are in the countryside: wear sensible outdoor clothing, preferably long trousers. Lighter colours make ticks easier to spot; use an insect repellent; visit rspca.org.uk to find out how to protect your pets; regularly check clothing and skin for ticks and if you find any, if they are not already attached to you, brush them off immediately. However, if you have already been bitten it is important to remove the tick safely and quickly. Use some fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure and clean the bite area with antiseptic or soap and water. You may want to consider purchasing a tick remover tool so that you have one handy, they are usually available at Wedmore Pharmacy. Then, monitor the area where you were bitten for several weeks for any changes and contact your GP or contact NHS 111 promptly if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms or develop a circular red rash. For more information, search for 'ticks' and 'Lyme disease' on these websites: www.nhs.uk and www.gov.uk

Please visit www.theisleofwedmore.net for a list of walks around Wedmore. These will be updated over time as improvements are carried out. If you come across any problems on footpaths, please email us on wedmorefootpaths@outlook.com

Wedmore Footpaths Group



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Wedmore in Bloom



Wedmore in Bloom would like to thank the people of Wedmore for their generous donations to our funds. Every penny helps to keep the village looking beautiful. Many thanks to Green Wedmore who very kindly provided funds enabling us to buy water butts. These have been placed around the village and are proving very helpful to our team of waterers.

Our Cream Tea event was a great success! The sun shone all afternoon and the loss of water which Wedmore experienced in the morning was restored by midday. Over one hundred people visited and enjoyed a delicious cream tea or were spoilt for choice with homemade cakes. The waitress team had two new members this year, a big thank-you to Issy and Charlotte of Porch House.

The gardens of Porch House and Blandings were the perfect setting, and our thanks go to Jan, Keith, Helen and Rob for their hospitality. Many thanks also to Jill and Anne who had put together a wonderful display telling the Wedmore in Bloom story and what a story it is! If you missed our event, the celebration of 21 years, please see our article in the June Wedmore News.

Kay Adams

Wedmore Gardening Club

In spite of the rain, our coach trip in June to Marwood Hill Gardens near Barnstaple was a great success. Yes, we did have a lot of rain, but the rain stopped and the sun came out after a while. The gardens have so much to offer, trees, lakes, walks, sculptures, and a superb bog garden, which was one of the best, if not the best, I've seen. It was a blaze of colour with the Candelabra Primulas particularly stunning along with the beautiful pastel-coloured Astilbes. Marwood holds one of the National collections of Astilbes and Tulbaghias. There is a variety of magnificent trees, some of which are quite rare. I must, however, mention the truly gorgeous Cornus Kousas. Many varieties of the healthy, reasonably priced plants were for sale. As you no doubt can imagine, many of us couldn't resist a purchase or two! Forgive me if my waxing lyrical is 'over the top' but it is a truly lovely garden and one I can definitely recommend. A big plus

was the good coffee and lovely cakes and lunches available!! A big thank you to Jan Young for organising the day and to Caitlin our coach driver.

On Tuesday 18 August we have our visit by car to the American Museum in Bath. If you haven't already put your name down and would like to go (mentioning whether or not you are willing to drive) please let Andrea West (712161) know as soon as possible so that lifts, if needed, can be arranged.

Looking ahead, a quick mention that on Tuesday 22 September, Hilary Little will give her talk 'Northern Patagonia: Violas and Volcanoes'.

I'm writing this on one of the days when a Red alert heat warning has been given. Please take great care everyone and I hope you've all managed to stay safe and cool, and gardens are not suffering too badly as no doubt they will recover.

Jean Windridge

Women of Wedmore – Up, or Down, on the Farm!

After a very damp and blustery day, the evening cleared to blue skies and sunshine for Women of Wedmore's visit to the Village Farm. What a magical place with its views over the village and to the Mendip Hills in the background! We enjoyed a talk about the farm and then a tour under the enthusiastic guidance of farm trustees, Dave Banwell and Annie Rowley. Established in 2023 the farm quickly doubled in size to around two acres. The Men's Shed supported the farm by building impressive buildings, including a kitchen and an open-air stage. The Men's Shed adjoining allotment is immaculate! The Green Group arranged for the provision of solar panels, batteries and lights. There are toilets, camping pods, a sauna, mains water, polytunnels and raised beds. The raised beds are full of flowers, and it's hoped that Pick Your Own flowers will be available soon and eventually the return of vegetable boxes, camping and the sauna.

The Village Farm is a charity and income from it goes to The Food Forest Project. The Food Forest



Project is a Somerset based charity that uses community growing spaces to help tackle food poverty, and biodiversity loss. The farm is currently aiming to grow enough food for local food banks. In September it will work closely with students from Cannington College to educate them in growing food and its preparation.

Village Farm volunteers are needed! All extra pairs of hands are welcome to help. Volunteer sessions are Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am. On a Wednesday, chef Georgia cooks lunch for volunteers and on a Friday, volunteers are encouraged to bring food to share for lunch. Many hands make light work! Please bring your own tools if you have them. Tool donations are also very welcome. Women of Wedmore thanked our hosts for a fascinating and enlightening evening learning about one of Wedmore's hidden treasures!

Please note that there is no WoW meeting in August. Women of Wedmore WI's next meeting is on Wednesday 9 September, 7.00pm at the Post and Wicket, with a visit from Mendip Morris. For more details, please email WoW on wedmorewi@outlook.com

Linda Morecroft

Isle of Wedmore Society

No meeting in August as we take a summer break, so our next full meeting will be in September when our speaker will be Fiona Torrence-Spence, who is an expert on the Ashton Windmill.

Jean Gregory



Mr Punch's Folk Club

Theale Village Hall Friday 7 August at 8.00pm. This will be an open session, all welcome! Cost is £3 and please bring your own refreshments.

Bernard Coulter

Cheddar and Wedmore Bridge Club

Notable scores of 65% or more were achieved in June club sessions by Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood with 76.3% and 66.3%, Paul St. Quintin and Geoff Davies 72%, and Philip Batt and Sue Spink 69.6%. 76.3% is the highest score recorded since these articles started in January 2025 and Barbara and Gillian are also the pair who have appeared most frequently in these reports having achieved thirteen results of 65% or more in our Monday (Wedmore) and Wednesday (Cheddar) face to face sessions and our Wednesday online 'Axe' sessions on Bridge Base Online.

This month's hand shows how disruptive light third in hand openings can be. After two passes West opened 1S on only 9 points. With 24 points North doubled as a first step and East bid 2S. I passed as South, as did West, and North then bid 3H passed to me.

Bidding at the 3 level after doubling shows a 'power double' with, at the very least, 5 hearts and 17 total points. With 8 points and 3 card heart support I would have had no hesitation in bidding game.

With both West and East bidding, however, I assumed that partner was at the weaker end of their range and, with only 5 points and a singleton, I passed. This resulted in a joint bottom since most pairs, usually without intervention from West, bid to a making game or slam.

The hand prompted a discussion within the club about how light third in hand openings can be. Since we are an English Bridge Union (EBU) registered club, we looked at the EBU rules which state that, in normal club play, a third or fourth in hand opening should contain at least 8 high card points, counting 4 for an ace, 3 for a king, 2 for a queen and 1 for a jack. West's hand above contains 9 high card points and is therefore within the rules. It would not, however, be allowed in novice events for which different rules apply. For further information, please search online for 'EBU Blue Book'.

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

Geoff Davies

Wedmore Opera Goers

On Sunday 20 September, at 4.00pm, we will be attending a matinee performance of Bartok's 'Bluebeards Castle' followed by Stravinsky's 'Oedipus Rex' at the Millenium Theatre in Cardiff. The cost will be £56 each for the theatre and the coach.

On the following Sunday, 27 September, again at 4.00pm in the Millennium Theatre, Cardiff, we will attend a production of La Boheme by Puccini. The cost will be £56 each for the theatre and the coach.

Next year on 18 March we will be visiting Cardiff again for Matthew Bourne's performance of Cinderella, this time at 3.00pm. The cost is yet to be confirmed but will be about the same as the above.

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

Suzanne Metters

Wedmore Men's Shed

Interested in getting involved? We have a growing membership, with a 25% increase since the beginning of the year, so come along and see what you are missing out on. Wedmore Men's Shed is 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. Email us at wedmoremensshed@outlook.com or come and meet us on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 12.00 noon, or Thursdays from 2.00pm to 4.30pm at the Wedmore Village Community Farm off Plud Street. Please come along and find out what we are all about, you are more than welcome.

Wedmore Men's Shed

North (V)

♠ AT
♥ AQJ63
♦ A6
♣ AKQ8

West (V)

♠ KQ954
♥ T87
♦ KJT
♣ T9

East (D)

♠ J8762
♥ 52
♦ 973
♣ J73

South (V)

♠ 3
♥ K94
♦ Q8542
♣ 6542

(482)

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Wedmore Probus Club

The first of our recent speakers was Richard Stride and his talk was titled 'what did Sparta women do all day'. This was very interesting talk because instead of hearing about the famous Spartan warriors, this talk gave us a glimpse of the bizarre social world of the ancient Spartans. Firstly, any baby judged weak or deformed was left out on the mountain to die as there was no place for them in Spartan society. Children that survived were brought up in the home by the Helots, who were enslaved serfs who did all the domestic work and farming. When boys reached the age of six, they were sent away from home to learn survival and became inured to hardship. Being provided with little food and clothing encouraged them to steal, however if they were caught, they were punished – not for stealing, but for being caught!

The second speaker was Lottie Dale who spoke about 'Treading the wards' telling us that she started at St Bartholomew's Hospital (Smithfield in the City of London) in 1969 and went on to spend 40 years in nursing. Lottie showed us the lovely old archway entrance to the Hospital and again with Bridget Jones standing there getting soaked by a passing vehicle going through a large puddle. The talk had many amusing stories about Lottie and her nursing friends through the years which kept us all entertained.

The Isle of Wedmore Probus club meets at the Wedmore Golf Club in the morning on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month and if you are a retired man living in Wedmore or the surrounding area, you will probably enjoy our meetings. You can listen to interesting, stimulating and informative talks after enjoying a friendly chat over a cup of coffee. You can also stay on for lunch after the talk and enjoy an informal drink and chat with convivial members. There is no attendance commitment, and the cost of membership is low at £30 per annum. So if you are interested in attending, please call me 07572 569870 for further details.

Denis Jones, Secretary

Theale Community Film Club

Theale Community Film Club's next meeting will be at Theale Village Hall on Sunday 23 August, 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

As always been a busy month at Wedmore Tuesday Club. We are up to the maximum numbers we can cater for, and we have anywhere between 22 to 26 members attending. So good to see this and hear a real buzz around the room as they all tell one another what they have been doing or planning on doing.

We had four birthdays this month. Susanne Ager celebrated with her birthday cake, baked by Christine Raphael, and Diana Rocky received a birthday cake baked by Lesley Nicholls. Both were also given a card and present. The other two members birthdays were Lindy and Pete Tinney. Unfortunately, they were not there on the day to get the cake and have their photos taken. We are in the process of deciding where to take our members for their next outing. The members really look forward to these outings, so we always want to get a venue that they will enjoy. We owe Mike Rippon a big thanks for his work on the heat pumps that have been installed at the Village

Hall and during the winter it was very cosy and warm. Some of our members used to keep their coats on, not anymore. When we had that really hot weather in June it was switched to provide air conditioning. Absolutely brilliant!

If you think you would like to join our jolly team of Helpers, we are sometimes in need of extra help. This would not be every week just when we need cover if we have helpers on holiday or out sick. Not sure? Just

pop along one Tuesday; we start setting up around 9.30am; and yes, you get a free lunch thrown in. If you are interested, please contact Sue Worrall on 07748 131413, Yvonne Hutchison on 01934 712729, or Graham Whitcombe on 01934 712916 or 07580 500545.

Graham Whitcombe

Wedmore Village Farm

June saw an explosion of colour from our flower beds at Wedmore Village Farm, and we have been delighted by the number of people who have been up here to pick their own bunches of flowers to take home. The farm would not look as beautiful as it does if it weren't for the help of our ever-growing group of volunteers, who meet every Wednesday and Friday. Our Wednesday volunteer sessions have felt lively and fun since we started to organise a shared lunch, which gives us all a chance to chat, relax, and enjoy the space together between tasks. New volunteers are always welcome, so please get in touch if it sounds like something you might be interested in.

We have been harvesting new potatoes, beetroots, radishes, and spring onions. Courgettes, tomatoes and cucumbers are days away from being ready, which really makes it feel like summer. We feel fortunate to have access to fresh vegetables that have been grown by natural, sustainable means, not least because they taste much better than supermarket produce. Our wish is to share them with others! Available veg and bottles of our apple juice are available to buy at the farm on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-3.

Without the support of a full-time grower, we have been getting creative with the produce we have, to ensure nothing goes to waste. As such, we have been processing our abundance of rainbow chard and wild cabbage to make jars of ferment – commonly known as sauerkraut.

The health benefits of fermented foods have been well advertised in the last decade, namely for their ability to heal and feed the flora of the gut lining, which in turn has a plethora of other health benefits. Traditionally, sauerkraut is shredded



*Susanne Ager, cake baked by
Christine Raphael*



*Diana Rocky, cake baked by
Lesley Nicholls*

cabbage fermented in brine, and is known for its 'funky', tangy flavour. Our Wild Garden ferment uses brine and fresh young garlic and herbs from the farm, making it an excellent pairing with meat, roasted veg, and cheese sandwiches!

In other news, we have been working with members of the Wedmore Men's Shed group to restore and renovate the wood fired sauna, which needed some TLC before firing up this year. Thank you to the Men's Shed for all of your help. Our trusty trustee, David Banwell, has also been hard at work cutting the top field and getting it ready to invite campers to enjoy the extraordinary view over the Mendips. Updates on the sauna and campsite, including bookings and availability, will be listed on the Wedmore Village Farm Facebook page.

Georgia Cadoret

Club50

We shall be taking a break in August following two successful coach trips. The first to Berkeley Castle in May and then Sidmouth in June. The Sidmouth trip was a very pleasant day out, not too hot and the rain kept off. Fish and chips were consumed, plus ice creams, and copious cups of tea of course. A few members tried out a new fish restaurant. A slight problem with seagulls pinching our ice creams and sandwiches but we shall be prepared another year! A trick is to sit with your back to a wall apparently thus preventing them from swooping from behind and taking you unawares. Next time I shall eat my ice cream under an umbrella.

We have kept it to 4 coach trips this year, as some years it has been difficult to break even due to rising costs for coach hire and fuel. We are always open to suggestions for where to visit, but we prefer to keep within a 2-hour distance. Of course a coach takes longer than driving in the car, so we have to keep that in mind. We use Baker's Dolphin coaches which are always very smart and clean, and the drivers are very good.

We had our Summer Lunch in July in the Masonic Hall which was well attended and appreciated by our members. Our next coach trip will be on Wednesday 16 September to Barnstaple and Bideford. Come and join us! 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 on membership, or this month's coach trip, please ring Andrea on 01934 712161 or Heather on 01934 712216

Andrea West

Wedmore Dance Group – Looking the part!

Wedmore Dance Group is now taking a break for the summer, but we'll be back in September. If you would like more information, please contact Nikki at nikkipryn@gmail.com or just turn up to Wedmore Village Hall on a Thursday morning during term time. Classes run from 10.30am to 11.45am. You will always get a very warm welcome.



Wedmore Dance Group

St Mary's Church 100 Club

Many congratulations to our July winners of the 100 club. First prize to Helen Mullett and second prize to Marion Warren-Smith.

Liz Henderson



(237)

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Sports Club Reports

Wedmore Tennis Club

With just two matches remaining, our ladies are heading into the final stretch of the summer season. The Ladies' teams have had a particularly challenging time with injuries, making team selection a bit of a juggling act. Despite this, we've managed to get full teams out every week and while results haven't always gone our way, the enthusiasm and enjoyment have certainly remained. This, after all, is a big part of what club tennis is all about.

The men's teams have enjoyed a fantastic run of results, and it seems the A, B and C Teams are currently standing top of their division, whilst the D Team are currently lying 3rd.

The draws for this year's Club Knockout Competitions are now up, so it's time to check who you're playing and start arranging your matches. Finals Day is set for Saturday 12 September, and it's always one of the highlights of the club calendar, with plenty of great tennis, a fantastic atmosphere, and the chance to cheer on our finalists. We hope to see lots of members and friends there to support the players and enjoy the day.

Our Winner Takes All event back in June was a great success, with a good turnout and plenty of competitive (but friendly!) tennis. Congratulations to Clare Gass and Mike Robinson, who came out on top to take the title after an enjoyable afternoon of matches. A big thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the event such a success.

Have you tried padel yet? Just a reminder that our padel court is now open for bookings by non-members via the ClubSpark website, making it easier than ever to introduce friends and family to the game. If you've ever fancied taking up a racquet sport, I'd really encourage you to give padel a go. Padel is one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK, with new courts opening all over the country, so why not join the trend and see what all the excitement is about? You might just discover your new favourite sport!

Summer Coaching Camps - Our coach, James, will once again be running his popular Summer Tennis Coaching Camps in August. They're a brilliant way for children to develop their tennis skills, make new friends, and have plenty of fun on court. Be sure to check the ClubSpark website for dates – www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/WedmoreTennisCoaching/Coaching/Camps

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Nelson Spencer, who was a much-loved and long-standing member of Wedmore Tennis Club until he retired from the game. Nelson only took up tennis in his late 30s after hanging up his football boots, but he certainly made up for lost time. He became a familiar and much-valued face at the club, and for many years you could almost guarantee that Nelson would be on court at one of our club sessions, always ready for a game and a chat. He will be fondly remembered by everyone who had the pleasure of playing alongside him.

Shirley Turner

Wedmore Golf Club

May displayed all the vagaries of the English summer this year with Ladies competitions being lost first to heavy rain and then to excessive heat. In between these one of the main competitions of the year, the Club Championships, took place with the first 18 holes taking place in the week before the final round of both championships. Conditions were not ideal for the Men's first round which perhaps contributed to a close finish. Nigel Beer led the way with a gross 78. Possibly round of the day though, came from Brian Webber in the Nett competition who scored 65, the only player to beat his handicap. Nigel's lead disappeared over the first nine holes of the second round as Richard MacArthur moved two shots clear. All changed from hole 15 onwards where Richard had a triple bogey 8 and then repeated the score on 17, dropping 7 shots to Nigel in the process. Nigel then cruised on to claim his first Championship by 4 shots from Alan Richardson with Richard Macarthur another shot back in third. In the Nett competition, Brian Webber could not repeat his score from the previous week but adding a nett 75 was enough for first place just one better than Steve Major with Paul Northway in third place.

In the Ladies Championship, Lyn Bird led the way after round one on 87. However, Lyn could not maintain this in the second round and Bev Broad came through, with a combined total of 175 and a comfortable lead over runner-up Mandy Vearncombe with Nicola Stevenson 5 shots further back in third. Gina Falcon had a much improved second round which gave her the Nett Trophy on countback from Lyn Bird with Ronnie Follenfant just 3 shots behind in third place, The Ladies love to give out prizes so Lyn Bird also took the prize for best gross on day one, with Alison Dodkin winning the same prize for Day 2. The equivalent Nett prizes went to Susan Brearley who had 76 on day 1 and Diane Miller who had the same score on day 2. Best of all there was not a drop of rain all day.

The regular competitions continued as well of course. Mike Duckworth scored 44 points to win Division 3 of the Monthly Stableford. Trevor Guy was the only other player to exceed 40 points, scoring 41 to win Division 2 by 2. Julian Clarke won Division 1 on 39 points. Not too many Ladies played this week but those that did had some very good scores with Mandy Vearncombe winning on 38. The Ladies own competition this week was a four-ball-better-ball which produced a strong finish from some strong pairings, with Mandy Vearncombe and Lyn Bird topping the list. The Seniors were out as always on Monday. Peter Searle top scored with 42 to win Division 3. Up in the lower handicap Divisions Moly McMillan continued his run of good form winning Division 1 with 37 points. A similar result in Division 2 saw Frank Sparks win on 38 points. The week ended with the past Captains competing for the Chris Hoskings Trophy,



Club Champions Nigel Beer and Bev Broad with their trophies following Club Championship

which went to Cathy Olive with a magnificent 42 points which included 2 birdie 2's, The Men's Trophy went to Mike Garbutt with another excellent round of 37 points.

At the end of the month, Steve Major won the Seniors Medal with a nett 63, which should see his handicap tumble. Trevor Pitt was almost as impressive in Division 2 with a nett 65. Scores were just as impressive in Division 2, won by Peter Jones on 64. On the very final day of the month, the annual competition for the Friendly Bowl, between the Ladies and Seniors, took place with the Ladies coming through with a convincing victory.



All the prize-winners from the Championship celebrating in the summer sunshine.

Tony Biggs

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

June was when the outdoor bowls season began to feel fully underway as matches came along thick and fast. Our Men's team's participation in the national Top Club and 4-Dimensions competitions was unfortunately thwarted at the earliest stage. In the County league our A team was beaten comprehensively by Weston Bath but then notched up a resounding maximum points victory over Purnells of Paulton. Our B team fared less well with losses against Victoria A and Ashcombe C. However our team in the Clevedon and District League maintained its splendid start with decisive wins over Portishead (120-108), Long Ashton (97-70) and Clevedon (123-65) but incurring its first loss of the season to Portishead RBL (89-104). Our team in the Weston and District League extended its unbeaten run with victories over Ashcombe Knights (102-92), Winscombe Pioneers (137-86) and Ashcombe Templars (99-50) and then a brilliant win in the knockout cup over Victoria Vikings (139-55).

Our Women's section continues to suffer from depleted numbers due to illness, injury and holiday. In the County league a loss to Ashcombe (24-41) was made up for by a stunning win over St Andrews (52-44). The team in the Wessex Ladies league lost against Ashcombe (46-50) but then had a brilliant drawn match against Clevedon Prom (47-47). In the Victoria Ladies league two losses against Ashcombe and Bridgwater

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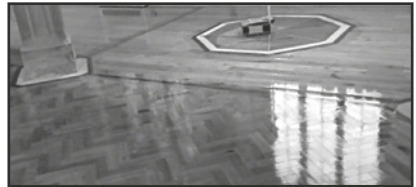
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were offset by a great win over North Petherton and then another over Mark Moor (73-20). In the South and West Somerset Ladies league our team recorded three impressive wins over Wellington (35-27), Somerton (38-25) and Taunton Vivary (31-26). In the Weston and District Ladies league there was a difficult loss against a powerful Clarence side (36-61). It needs to be recognised here that, given the difficulties mentioned above, how splendidly our Ladies teams are performing under the excellent leadership of Teresa Alden and Val Poole.

Our club also fields Mixed teams in friendly matches, losing narrowly to Burnham (79-83) but winning nicely against a touring team from Grange BC (91-85). In the Mark Moor Shield we registered a magnificent first leg victory over Mark Moor by 125 to 64. An annual fixture against Somerset Patrons was also a particularly enjoyable match with IOW winning 105-79.

An annual highlight is our hosting of the Isle of Wedmore Ladies Open Triples event sponsored by the brilliant 2Js Travel Agency of Wedmore. 24 teams fought a closely contested day of bowls in cloudy conditions. This year the main prize was won by a triple from North Petherton BC.

So, it has been a busy but enjoyable first half of the outdoor season. The June heatwave led to postponed fixtures, forcing rescheduling later on, as



North Petherton BC, winners of the Ladies Open Triples

player safety and comfort is paramount and extreme heat is not ideal. However, bowls is a fantastic game for old and young, and at IOW BC we have excellent facilities both indoors and outdoors. If you would like to improve your fitness and well-being, meet new friends, and bowl all year round, please take a look at our website www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org for a flavour and contact our Sports Development Officer, Stuart, on 01934 310034 or email him at millhaven44@icloud.com. He can arrange a visit to the club for you to 'have a go'. We would love to welcome you!

Peter Gower



News and Events from Outside the Parish

Cheddar Male Choir Raise Funds for Weston Hospicecare

Cheddar Male Choir is proud to have donated nearly £880 to Weston Hospicecare, following a wonderfully well supported fundraising concert. A full audience packed into Draycott Memorial Hall to enjoy an evening of music from the choir, joined by the superb soloist Kate Eastment. The atmosphere was fantastic, and the generosity shown on the night will make a real difference to the hospice and the families they support. A huge thank you to everyone who came along, sang, supported, donated, and helped make the event such a success. This was community spirit at its best.



Cheddar Male Choir

Wells Festival of Literature Announce Speakers



Lady Hale



Nicholas Crane



Oz Clarke - Image credit to Keith Barnes Photography

A trio of top names may tempt you along to this year's Wells Festival of Literature! Firstly, there's Lady Hale, former President of the Supreme Court and author of the memoir *Spider Woman*, who will be discussing her new book *With the Law on our Side*. This is an entertaining tour of our legal system told through the stories of real people.

Adrian Taylor

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Then Nicholas Crane, well known for his BAFTA-winning series *Coast on TV*, will reveal a fascinating history of footpaths in *The Path More Travelled*, in which he also takes the reader on some of his own most memorable walks. And, finally, if something more sedate is more to your liking, then wine expert Oz Clarke will be raising a glass to the grape. In 'A Vine is a Wild Thing' he has written a wine-lover's guide to improving your knowledge and enjoyment of wine.

Become a Friend of the Festival – a registered charity that funds literacy projects in local schools – and enjoy the benefits of discounted tickets and priority booking. Visit www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk

Wells Festival of Literature

Mendip Rotary

The Rotary Club of Mendip is pleased to announce their new joint presidents for 2026 to 2027 are Charles Collier and Scott McIntosh. Both are experienced Rotarians who have planned an exciting year ahead for the club.

Included in the Club's programme is a free prostate testing day in conjunction with Somerset Prostate Support Association and Wedmore Men's Shed for men over 40 on Saturday 10 October in Wedmore. Applications can be made via the Rotary Club of Mendip Facebook page. The last time the club organised a testing day in Cheddar 250 men were tested a number of positive indications were returned, which hopefully saved lives.

Following the success of its Golf Day last month, which raised £2,600 for charity, a similar event has been planned for May 2027 at a local golf club. Please contact the club on mendiprotaryenquiries@gmail.com if you wish to enter a team of four or sponsor the event.

If you'd like to get involved with these sorts of events and more or would appreciate the social contact, please do get in touch with us as we are now seeking new members. Either send an email to bobacland1@outlook.com or ring Bob on 07870 977854.

John Mander, Secretary

Henton and District Garden Club

We take a break in August, but we normally meet on the third Wednesday of the month in Henton Village Hall, from 7.00pm for refreshments and talks start 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 or £5 per meeting if you would just like to come to an occasional meeting. For more information either call Sue Thorne on 01749 674767 or visit our website at www.hentongardenclub.weebly.com.

Susie Spragg

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

Four Branch members attended Mendip Golf Club at their Battle of Britain Trophy Golf Competition for the RAFA Cup over 20 and 21 June. One hundred and forty-eight golfers aged between teenagers and octogenarians took part over the two days and this raised a total of £242 for the RAFA Wings Appeal. At the July meeting, member Dave Willmott gave a splendid Presentation 'Epic Delivery Flight of an HS 748 from Christchurch New Zealand to Southend-on-Sea UK' which was his last flight as an airline captain'.



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The next Branch event will be a barbecue on Sunday 2 August, from 12 noon, in the Cider Barn at Ad Astra Cider Farm, Stone Allerton. The barbecue will start at 1.00pm and the event will finish by 4.00pm. Drinks available from Ad-Astra's bar, plus games and fun activities. For further information, or to notify your attendance, the secretary via email at rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or by phone on 07881 822140.

The Branch Autumn Programme will start with a charity quiz and pizza night in aid of the RAFA Wings Appeal, again in the Cider Barn at Ad Astra Cider Farm. Doors open at 6.00pm and the quiz starts at 7.00pm. The quiz is open to all members of the public for teams of up to six persons at £5 per head; all Quiz fees will be donated to the Wings Appeal. There will be a full bar throughout the evening and pizzas will be available for purchase. For more information please contact Ad Astra Cider Farm paul.rolfe@adastracider.com or 07897 348119.

For information about any 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

Fundraising

The Wrington Minibus Society coordinated by Gill Keys organised a 'Brew for the Crew' in Wrington at the beginning of July to raise money for the RNLI. Some 25 ladies from the Wrington area enjoyed an afternoon tea party with home-made cakes in a garden under a gazebo.

'Harbottle and Jonas' will entertain you at the RNLI Folk Night at St. James Church Centre, Winscombe on Saturday 10 October to coincide with the National Lifeboat Day. Harbottle and Jonas are a dynamic Devon-based folk duo who are partners in life and in music. Dave and Freya have developed a distinct and compelling signature sound, blending concertina, harmonium, banjo, stomp box, acoustic guitar and cittern with their beautiful and closely intertwined vocal harmonies.

The second RNLI Mendip Branch Trafalgar Night celebration will take place on Saturday 24 October at the Batch Country House, Lympsham. The evening will begin at 6:00pm, with three-course dinner, dancing, and carriages at midnight. Tickets cost £55 and will be available in advance. The Guest Speaker will be Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns former Second Sea Lord and Governor of Gibraltar.

June Shouts

In June, there were 16 'Shouts' between our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 3, Minehead – 5, Portishead – 4, Weston-super-Mare – 4). RNLI Minehead's Atlantic-class lifeboat was called to assist yachts off the coast twice in June.

On Monday 1 June to assist Ilfracombe RNLI with a yacht drifting in Lynmouth Bay, having run out of fuel and with a skipper and their child incapacitated due to seasickness. The skipper knew to call Coastguard for assistance on 999 but was unable to communicate with the RNLI crew due to lack of knowledge with VHF radios. There were insufficient functioning lifejackets on board. Minehead's crew helped RNLI Ilfracombe tow the yacht to safety in Coombe Martin.

On Saturday 27 June, a member of the public reported to the Coastguard that a 6-metre vessel was drifting past The Royal Inn Pub and going towards Battery Point, Portishead, as it seemed to be unable to start its engines. RNLI Portishead's Atlantic-class lifeboat was launched to assist. Given that the vessel was in an ebbing tide, they managed to deploy their anchor but were by then in the busy shipping channel, putting them at risk from the large ships that are restricted to the deep channel. Arriving on





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scene, it was clear to the Lifeboat crew that there were 2 people on board, they were fit and well and had lifejackets on. Their engines would not start, so the decision was taken to set up an alongside tow and to take them to the safety of Portishead Marina where Portishead Coastguard Rescue Team took over the lines from the vessel in the Marina lock so that the lifeboat crew could recover the lifeboat.

Paul Ashmore

Church News

Parish Registers and Notices

Christenings

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

Luke and Liam Skelton, sons of Paul and Laura from Weymouth who were baptised on 14 June at Allerton Church.

Wilfred Leighfield, son of James and Rachael from Wedmore who was baptised on 28 June at St Mary's Church.

Weddings

Congratulations to Will and Georgia (née Scott) Church of London, who were married in St Mary's on Saturday 6 June.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of: -

Alec Brice of Wedmore who died on 3 June aged 89, and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on Monday 29 June.

On a Wheel and a Prayer

Richard, our vicar, will be cycling around the benefice on Tuesday 18 August 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. 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 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; 12.25pm Mark First School; 12.40pm Holy Cross Mark; 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 Wedmore.

Revd. Richard Neill

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

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

Sunday	2	Trinity 9	10.45am 6.00pm	Café Church, Creche and Seekers Start the Week
Sunday	9	Trinity 10	8.00am 10.45am 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Joint Communion with Christchurch Start the Week
Sunday	16	Trinity 11	10.45am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Start the Week
Sunday	23	Trinity 12	10.45am	Morning Praise
Sunday	30	Trinity 13	No service at St Mary's	Benefice Communion at Holy Cross, Mark 10am

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	2	Trinity 9	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	9	Trinity 10	9.15am	Communion with Allerton and Holy Cross
Sunday	16	Trinity 11	9.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	23	Trinity 12	9.15am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	30	Trinity 13	No service at Holy Trinity	Benefice Communion at Holy Cross, Mark 10am

Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	2	Trinity 9	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday	9	Trinity 10	No Service – See St Mary's	Worship Together with St Mary's
Sunday	16	Trinity 11	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday	23	Trinity 12	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday	30	Trinity 13	No service at Christchurch	Benefice Communion at Holy Cross, Mark 10am

Allerton Church

Sunday	2	Trinity 9	9.15am	Family Service
Sunday	9	Trinity 10	No service	Communion with Blackford and Mark church at Holy Trinity
Sunday	16	Trinity 11	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	23	Trinity 12	9.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	30	Trinity 13	No service at Allerton	Benefice Communion at Holy Cross, Mark 10am

Holy Cross Church, Mark

Sunday	2	Trinity 9	9.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	9	Trinity 10	No Service at Holy Cross	Communion with Holy Trinity and Allerton at Holy Trinity
Sunday	16	Trinity 11	9.15am	Café Church
Sunday	23	Trinity 12	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	30	Trinity 13	10.00am	Benefice Communion

Bagley Baptist Church

Bagley Baptist Church warmly welcomes you to join us. Our Summer Sunday Services start at 10.30am, when we gather All-In together as one church family. Why not come along to our Wednesday Coffee Morning from 10.30am to 12 noon, where you can enjoy free tea, coffee and homemade cakes, a beautiful view and a friendly welcome. Bring a friend or make some new ones. We also offer Home Groups, monthly Prayer Meetings and other opportunities for fellowship and encouragement.

The church has good parking and wheelchair access. For more information, please call 01934 710779, email contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk or visit www.bagleybaptist.co.uk

Sam Harvey, Secretary

Crickham Baptist Chapel

Sunday services at Crickham Baptist chapel are to be held at 6.30pm during the summer months, everyone is welcome, we have a short service followed by fellowship with tea, coffee and cake. You are sure of a warm Christian welcome.

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

Ruth Smith

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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.

August 24 - Minehead via The Quantock Hills (now fully booked!) – 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.

Please note changes to organiser contact details for Bridgwater and Weston-super-Mare.

Monday – Bath (monthly) – This month's visit to Bath will be on Monday 3 August – 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 17 August – 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 Jo Blythe on 01934 713001 between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Thursday – Weston-super-Mare – Departs Weston 1.45pm, back around 2.45pm. Call Helen Flooks on 01934 611006 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 8 August – 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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