

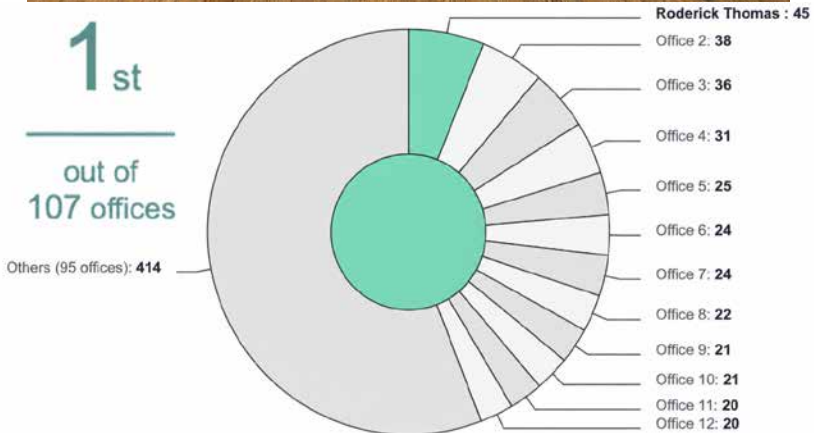


ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

October 2026
No. 559

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Editorial

If you are a man aged over 40, then please consider getting a prostate test done this month at Wedmore Playing Fields (Post and Wicket). It is a simple blood test giving an early indication of a possible issue, and this test may already have saved the life of at least one of my friends!

As always, there is much going on across the Isle of Wedmore from the visit of talented musicians from Wells Cathedral School; professional opera singers regaling you with music from the movies; to a couple of quiz nights, one in aid of the lovely Community Orchard at Bagley, and one raising funds for Weston Hospicecare.

Autumn is really settling in now and we are warned to expect a warm, wet, and stormy autumn. Flooding will become the big concern over the Somerset Levels, so please be careful travelling around the area and keep an eye on neighbours in our wonderful community who may be directly affected.

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

This month's cover photo is the winner of the Sunshine and Shadow category of the Wedmore in Focus photographic competition. Ian Penney took this beautiful picture of a sparrowhawk on a bird feeder in his garden. In the News section of this issue you will find the winning entries in the under sixteen section by Isabelle Emmings in the Sunshine and Shadow category and Charlotte Emmings in the Brick and Stone category. Well done to both of them!

*Mike,
Photo Editor*

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE: 1 October 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.

The Children's Society Box Opening – 3 October

All box holders and friends are invited to the Annual Box Opening for the Children's Society will take place in St Mary's Church.

Wells Cathedral School Soloist Showcase – 6 October

A wonderful evening of music as Wedmore Festival welcomes six talented soloists from Wells Cathedral School to St Mary's Church.

Prostate Testing in Wedmore – 10 October

There is a free prostate testing day being organised by Mendip Rotary, Somerset Prostate Support Association, and Wedmore Men's Shed.

Lights, Camera... Opera! – 10 October

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

Bagley Community Orchard Quiz Night – 17 October

Please join us at Theale Village Hall for a fun night's quizzing. Can your team win the 2026 BOFTA?

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Auction – 24 October

An auction in aid of Weston Hospicecare will be hosted by Alex, at the New Inn, Wedmore.

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.

The Big Tidy Up – Sunday 1 November

Come along and help keep the roads and lanes of Wedmore litter free. Hi-Viz and litter pickers provided.

The Turnip Prize – Entry Submission 1 to 21 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.

St Mary's Church Annual Charities' Fair – 7 November

St Mary's is hosting various charities to give them an opportunity to sell their Christmas cards, calendars, and gifts.

Wedmore Twinning Games and Quiz Night – 7 November

The Twinning Association are holding a games, quiz, and supper evening in Wedmore Village Hall.

Wedmore Theatre Pantomime – 26 to 28 November

'Oh no it isn't!', 'Oh yes it is!!' Wedmore Theatre's much anticipated pantomime will be back with 'The Pantomime that Goes Wrong'. What could possibly go wrong?

The Turnip Prize Award's Ceremony – 8 December

The winner will be announced.

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News

Tessa Munt MP's Update

I enjoyed a busy August – not having to travel to Westminster, I had more time to catch up with local residents and businesspeople. I held 23 community surgeries during the month and heard many different concerns, several of which I raised with Ministers on my return to Parliament.

David and I love the local Harvest Homes, and it was a pleasure to serve at Wedmore Harvest Home, to join the two 'Kings of Wedmore' for tea (along with dozens of children and young people!) and be guests at Blackford Harvest Home. These events are amazing feats of organisation, and I'd like to thank everyone involved. We look forward to being back next year.

We also attended 'Supper in the Orchard', a lovely evening in Sand, raising funds for Weston Hospicecare, a really deserving cause. Many of us have had family and friends who benefitted from the excellent care provided by the Hospice, and I am happy to champion their work whenever I can. I had the great pleasure of helping to greet those who finished the Wedmore 40/30 (and 12 and 70 miles!) cycle ride, handing out the medals at Wedmore Sports Club. This event grows more popular each year thanks to the fab team who work hard to make it so special, fundraising for Weston Hospicecare and St Mary's Church. I also attended the Men's Shed barbecue – thank you for my supper! It's lovely to see so many local friends and neighbours up at the Village Farm.

It'll be no surprise that I've met Somerset Council highways officers to raise many residents' concerns about the condition of our roads, works, contractors' inaccurate signage, closures, and speeding.

I return to a Parliament with a new Prime Minister who seems keen to 're-set' politics and work in a different way. My health colleagues have accepted his invitation to work cross party to find solutions to the longstanding challenge of care for our elderly and vulnerable citizens, and I'm hopeful those talks continue and are productive. It seems Ministers too have started the new 'term' with a more collaborative approach, which is welcome. I'll keep you updated over the coming months as the programme of legislation is outlined in detail.

Finally, if you're running a business locally, I am keen to hear what works, what doesn't work and what should change. I'm delighted that Daisy Cooper MP, Lib Dem Treasury Spokesperson will be visiting Draycott Memorial Hall on 24 October to talk about the rules and regulations affecting businesses, give an overview of where the Government is, and seems to be going and to answer your questions. It's free to attend



and ticket numbers are limited, so please join us and let us know how you could be supported better. To sign up, please email me at tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk and I'll send you the link.

My most local surgeries for October are on Friday 2 October from 11.00am to 12.00 noon at The East Brent Hub Café; Saturday 3 October from 11.30am to 12.30pm at The Lamb Inn, Axbridge; Friday 9 October from 8.00am to 9.00am at Edelweiss Café, Cheddar; Saturday 10 October from 9.00am to 10.00am at The Bluebird Café, Wedmore; Saturday 24 October from 10.00am to 11.00am at the Theale Café, Theale Village Hall. Please visit my website at www.tessamunt.co.uk/find-a-surgery 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! It hardly seems possible that it's already time for another update from Wedmore Parish Council. Whilst only a month since our last article, there isn't room to report on everything, but there are a few updates worth sharing as we head into autumn.

There continues to be plenty happening across the parish, with work progressing on a number of projects and issues raised by residents. Our Community Resilience Packs continue to develop and following the particularly dry summer we're looking at including information on wildfire prevention and response. We're also continuing discussions with Green Wedmore and the Wildlife Trust about a wider Climate Adaptation Toolkit, building on our existing Emergency Plan.

Although it may seem early, we are beginning to look ahead to the 2027/28 budget. Over the coming months, councillors will consider the costs of maintaining our services and facilities, existing commitments and projects we may wish to support in the year ahead. This will ultimately feed into the setting of the Council's budget and annual precept. At the August Full Council meeting, members reviewed the latest bank reconciliation and budget monitoring information. Payments and expenditure totalling £10,904.70 were approved.

Committees and Community Projects

The Biodiversity and Environmental Committee is looking at the future of Worthington Woods, including the commissioning a professional survey and management plan. This will help us understand the biodiversity already present and consider how the woods, meadow and picnic area could be managed and enjoyed as a parish asset.

At the allotments, we're also looking at practical ways to collect and store rainwater. Having decided not to pursue a borehole at this stage, our focus is on rainwater harvesting wherever possible.



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The Cemetery Committee has recently completed its review of cemetery fees and Burial Regulations. Revised fees came into effect on 1 September, following a review of charges at nearby cemeteries and the costs of maintaining Wedmore Cemetery. We're also continuing to look at opportunities for biodiversity improvements within the cemetery.

Our footpaths continue to be an important part of parish life, and we regularly receive reports of damaged stiles, gates and other access points. We're working with the Wedmore Footpaths Group and Wedmore Men's Shed to identify where repairs are needed, with a budget allocated to support the work. It's particularly encouraging to see local volunteers putting their time and practical skills into improving our paths. The Men's Shed continues to be a fantastic community asset and we're very grateful for their support.

Planning and Highways remains a significant part of the Council's workload. We've continued to hear from residents about the Combe Batch housing development, particularly around the Section 106 commitments relating to pedestrian access and rights of way. We've reviewed the relevant information and are helping residents understand what has been agreed. We've also contacted local schools and the doctors' surgery to seek their views on current and anticipated capacity as we consider the impact of this and other developments in the area. Road safety continues to be raised by residents, including concerns about vehicle speeds and signage.

The public toilets remain an ongoing issue, particularly the drainage and associated odour problems. We're continuing to work with neighbouring property owners and specialist contractors to investigate the problem and find a long-term solution. We appreciate everyone's patience while we work through what is proving to be a complicated issue. We're also exploring ways to improve insulation and energy efficiency at the Council Offices and meeting rooms, with an initial assessment being sought to identify the most practical improvements. Work is also continuing on design options for the King Alfred village entrance signs, with the intention of creating a fitting gateway to Wedmore.

Supporting Our Community

It's always encouraging to see local businesses and community organisations developing and Community events continue to be a wonderful part of village life. The Council has been involved in nominations for Somerset's Chair's Service to the Community Awards. We're looking forward to attending the awards in October and celebrating the achievements of local people.

A Note from the Clerk

Although autumn seems to have arrived almost overnight, there's still plenty happening across the parish. What continues to stand out is just how much is achieved through the enthusiasm and commitment of local people. Whether it's volunteers helping with footpaths, supporting community events, working on environmental projects or simply looking out for a neighbour, these contributions really do make Wedmore such a special place.

As always, if you see me or one of your parish councillors out and about, please come and say hello. We're always happy to hear your thoughts, ideas and, of course, anything you think we could be doing better!

*Lindsey Baker,
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council*

Do Something Extraordinary with the Samaritans

We're recruiting Listening Volunteers to join our established and supportive team at Weston-super-Mare and North Somerset Samaritans.

This role involves 3 to 4 hours per week, with a mix of shifts to suit all schedules. However, we do ask that this includes four night-shifts (2am to 6am) per year. You will receive incredible training, ongoing mentoring, and full support throughout your volunteering journey.

Listening with Samaritans gives you the chance to make a real difference to peoples' lives, whilst doing something truly meaningful and rewarding. We are ordinary people doing extraordinary things, and you could be one of us! To find out more and apply, please visit www.samaritans.org/westonsupermare

Marina Jonas

The Ethel Pople Trust Requests Applications

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

The Trustees of the charity meet each year with a view to deciding how the distributions can be applied for the greater benefit of those entitled. The Trustees of the Ethel Pople Trust Deceased Charity therefore invite written application from those who qualify under the terms of the Trust with a view to distribution of the trust income in or around December or January. Application letters should state briefly the basis on which the applicant qualifies, i.e. whether by reason of age or infirmity, and should include any other information relevant to the applicant's circumstances that they feel able to give.

All applications will be treated in confidence. Please note that if you have applied successfully before, and wish to apply this year, then you will need to apply again to provide written confirmation that your circumstances have not changed. The Trustees of the Charity will consider applications in, or around, December.

Applications should be addressed for the attention of Sara Anthony, the Ethel Pople Charity Trustees, John Hodge Solicitors, Unit 16, The Borough Mall, Wedmore, BS28 4EB.

The Ethel Pople Trust



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Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund CIO Needs Your Help

Calling anyone with the skills of Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary. The Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund CIO is urgently looking to fill the voluntary roles of Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Could you help please?

The Fund operates across Wedmore, Axbridge and the surrounding area with the purpose of improving the health and well-being of people in the area. Initially set up in 1988, the Fund has developed a broad remit to provide health-related equipment and services to benefit patients of the Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice, community groups and individuals. It became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2022.

Each role requires attendance at quarterly meetings locally, with the remainder of the role undertaken from home, in conjunction with the Trustees.

Further information about the fund can be found at www.twachf.wixsite.com/my-site. To find out more about the particular roles, please contact Shirley Wederell by email at wederellsa@btinternet.com We would love to hear from you, thanks!

Pauline Heslop

The Children's Society Box Opening

The Annual Box Opening for the Children's Society will take place in St Mary's Church on Saturday 3 October, starting at 10.00am. All box holders and friends are invited to come along to St Mary's Church to enjoy a cup of coffee whilst your box is opened and the contents are counted. For those unable to attend on the 3 October, please bring your box to Sue Burton at Combe Cottage, Combe Batch, by Friday 2 October.

If you would like to become a box holder, and new collectors are urgently needed, please, as you have to do as a box holder is to either put in a regular amount or just your loose change from time to time. It is surprising how, even in this cashless society, this soon adds up! Alternatively, if you would prefer to support the Society by a regular gift via direct debit then bank or building society instruction forms will be available on the 3 October, or by contacting Sue Burton at sjburton1012@gmail.com

Susanne Burton, Children's Society Local Co-Ordinator

Wells Cathedral School Soloist Showcase

Join us on Tuesday 6 October at 7.30pm for a wonderful evening of music as Wedmore Festival welcomes six talented soloists from Wells Cathedral School to St Mary's Church.

This special concert celebrates some of the region's most promising young musicians and is part of the Festival's commitment to supporting emerging talent. It's a fantastic opportunity to enjoy outstanding live music in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's, while helping to encourage the next generation of performers.

Tickets are £12 (£6 for under 16s) and are available online from www.wedmorefestival.co.uk (booking fees apply) or Wedmore Village Store (cash only). We hope you'll come along and support these exceptional young artists.

Wedmore Festival

Prostate Testing in Wedmore

Mendip Rotary Club with the support of the Wedmore Men's Shed and Five Ways Financial Planning are sponsoring free prostate cancer testing at the Post and Wicket, Wedmore on Saturday 10 October from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Please note that there are no 'walk-ins' and it is essential to pre-book an appointment, which only takes a few minutes.

Don't delay! Last year our testing in Cheddar identified some men who needed urgent treatment!

Book via the QR Code, or send an enquiry to mendiprotaryenquiries@gmail.com



Mendip Rotary

Lights, Camera... Opera!

On 10 October, 7.30pm, in St Mary's Church, Wedmore Opera brings together a dazzling collection of operatic favourites that have thrilled audiences for generations and found their way into films, television and pop culture. Expect soaring melodies, dramatic storytelling, romance, humour and breathtaking vocal performances.

Featuring outstanding professional singers and some of opera's most popular and recognisable music, this is the perfect night out for opera enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

Final tickets are available now from Wedmore Village Store or online from TicketSource www.ticketsource.com/wedmoreopera or follow the QR code.



wedmore opera



Ellie Oliver

Bagley Community Orchard Quiz Night

Please join us on Saturday 17 October, from 7.30pm, at Theale Village Hall for a fun night's quizzing. Can your team win the 2026 BOFTA (Bagley Orchard's Fun Trophy Award)? Please note, this is not a quiz for academics, this is a quiz for everyone. The Great Leveller!

Come for a fun evening, at a quiz like no other, and support our lovely Community Orchard at Bagley. Snacks are provided but please bring your own drinks and glasses. No team? Don't stay home alone, we'll find a place for you! And, of course, there will be a splendid raffle.

Teams are a maximum of 6 people at £5 per person. Booking is not compulsory, but space is limited, so if you want to be sure of a table, please book one by contacting Sharon on 01934 713267 or Trish and Richard on 01934 710020.



Sharon Rabbitts

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Auction

On Saturday 24 October at 6.30pm Alex, of the New Inn, Wedmore, is kindly holding another auction in aid of Weston Hospicecare. Please come and join us and bid generously for the lots! There will be a free light finger buffet available. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

*Shirley Wederell,
Chair of Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare*

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The Big Tidy Up



It's time once again to give Wedmore a bit of a clean ready for winter. The Big Tidy Up will take place on Sunday 1 November, 10.00am. Please gather at Borough House and help keep the roads and lanes of Wedmore litter free. Hi-Viz and litter-pickers

provided. For further details please contact Venetia on 07967 660040.

Venetia Hopkins



St Mary's Church Annual Charities' Fair

Once again St Mary's PCC is opening the church to various charities to give them an opportunity to sell their Christmas cards, calendars, and gifts. This year the Fair will be on Saturday November 7 from 10.00am to 12.30pm. This is the 25th Fair and over the years it has raised thousands of pounds for a wide range of charitable causes. Coffee and Cakes will be available to refresh you in between making your purchases. This is always a very happy occasion, so please come along and support your favourite charities.

There are still a few stalls available, so if you represent a registered charity and wish to have a stall, please email sjburton1012@gmail.com

Sue Burton, Co-ordinator

Wedmore Twinning Games and Quiz Night

The Twinning Association are holding a games, quiz, and supper evening on Saturday 7 November 7.00pm in Wedmore Village Hall. To register your interest, and receive more information as soon as it's available, please email wedmoretwinning1@gmail.com

Andy Reeson

Wedmore Theatre Pantomime

Not long now until Christmas, and it will soon be Pantomime Time! 'Oh, no, it won't!' you say, 'Oh, yes, it will!!' we say.

Following on from Wedmore Theatre's hilarious production of 'Private Lives' by Noel Coward at the end of April, we invite you to join us for another side-splitting production. Don't miss our talented local children (and a few intrepid adults) who are taking to the boards to bring you 'The Wrong Pantomime' on Thursday 26, Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm, with a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30pm.

What might happen if characters from all the wrong pantomimes turned up for a dress rehearsal at the same time and in the same place? Outrageous dames vying for laughter; princes with silver slippers; genies in lamps; rats and pirates filling the stage; and, of course, goodies teaming up to beat the baddies. A right royal pantomime fiasco!

Tickets are available in Wedmore Village Store, or through our website at www.wedmoretheatre.com/book

Judy Philpotts



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 at The New Inn on 8 December, 6.00pm, the winner will be announced. 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



The Wedmore Community Bus – Helping Our Children Get to School



The first day of the new Community Bus service to Hugh Sexey's

Sometimes it takes a difficult situation to remind us just how important our local community is. For families in Wedmore with children attending Hugh Sexey Middle School, getting to and from school each day became a real concern when the previous

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school bus service was cancelled and there was no affordable alternative available. For children who live in the village and need transport to school, this left parents having to find their own solutions. Not every family is able to drive their children to school every morning and afternoon, and walking or cycling is not always a suitable or safe option, particularly for younger children and with the busy roads they would have to travel along.

Thankfully, the Wedmore Community Bus came to the aid of local families. The Community Bus is now helping children who live in Wedmore village and need daily transport to Hugh Sexey Middle School, providing an affordable and reliable way for them to make their journey to and from school.

For parents, the service has brought something incredibly valuable: peace of mind. Knowing that our children are travelling safely with trusted local volunteer drivers means we no longer have to worry about them having to walk or cycle along the roads, or about how we will manage the school run around work and family commitments. For the children, it has also provided a familiar and friendly way to travel to school alongside other local children from their own community.

None of this would be possible without the people who give up their own time to make the service work. A very special thank you to Henry and the wonderful team of volunteer drivers for their commitment, kindness and dedication. By volunteering their time, they are doing so much more than driving a bus. They are helping local children get to school safely, supporting working families and making sure that children who live in Wedmore have access to an affordable means of getting to their school.

It is a fantastic example of the community looking after its own, and a reminder of what makes living in a village like Wedmore so special. On behalf of the parents and children who rely on the service, thank you to Henry and every one of the volunteer drivers. We are incredibly grateful for everything you do and for the reassurance you give us each day when our children travel to and from school.

*Kathryn Munday,
Parent*

Wedmore Community Bus is now providing a daily bus service for Wedmore children attending Hugh Sexey School. There are further spaces available so if you're interested please contact the bus by email at wedmorebus@gmail.com.

Wedmore Charities Education Grants

Wedmore Charities have around £300 to allocate to any persons living in the parish of Wedmore, for any form of educational purposes. Pupils under 18 should apply through their parent or guardian, over-18s should apply for themselves. The application should give their details, school or college, and exactly what they intend to do with the grant.

Please note that as the number of applications rises some previously successful applicants may be overlooked in favour of new applicants.

Applications should be addressed to The Treasurer, Wedmore Charities, Bockingford House, Westham, Wedmore. BS28 4UX. The closing date for applications is 22 November. Successful applicants will be notified in December.

Wedmore Charities

Chris and Marina's Saharan Challenge for The Samaritans

In November, Chris and Marina will be walking across the Sahara Desert, a week on foot, extreme heat, long distances, and tough terrain, with nights camping out in the desert. It's going to push us but we're doing it to raise money for Samaritans.



Every six seconds, someone in the UK contacts Samaritans, and every call is answered by a volunteer who will listen without judgment. A real person who is just



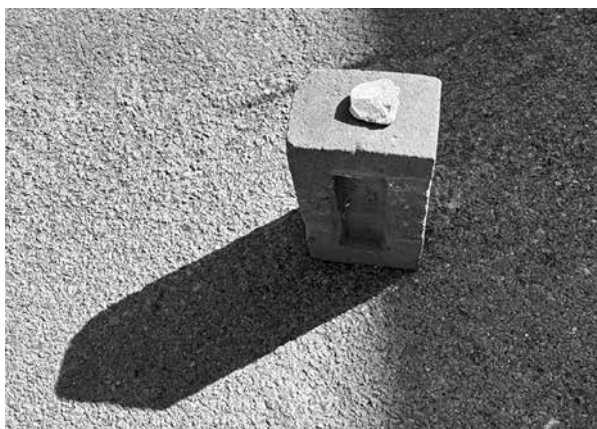
there 24 hours a day. For many people, especially in the middle of the night, Samaritans is the only place there is to turn. They're often called the fourth emergency service. But unlike the other emergency services, Samaritans rely entirely on volunteers and donations to keep the phones answered.

We're raising money for our local branch, Weston-super-Mare, which is part of that national network, and we're covering our own costs for the trip, so every penny you donate goes straight to Samaritans. If you can spare anything, please donate by visiting www.justgiving.com/page/chris-jonas-4 or access it using the QR code. Also, please share our JustGiving page to family, friends, and colleagues, as this will really help. Thank you.

Marina and Chris

Wedmore in Focus Photo Competition

Some months ago I wrote that the Wedmore in Focus Photo Competition was 'back by popular demand'. Well, it's been demanding in many ways. I have spent the summer 'demanding entries' and thank you to those who answered my pleas. The behind-the-scenes organisation has also had its demanding moments, but we all made it to a most 'popular' Bank Holiday Exhibition of just over 100 photos taken by 37 people of whom 7 were children. Well done everyone!



Brick and Stone – Charlotte Emmings

The most popular category was 'Sunshine and Shadows', a theme chosen to reflect our sponsors, Sunlit Solar and Wedmore Community Power, but given our exceptionally sunny summer, a prophetic choice. 'Brick and Stone' proved more of a challenge, but



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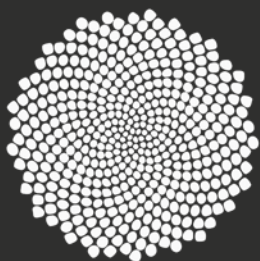
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Sunshine and Shadow – Isabelle Emmings

the talented photographers of the Parish enjoy a challenge as demonstrated by the varied entries on show. Our young photographers also rose to the challenge and displayed their originality and creativity once again.

Our judges, the well qualified artist / photographer Robin Gray and his colleague James Cole, were impressed by the overall standard but eventually chose some worthy winners. The results for Class

One ‘Sunshine and Shadow under 16s’ were Isabelle Emmings and 2nd Elyana Jacobs. In Class Two ‘Sunshine and Shadow Adult’, first place went to Ian Penney with Clive Warren-Smith second. Class Three ‘Brick and Stone under 16s’ was won by Charlotte Emmings with second place going to Teddy Starley. In Class Four ‘Brick and Stone Adult’ Julie Harding came first with Louise Baldwin second. The winner of the ‘People’s Choice’ award was Alexa Rant.



Left hand side: the two judges, James Cole and Robin Gray; Back row: Louise Baldwin, Ian Penney, Keith Boulnois, Clive Warren-Smith; Front row: Charlotte Emmings, Isabelle Emmings, and organiser Jean Gregory.

The whole event culminated on Bank Holiday Monday in St Mary’s Church, when our Society Chairman, Keith Boulnois, presented the cash prizes to some of the winners. Robin Gray also generously donated four of his framed photos to those he felt were ‘winners of the winners’. One to Ian Penney, one to Clive Warren Smith, and one to Charlotte Emmings. Robin enjoyed the joke of our postman Mr. Stone holding a brick in front of a stone wall in the Brick and Stone category and gave his final photo to Helen Emmings, the photographer. His short talk on how to take a winning photo and the merits of his chosen photos will be most useful for next time.

The exhibition was very well attended over the three days and Hazel Hudson's pictures of Old Wedmore helped set the scene for the new ones on display in the Guild Chapel. The Society is most grateful to the Vicar and Warden for the use of this space, befitting a competition about the Parish, entered by the people of the Parish, and enjoyed by all in the Parish and many visitors.

We can look forward to seeing some of the photos over the next few months on the cover of our Isle of Wedmore News. And the work of the Isle of Wedmore Society continues with monthly meetings and talks in the Masonic Hall. All welcome!

Again, thank you to all those who entered, encouraged and enabled a most successful, and we hope, 'popular' Wedmore Parish Event, which one person appropriately called 'a celebration of our heritage'.

Jean Gregory, Secretary, Isle of Wedmore Society

Fundraising Successes for Weston Hospicecare

Back in the heat of August James and Amy opened their wonderful garden in Chapel Allerton, raising the amazing sum of £1,030! It was a beautiful day in a beautiful garden, with great refreshments, a tombola, jigsaw sale, and entertainment by Cheddar Valley Singers. Thank you to all those who came and supported this day. We really appreciated you coming on such a hot afternoon.

123 people attended the Supper in the Orchard event organised by Sally Lee of Wedmore. A huge thank you to Sally for organising it and her two sons for the use of the land and the marquee, it was a wonderful evening and all in aid of Weston Hospicecare. A great time was had by all and the event raised £1,700. This will be used towards the purchase of a Stargazer bed which during the day can be used as a chair and at night can be extended to become a single bed which a family member can use to stay overnight with the patient. This enables the patient to relax and feel comfortable knowing a family member is there beside them. These beds will replace pull-down beds that have become 'not fit for purpose' anymore and not always available for use in the In-Patient Unit. Six of these beds will still be required so that each in-patient room has one.

The Wedmore Friends and Weston Hospicecare express sincere thanks to James and Amy, and Sally and her sons, for supporting us with these wonderful fundraising events. Don't forget to come along to the auction at the New Inn on 24 October (see separate article).

Shirley Wederell,

Chair Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare

Wedmore Twinning Visit to Saint-Médard-de-Guizières

At the end of August a group of 20 people, from Wedmore and the surrounding area, set off for the biennial Twinning visit to Saint-Médard-de-Guizières. We were relieved that the recent high temperatures in South West France had dropped to the more comfortable twenties for the duration of our stay. Some of us were returning to stay with hosts we have already built friendships with, others were joining the twinning group and meeting their hosts for the very first time. From the moment we arrived we were all made to feel very welcome.



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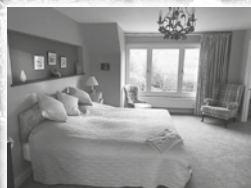
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On the evening of our arrival we attended a reception at the Mairie (Town Hall) in Saint-Médard, where Presidents of both Associations, (Andy Reeson from Wedmore and Benoît Dayraut from St Médard), welcomed everyone, and a representative of the Mayor of Saint-Médard officially greeted the visitors from Wedmore.

We rose bright and early on the Friday morning to board a coach to Bordeaux. An hour



later we arrived at an impressive building in the centre of the city, home to the National Customs Museum. Here we learnt about the history and different activities the of Customs Service and how its role has expanded over the years. With the museum tour complete, it was time for 'le déjeuner'. Some of the group opted

for a restaurant lunch, others enjoyed a picnic in the Jardin Public. Our French friends humorously named this a 'Wedmore picnic', as it rained heavily. Nevertheless, a delicious picnic was consumed under the shelter of the trees and was still very enjoyable. In the afternoon we visited the recently renovated Muséum de Bordeaux Sciences et Nature, one of France's largest and oldest natural history museums, housed in a beautiful 18th century mansion in the grounds of Bordeaux's Jardin Public. This impressive museum has 3 floors of exhibits.

We finished off our trip to Bordeaux with some free time to explore, do some shopping, or enjoy a drink in one of the city's many cafés and bars, before heading back to Saint-Médard on the coach. On leaving Bordeaux we experienced the Friday traffic congestion (une journée rouge), and our journey back took a lot longer than expected. However, we arrived back just in time to freshen up before heading back out to spend the evening at Mireille Conte-Jaubert (former Mayor of Saint-Médard), and Christian Conte-Jaubert's home. 50 people sat down to enjoy delicious canapés, fabulous cheeses and tasty desserts, with plenty of wine from Château Laborde (Serge and Natalie Audebert's vineyard).

Saturday morning was spent with hosts or a visit to Château Laborde, where there was a tour of the processing plant and naturally a little wine tasting. Serge explained his

latest venture of storing 600 bottles of his wine for a year on the seabed near Brest. This evidently helps the aging processes and improves the wine. The bottles are encrusted with corals and shells, making them interesting ... and expensive! In the afternoon, following a good lunch, there was a trip on the River Isle on a traditional barge. We spent a peaceful hour gliding along the shallow river with its tree lined banks and interesting wildlife. This was followed by a stop for refreshments at Glaces Javerzac, a family run dairy farm selling artisan ice-creams made using milk from their own cows.

Saturday evening was the final Gala dinner held in the market square. We were welcomed by Jérôme Roberteau, recently elected Mayor of Saint-Médard-de-Guizières. Jerome has fond memories of visiting Wedmore himself as a teenager and hopes to join us next summer when we welcome our friends from Saint-Médard back to the village. The French hosts had evidently been delighted with the teapots we gave them last year to mark the 50th anniversary of the Twinning of the two villages. So, in return, we were all presented with a mug decorated with photos of Saint-Médard-de-Guizières.

Sunday morning was spent with hosts or, for the energetic, a walk along the River Isle which runs along the edge of the village. Wedmore visitors made their way home by various routes and look forward to welcoming the French to Wedmore in August 2027.

If you are interested in joining Wedmore Twinning Association, or would just like more information about us, please email us at wedmoretwinning1@gmail.com We are actively looking for new hosts for next Summer!

*Andy Reeson,
President, Wedmore Twinning Association*

Regular Features

Thought for the Month

After a very warm sunny summer, the change to autumn is perhaps even more noticeable this year. Personally, I am glad that we live in a country where the seasons are so different. Whilst it was nice to wake up to guaranteed sunshine for a few weeks, I do think the variety of our seasons is enriching. With each of the four seasons, there is an overall natural rhythm to our year.

‘Season’ is a word deeply woven into both the earth and our Christian faith. In the Book of Ecclesiastes, we are reminded that ‘To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.’ The word itself roots us in God’s deliberate design. Derived from the Old French word ‘saison’, meaning ‘sowing time,’ it reminds us of the spiritual truth that life involves different times for planting, waiting, and harvesting.

While modern life often demands constant, unrelenting productivity, God’s creation teaches us a healthier rhythm. Each season of the year can speak to us of different seasons in our life. Spring speaks of new life, new beginnings, new opportunities; a season full of hope and dreams. Summer speaks of times when we have a clear purpose and feel fruitful. Autumn speaks of times of putting things down, of endings and slowing down. Finally, winter invites us into rest, be still, to recharge ready for the next season of spring. Of course, seasons in our lives are not as clear

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cut or ordered as the physical ones. However, recognising and embracing the season of life we are in can be very helpful.

For those of us with faith, it also provides another opportunity to trust in the Lord's perfect timing, His provision, protection and grace. This autumn, let us notice the physical season and take time to reflect on our own. Let us also give thanks for the steadfast Creator who remains constant through every turning season and for Jesus who is Immanuel - God with us.

*Paul Jacobs,
Bagley Baptist Church*

Tasty Morsels – Aloo Tikki (Spiced Potato Patties)

Ingredients –

1 kg potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
3 tbsp salt
2 tbsp distilled white vinegar
35g panko breadcrumbs
50g corn flour
1 tbsp chaat masala
1 tbsp garam masala
1 tsp chili powder
1 tsp ground turmeric
2 cloves garlic -minced
2 tsp minced ginger (5g)
8-10 sprigs of coriander, minced
1 hot green chili, minced (optional)
Vegetable oil for frying



Method –

In a large pot, combine the potatoes, salt, vinegar, and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat to maintain a steady simmer. Cook until potatoes are completely tender, about 15 minutes. Strain potatoes and let drain, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer to medium mixing bowl and set aside.

While the potatoes are cooking, combine breadcrumbs, potato starch, chaat masala, garam masala, chili powder, and turmeric in a small mixing bowl. Using a fork or small whisk, stir until thoroughly combined. Sprinkle spiced breadcrumb mixture and ginger evenly over still-hot drained potatoes in bowl. Using a potato masher or fork, mash potatoes, breaking up any large pieces; do not over-mash, as you want some smaller un-mashed potato bits in the final mix. Add cilantro and chili and, using a spoon, stir potato mixture gently to distribute seasoning evenly.

Using clean hands, roll 3 tablespoons potato mixture into a ball between your palms, packing the mixture together much as you would a snowball. Flatten ball between the palms of your hands to form a puck, making sure that there are no cracks around the edges (if cracks are present, smooth edges with your fingers). Repeat with remaining potato mixture; you should have 12 to 15 potato patties. Let patties cool to room temperature, about 15 minutes.

Set a wire rack inside a rimmed baking sheet and line with paper towels. In a 10-inch cast iron skillet, add enough vegetable oil for be 2 to 3cm deep and heat over medium heat until shimmering. Add 8 potato patties and cook, swirling occasionally, until golden brown on bottom, about 2 minutes. Using an offset or thin metal spatula, flip patties and continue to cook, swirling occasionally, until golden brown on second side, about 2 minutes. Transfer patties to prepared wire rack. Repeat with remaining patties. Allow patties to cool slightly before serving, about 5 minutes. Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

This Month in the Garden

Welcome to the most colourful time in the garden! In the leaves of many of our trees and shrubs, this is the time when the colour green (due to chlorophyll) ceases to be produced and so the remaining chemical pigments start to shine through with their yellows, amber, pinks and scarlets. Most prominent is in many varieties of Japanese maples but autumn colour shows in many more plants. Even our native oak trees can colour up wonderfully in some years, and there are special varieties such as *Quercus rubra* with large leaves that turn deep maroon and the even more glowing scarlet of *Quercus coccinea* 'Splendens', both of which I planted in my Devon woodland garden. In my first weekend as a student at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, Jean and I walked through the oak walk, kicking our heels through the wonderful mass of fallen oak leaves and being overawed at the number of different species and varieties of oak, over 200 I seem to remember.

But green doesn't disappear from all plants. Yes, the lawns are alive again after one of the most challenging of drought years. Some may need a sprinkling of grass seed in any bare patches, but most lawns will have fully recovered by now and are growing furiously! So seize any dry moment and keep mowing.

Climate change is really taking effect now with more extreme rainfall, drought and temperature so our gardening jobs will probably need adjusting in time as well as technique. Managing our watering regimes and propagation times as well as reviewing what plants to choose will become even more challenging as the seasons become more unpredictable. Roses will remain and are very adaptable to changing climate and the modern varieties bred by Harkness and David Austin are coping well. The ability to grow roots deep down will enable them to withstand extreme weather and when necessary to go into a state of dormancy, to pause active growth until autumn rains enable further flushes of flower. This was certainly true last year in Wedmore.

However, now in October there are still jobs to be done. Apples have suffered this year and cider production has been restricted, because of drought causing early fruit drop as the trees shed fruit to aid survival. Our trained apple trees still need pruning, and doing this now whilst the trees are still in leaf will greatly help to restrict unwanted growth and develop flower buds for a bumper crop next year. Rake leaves off lawns to make that splendid leaf mould, place into old compost bags, add drainage holes and a can of water and leave for about a year to rot down. The resulting humus is a wonderful material for homemade potting compost or use as a general mulch. Alternatively, just rake the leaves off lawns and onto borders to feed the friendly worms. Early October is still not too late to propagate geraniums, fuchsias, *Argyranthemums* and

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Osteospermums. A gritty compost and polythene bag cover, to prevent drying, out should do nicely, together with a shady spot indoors to keep frost free until spring.

This is also the best time to lift and divide many hardy border plants. I prefer to use two forks forced back-to-back into the lifted clump and then further dividing the old plant but with large root balls you can just use a spade to chop the clump into halves, quarters etc. Just make sure that the remaining pieces have several growing points for you to replant, or pot up for planting later, and discard the old 'woody' centre of the plant.

Toward the month end, strip the leaves off the greenhouse tomato plants to allow fresh air and sunshine to finish ripening the fruit. Remember that it's warmth, not direct sunshine, that will ripen the fruit. So, if we get early frost, perhaps best to harvest the fruit for ripening indoors or make green tomato chutney. 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

Pre-dawn at Westhay Moor

I could like early mornings,
the anticipation:
from five-thirty's just-above-freezing
still concealed secret language,
smells, calls, mesmerising chorus
among the leaves,
through gently increasing glow,
clouds and their pink reflections
flowering in reedbeds,
for the day rises ahead of the sun,
its breath warming the open channels,
to that moment of completion
when everything becomes the light.

Ann Mason

Country Lane Walker

On 1 September 1977, Cori, Anne and I arrived at Nut Tree Farm, 49 years ago! The best decision we ever made together. Living here has mostly been a wonderment. We are probably still thought of by some to be incomers, yet to us our natural spiritual home, living within the Stoughton sacred site, unknown by most folk yet immensely powerful, where much healing has taken place over those years.



What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sat	3	The Children's Society Box Opening	10.00am	St Mary's Church
Tue	6	Wells Cathedral School Soloist Showcase	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Sat	10	Prostate Testing in Wedmore	10.00am to 3.00pm	The Post and Wicket
Sat	10	Lights, Camera... Opera!	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Wed	14	Women of Wedmore Wine Tasting	7.00pm	The Post and Wicket
Sat	17	Bagley Community Orchard Quiz	7.30pm	Theale Village Hall
Sun	18	Theale Community Film Club	6.30pm	Theale Village Hall
Sat	24	Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Auction	6.30pm	The New Inn
Sat	24	Comic and Curious' Concert	7.20pm	Chapel Allerton Church
Sun	1 Nov	The Big Tidy-Up	10.00am	Borough House, Wedmore

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Alternate Mondays (see listing)	Music in Mind	2.30pm to 3.30pm	Masonic Hall
2nd Tuesday	Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting	8.00pm	The Post and Wicket
4th Tuesday	Wedmore Gardening Club	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Wednesday	Somewhere House Coffee and Chat	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Bluebird Café
2nd Wednesday	Blackford Café	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Blackford Village Hall
2nd Wednesday	Green Wedmore Meeting	7.30pm	The George Inn
2nd and 4th Wednesday	Wedmore Probus	10.15am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
3rd Wednesday	Wedmore Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Parish Council Rooms
3rd Wednesday	Club50	2.30pm	Masonic Hall
3rd Wednesday	Henton and District Garden Club	7.00pm	Henton Village Hall
2nd and 4th Thursday	Mendip Rotary Club	7.00pm	The George Inn
3rd Thursday	Cheddar Valley U3A	10.00am to 11.30am	Cheddar Village Hall
4th Thursday	Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Friday	HeadsUp Carer's Support Group	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Swan
1st, 3rd, and 5th 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

Relaxing Yoga Class (during term time)	9.30am to 10.30am	The Post and Wicket	Katie Dixon	07863 560590
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 (during term time)	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

And yes, so much walking! Much of this has been covered before yet now is a good moment to revisit. For years, almost every day, I have been walking 3 miles at speed. Sometimes 4 to 6 miles in one go. Then I had a heart attack (clogged arteries), 7 years ago, yet up the next day walking the cardiac care ward, asking if I could walk further. So, Marcella (remember all their names!) walked down the corridor with me stopped and said this is as far as you can go, so you can yell if you need us. I shouted, she said OK! So, off I went many times a day, probably doing a mile or two each day. Six weeks after the attack, I started cardiac rehab in Wells Town Hall, walking there from near the fire station, a mile. Then doing substantial walking in the hall along with many exercises to build up strength etc. I outwalked everyone else as the ‘new kid on the block’, and older than some. Then walked back to the car. Soon back to 3 miles a day.

Then suddenly I couldn’t go walking, asking ‘upstairs’ why? The answer ‘look at what you are taking’. There were drugs they said I would have to take for life. I thought ‘oh no’, and whittled down to one, and that was statins. So, I came off that, and within just a few weeks my memory returned. Yes, statins effect memory negatively. A few weeks on suddenly I could walk again!! I hasten to add I don’t recommend coming off drugs willy nilly, it’s not for me to say, but then I have a registered herbalist, equivalent doctor, and have ‘upstairs’. I am ultra-sensitive to drugs and chemicals, so have to balance the risks, to be inert or active. It’s obvious which route I took, and it paid off!

Then the shattering COVID, and my lovely Anne passing from multiple cancers. It was her time at 82, and I wasn’t in a fit state to help her, and she wanted to go, anyway, she knew! Since then devastated sinking into ‘The Dark Night of the Soul’ for 3 years, where no one can help you, and you can’t help yourself, though still healing myself and didn’t stop walking. Walking in nature really does help when in grief.

Two years ago last May I was hit with four bleeds on the brain, as taking chemical blood anticoagulants for a DVT. So, drugs again, damn it! That whole saga I will leave out here, accept to say, I was the only one walking with a stroke. Many couldn’t but some could, yet didn’t. I was warned ‘you push with a heart attack, but never with a stroke’. So, I didn’t push, yet did remain active in very slow walking, doing chi kung, and humming.

Now I am walking one or two miles a day, a bit slower, still wobbly in the legs yet getting betterer. Now using Nordic Walking Poles. I don’t have to, but the difference is profound. So I “keep walking” Are you?? 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.)

Letters to the Editor

No letters this month 😞

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

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

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Sat 3rd - The Gleaves

Sat 10th - Greg Agar

Fri 16th - Comedy Night

Sat 17th - Fly Yeti Fly

Fri 23rd - Music Bingo

Sat 24th - Sound of the Sirens

Sun 25th - Julie Dunn Jazz - 2.30pm

Sat 31st - Ceili House Band

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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.

This month we have an article about dementia, written by Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice.

Dementia – Some good news and things we can do to reduce our risk.

We often hear worrying headlines about dementia and the growing number of people living with the condition. However, there is some genuinely encouraging news.

Research published in the Journal of America Medical Association in 2025 by Eric Stallard suggests that the story may be more positive than we sometimes hear. Although the number of people with dementia is increasing, largely because we are living longer and there are more people reaching older age, the risk of developing dementia at a particular age appears to have fallen in several high-income countries.

This is supported by earlier research involving more than 49,000 people across Europe and North America. The study found that the incidence of dementia fell by around 13% per decade between 1988 and 2015, with the decline seen consistently across the different populations studied. So, while dementia remains an important health issue, there are reasons to be optimistic.

Why might the risk be falling?

Age remains the biggest risk factor for dementia. However, getting older does not mean that dementia is inevitable, and dementia is not a normal part of ageing. We now understand much more about other factors that can influence our risk. Many of these are things we can do something about – sometimes referred to as modifiable risk factors. Dementia UK reports that research suggests that as many as one in three cases of dementia could potentially be prevented or delayed through addressing risk factors and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This does not mean dementia can be completely prevented, but it does mean that there are positive steps we can take.

Look after your heart and your brain.

There is a strong connection between cardiovascular health and brain health. Conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity and heart disease can increase the risk of dementia, particularly vascular dementia. In simple terms, what is good for the heart is generally good for the brain too. There are several practical things we can do:

Keep physically active - walking, gardening, swimming, cycling, and other activities all count; eat a healthy, balanced diet, with plenty of fruit, vegetables and wholegrains and fewer highly processed foods; keep your blood pressure and cholesterol under control and take prescribed medication as advised; maintain a healthy weight, particularly during mid-life; don't smoke and avoid drinking more alcohol than recommended; stay socially connected, spending time with family, friends, and neighbours is good for our overall wellbeing; keep your brain active through reading,

learning, hobbies, music, puzzles, volunteering or trying something new; look after your hearing and eyesight and seek help if either deteriorates.

These measures cannot guarantee that someone will avoid dementia, but there is good evidence that they can help reduce the risk. There is growing evidence of a possible link between gum disease and dementia, although researchers have not yet established that gum disease causes dementia. Looking after our teeth and gums is important for our general health and may also have benefits for brain health. There will be more on gum health from our local dentist in next month's Isle of Wedmore News

What about vaccinations?

There has also been some fascinating recent research into whether vaccinations could have an effect on dementia risk. A 2025 study published in *Nature* found that people who received the shingles vaccine had a lower risk of receiving a new dementia diagnosis over the following seven years. Other research has also found an association between shingles vaccination and a lower risk of dementia. This is an exciting area of research, although it is important to say that vaccination is not currently considered a proven way of preventing dementia. The established benefits of vaccination remain preventing the infections and complications that the vaccines are designed to protect against.

It is therefore still important to make sure you are up to date with the vaccinations you are eligible for. The NHS provides information about the shingles and pneumococcal vaccination programmes, and your NHS App may also help you check which vaccinations you have received. Axbridge and Wedmore has a rolling vaccination programme calling eligible patients for their vaccinations. More information can be found on their website at www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk/services/immunisations and on the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/shingles-vaccine and www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/pneumococcal-vaccine

Don't ignore changes in memory.

It is also important not to assume that every memory lapse is dementia. We all forget names, lose our keys, or walk into a room and forget why we went there. However, if memory or thinking problems are becoming noticeably worse and are starting to affect everyday life, it is worth speaking to your GP.

Possible signs can include increasing forgetfulness, particularly of recent events; difficulty finding the right words or following conversations; problems with planning or solving everyday problems; becoming confused about time or familiar places; regularly losing or misplacing things; changes in personality or behaviour; becoming increasingly withdrawn or anxious.

Importantly, these symptoms do not necessarily mean that someone has dementia. Other conditions and circumstances can cause similar symptoms, including depression, anxiety, thyroid problems, and vitamin deficiencies. A GP can help establish what may be causing the changes.

The positive message

There is no guaranteed way to prevent dementia, and we cannot change some risk factors, particularly our age and some aspects of our genetics, but the evidence gives us good reason to be hopeful. The risk of developing dementia at a particular age

appears to have fallen in several countries, and researchers believe that improvements in cardiovascular health and changes in lifestyle may have contributed.

Perhaps the most useful message is a simple one 'Look after your heart, keep your body active, keep your mind active and stay connected with the people around you'. These things won't guarantee that we avoid dementia, but they can improve our general health and wellbeing – and may also help reduce our risk of dementia in later life.

Further information

For reliable information about dementia please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/dementia/about-dementia/prevention For more information on lowering your risk of demeture please visit www.dementiauk.org/information-and-support/about-dementia/can-dementia-be-prevented-how-to-lower-your-risk and for identifying signs and symptoms, please visit www.dementiauk.org/information-and-support/about-dementia/signs-and-symptoms-of-dementia

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 visit www.whawb.co.uk and go to the Wedmore News item for October 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

HeadsUp is based in Wells and provides services for people with dementia, their carers and loved ones. For full information visit their website at www.headsupsomerset.org.uk/dementia-care Our 'Memories Workshops' enable those living with Dementia to spend time with others in a safe, nurturing environment whilst also providing vital respite for carers and families. They would be pleased to talk with you if you want to find out more.



Bridget Harvey, Service Director, HeadsUp Somerset has the following invitation 'We would like to warmly invite you to join our Wedmore Carers Group, which has been running successfully for several years. The group provides a welcoming, friendly, and supportive environment where carers can come together to share their experiences, talk about the challenges and joys of caring for a loved one living with dementia, and connect with others who truly understand. There is always free tea and coffee available, funded by John Hodge solicitors in Wedmore. Our team is on hand to offer guidance, support, and information about local services and resources that may be of benefit to you and the person you care for. Whether you are looking for advice, friendship, or simply a chance to take a break and chat, you will be made very welcome. We hope to see you there.'

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 2 October. 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 for attending the Memories Workshops at HeadsUp, just ask, help may be available.

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Somewhere House Coffee and a Chat

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

Each month when I sit down to write this article, I try to find something topical to link it to. This time, pondering the phrase 'good neighbours', a thought popped into my head. The USA seems to be being a particularly noisy and unpleasant neighbour to Canada and Mexico. There are many aspects to this spat, but the bit which I think directly relates to Wedmore Good Neighbours is that the approach of the USA seems purely transactional 'we'll only give you something if you give us something in return'. Truly good neighbours take a more generous approach, they give without demanding or expecting anything in return. That's the ethos of Wedmore Good Neighbours and it would not be possible without the team of volunteers. Week in and week out they step up to meet a wide range of requests, often at short notice, freely giving their time, effort, and the use of their car to those who make a request. Volunteering to help others is hugely rewarding on a personal level, so they're not being entirely selfless, but beyond that ask for nothing in return. On behalf of the committee, the coordinators, and all those who use our services 'thank you'.

Who can ask the team for help? There are many people in the local community who, for a variety of reasons, need a little bit of help from time to time – if you find yourself in that situation give us a call. The group operates alongside Wedmore



Health and Wellbeing to offer 'neighbourly' support to those in the local community that request it.

What kind of help do we provide? Most requests are for a lift to and from medical appointments, such as visits to the doctor's surgery, a hospital or for vaccinations. As taxis can be very expensive and impersonal this is proving to be a very worthwhile and welcome service. Volunteers are also visiting a small number of people in their own homes to provide weekly assistance and company. The group is also keen to provide lifts for those that want to attend local clubs and events.

What other things can we help with? Maybe you are unwell and need your dog walking or garden watering? Got a prescription you'd like collecting from the chemist? Have some items that need taking to the recycling centre? Or you'd just like someone to pop in for a cuppa and a chat from time to time?

What area do we cover? These services are available to those living on and around the Isle of Wedmore. If you need a lift for a medical appointment there's usually a volunteer who is happy to drive as far as Musgrove Hospital in Taunton or to the Bristol hospitals.

Is there a charge to use the service? Wedmore Good Neighbours is operated by volunteers and is free to use. However, the group does have running costs – insurance, petrol expenses, as well as the vetting and training of volunteers. So, if you do use the service, and are able to make a donation, this is always very welcome, just talk to your volunteer about this.

How can you contact us? Simply call 01934 806299 and leave a message - a volunteer will reply within 24 hours. Please note that we're not part of social services, or an emergency service...we're just good neighbours! You find out more about the scheme by visiting the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website at www.whawb.co.uk/gns If you would like to become a volunteer you would be most welcome! Call 01934 806299 and leave a message and we'll be in touch.

Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Cheddar and Wedmore Bridge Club

The Club year finished on 31 August and with it our year-long competitions. The Individual competition was won by Barbara Biggin (65.9%), with Gillian Toogood 2nd (65.4%) and Michael O'Brien 3rd (64.2%). The Monday Percentage Pairs was won by Jane Hall and Peter Dawes (57.4%) with Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood 2nd (55.8%) and Gillian Toogood and Michael O'Brien 3rd (54.8%). The Wednesday Percentage Pairs was won by Barbara Biggin and Mike Smith (59.2%) with Jane Lawrence and Michael O'Brien 2nd (58.6%) and Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood 3rd (57.6%). Barbara Biggin won the most master points (1027) with Gillian Toogood 2nd (898) and Mike Smith 3rd (792). The highest score of the year was achieved by Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood (76.3%) with Chris Bryant and Peter Colton 2nd (73.1%) and Paul St Quintin and Geoff Davies 3rd (72%).

This month's hand is about the 'principle of restricted choice' where many people fail to realise the correct percentage play. It's confusing like the Monty Hall problem where a contestant is shown 3 doors behind one of which is a car and the other two a goat. A contestant picks one door and Monty Hall opens another door, showing a goat. The contestant is then offered the chance of changing their choice to the other unopened door. Most people think that whether they change or not the probability of winning the car is the same but actually, if they change their choice they double their chance of winning! Google 'Monty Hall problem' for an explanation.

Playing West, I opened 1NT, my partner transferred to hearts and raised to 4H. It's usually better to have the lead coming up to the 1NT hand and here we gained a trick because North inexplicably under-led their Ace of diamonds! I played the Ace of hearts and South played their Jack. I led the 5, North played the 4 and the question is should I finesse or play for the drop of the Queen? I have seen all other cards. There are only two possibilities, either South started with QJ or J singleton. You may think that this is a 50% chance, the Queen is either with North or South but, actually, the finesse is the better play in the long run. If South held QJ then he could have played either on the first round. If he held only the J then he had no choice, he had to play it so this is the more likely option.

I took the finesse and made 11 tricks thanks to the poor lead. If North starts with a club or a spade then it is vital to play the hearts correctly to make the contract. Basically, where there are two equivalent cards like KQ or QJ etc. the play of one increases the chance that their partner holds the other because with both they could have played either but with only one they have no choice.

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. (Use the 'Contact Us' entry under 'Information' on our website.) If you have any bridge-related questions you can contact me through my Bridge Nerd blog at www.profdavies.co.uk

Geoff Davies

	North	
	♠ 654	
	♥ Q43	
	♦ AJT3	
	♣ J76	
West (D)		East (V)
♠ A987		♠ KT
♥ A5		♥ KT98762
♦ K754		♦ 82
♣ QT5		♣ A4
	South	
	♠ QJ32	
	♥ J	
	♦ Q96	
	♣ K9832	



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Wedmore Tuesday Club



*Above left: Jean Bean - cake by Isabelle, Lesley Nicholls' granddaughter
Above right: Gordon Cackett - cake by Lily, Lesley Nicholls' granddaughter
Below: Cindy Bailey and Mary Hatch - cake by Christine Raphael*

Now we are at full capacity, Tuesday Club is always busy but it is lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves. It is very much the social side of this club that our members enjoy and it is nice to see as the room is always buzzing with conversation. I do my best to go round to every table and have a catch up with what our members have been up to, or where they have been, and I have a really good laugh with them.



Birthdays this month include Cindy Bailey and Mary Hatch whose delicious chocolate cake was baked by Christine Raphael; Jean Bean, whose cake was baked by Lesley Nicholls granddaughter, Isabelle. The decoration was so creative and looked amazing, big thanks to you Isabelle; and Gordon Cackett celebrating his 90th birthday, with a cake decorated by Lesley's other granddaughter, Lily. Again, the decoration was

so creative! We may see these two talented young ladies on The Great British Bake Off in the future! My grandson, Albie, also helped again, as he really enjoyed it last time. A member called him over and asked if he could work out why the Bluetooth on his phone was not connecting to his hearing aids, 20 seconds later Albie had it connected. Well done Albie.

Our cooks are really pleased with the new cooker. I wish I could get my roast potatoes to turn out like theirs. We really could do with extra help occasionally especially in the kitchen so if you enjoy cooking, we would be grateful of any help you could offer. Also in the hall we could do with a little extra help occasionally. Not sure? Pop along on Tuesday and see how we operate. It is so rewarding to do this for our members and know they really appreciate it. I bet you would know some of them. Our next project is to arrange our final trip out this year. If you are interested in becoming a helper, please contact Sue Worrall on 07748 131413; Yvonne Hutchison on 07933 135982; or Graham Whitcombe on 07580 500545.

Graham Whitcombe

Theale Community Film Club

Theale Community Film Club's next meeting will be at Theale Village Hall on Sunday 18 October. Doors open at 6.30pm and the film will start at 7.00pm. Popcorn and ice creams available. New members are always welcome and temporary membership is available, please phone for further details on 07855 297861.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Men's Shed

The Men's Shed finished off the summer with a bumper BBQ at the Wedmore Village Farm with over 40 members, friends and family attending. At this BBQ, chair Dave Kirley gave thanks to everyone who helped at WedFest earlier in the summer, with a special mention to Andy Daintree for his massive input to making the event a success. A cheque for £3,400 was presented to Somerset Prostate Support Association.

As the heat of July and August reduced, members were out again fitting 'kissing gates' to replace worn out stiles. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the Wedmore Footpaths Group. Our ongoing project of refurbishing the benches of the Isle of Wedmore parish continues. The latest one we are working on is from Pilcorn Street.



Cheque presentation to SPSA

At the end of September, the Men's Shed will commence their Monthly Men's Shed Mondays again through the autumn and winter months at the Bluebird Café and Bar. These are private events for members of the Shed to come and chat over a drink or two and listen to an interesting talk. Just one of the many events Wedmore Men's Shed organise. If you are interested in joining, see the details below.



Bench welding

We have a growing membership, so come along and see what you are missing out on. We are a friendly, welcoming place where men can get involved in several activities, including projects that help the local community, as well as socialising and enjoying many interesting visits. If you are interested in joining, either email us at wedmoremensshed@outlook.com or come and meet us Tuesdays from 9.30am to 12.00 noon or Thursdays from 2.00pm to 4.30pm at the Wedmore Village Community Farm. Please come along and find out what we are all about, you are more than welcome.

Wedmore Men's Shed

Wedmore Probus Club

During August Probus had two very interesting talks. The first was about the Kurds of Northern Iraq, who have strong cultural links across the borders with the Kurds in Syria, Turkey, and Iran. We were given an overview of Kurdish history and culture, as well as information about the 6,000-year-old Erbil Citadel that is probably the longest continuously inhabited site on Earth. This walled Citadel rises above the plain on a 30m high archaeological mound created from the remains of centuries of old buildings. Erbil was an important centre in the Neo-Assyrian period, especially under the reign of King Ashurbanipal (669 to 627 BC). Today, the modern city of Erbil surrounds the Citadel and is the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region and remains very much a living city.

The other interesting talk was titled 'Mirror Mirror on the Wall' and was given by Justin Newland, a local speaker and novelist, who reflect on the role of mirrors in our world and, while looking through the glass darkly, saw an imperfect vision of reality. Mirrors can be a source of superstition and ritual, and are the scourge of vampires. Medusa lost her head, because a mirror was used to safely look at her while her head was removed with a sword.

The Isle of Wedmore Probus club normally meets at the Wedmore Golf Club in the morning on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. We usually arrive at about 10.30am and enjoy a friendly chat over a cup of coffee before an invited Speaker provides a stimulating and informative talk starting at about 11.00am. After the talk many stay on for lunch and enjoy an informal drink and chat with other convivial members.

So if you are a retired man living in Wedmore or the surrounding area, you should come and try our meetings which you will probably enjoy. If you then want to join Probus 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*

Green Wedmore

For our next meeting on Wednesday 14 October, upstairs in the George Inn at 7.30pm, we have a talk from Helen Gavin of Bristol Water who will tell us all about the potential Cheddar 2 reservoir. Everyone is welcome.

Also coming up is our next Big Tidy Up on Sunday 1 November. We will be starting from 10.00am at Borough House. All picking equipment will be supplied but please wear strong shoes, appropriate clothing, and bring some gardening gloves.

Following this summer's climate emergency induced heatwaves, and the upcoming likely effects of El Nino, more than ever before we need to gather and support each other as a community to reduce our impact on the environment and adapt to the rapidly changing climate. Come along to one of our meetings to see how you can help.

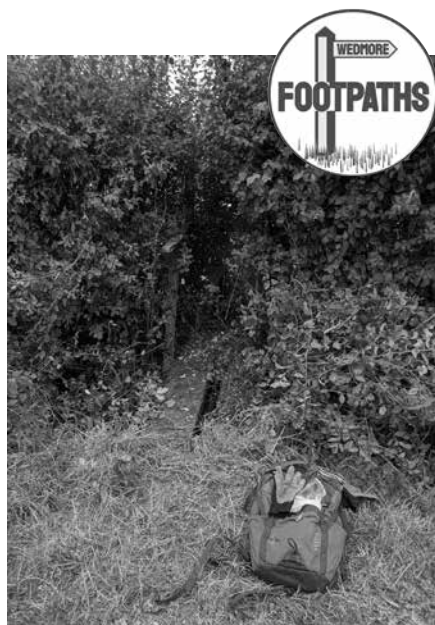


Liz Burton

Wedmore Footpaths Group

The group continues to work on local footpaths to make access easier for walkers. We are in the process of improving a section of path on a lovely circular walk that runs from Lascot Hill in Wedmore, across the golf course, and back via Cocklake and the Wedmore Lowlands to The Lerburne. There are a series of broken stiles on the section of path that goes down the hill from the golf course path to the Cheddar Road in Cocklake, and a team from the Men's Shed has begun replacing these with kissing gates. Thank you to them for their hard work!

Despite the drought, hedges and brambles have been growing rapidly and some gates and stiles have become very overgrown. A path crossing Quab Lane, for example, has almost disappeared. We are doing our best to clear as many paths as we can. The



A bridge and stile on Quab Lane emerging from the hedge.

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Take gloves and secateurs on walks to help keep the footpaths clear

Men's Shed has a team with hedge cutters and trimmers and have been doing a great job. The Footpath Group members are constantly cutting back growth when we go out for walks, but there are only a few of us volunteers. We can't manage to maintain every path in Wedmore with its high density of footpaths. So, we would really appreciate some help. If you use a path regularly and, if you are able to, please take secateurs and gloves with you and help by cutting back sections that are becoming impenetrable.

To contact Wedmore Footpaths Group, you can email us on wedmorefootpaths@outlook.com Also, please visit www.theisleofwedmore.net for walking routes around the area.

Wedmore Footpaths Group

Wedmore in Bloom

A team from Wedmore in Bloom enjoyed constructing the Harvest Home arch again this year, which received many compliments. Many thanks to those who contributed to the 'ingredients', apples, flowers, greenery, and allium heads.

The watering around the village this summer has certainly kept us and our volunteers busy! Thank you to them all. We are currently looking for stand-in waterers to cover holidays and to give our regular waterers a break when needed. If you can spare some time, no matter how little, please contact us at wedmoreinbloom@gmail.com

Plans for the winter displays are under way and the summer 'clear-out' begins soon!

Kay Adams

Wedmore Gardening Club

In August we spent a lovely day at the American Museum and were very lucky with the weather. It was dry and at times sunny but a lovely temperature for visiting the garden. Starting the day sitting on the terrace with coffee and cake after which individuals did their own thing. Some started with a tour of the house whilst others went around the gardens first. Although some plants were obviously lacking water others were thriving. The large block planting scheme had been adopted which was repeated throughout. In particular, the rudbeckias provided beautiful pops of colour. Even though some plants were suffering, the overall effect was absolutely lovely. The Mount Vernon Garden, completely renovated in 2017 following extensive research at George Washington's Mount Vernon, is a quarter replica of George Washington's 18th century garden at his home in Virginia.

The house was amazing and we, like many of our party, spent well over an hour there following the trails in both the house and gardens marking America's 250th anniversary. So much to see and think about including the stunning handmade quilts and rugs, so beautiful. A wonderful day out and the American Museum is well worth a visit.

Our meeting on Tuesday 27 October is the question-time styled 'Panel of Members' so if you would like to put questions to the panel, please let Andrea or Sue Burton have them as soon as possible. The last one was a great success and lots of fun! Lots for us all to learn, especially after such a dry summer, followed by some torrential downpours. Not nearly enough rain, but at least our water butts are full once again!

Looking forward to Tuesday 24 November, Matthew Symonds will give a talk entitled 'Gardening in Small Spaces'. Most of us do not have large gardens, so this is one not to miss.

Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30pm with refreshments served after the talk. Members and guests are always most welcome and there are always lots of interesting people to chat to.

Jean Windridge

Women of Wedmore

Women of Wedmore (WI) did not have a meeting in August. However, work continued behind the scenes reading thorough the Wedmore WI's carefully compiled scrapbooks from the 1960's, 70's, and 80's. Members will be able to see some of Wedmore's history at future meetings. The newspaper clippings and photographs are a fascinating insight into past village life.



Members received an email

before August's Harvest Home showing floats that the WI had entered in the procession over the years. In 1969 the WI's entry was a tableau called The Death of Mary Queen of Scots. Members re-enacted the scene in costumes they had made themselves and won first prize. Young people joined the 1972 entry, Corn Dollies, which won a first prize in the tableau class. A beautiful Willow Pattern entry in the 1973 procession won Wedmore WI a first prize. It was also entered into the Axbridge Blackberry Fair, where it won the Rose Bowl for overall winner.



A second email told members about the WI banner with its image of the Alfred Jewel. In 2018 it appeared in a banner parade in Wells marking the centenary of the WI in Somerset. The Anglo-Saxon Alfred Jewel, inscribed with the words Aelfred mec heht gewyrcan - Alfred ordered me to be made - was found in a field in North Petherton in 1693. The relic is believed to have been a handle for a manuscript pointer stick and now resides in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

Women of Wedmore WI's next meeting is on Wednesday 14 October, 7pm at the Post and Wicket. Wine tasting with David Schroetter from Le Pressoir, Wine Shop and Kitchen. For more details, please email WoW on wedmorewi@outlook.com

Sarah Ford and Linda Morecroft

Wedmore Dance Group

Members of Wedmore Dance Group had a great time taking part in this year's Harvest Home procession. We followed the lively Samba Do Bispo band along the route and spectators enjoyed moving to the drums. A big thank you to the Harvest Home committee for a super day!



Wedmore Dance Group at Harvest Home

We haven't stopped dancing though. The fun continues on Thursday mornings in Wedmore Village Hall. Why not join us? We are a friendly bunch and your taster session with our group is free of charge. We meet during term time from 10.30am until 11.45am led by our talented teacher. No experience is necessary and we enjoy learning routines set to many varieties of music including disco, salsa, and Bollywood.

After your taster, each class is £7 on a 'pay as you go' basis. There's no need to book ahead, just come along! For more information please email Nikki on nikkipryn@gmail.com

Wedmore Dance Group

Mr Punch's Folk Club

Theale Village Hall on Fridays 2, 16, and 30 October at 8.00pm. These will be open sessions, all welcome! Cost is £3 and please bring your own refreshments.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Opera Goers

On 18 March 2027 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.

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

Suzanne Metters

Mendip Rotary

A reminder of the 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. Please see the article in the News section for full details and how to book your appointment.

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

St Mary's Church 100 Club

Congratulations to this month's winners of the 100 Club. The winners of the September draw were Alan and Heather Hector and Caroline Gurney.

Liz Henderson

Sports Club Reports

Wedmore Golf Club

After another month of heat and no rain the weather broke in the final week of the August just in time to cause the abandonment of the Captain's Cup as the greens flooded. Captains Weekend was therefore limited to 9 holes in the rain on Friday with 3 clubs and a putter. As usual this hardly affected some people with Diane Miller winning with 20 points.

The Ladies competed for the four trophies on offer during the month. They started with the Team Trophy, a bowmaker played in groups of three. The team of Sandy Bedford, Karen Clark and Cathy Olive, scored an excellent 46 points on the front nine but could not quite keep this up on the back nine although their 38 points got them to a total of 84 points, good enough for second place. The team of Eileen Parnell, Lyn Bird and Ali Mantell came from behind to win by a single point with 43 points on the back nine to giving a total of 85.

Next week the trophy was the James Jug and it was won by Linda Roberts with a nett score of 68 which also made her winner in Division 3 This was a bit harsh on Viv Dix who also had a nett 68 but lost out on countback with a worse back nine. For once countback was not needed in the higher Divisions with Diane Miller taking the honours in Division 1 on 70. Sue Brearley won Division 2 with 71 shots.

They had a quiet week next but were back for the Autumn Open the following week. The competition itself was a four-ball bowmaker. The scores were fairly even with the exception of the winners, Alison Deakins, Elaine Cullen, Fiona Hodge and June England from Burnham who scored 122 points which put them 11 points ahead of the next team, Sandra Hares, Tracey Watts, Julie Hill and Jackie Lewer. The team of Claire Biggs, Jane Hewitt, Sandra Ford and Gillian Edwards took the prize for the best 'mixed' team of Wedmore and Visiting players. Unable to play in the Open was Ann Search from Wedmore but it was all in a good cause as she won the Grass Roots Trophy at the County Handicap Championships at Saltford scoring 17 points in the nine-hole competition.

The men did have some competitions with the usual Medal and Stableford taking place. Best score in the Medal was a nett 63 from Jason Harvey to win Division 3 by 4 shots. A close finish in Division 1 saw Nick Parker win on 67. Harry Boase had a

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nett 64 to win Division 2 by 4 shots. Sally Stephens had a 4 under par 68 to win the Ladies section.

The stableford was won by Pete Brown with 41 points which put him 4 clear. Martin Olive scored 35 to win Division 2 by a single point. There was another steady progression of scores in Division 3 with Chris Boase scoring 38. There were good scores from the Ladies as well with Sally Stephens winning on 37.

The Seniors played a full 18-hole stableford in the heat. Scores were good, particularly in Division 3 won by Phil Southey with 45 points, the best score of the day. Closest finish was in Division 1 with a single point covering the first three. Steve Lawrence emerged as winner. There were high scores in Division 2 with Richard Long winning by 2 points on 43 points.



Winners at the Ladies Autumn Open

Tony Biggs

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club



Yatton BC - Winners of the Mixed Open Triples



The Blueberries - Winners of the Monday Night Triples League

August proved to be a mixed month on the 'green' at Wedmore, although for the most part it could have been called a 'brown'. Despite regular watering, the lengthy dry spell of well over a month made for difficult and variable bowling conditions.

For the Men's section, our winning streak in the Clevedon and District League came to a messy end with defeats by Portishead RBL (91-106) and West Backwell (76-92), although there were great wins over Congresbury (101-93), Long Ashton (111-62), and Portishead (127-106). We also performed well in this league's Charity Cup Night by winning three of the five rinks, although this was not enough to win overall! In the Weston and District League, once again our nemesis was Portishead RBL to whom we lost badly twice! Firstly 69-121 away and then 82-95 at home. However we then followed this with a monster win over Victoria Vikings (176-57). In the Somerset County League our A team's grip on a place in Premier 2 league is looking precarious and subject to appeal, by losing to Congresbury (42-58) and then Ilminster B by a narrow 55-59. At our final county match of the season, August Bank Holiday weekend, torrential rain meant not a bowl was played in anger. Our B team, however, despite losing to Winscombe, comfortably defeated Mark Moor 65-50 and remain in a healthy mid-table position in North 2. Our adventure in the Wedmore Plate competition continued with a good win over Westlands of Yeovil but came to an abrupt halt on a hot steamy night in Castle Cary, losing narrowly 59-65.

The Women's section have had a tough season with many notable players regrettably unavailable. In the tough South and West Somerset Ladies League there were a string of narrow defeats against Minehead, Taunton Deane, Crewkerne, and Watchet. In the Victoria Ladies League a great win was notched up against Mark Moor (49-43) while, in the Wessex Ladies League, a loss against Clevedon Prom was followed by a win over Victoria. However, in the true tradition of 'save the best 'til last', in the County League there were fine wins over West Backwell (50-44) and Burnham (61-42).

Our internal competitions are edging towards Finals Weekend, details to follow next month. In the Monday Night Triples tournament the final was won by Blueberries, consisting of Dave Callow, Mark Partridge and Dick Burden, with Claire Clement as reserve, who beat the Peppers. At our Mixed Open Triples, 20 teams played some great bowls with a triple from Yatton Bowls Club in first place, and City of Wells in second. This event was sponsored by the excellent Sunlit Solar and we were delighted to have Roger Rogers join us to present the prizes to the four best placed teams. In our own internal club competition the Ladies Club Triples Day was won by Fiona Duggan-Rees, Barbara Disbrey and Sandra Tiffin. The following day at the Men's Club Triples the winners were Peter Gower, Rob Salway and Paul Alden. We also celebrated our President Pam Beard's final year of her 3-year term with a great Presidents Day, bowls followed by a splendid afternoon tea. The day was generously sponsored by solicitors Porter Dodson to whom we are very grateful.

Finally, we also play mixed friendly matches against other clubs, and the result is always a draw, unless of course, we win. We drew against North Petherton (40-54); won against Queen Camel (44-43); and beat the City of Wells in the Friendship Cup by 104-66.

If you would like to become a member of this great community club, take a look at our website www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org and contact Stuart on 01934 310034 or 07775 518236 or contact him by email at millhaven44@icloud.com to arrange a visit to see our brilliant indoor and outdoor facilities.



Peter Gower

News and Events from Outside the Parish

'Comic and Curious' Concert

A concert will be held at Chapel Allerton Church Saturday 24 October at 7.20pm, featuring a miscellany of cheerfully anarchic and irreverent songs, music, and verse by talented local artistes. They will be supported by the celebrated Allerton Village Orchestra and Choir, who bring their rich melodic repertoire to the event, while attempting to keep some sort of order! There will also be a cash bar. Tickets are £10 and available from Johnny Torrens-Spence by email at johnnytspace@yahoo.co.uk or by phone on 01934 710188.

Joint Male Voice Choir Concert to Honour Roy Wills



Roy Wills

Two distinguished male voice choirs, the Cheddar Male Choir and Côr Meibion Morlais from Ferndale in the Rhondda, will come together on Saturday 3 October for a special joint concert celebrating the life of Roy Wills, a muchloved figure in both communities. The event will take place at St Andrew's Church, Cheddar. Doors will open at 7.00pm, with the concert beginning at 7.30pm. Roy Wills played a remarkable role in the world of male voice singing. He was a former Vice President of Morlais Male Choir and one of the founder members of Cheddar Male Choir when it was established in 1995. His passion, commitment, and warmth left a lasting imprint on both choirs, making this joint performance a fitting tribute to his memory.

Audiences can expect a vibrant and varied programme. Both choirs are known for performing an exciting mix of repertoire which spans all centuries and styles; from opera to rap and pop, Musical Theatre and some of the traditional Welsh favourites, music to suit all tastes. Most concerts feature a lively blend from all these genres, showcasing the versatility and rich tradition of male voice singing. Côr Meibion Morlais brings with it a proud heritage dating back to February 1928, while Cheddar Male Choir continues its journey from its founding in 1995. Together, they will offer an evening of music that honours the past and brings you up to date, celebrates friendship, and reflects the enduring power of choral harmony.

The concert will support Cheddar Male Choir's own charity, continuing Roy's legacy of community spirit and musical generosity. Tickets are £10 and available online from Eventbrite or from Deane's of Cheddar and Draycott Community Store.
Cheddar Male Choir

Cheddar Arts @ King's Theatre

Cheddar Arts autumn season of films begins on Friday 9 October with 'The Choral' starring: Roger Allam, Ralph Fiennes and Simon Russell Beale. While war rages on the Western Front, a choral society in Ramsden, Yorkshire decides to recruit local young men to swell their ranks and to engage a new chorus master. 'An impressively unsentimental Alan Bennett fable'.

Entrance to the theatre from Kings Leisure Centre car park. There are no online bookings, with tickets are available on the door at £6, and £5 for concessions, cash payment only. The doors of Kings Theatre at the Kings of Wessex School open at 6.45pm and performances begin at 7.30pm.

Jan Rance

Wells Festival of Literature – Lunch with an Author

The popular Literary Lunches, organised by Wells Festival of Literature, are back again this year offering the opportunity to meet and chat with an author over an informal light meal. The first of these, on Tuesday 20 October, features art historian Elizabeth Goldring, whose new book *Holbein* explores the fascinating life of the 16th century artist.



Elizabeth Goldring



Sara Wheeler



Kate Williams

She is followed on Wednesday 21 October by traveller and author Sara Wheeler, whose biography of Jan Morris is published to coincide with the centenary of the legendary writer's birth. The final lunch on Friday 23 October is with historian and TV presenter Kate Williams whose book *Regina* is a new spin on the trials and tribulations of women in power.

Lunches cost £12.50 and must be booked by Friday 9 October. They take place in Cedars Dining Hall at 12.30pm, followed by the talk at 2.00pm in the main hall, which is booked separately. The festival runs from 16 to 24 October. For full information about these and other speakers visit www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk

Wells Festival of Literature



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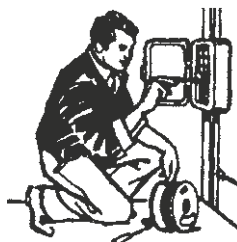
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Save the Children Lunches

Save the Children lunches are back after the summer break. Our next lunch will be on Friday 2 October, 12.30pm, in Shipham Village Hall. £5.50 for soup, locally baked bread, cheese, pickle, homemade biscuits and tea or coffee. All profits go to Save the Children Charity. Please come and join us! Bring a friend!

Ian Firth

Henton and District Garden Club

On Wednesday 21 October our guest speaker will be Neil Ross, a local garden designer, garden coach, and teacher of RHS courses at Bristol Botanic Gardens. He was trained at the world-famous gardens of Sissinghurst and Great Dixter before travelling to spend 12 years in New Zealand,



where he developed Beverley McConnell's iconic garden near Auckland which was featured in Monty Don's 'Around the World in 80 Gardens'.

His 'X-Factor' talk is a fun presentation about some well-known and some refreshingly original design principals such as repeating plants using the Japanese principle of Wabi Sabi in the garden; creating quiet breathing spaces; injecting drama; and thinking about creating a theme. 'Plants should look like they old friends throwing a party rather than strangers waiting in line at a bus stop'.

Henton Garden Club is a very friendly crowd of people. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in Henton Village Hall from 7.00pm for refreshments with talks starting at 7.30pm. Annual membership is still just £15, but non-members are guaranteed a very warm welcome with a charge of £5 per meeting.

For more information either call Sue Thorne on 01749 674767 or 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

Join Cheddar Valley u3a this October at Cheddar Village Hall. On 1 October our Speaker's Meeting is at 2.00pm, featuring 'A Colourful Introduction to Birds'. Entry £2.00. On 8 October

u3a learn,
laugh,
live
Cheddar Valley

enjoy a Singalong from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission is £3.00 including refreshments. Sing a variety of well-known songs including musicals, folk, sea shanties, rock, and popular favourites from the last 50 years. Tickets are available at Speaker's Meetings and Coffee Mornings.

Our Coffee Morning this month will take place on 15 October 10.00am to 11.30am. New members and visitors are always welcome so come and join in with the friendly chat, whilst enjoying coffee or tea and biscuits at the nominal entry cost of £1, to help towards the expense of hall hire and refreshments.

To find out more about us, and perhaps help with running this happy, growing organisation, please visit our website at www.cheddar-valley.u3asite.uk

Fiona Langstaff

Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

Fundraising

Paul and Suzanne Rolfe of Ad Astra Cider Farm, Stone Allerton held a Charity Quiz and Pizza Night in their Cider Barn in September in aid of the Royal Air Forces Association 'Wings Appeal'. Paul is a member of the RAFA Mid-Somerset Branch (RAFA-MSB) and ran a Quiz with a strong aviation and RAF theme. Fifteen teams took part and there was a friendly spirit of rivalry and friendship with much laughter. The Branch thanks Paul and Suzanne for hosting this excellent event and for all the work they put into it. Two of our members, Paul Kinninmont and Mike Green, also organised three Battle of Britain Supermarket Collections in our area, greeting the shoppers and explaining what the RAFA charity does both at local level and nationally.



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Charity Quiz and Pizza Night at Ad Astra Cider Barn

Events

The Branch will meet on Monday 5 October, 11.00am at the Bell Inn, Evercreech for a fun games day with skittles, darts and pool plus cards and board games. The next general Branch meeting will take place on Monday 2 November, 11.00am at the different venue of Mendip Golf Club, Gurney Slade, and will include a presentation by Baz Hamblin entitled 'The Gunpowder Plot'.

For information about any of these events, please contact the Branch via email at rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or phone the Secretary on 07881 822140.

Paul Ashmore

RNLI Mendip Branch

Fundraising



The RNLI Nationwide Lifeboat Day is on Saturday 10 October and Mendip Branch has approached Waitrose in Wells to have a collection box in the store for Waitrose tokens, as our contribution to RNLI Lifeboat Saturday.

RNLI Mendip Branch will present a Folk Concert by the Devon Duo 'Harbottle and Jonas' on Saturday 10 October, in St James' Church Centre, Winscombe. Doors open at 7.15pm with the concert starting at 8.00pm. Tickets cost £13.50 and may be obtained from James Barattini by email at winscombe.folk@gmail.com or by phone on 07703 538861. The Duo features a distinct and compelling signature sound, blending concertina, harmonium, banjo, stomp box, acoustic guitar, and cittern with close vocal harmonies. There will be a pay bar, plus a raffle in aid of the RNLI.

There will be a RNLI pop-up sale inside Winscombe Community Centre on Saturday 7 November from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Entry is free and the sale will include larger items that have been donated, RNLI Christmas cards, jigsaws, stocking fillers, Christmas cakes and puddings, spring bulbs, Chris's tools and domestic items, a multi-prize Christmas raffle and refreshments. The committee are still working on some additional stalls with a Christmas flavour so come and see what will be available. Contact Tina Joyce by email at meejlfh@gmail.com or phone 01934 842304 for more details.

25 Years of RNLI Lifeguards in South West England and Jersey

Starting with a small trial in 2001, RNLI Lifeguards now patrol over 245 beaches, helping beach users from all over the UK and further afield. From rescuing people in the water, to giving first aid and safety advice. In our region, RNLI Lifeguards patrol 88 beaches in southwest England and Jersey. In 2025, they carried out 1,276,756 preventative actions, aided 10,437 people and saved 46 lives. This year RNLI Lifeguards were present on Brean and Burnham beaches every day from 4 July to 7 September.

Trafalgar Night Dinner and Dance Cancelled

Due to circumstances that have occurred outside the control of the committee, it is no longer possible to resource and plan the event this year. Reluctantly, the Committee decided that the Trafalgar Night must be cancelled this year.



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August Shouts

In August, there were 12 ‘Shouts’ between our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 2, Minehead – 2, Portishead – 3, Weston-super-Mare – 5).

Milford Haven Coastguard Control paged Burnham lifeboat crews at 9.02pm on Friday 21 August after concern for a disabled 27-foot yacht in the Bristol Channel offshore from Hinckley Point. Two people were aboard, no one was injured, and the boat’s crew were preparing to anchor. There was nothing to suggest the crew or vessel were in grave or imminent danger, but they clearly needed assistance. Burnham’s Atlantic 85 lifeboat was quickly launched with a full crew of four. Once on the scene, the lifeboat crew established the problem to be due to a ‘fouled prop’, therefore the boat could not be started and make way. Launch Authority Marc Smith explains; ‘The crew decided that the safest and best option was to tow the yacht and followed the RNLI towing policy to ‘the letter of the law’. The boat was a Burnham yacht and was safely towed back to the sailing club, where two additional crew in life jackets assisted the yacht crew to safely leave the vessel for the evening. Marc commented further; ‘Well done all, and thanks, the boat owners and Milford Haven Coastguard were very grateful for the assistance given’.

Paul Ashmore

Church News

Parish Registers and Notices

Christenings

Welcome to the following baptized into God’s church recently.

Bert Hole, son of James and Candice from Sand who was baptised on 30 August at Holy Trinity.

Solara Ingrouille-Kidd, daughter of Kaine and Bobby from Wedmore who was baptised on 30 August at St Mary’s.

On a Wheel and a Prayer

Richard, our vicar, will be cycling around the benefice on Tuesday 20 October 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.

All Souls Service

Our annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 1 November at 3.00pm at St Mary's church, for those whose funerals we have taken over the past year or so, and is an important part of what we do. Lighting a candle for those that we have loved but see no longer is something that continues to have great resonance. Relatives of those whose funerals we have taken during the year will be invited but the service is open to anyone. The service will be a chance to remember those dear to you who have recently died and whose names will be read out at the service; to meet with others who are also bereaved; and to express our Christian faith in resurrection and the hope of God's kingdom.

If you are hoping to come along or if there is anyone whose name you wish to be remembered at the service, please let to the vicar know in writing. We will offer a cup of tea and a slice of cake afterwards. Traditionally the church sets aside 1 November All Souls Day, to remember those countless ordinary people who have gone before us and whose memory we cherish. This comes the day after All Saints Day when the church remembers those many extraordinary men and women whom we think of as saints.

There will be a separate service for the villages of Allerton and Mark also on Sunday 1 November at 3.00pm

Harvest Festival

One of the high points in the church's year, particularly in a rural area, is when we come together to give thanks for another year's harvest. The churches are always abundantly decorated; the favourite old harvest hymns are sung; produce is brought to church, offered, and then given away to charity as a symbol of our response to God's generosity; we remember those in parts of the world where the harvest is poor; and then often food is shared at a lunch or a supper. So whether you are a farmer, an allotment holder, a gardener or simply someone who wants to give thanks for the harvest do come along to one of our churches. Each celebrates harvest in its own special way and on a separate date, so there are plenty of opportunities to join in. The remaining services are:

- 4 October 9.15am Allerton Church - Family Service and Harvest Festival
- 4 October 10.45am St Mary's Wedmore - Harvest Festival followed by lunch. All are welcome to lunch but please call Heather Banwell on 01934 712216 or Heather Hector on 01934 712478 if you would like a ticket.

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	4	Trinity 18	10.45am 6.00pm	Harvest Festival, Creche and Seekers Start the Week
Sunday	11	Trinity 19	8.00am No Service 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Worship Together with Christchurch at Christchurch Start the Week
Sunday	18	Allerton Dedication	No service 6.00pm	Benefice Communion at Allerton Start the Week
Sunday	25	Bible Sunday	10.45am	Parish Communion

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	4	Trinity 18	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	11	Trinity 19	No Service	Worship Together with Holy Cross and Allerton at Allerton
Sunday	18	Allerton Dedication	No Service	Benefice Communion at Allerton
Sunday	25	Bible Sunday	9.15am	Sunday Breakfast

Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	4	Trinity 18	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday	11	Trinity 19	11.00am	Worship Together with St Mary's at Christchurch
Sunday	18	Allerton Dedication	No Service	Benefice Communion at Allerton
Sunday	25	Bible Sunday	11.00am	Morning Praise

Allerton Church

Sunday	4	Trinity 18	9.15am	Harvest Festival
Sunday	11	Trinity 19	9.15am	Worship Together with Holy Trinity and Holy Cross
Sunday	18	Allerton Dedication	9.15am	Benefice Communion
Sunday	25	Bible Sunday	9.15am	Morning Prayer

Holy Cross Church, Mark

Sunday	4	Trinity 18	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	11	Trinity 19	No Service	Worship Together with Holy Trinity and Allerton at Allerton
Sunday	18	Allerton Dedication	No Service	Benefice Communion at Allerton
Sunday	25	Bible Sunday	9.15am	Café Church

Bagley Baptist Church

We'd love to welcome you to Bagley Baptist Church. Whether you're exploring faith, looking for a church home, or simply hoping to meet new people, you'll find a warm welcome here.

Sunday Worship takes place every week at 10.30am. Children and young people have their own age-appropriate groups during the service, and on the second Sunday of each month we enjoy an All-In Family Service. Our popular Wednesday coffee morning runs from 10.30am to 12.00 noon, with free tea, coffee, homemade cakes, friendly conversation, and beautiful views. Come along with a friend or simply drop in and meet new people. Our Youth Group meets every Wednesday during term time at 7.30pm for young people aged 10 to 17, offering games, activities, friendship, and opportunities to explore faith together. We also run Home Groups, prayer gatherings, and other opportunities for friendship, support, and fellowship throughout the year.

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 Everyone is welcome. We'd love to meet you.

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. Please note that from the beginning of November, this service time will move to 2.30pm for the winter period.

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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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.

Timetable and Booking Details

All services depart Wedmore Village 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 5 October – 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 Monday 19 October – 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 Saturday 10 October – 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 Village 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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