

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



November 2026
No. 560

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Editorial

If you haven't attended the annual Remembrance Service at St Mary's before, then I strongly encourage you to do so. It is a poignant experience, especially when the roll of the dead from the First and Second World Wars are read out and, if you are holding a cross with that name on, you stand up. As this nears the end you look round and get a real impression of the impact that so many losses had on the village; and recognising the family surnames, most still being common around the Isle of Wedmore.

On a cheerier note, we are past Halloween and therefore allowed (in our household at least) to mention the 'Christmas' word. Some great opportunities coming up for grabbing some early pressies, including the St Mary's Annual Charities Fair and then, early in next month, the Advent Fair and Wedmore by Lamplight. Also, don't miss the wonderful Wedmore Theatre production of 'The Wrong Pantomime' to get you in the Christmas mood.

Finally, don't forget to get your entries in for the coveted and internationally acclaimed Turnip Prize. Remember, minimal effort is key!

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

It is pantomime time and our cover picture features some of the cast of 'The Wrong Pantomime'.

Mike, Photo Editor

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE: 1 November 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 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.

3Cs Bingo – 6 November

Please join us for lots of super prizes and family fun in support of the September 3Cs Harvest Home.

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 is holding a games, quiz, and supper evening in Wedmore Village Hall.

Remembrance Service and Parade – 8 November

Parade of military veterans and local uniformed youth groups to the annual Remembrance Service at St Mary's.

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 Wrong Pantomime'. What could possibly go wrong?

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.

St Mary's Advent Fair – 5 December

Come along to this annual Advent Fair, with stalls selling presents and stocking fillers, entertainment, a children's craft corner, and the ever-popular bottle stall.

The Turnip Prize Award's Ceremony – 8 December

The winner will be announced at The New Inn.

Wedmore by Lamplight – 9 December

Wedmore by Lamplight will bring festive magic back to the village with a festive mix of food and drink, late night shopping, craft stalls, entertainment, our much-loved lantern parade and crib service.

A Chaotic Christmas Celebration – 12 December

Pop Up Wedmore invites you to 'A Chaotic Christmas Celebration' at St Mary's for a fun-filled evening of song, sketch, and dance.

Wedmore Opera Burns Night Celebration – 23 January

Join Wedmore Opera for an evening of delicious Scottish fare, poems, song and good company and celebrate the life and work of Scotland's favourite bard.

Living Well Day – 6 March

A day of talks and ideas for improving our health with knowledgeable speakers, practical demonstrations, interactive sessions, and local healthrelated organisations.

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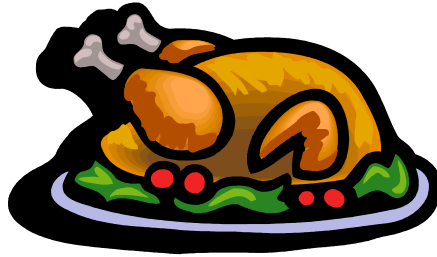
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News

Tessa Munt MP's Update



September is always so busy in our part of Somerset! David and I love the 3Cs Harvest Home, meeting old friends and new, celebrating farming and allied industries. It was an honour to open Theale Show the next day, and as always, I had a lovely time meeting so many of you at Wedmore Real Ale Festival. My thanks and congratulations to all those who volunteer, organise and ensure that these amazing local events continue each year.

It was fab to welcome students and teachers from Kings Academy to Parliament. I was delighted to answer the students' questions and respond to their observations. I also welcomed another group of young people on an Insight Day, where they toured Parliament, spent time with my team, watched a debate and took part in a workshop. If you are aged 18 to 23 and think you'd like to join me for a day in Westminster, please let me know.

My debate on aluminium recycling took place on the first day back to Parliament after the summer. Somerset earns income from the aluminium collected at the kerbside, but many other Councils across the country earn little or nothing from their aluminium, which the Government has now classified as a 'critical mineral'. I'm chasing answers to my questions to Defra Ministers and Councils, which I hope will improve recycling, trade, and our mineral resilience.

On the subject of recycling, I had the pleasure of giving the keynote speech at the Tyre Recovery Association's annual event, an opportunity to push Defra Ministers and civil servants to make the decisions necessary to clean up this country's act when it comes to our waste tyres. Tyres can be recycled to create road surfacing, playgrounds, athletic tracks, underlay and industrial flooring amongst other uses, and we can recycle the materials in this country, dispensing with the need to export waste to countries where Ministers cannot guarantee what happens to the waste products.

I was honoured to be main speaker at the 2026 Flood Resilience conference. As Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Flooding and Flooded Communities, I continue to raise the High Court's precedent setting 'Yatton decision' to build 190 homes on a site deemed at risk of flooding. I'm looking forward to taking my concerns directly to the Housing and Planning Minister, Matthew Pennycook, and reporting back to the community.

I have recently been elected Chair of the APPG for Penal Affairs, working with the charity the Prison Reform Trust. As a member of the Justice Select Committee, reforming our prisons to make them just and effective is a priority. As Chair of the APPG for the condition ME, I met colleagues and specialists to discuss the future

publication of the latest survey findings, due for release in late November. As a member of the Air Ambulance APPG, I attended their event on improving safety.

I met with campaigners aiming to achieve changes to 'Plan 2' loans under a Student Loans Review; attended the Radiotherapy Report launch; the 'Back British Farming' reception; the 'Lock Out' drink driving presentation; and the 'Stop the Grind' campaign meeting, which seeks to halt the appalling practice of annual mass slaughter of dolphins and whales in the Faroe Islands. It is shocking to discover that little has changed since I first worked on this campaign as a volunteer with the Environmental Investigation Agency over three decades ago.

I asked Ministers questions about: changes to Plan 2 Student Loans; the mobile phone Emergency Alert system; the astronomical charges made for retirement village homes; and World Suicide Prevention Day.

My most local surgery is on Saturday 21 November from 9.00am to 10.00am at The Bluebird Café. Other local surgeries are on Friday 6 November from 12.00 noon to 1.00pm at The Red Cow, Brent Knoll; Friday 6 November from 6.00pm to 7.00pm at Pub Night, Village Hall, Ashcott; Saturday 7 November from 11.30am to 12.30pm at The Lamb Inn, Axbridge; and Friday 20 November from 8.00am to 9.00am at Edelweiss Café, Cheddar. 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 several 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! As we head towards the end of another busy year, there is plenty happening across the parish.

Community Emergency Information – We're pleased to report that work on the new Community Emergency Information Pack is nearing completion and, by the time this update goes to print, distribution to households across the parish should be underway. This project has been delivered in partnership with Sunlit Solar, whose support has helped make the production and distribution of the pack possible.

Flood Resilience – Flood resilience remains an important focus for the Council. The Community Resilience Committee continues to review opportunities available through Somerset Council's Flood Resilience Programme. We were also pleased to see the completion of works to the Panborough Drain, undertaken by the Internal Drainage Board in partnership with the Somerset Rivers Authority.

Pilcorn Street – There has been further progress on the long-running proposals to improve the footway in Pilcorn Street. Alternative designs have been prepared, and



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discussions are taking place with Somerset Council to explore the options available, taking account of local constraints and resident feedback. We will continue to keep the community informed as the project develops.

Play Areas – Following annual inspections, specialist contractors have assessed the play areas at Wedmore, Blackford and Theale. Reports and quotations for repairs and improvements have now been received, and the Council is considering how best to prioritise the recommended works. Maintaining safe and enjoyable play facilities remains an important priority.

Planning and Development – Members continue to consider a wide range of planning applications, while also monitoring emerging local and national planning policy changes. As always, the Council will seek to represent the interests of the parish and ensure local views are considered wherever possible.

Christmas is Coming! – Preparations for Christmas are already underway. The village Christmas lights will be installed later this month, helping to create the welcoming festive atmosphere that makes Wedmore so special at this time of year. The Parish Council is also pleased to once again provide Christmas trees for retailers along The Borough and Church Street, as well as St Mary's Church, Holy Trinity Church, Christ Church, Wedmore First School Academy and Hugh Sexey Middle School.

Celebrating Our Community – It is always wonderful to see local organisations recognised for the contribution they make to village life. The Council recently nominated the Wedmore Tuesday Club for Somerset's Community Awards in recognition of the valuable service it provides to local residents. We are also delighted to congratulate Wedmore Playing Fields, which has been voted Best Large Playing Field in Somerset. This award reflects the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in maintaining this important community facility.

A Note from the Clerk – As we move into the wetter months, I'd like to remind residents of the important role we all play in helping to reduce flood risk. If you are a riparian owner with responsibility for a ditch, brook, stream, rhyne or watercourse adjoining your property, please ensure it is kept clear and free-flowing wherever possible.

What continues to make Wedmore special is the willingness of local people to support one another. Whether you volunteer with a community group, help maintain our open spaces, support local organisations or simply look out for a neighbour, your contribution matters. If you have a little spare time, please consider getting involved in one of the many community groups and organisations across the parish. New ideas, fresh faces and helping hands are always welcome.

Above all, let's continue to be kind, patient and considerate towards one another. Small acts of neighbourliness often make the biggest difference. Thank you to everyone who gives their time and energy to our community. And if you see me or one of your parish councillors out and about, please do stop and say hello. We're always pleased to hear your thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

*Lindsey Baker,
Clerk,
Wedmore Parish Council*

Report from the Kings of Wedmore

The Kings of Wedmore, recently crowned at this year's Harvest Home, have set out their plans for the year ahead:

Infrastructure	The construction of the Wedmore Gin Pipeline. Creation of a Wilkins Cider Fountain and Reflection Pool. The erection of a state Ballroom to the east wing of the Parish Council Rooms.
Environmental	Surround Wedmore with wine and hop growing fields.
Education	No Homework for Children.
Transport	Companies requesting Road Closures to pay WPC £10,000 per closure. Companies requesting to use Traffic Lights in the parish to pay WPC £1,000 Per request. Companies using 'Stop-Go Signs' will not be charged. Construction of a Wedmore Helipad. Bristol Airport to fly to the Caribbean.
Health	Wedmore surgery appointments for Wedmore parishioners. Construction of a new surgery and combined pharmacy.
Business	Wedmore Parish Council to protect all Parish pubs from change of use. Free rates for all pubs and cider establishments.
Tourism	Somerset County Council to pay a £1m grant to Wilkins Cider Farm for a Cider Theme Park.
Leisure	A full review of golf handicaps at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club.
Sanitation	Sponsorship for a lager company to flush all Wedmore toilets.

*Neil Ellis and Trevor Prideaux,
The Harvest Home Kings of Wedmore*

Wedmore Living Advent Calendar

Merry Christmas Everyone! It may seem too soon to wish you 'Merry Christmas', but the mince pies and puddings have been in the shops for ages and in time-honoured fashion our thoughts are turning to lighting up the village as a Living Advent Calendar. One window will light up each evening between 1 and 24 December and continue to delight us all throughout the Christmas period. Would you like to be a part of this well-loved tradition? All windows are welcome to join the fun, big or small we'll love them all!

To book a date for your window or for more information please contact Marianne Smith by Sunday 15 November on wedmorelivingadventcalendar@gmail.com

Marianne Smith

Squirrel Scouts Volunteers Wanted

1st Wedmore Squirrel Scouts are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team! Our Squirrels are aged 4 to 6 and enjoy having fun, learning new skills, making friends, and trying new activities. We're looking for adults who would like to get involved and help make a difference to our youngest Scouts.

There is no minimum time commitment, having a great team to work together and keep the section running works best. Our meetings are held every Tuesday during

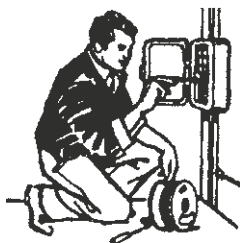
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Wedmore Squirrel Scouts loved toasting marshmallows to make S'mores (squish the melted marshmallow between chocolate digestives). This was the first time Wedmore squirrels have been on a camp - and it was such a wonderful experience



Conquering fears on the new climbing wall at Huish woods

term time, from 5.15pm to 6.00pm. You don't need previous scouting experience, just enthusiasm; a willingness to get involved; and a desire to help local children have fun and learn.

If you're interested in finding out more about volunteering with 1st Wedmore Squirrels, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you! Come and join our team and help our Squirrels grow, learn and have fun! For more information please contact Jacqui Redman by email at Jax.redman@outlook.com; or by phone or text on 07729 296201.

*Jacqui Redman,
1st Wedmore Scout Group Lead Volunteer*

Cheddar Foodbank

Once again thank you all for your amazing donations, Cheddar Foodbank greatly appreciate it and always ask me to send their thanks!

During December the foodbank make up extra special parcels which include basic food supplies but with extra Christmas treats. To enable them to do this and have the parcels ready in time they would like, if possible, the special treats at the beginning of December. Obviously, food is welcome anytime but if you are able to donate those extra items earlier that would be very helpful and appreciated.

Please visit www.cheddarvalley.foodbank.org.uk to find out more. If you prefer to donate money, then please do it here. Money donations are very welcome. Food collection points are inside St Mary's Church in the normal entrance and outside

The Grove café in the Borough Mall, where there is a black bin clearly labelled for Foodbank. Thank you all so much for your continued support.

*Jane Scott,
and all those that help with collection and food drop-off*

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

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





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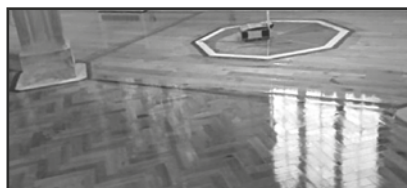


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3C's Bingo

Please join us for lots of super prizes and family fun on Friday 6 November at Wedmore Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm with 'Eyes Down' at 7.30pm. There will be a bar available, as well as the traditional tea and coffee, along with table snacks. This is one of the many fundraising events that 3Cs puts on to help with the costs of the September Harvest Home and we would really appreciate lots of support! Any queries, please contact 07576778877.

Julia Banwell

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. Since 2001, the fair 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 do come along and support your favourite charities.

Sue Burton, Co-ordinator

Wedmore Twinning Games and Quiz Night

The Twinning Association is holding a games, quiz, and supper evening on Saturday 7 November at 7.00pm in Wedmore Village Hall.

There will be fun for all with a selection of games and quizzes. Tickets, payable in advance, are £20 per person, under 16s £10, and include beef chilli, with a vegan option also available, baked potatoes, and dessert. Tables of up to 8 people. For more information and to book a table please email wedmoretwinning1@gmail.com, or contact Andy Reeson by phone on 07801 718202 or Nickey Hann on 07801 847064

Nickey Hann

Remembrance – Wedmore Area Military Veterans Community

To mark the coming Service of Remembrance, at St Mary's church on 8 November, veterans from Wedmore and surrounding areas are invited to take a slightly larger part in the village commemoration. The slight change will be to lead the community youth groups to St Mary's, before joining the very poignant village service as before.

Veterans are encouraged to assemble at Wedmore Village Hall at 9.45am, with the service starting at 10.15am. Following the service The New Inn will be hosting the Wedmore and Cheddar Valley Royal British Legion cohort, and all are invited to come along.

Rob Seeley

Wedmore Theatre Pantomime

'Shivver me timbers, it's Captain Hook!' and Peter Pan and Tinkerbell, of course. But wait a minute, there's Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters, and Aladdin and the Genie, and Dick Wittington and his cat! What is going on? They can't all be in the same pantomime, can they?

Oh, yes, they can! It's Wedmore Theatre's production of 'The Wrong Pantomime' coming to Wedmore Village Hall on Thursday 26, Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm, with a matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm. All your favourite pantomime characters appear in it, played by our talented local youngsters



and a few brave supporting adults. There'll be magical fairies, evil rats and swashbuckling pirates, not to mention all sorts of other pantomime nonsense.

So, bring the family and come and enjoy an evening (or Saturday afternoon) of comic mayhem at the village hall before the Christmas Preparations rush sets in. Tickets are available in Wedmore Village Store, through our website at www.wedmoretheatre.com/book or just scan the QR code.



Judy Philpotts

St Mary's Advent Fair

St Mary's Advent Fair will take place on Saturday 5 December from 9.30am to 12.30pm, with children's craft corner and the ever-popular bottle stall. Entertainment and a warm welcome guaranteed. Come and see our new layout and pop-up nativity!

Stall holders and volunteers please get in touch with Lisa or Jo via email at stmaryswedmore@gmail.com

Lisa Hall

Wedmore by Lamplight

Wedmore by Lamplight is returning on Wednesday 9 December, 5.30pm to 8.30pm, bringing festive magic back to the village for another wonderful evening of community celebration. Expect the usual festive mix of food and drink, late night shopping, craft stalls, entertainment, our much-loved lantern parade and crib service, and, of course, plenty of community spirit, alongside a few exciting surprises for 2026!

If you are interested in sponsorship or having a stall, please contact wedmorebylamplight@gmail.com and we also really need volunteers to help make the event happen, so if you can spare some time on the night, we'd also love to hear from you. Whether you can help with setting up, clearing up or anything in between, every helping hand makes a difference.

Further details will be announced soon, so keep an eye on our website at www.wedmorebylamplight.org and our social media for updates, get the date in your diary, and join us for another magical Wedmore by Lamplight!

Wedmore by Lamplight

A Chaotic Christmas Celebration at St Mary's Church

Pop Up Wedmore invites you to 'A Chaotic Christmas Celebration' at St Mary's Church on Saturday 12 December starting at 6.45pm. Starring representatives from many local community groups this will be a fun filled evening of song, sketch and dance. Come and see members of your community in a way you've never seen them before. Tickets are £12.50, under 10s free, and are available from Eventbrite and Wedmore Village Store. Bar and raffle also available raising funds for St Mary's Church.

Sue Moreman

Wedmore Opera Burns Night Celebration

A huge thank you to our wonderful performers, dedicated volunteers, generous supporters and everyone who joined us for 'Lights, Camera... Opera!' Together, you made it a truly memorable evening and helped raise valuable funds towards Wedmore Opera's next fully staged opera production in 2027.



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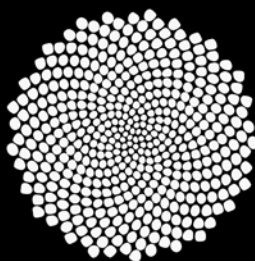
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We're delighted to announce that our next event will be our ever-popular Burns Night Celebration on Saturday 23 January at Wedmore Village Hall. Join us for an evening of delicious Scottish fare, poems, song and good company as we celebrate the life and work of Scotland's favourite bard in true Wedmore Opera style. Whether you're a long-standing supporter or joining us for the first time, we'd love to welcome you.

Booking is now open, please visit TicketSource at www.ticketsource.com/wedmoreopera or follow the QR code.



Ellie Oliver

Living Well Day

Living Well is a day of talks and ideas for improving our health and will take place on Saturday 6 March in Wedmore Village Hall. This is a new community wellbeing event and will bring together knowledgeable speakers, practical demonstrations, interactive sessions and local healthrelated organisations, all designed to help us live well in body and mind.

Healthy refreshments will be available, and a range of stands will offer information on local services and support. Further details will be released closer to the date. This event is organised by Wedmore Health and Wellbeing. Check our website at www.whawb.co.uk for Information and updates on health and wellbeing in Wedmore. For all enquiries relating to this event please phone 01934 806266



LIVING WELL

6 March 2027

Jane Allen

Eligible groups encouraged to get their flu vaccination.

This year's drive to protect the most vulnerable people against the winter flu virus has begun for those in Somerset. All people aged 65 and over are among those who can receive a flu vaccination for free on the NHS. Those eligible can get their flu vaccination at their GP practice or a participating community pharmacy, helping to protect themselves and those around them this winter.

Each year, thousands of people across the region will feel the unpleasant side effects of flu, but for those who are older or vulnerable, the risks posed by the virus can be much greater. Dr Barry Coakley, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset Integrated Care Boards Cluster said 'Flu is not just a bad cold. It can be very serious, lead to severe illness and even be life-threatening. The flu vaccine is a safe and effective way for people to reduce their risk of becoming seriously unwell, and those eligible are strongly encouraged to take up the offer, not only to protect themselves, but also their loved ones.'

Along with people aged 65 and over, others who are also being encouraged to get protected include under 65s who have been identified as clinically at-risk, care home residents, people who share a home with someone who has a weakened immune system, frontline health and care workers, pregnant women and children. Dr Coakley continues, 'A simple way we can care for older people and the wider community is to have the flu vaccination when it is offered. Having the vaccine not only gives a person's immunity a much-needed boost but also makes them less infectious to others.'

Children are often good at sharing viruses, so when they take up the vaccine, it not only helps protect them, it also, importantly, helps to stop them from spreading flu to others at greater risk, such as their grandparents. I would encourage everyone eligible to book their vaccines as soon as possible and help to protect themselves and those around them.’

Flu vaccinations are available through local GP practices and community pharmacies. Anyone eligible for vaccinations can book online at www.nhs.uk, by downloading the NHS App, or by calling 119.

COVID-19 vaccinations will also be available to people aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older adults and individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

In addition, the NHS’s year-round RSV vaccination programme has expanded to include people aged 75 and over, those aged 65 to 74 with a weakened immune system, or certain long-term lung conditions and women 28 weeks pregnant or more. RSV is a viral infection which can make babies and adults with long term lung conditions very unwell and at risk of hospitalisation.

*Olivia Capaldi,
Communications and Engagement Lead*

Theale Show



The Theale Show in early September was huge success. Helped by kind weather, we had a great afternoon, with loads of visitors, from young families as well as oldies, lots of excited children playing games and enjoying a richly entertaining dog show. Next year there is definitely a vacancy for a star owner looking like their dog; matching bows, hats and glasses please! We had excellent number of produce entries despite a very challenging growing season. This has to be the friendliest show around, mixing tradition with family fun for all. Just under 100 people entered at least one of the classes, and 30 closely contested silver cups were awarded, of which 7 went to under 16’s. It’s a real village event, and countless volunteers worked hard preparing the orchard, setting the show out, making teas, sorting the parking and front desk and much more. Thanks to all of them.

We’re very hopeful that everyone will be inspired by this year’s entries and that it will encourage lots of new would-be entrants to come and try their hand at picking up a prize. Fingers crossed for an equally successful 2027!

Richard Atkin, Chair



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Listening with Samaritans gives you the chance to make a real difference to people's 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

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 specific roles, please contact Shirley Wederell by email at wederellsa@btinternet.com We would love to hear from you, thanks!

Pauline Heslop

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

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Regular Features

This Month in the Garden

I think I'll leave any weather comments well alone this month but just pray for a wonderful, calm and just moist few weeks to enjoy in our gardens. But of course this is the best month to sow some seeds! Broad beans are a classic vegetable and can be sown in the open ground or in containers. No heat required, these hardy vegetables will germinate well at this time and varieties such as 'Aquadulce Claudia', the shorter 'The Sutton' and 'De Monica' (disease resistant) are the ones to go for. Sow outside about 20cms apart in a double row 45cm apart as germination is usually as high as 90% to 100%. If under cover, sow in containers and just keep cold and in the light, ready to plant out in January or February. Sow sweet peas in a similar fashion, they don't need any heat but make stronger plants for planting out in spring.

Ready to harvest will be salad leaves, leeks, kale (hopefully protected from pigeon damage), swedes, parsnips carrots, potatoes, beetroot and the related mangelwurzels in red or yellow colours. I have never grown these myself but believe that they are easy to grow and taste like a sweet beetroot - worth a try next year as they seem to be pest and disease free.

Now is a good time to check the tree ties as this is easy to forget about and can damage the developing stems of newly planted trees. Whilst doing this check the presence of any narrow V-shaped branches. Carefully cut out the weakest branch as these are weak joins and will often split open in future years when autumn and winter gales present a strain on the branch system of trees. Consider raising the crown by cutting off lower branches of trees to make space in the border for more attractive planting. There is such an ever-widening choice these days of plants that deserve that to be more widely planted. Think about some evergreen plants to provide interest in winter. Box planting is off the list at present, but the genus *Euonymus* has many varieties and of course Yew can always easily be trimmed into interesting shapes for winter interest as demonstrated by Monty Don and his Yew trained dog.

Keep cutting the grass whenever possible and over seed any bare patches. For an alternative solution, cut a piece of good turf from a less obvious location and place this over the damaged or weak patch. Cut round the shape below and remove the damaged / weak grass. Now just place the good patch of turf in the empty place and firm in level. If the edge of a piece of lawn has been damaged, cut out a 'square' and simply turn this round and re-firm it into place for new straight edge. The damaged piece of turf is now within the lawn area and can be easily resown with fresh grass seed to complete the repair job.

This month is also the right time to buy and plant tulip bulbs. These are the last of the spring flowering bulbs as there is a disease that affects tulip bulbs that are planted early. There is a rich assortment, yielding many different colours and shapes to brighten both borders and containers. I love the lily shaped varieties and the rich red variety in an informal lawn. The crimson flowers brighten even the duller of green lawns and look absolutely stunning without interfering with the early mowing routine.

Also look out and buy roses this month. Bare root rose plants are best because you can spread the roots out when planting and that beneficial mycorrhizal fungi powder sprinkled the roots really does improve the early and best plant establishment.

Whilst at the nursery, treat yourself to some spring bedding plants such as forget-me-nots, wallflowers and/or primulas. Planted now these hardy plants will establish well in the warm moist soil and be twice as good to brighten the early spring garden.

Enjoy your fireworks and happy gardening!

Tony Connell

Tasty Morsels – Fig and Serrano Ham Focaccia

Ingredients –

425ml warm water

2 tsp active dry yeast

525g strong bread flour, plus more for work surface

2 tsp salt

4 to 6 tbsp olive oil divided

3 medium figs – sliced thick

½ medium brown onion – thinly sliced

15 sage leaves

4 slices of serrano ham

Flaky sea salt

Method –

In a small bowl mix warm water and yeast and let stand for 15 minutes, or until it gets foamy. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour and salt. Pour in the yeast mixture and stir (I like to do this by hand) until the dough is combined. Shape into a ball then cover the bowl and let rest for 30 minutes, then stretch and fold the dough by using a wet hand and grabbing the edges of the dough and pulling it towards the centre. Repeat the stretching and folding about 8 times rotating the bowl. Rub a tablespoon of olive oil over the dough, cover and chill in the refrigerator for at least 12 hours up to 3 days.

Line a 9 x 13-inch pan with parchment paper. Pour a tablespoon of olive oil into the centre of the pan and tip the dough in. Roll the dough into a ball to coat it in the oil. Let the dough rest for 3 to 4 hours.

Preheat the oven to 220°C. In a small bowl combine the figs, onion and sage with a tablespoon of olive oil and mix to coat. Pour another 1 to 2 tablespoons of olive oil over the dough, then with all of your fingers press straight down to create large dimples. If necessary, gently stretch the dough to fill the pan. Sprinkle the figs, onion and sage over the top and repeat the dimpling process careful not to damage the figs. Tear the serrano ham into pieces and scatter over the bread, gently pressing down. Finally, sprinkle with some flaky sea salt. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until it is golden and crisp. Remove the pan from the oven and transfer the focaccia to a cooling rack. Cool for at least 10 minutes until cutting and serving.

Once completely cooled you can store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days or freeze it for up to 3 months.

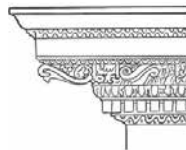
Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright





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In Praise of Rain

I thought, for a while,
trying to find a more subtle
and nuanced title

But a cloud passed over
And I heard a familiar sound

Then I thought, no...
why should we wait to celebrate,
Life is definitely too short

To be even handed...
Let's represent the case for those who would demonise precipitation.

First, remember its association with grey clouds obscuring the sun.
The perennial spoiler, the bringer of gloom!

Second, imagine a January morning when, bad enough to get up early to get to work, having
to face a deluge, a cold wind that renders your umbrella useless.
Arriving drenched and fearful.

And don't forget the sheer, relentless dominance of a low-pressure system, ruining a
thousand summer holidays for young families.
We've all been there...

And rivers rising to flood unsuspecting homes.
If there did exist, a switch to turn that off, who would not, in an instant?

But, before we get too downcast,
think of those, who yearn for restoration and dust settled.

Whose best reward is breathing in that clean, cool air.
To put an end to cracked earth on parched fields.
Slake the thirst and grow abundant crops to feed the world.

And for those who come to life when the sound of that gift from heaven saturates the evening sky.

Sleeping soundly, in the knowledge that, in the morning, grass will start to grow again and
drooping foliage get back to business.

And for those who swim and share, who join the stream.

The world needs water
No doubt about it
Let's celebrate

Nuff said...

Kerry Guy

Letters to the Editor

No letters this month ☹

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

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

Articles

Not just jam and Jerusalem!

This is the first in a series of articles about the history of Wedmore Women's Institute (WI) inspired by a collection of scrapbooks.

Four years ago it looked like the long history of the WI in Wedmore might be coming to an end, but the group was relaunched under its new name Women of Wedmore (WoW). The activities of former members have recently been in our thoughts after several old



WI scrapbooks were handed over to the Women of Wedmore committee. These fascinating records date back to the early part of the 20th century.

The Women's Institute was first launched in the UK in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in food production during the First World War. By 1918, 137 WIs had opened, including a group in Wedmore. Old cuttings from the Weston Mercury newspaper reveal the origins of the Women's Institute here; according to the report, committee members represented all parts of the parish. Earliest meetings included a demonstration on blouse making and a discussion on different ways of using potatoes. A question box at the meetings enabled members to ask a question on any subject.

After these newspaper reports, the only other accounts of WI activity in the village before the 1950s are in a minute book from 1924. Handed down to successive Wedmore WI secretaries, this small notebook records a few meetings and plans to visit the Wembley Exhibition. We can assume this was the British Empire Exhibition of 1924 in the newly built Wembley Stadium. In addition, talks, called 'lantern lectures', were presented with early projectors and members enjoyed outings, a summer meeting on the Manor House lawn and whist drives. Meetings featured music, tea and threepenny dips, while members entered competitions to make a child's garment or a cake costing no more than 1s 6d! (*ask your parents/grandparents what this means – Ed*)

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Events coming up in November:

Fri 6th - Quiz Night

Sat 7th - Duolo

Sat 14th - Kerryl

Fri 20th - Music Bingo

Sat 21st - Rick Payne Blues

Fri 27th Sat 28th - Two Chris's

Sun 29th - Newtons Toad - 2.30pm

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(729)

Wedmore WI was restarted in 1953 by Winifred Puddy and Margaret Rose. It is thought that minute books from the 1950s and 1960s were lost in the 1968 floods, but photos and newspaper cuttings in the scrapbooks reveal how busy members were in this thriving group, that played a pivotal role in village life. In 1957 Wedmore WI staged its first Spring Bulb and Flower Show and then introduced a WI Produce Guild section that continued until 1973. The WI members displayed their talents in drama productions and handicraft shows during the 1950s.

Wedmore WI concerned themselves with serious issues of the day. In June 1958 members passed a resolution to draw their MP's attention to the terrible conditions in refugee camps in Europe. In 1956 the WI knitted squares to be made into blankets for Hungarian refugees and a parcel of clothing was sent to the institute's adopted Latvian family who were living in a camp in Germany. Speakers visiting the group in Wedmore included a foot expert who condemned court shoes with high heels for teenagers.

At one meeting there was a fashion show for 'The Matron and the Maid', followed by a competition to make a hat from kitchen utensils such as pudding basins and colanders, with trimmings of steel wool and condiment sets, sweet wrappings and plastic spoons!

Women of Wedmore wish to give special thanks to village historian and former WI member Hazel Hudson for her valuable assistance while we have been researching the WI records.

Sarah Ford

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's main article is written by Jennifer Morecroft, our local dentist. Thanks to Jennifer for her expertise and insights this month.



Why Gum Health Matters to Your General Health

We often think of oral health as being separate from general health. However, evidence increasingly suggests that the two are closely connected. While gum disease primarily affects the tissues supporting our teeth, the associated inflammation may have wider effects on general health. Periodontal disease (gum disease) is extremely common. Initially, the gums become inflamed (gingivitis) and may appear red and swollen, or bleed during brushing. If left untreated, this can progress to periodontitis (gum disease), where the gum and bone supporting the teeth are gradually destroyed. This can then lead to tooth loss.

The mouth is home to a complex web of bacteria. When the gums are persistently inflamed, bacteria and inflammatory substances can enter the bloodstream and

What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sun	1 Nov	The Big Tidy-Up	10.00am	Borough House, Wedmore
	1–21 Nov	The Turnip Prize Entry Window		The New Inn
Fri	6 Nov	3Cs Bingo Night	7.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Sat	7 Nov	St Mary's Annual Charities Fair	10.00am to 12.30pm	St Mary's Church
Sat	7 Nov	Wedmore Twinning Games and Quiz Night	7.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Sun	8 Nov	Remembrance Parade	9.45am	Wedmore Village Hall
Sun	8 Nov	Remembrance Service	10.15am	St Mary's Church
Wed	11 Nov	Women of Wedmore (WI) - Painting with Molly	7.00pm	The Post and Wicket
Fri	13 Nov	Mr Punch's Folk Club	8.00pm	Theale Village Hall
Sun	15 Nov	Theale Community Film Club	7.00pm	Theale Village Hall
Thu–Sat	26–28 Nov	Wedmore Theatre's Production of 'The Wrong Pantomime'	Various	Wedmore Village Hall

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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 Saturday	St Mary's Coffee Shop	9.30am to 12.00 noon	St Mary's Church
2nd Saturday	Wedmore In Bloom Work Party	9.30am	Outside The George Inn
3rd Saturday (not December)	Theale Community Café	10.00am to 12.00 noon	Theale Village Hall

November 2026

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
01934 712045

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

Pickleball 2.00pm to 4.00pm Wedmore Village Hall Liz Miller 07552 587945

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

contribute to inflammation elsewhere in the body. This is one of the mechanisms researchers believe may explain the association between periodontal disease and chronic health conditions. It is important to emphasise that an association does not necessarily mean that one condition causes another. Many chronic diseases share common risk factors, such as smoking, age, diabetes and lifestyle. Nevertheless, growing evidence reinforces the importance of maintaining good oral health as part of looking after our general health.

Gum health and the wider body

Heart and circulation - The relationship between periodontal disease and cardiovascular disease has been extensively studied. Research has found associations between periodontitis and conditions including heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure. Chronic inflammation appears to be an important factor. Studies have shown that successful periodontal treatment can reduce certain markers of inflammation and improve aspects of blood vessel function. However, there is currently insufficient evidence to conclude that treating gum disease prevents heart attacks or strokes.

Diabetes - The relationship between periodontal disease and type 2 diabetes is particularly well established and appears to work in both directions: poorly controlled diabetes increases the risk and severity of gum disease, while significant periodontal inflammation can make blood glucose more difficult to control. Clinical studies have shown that treating periodontitis can produce a modest improvement in blood glucose control. For people with diabetes, regular dental care and good gum health should therefore be considered part of the overall approach to managing their condition.

Respiratory health - Oral bacteria can enter the lungs, particularly in people who are frail or medically vulnerable. This may be especially significant for individuals in hospitals or residential care, where maintaining effective oral hygiene can be more difficult. Research has identified associations between periodontal disease and conditions such as pneumonia and COPD. There is also good evidence that improving oral hygiene and providing regular professional oral care can reduce the risk of pneumonia in vulnerable groups.

Gum health and cognitive decline - One of the more recent and interesting areas of research concerns the possible relationship between periodontal disease and cognitive decline, including Alzheimer's disease. Several studies have found an association between moderate to severe periodontitis and an increased risk of cognitive impairment or dementia. Researchers are investigating whether chronic inflammation associated with gum disease, together with the movement of oral bacteria into the bloodstream, might contribute to processes involved in brain ageing and Alzheimer's disease. There is also evidence that some bacteria associated with periodontal disease may be found in the tissues or fluids surrounding the brain, although the significance of this finding is still being investigated.

It is important to be clear that research has not established that gum disease causes Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Cognitive decline is complex and influenced by many genetic, medical and lifestyle factors. Nevertheless, the possibility that long-term oral inflammation could be one of several modifiable factors contributing to cognitive health is an important area of ongoing research. For those of us interested

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in maintaining both physical and mental health as we age, this provides another good reason to take oral health seriously. Efficacy of tooth cleaning directly influences the health of our gums and, therefore, this is a relatively straightforward way to actively contribute to our overall health.

Conditions such as dementia and Parkinson's disease can make toothbrushing and cleaning between the teeth more difficult because of changes in memory, concentration or manual dexterity. Some medications can cause a dry mouth, which further increases the risk of dental problems. In these circumstances, additional support with daily oral hygiene and regular professional dental care can be particularly valuable.

What can you do at home?

Although research into the relationship between oral and general health continues, the practical advice is straightforward: good periodontal health is best maintained by brushing twice daily with fluoride toothpaste and cleaning carefully between the teeth. Regular dental examinations allow early signs of gum disease to be identified and treated. Persistent bleeding or swollen gums should not simply be regarded as a normal consequence of getting older; they are signs of inflammation and should be assessed by a dental professional. For older adults, maintaining good oral hygiene becomes particularly important if physical or cognitive difficulties make daily tooth cleaning a challenge. Where necessary, family members or carers can provide practical assistance, and dental teams can advise on suitable cleaning techniques and aids. At Wedmore Dental Practice we also offer a home-visiting service for those who are unable to attend clinic. Smoking is one of the most important risk factors for periodontal disease and contributes significantly to many other serious health conditions. Stopping smoking therefore has substantial benefits for both oral and general health.

The evidence increasingly supports the principle that a healthy mouth is an important component of a healthy body. Preventing and treating periodontal disease helps to maintain and retain our teeth. Research is still ongoing as to whether good gum health also contributes to protecting against cardiovascular, metabolic and cognitive diseases. For those wishing to maintain their health and independence into later life it is simple and worthwhile to establish a good oral hygiene regime, regular dental care and early treatment of gum disease. Looking after our gums is a small, but crucially important, component of looking after our health as we age.

Jennifer Morecroft BDS MCGD



For easy links to all the websites and documents referenced, or to find out how to sign up to take part in any research programmes mentioned, please visit www.whawb.co.uk and go to the Wedmore News item for November 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.



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 6 November. 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 HeadsUp, just ask, help may be available.

HeadsUp Somerset

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. Our upcoming meetings are on 9 and 23 November and 7 December.

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

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gah' – Ed.), cocooning, log fires, warming soups, Christmas festivities, it's not all bad. However, it's also a time when people can feel more alone, isolated, and generally 'down'. Our volunteers are regularly visiting a small number of people in their own homes to provide some company over a cuppa.

Every month the team also provides local people with lifts to and from medical appointments, such as visits to the doctor's surgery, a hospital or for vaccinations. As taxis can be very expensive this is proving to be a very worthwhile and welcome service. Volunteers are also available to give lifts for those that would like to attend local clubs and events. If you, or someone you know, would like this kind of neighbourly help just call us and leave a message - a volunteer will reply within 24 hours.

What other things can we help with at this time of year? Maybe you are unwell and need your dog walking? Got a prescription you'd like collecting from the chemist? Have some items that need taking to the recycling centre? Just call us.

Demand for these services has been steadily increasing, and we've been kept very busy over recent months. If you'd like to become a volunteer, you'd be very welcome! Although we're managing to meet virtually all requests at the moment, we're anxious to ensure we have sufficient resources if the current trend continues. Volunteers tell us they find it very rewarding and appreciate the flexibility. There's no fixed commitment – the coordinator posts each request, and you can pick and choose which ones, if any, you'd like to take on. If you'd like to find out a bit more about becoming a volunteer call 01934 806299 and leave a message – we'll be in touch.

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

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.

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 then please call us, leave a message and we'll be in touch.

Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Isle of Wedmore Society

The Isle of Wedmore Society started back after its short summer break with an excellent talk given by our erudite member, Michael Blandford on the Life and Times of the Founder of Wells Cathedral.



An obscure man but important who, in Michael's opinion, needs to be properly recognised.

He was Reginald de Bohun, born in 1141 of Norman origin, illegitimate but with good connections. His father was Jocelyn de Bohun, who became the Bishop of Salisbury, and his mother was probably the daughter of the rich and influential Count of Savoy. He studied law on the continent, and his teacher later became Pope Alexander III, another connection which stood him in good stead.

Aged 21, Reginald came to England and his father made him an archdeacon, despite the fact Reginald was not ordained. This led to his appointment as one of the special advisors on church law, an eruditi, by Thomas a Becket who found himself unexpectedly made Archbishop of Canterbury by his friend Henry II, and we all know how that idea went horribly wrong!

Thomas' actions as Archbishop led to Henry regretting his decision and Thomas found he was in a difficult position. Reginald now changed sides to support Henry and worked hard, travelling all over Europe, to bring about a reconciliation between the King and Becket, and obtain the agreement of Pope Alexander III. This he miraculously achieved and Henry, in Paris, was delighted. Thomas, however, immediately went back on his word leading to the alleged, 'Will no one rid me of this troublesome Priest!' spoken by a despairing Henry. Perhaps not quite these words, but still disastrously acted upon by the four knights who rushed off to England and murdered Thomas in Canterbury Cathedral. Henry went into deep mourning and took to his room for three weeks.

So now there was more work for Reginald who had to plead for Henry not to be excommunicate. Despite a delay of months, in which Thomas' friends got to the Pope first, Reginald's powers of advocacy led to a lesser punishment for Henry and a reward for himself. He was created Bishop of Bath and was properly ordained.

Bath at this time was smaller than Wells but did have a fine Abbey Cathedral. Wells by contrast had an inferior building so Reginald set about redressing the balance. In his many travels round Europe, he had witnessed the building of the new Cathedrals in Northern France, so he modelled his ideas for Wells on those and created the first Gothic Cathedral in Britain. However, it needs to be said, not the towers.

Reginald was not finished yet. He was part of the Third Lateran Council in 1179, which set the rules for the Catholic Church still in place to this day. And he built and founded the Hospital of St John the Baptist in Bath, an alms foundation still in existence. Finally, Reginald was himself made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1191 and was travelling, yet again, from Wells to Canterbury to be installed when he died of a stroke in Hampshire. He was buried in Bath Abbey, but his grave has been lost due to fire and rebuilding. The only memorial to Reginald is a modern stained-glass window in Witham church showing Reginald and Hugh of Avalon, a monk who came reluctantly to England, to help establish a monastery for Henry as part of his punishment. It was said of Reginald that he was 'Wise and diligent' and 'Active in council beyond his years', and we all agreed with Michael that a fitting memorial is well overdue.

Our next meeting will be the 26 November when we will enjoy our traditional mince pie and wine, following our other tradition of a visit from Jackie and Lindsey from the Parish Council. They will give us an update on Parish business and answer

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questions that members and the general public may have about matters in Wedmore. Do come along and join us for our pre-Christmas meeting in the Masonic Hall at the usual time of 7.30pm.

*Jean Gregory,
Secretary*

Cheddar and Wedmore Bridge Club

Notable scores of 65% or more were in short supply this month with Gillian Toogood and Geoff Davies's score of 66.7% being the only one which would normally be reported. The BBO robots, who frequently qualify but are not usually reported, scored 67% and Barbara Biggin and Gary Langdale just missing out with 64.6%

This month's hand comes from the first County League match of the season where the teams from all three divisions play the same hands. It shows how better players consider more than high card points when deciding how high to bid. Even though East-West have only 23 high card points on this hand, they can make 3NT against any defence. None of the third division teams played in 3NT, however, while eight out of ten first division teams did!

When East opens a weak NT showing 12-14 high card points and a balanced hand, West would normally make an invitational raise to 2NT with 11-12 high card points. East would then pass this with their minimum 1NT opener. West's hand is well worth a direct raise to 3NT, however. It has an excellent 6 card club suit which will almost certainly provide 5 tricks and possibly 6 if partner has the ace. It has a useful entry with the Ace of diamonds if partner has to lose the lead when setting up the clubs and the doubleton honours in the majors suggest playing in NT where they will help partner stop the suits. They would probably be useless in 5 clubs, however, where Aces and Kings or singletons and voids are required. The two tens and a nine are also useful intermediates.

The fact that this is a team event is also relevant. East-West are vulnerable therefore 3NT scores 600 points while 2NT+1 scores only 150 points. The difference is worth 10 imps in teams scoring. 3NT-1 scores -100 while 2NT scores 120. The difference is -6 imps in this case. You can therefore bid vulnerable games which have less than 50% chance of making and still come out winning on average.

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	
♠	A73
♥	K9873
♦	KQ3
♣	83
West (V)	East (D)
♠	JT
♥	Q4
♦	A82
♣	KJT964
South	
♠	Q854
♥	JT2
♦	T64
♣	Q52

Wedmore Tuesday Club

We welcomed two new members this month Judy Finch and Jenny Banwell, it was not long before they were making new friends with our existing members and we could see they were enjoying being part of the club. We celebrated two birthdays this month. Maurice Downer celebrating his 90th birthday (we have had a few 90th birthdays this year) and Judy Finch's birthday. Both their cakes were baked by Christine Raphael.



Judy Finch's birthday, cake by Christine Raphael



Maurice Downer celebrating his 90th birthday, cake by Christine Raphael



Prosecco and Pizza Party for Tuesday Club Helpers and Drivers

Graham Whitcombe and Mike Thorne like to host a party every year for Tuesday Club helpers and drivers as an appreciation for what they all do. We had a theme which was 'blue', in commemoration of two companies that are now no longer trading: Bristol Blue Glass, and Denby, of which have a lot of their Imperial Blue crockery. Everyone really got behind the theme and either wore or brought something blue. Crème de la crème being Sue Worrall's blueberry Pavlova. Oh boy! how delicious, not a crumb left!

We are planning things for our members at the moment, including a visit to Hillier Garden Centre in Cheddar for lunch plus

some Christmas shopping. We also have a lady coming in who makes lovely jewellery, again great ideas for Christmas presents. Lastly a trip to The Duck in Burtle for our Christmas party, lovely atmosphere there and plenty of things going on. Good times ahead members!

Graham Whitcombe

Mr Punch's Folk Club

Theale Village Hall on Fridays 13 and 27 November at 8.00pm. These will be open sessions, all welcome! Cost is £3 and please bring your own refreshments.

Bernard Coulter



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Theale Community Film Club

Theale Community Film Club's next meeting will be at Theale Village Hall on Sunday 15 November. 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

What's been happening? In the last few weeks members have been busy reshaping our main workshop. Lots of painting has been going on, as well as a new ceiling and moving of doors. This is all part of the plan to create a larger more flexible working environment for members so various jobs can be carried out simultaneously.

During September, many members helped at the Wedmore Real Ale Festival as part of the 'Build Crew', responsible for putting up all the bar and racking for the beer barrels, during the week before, then on Sunday afternoon taking it all down again. We were delighted to be part of yet another successful WRAF raising money for good causes in the village.



Build Crew preparing for Wedmore Real Ale Festival



Yet another gate gets installed!

The last of our present stock of gates was installed on another footpath in the village, once again the Men's Shed working with the Footpaths Group, supporting activities in the local community.

As September came to a close, over 30 members met on a private evening at the Bluebird to listen to the first Men's Shed Mondays of the Autumn and Winter season. Michael Blandford gave an interesting and entertaining talk called 'The misadventures of a naïve young Exporter'. It covered his escape from war torn Biafra in a canoe, visiting the centre of the drug trade in Colombia, a coup in Chile and avoiding being kidnapped in Buenos Aires. A fascinating story enjoyed by all.

If you would like to get involved in the Wedmore Men's Shed, to be able to enjoy such talks as well as many other activities, see below. You will be very welcome; you don't need to have any particular skills.

Interested in getting involved? 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: wedmoremensshed@outlook.com or come and meet us Tuesdays from 9.30am to 12 noon or Thursdays 2.00pm to 4.30pm at the Wedmore Village Community Farm off Plud Street. Please come along and find out what we are all about. You are more than welcome.

Wedmore Men's Shed

Wedmore Probus Club

Probus enjoyed two fascinating talks that each related to different services provided to the community. The first was by the Rev. Richard Neill, Vicar of Wedmore, who gave a very interesting talk about his broad range of his work as a country vicar and how this has changed over the years, although the essential purpose of his ministry has remained unchanged.

The second talk was by Garry Wingrove who was a fireman and gave an informative and amusing talk titled 'A life of running the wrong way'. Garry started the talk by explaining that the title paid homage to the firemen who died in the 9/11 Al Qaeda terrorist attack in the United States, on 11 September 2001. He continued the talk with stories relating to his own extensive working life as a fireman giving us a terrific insight into the work and the humour that made it bearable.

The Isle of Wedmore Probus club normally meets at the Wedmore Golf Club on 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 enjoying 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 – Adapted Wedmore

One of this year's big projects we are developing in conjunction with the Parish Council is a Nature and Climate Action Plan for Wedmore.

As the climate and nature emergency is really kicking in now it becomes more important than ever that our amazing Wedmore community is adapted and prepared. This project developed by Somerset Wildlife Trust www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt is a community led and owned plan, giving people the chance to feed in their ideas for how our community can plan for the future. Please come along to our regular meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at The George and the soon-to-be-planned initial adaptation plan workshop to get involved.

Steve Mewes



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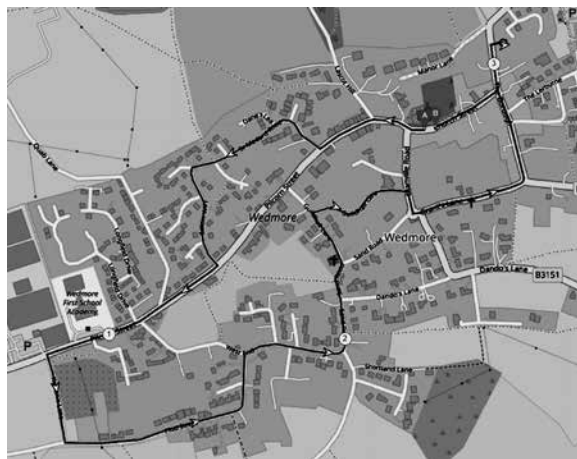
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Wedmore Footpaths Group – A Wet Weather Walk

As the weather turns more wintery many of the paths around Wedmore get very wet and muddy. Here is a drier walk through parts of the village on some paths which may be unknown to you, particularly if you are new to the village.



Map of walk created on plotaroute.com

The route starts at St Mary's Church and takes you past one or two points of interest and opportunities for refreshment stops on the way.

From the church, turn right onto Pilcorn Street. Cross over the road at Lascot Hill and continue along Pilcorn Street until you reach St Medard Road. Turn right and note the attractive garden area with a wine press commemorating Wedmore's twinning relationship with the French town of Saint Médard-de-Guizières - a twinning which

is now in its 51st year. There is also a Swedish White Hornbeam planted here in memory of the late Diana Princess of Wales.

Walk past the GP Surgery and along St Medard Road, following the road left into Saxon Way. At the junction turn right onto Pilcorn Street and continue until you reach the school and the playing fields. You might like to pop into the Post and Wicket bar for a drink!

Cross the main road into Kelson's Lane and at the end turn left into Plud Street. Follow the road until the junction with West End and turn right. Continue until the road bends



The 'Twinning' garden on St Medard Road

to the left on Sand Road. At the Methodist Church turn left into Guildhall Lane. At a dip in the road turn right into a narrow lane known locally as The Guilo. At the end of the lane turn right into Glanville Road towards the mini roundabout and turn left into Grants Lane. Please take care here as there are no pavements. This takes you past the old Baptist Church and Wedmore Parish Council Room. Take care turning the corner left into The Borough, where you have a choice of places to stop for a warming drink or a bite to eat.

Keep walking straight ahead until you are close to the Village Hall. Walk across the road to a small pathway running parallel with the main road. Take great care

crossing the road as traffic will be coming round the bend on the Cheddar Road. The pathway takes you to Holden Gardens, after which you can turn back the way you came towards The Borough, turning right into Church Street and towards St Mary's.

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

Wedmore Footpaths Group

Wedmore in Bloom

November is upon us and we have been busy planning, planting and pulling out! Phormiums, Mahonias and honeysuckle have been removed from the St Medard's bed, as they were either underperforming or had outgrown their welcome. We will be buying some new feature plants for this area over the winter and the cost will be met by donations from community organisations.

The bed at the Post and Wicket entrance has proved difficult to maintain and water this summer. We have therefore decided to reduce the bed size, or possibly just have a few plants behind the village welcome sign.

Finally a very big thank-you goes out to our volunteer waterers. We would not have managed without your help this summer.

Kay Adams

Wedmore Gardening Club

Autumn has well and truly arrived with sunny days and damp or wet days, but with a definite drop in temperature making it much more comfortable to work in our gardens after the intense heat of the Summer. Such a lovely time of year with the beautiful colours of the late-flowering plants and the leaves of the trees beginning to turn to their stunning rustic colours. Definitely a time to be enjoyed and appreciated before the really cold days of Winter arrive.

At our meeting in September, Hilary Little gave a fascinating talk 'Northern Patagonia: Violas and Volcanoes'. Her presentation was one of the most professional we've had and therefore so easy to follow. Hilary pointed out the surprising number of volcanoes in the area and such lovely slides of violas interspersed with other plants. In all a really interesting, informative, and enjoyable talk.

Our last talk of the year is on Tuesday 24 November when Matthew Symonds will speak on 'Gardening in Small Spaces'. It will be interesting to hear what Matthew has to say, as many of us now have smaller gardens. Always good to get new ideas. The year will be brought to a close by our Christmas evening on Tuesday 1 December. More information on this in the next issue.

The Club has had a super year with two successful outings, nine super but different talks, coffee morning and plant sale, and Christmas evening. In the meantime we hope you are all enjoying your gardens and preparing for Spring by planting lots of bulbs ready for beautiful displays next year.

Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30pm with refreshments served after the talk. Members are free and guests are £5. We look forward to seeing everyone who can make any, or all, of the evenings.

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Women of Wedmore – Music, Dancing, Sticks and Bells!



Mendip Morris, the professionals

After a brief recess during August, Women of Wedmore (WI) was back in action for an energetic meeting in September with Mendip Morris. Not only did we learn about the history of Morris dancing, but we also danced! Some of us were better than others, but we did ourselves proud and were encouraged to go to Mendip Morris's weekly beginner and practice sessions!

Morris dancing is associated with songs, storytelling and Mummers plays. Dancers often wear specific costumes with bells on their arms or legs and wave handkerchiefs, sticks or swords. The dances are usually performed by six or eight dancers in rows of two, accompanied by one or two musicians playing a melodeon, concertina,



The amateurs!

accordion, violin or pipe and tabor. An additional dancer acting as a fool or a beast can be present dressed as an animal to create a sense of playful chaos.

The term 'Morris dance' first appeared in the 17th century, although during the mid-15th century it was originally recorded as Morisk dance, possibly being derived from the Spanish term morisco meaning Moorish. During the 15th century Morris dancing was a courtly dance and by the 17th century had moved to be a popular form of dancing by working peasants, especially at Whitsuntide. It continued in popularity until the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, declining in popularity due to urbanisation, changing leisure activities and the loss of the gentry's patronage.

Cecil Sharp, a musician, composer and teacher was visiting a friend's house in Oxford on Boxing Day 1899 when he saw Morris dancing and heard the music. Sharp, intrigued by the music, began collecting Morris tunes and later extended his collection to dances. Sharp was particularly interested in folk tunes; his enthusiasm for and collection of music supported a revival in Morris dancing. Sharp was assisted by Mary Neal, a social worker and suffragette. Neal looked for dances that women could perform. Neal founded the Esperance Club in London, a dressmaking co-operative and club for young working women. The club published the Esperance Morris Book in 1911, the same year in which Sharp founded the Folk Dance Society.

Morris dancing was generally a male-dominated activity until the 1970s, although women were involved to some extent since the 19th century, often linked to mill and chapel communities. The first women's only side was formed in the early 1970s at Bath University. The Women's Morris Federation was formed in 1975 with 13 women's sides. The Federation expanded to include mixed sides in 1980 and to men's sides in 1982. Mendip Morris was male only until 2019. A census taken in 2023 shows 50% of dancers are women.

There are many different styles of Morris dancing, for example: Cotswold Morris (performed in white clothing with ribbons, bells, and handkerchief or sticks), Border Morris (a vigorous and theatrical form that features rag coats, face paints and stick clashing), North-West Morris (traditionally performed in processions with dancers wearing clogs), and Sword dances (with rigid swords that form intricate circular patterns).

Women of Wedmore agreed that we all had a fun and informative meeting; so maybe next time you see Mendip Morris in action, you may see some more familiar faces!

Women of Wedmore WI's next meeting is on Wednesday 11 November, 7.00pm at the Post and Wicket and features painting with Molly from Wedmore's Cozy Craft Shop. For more details, please email WoW on wedmorewi@outlook.com

Linda Morecroft

Wedmore Club50

We have had four very successful coach trips this summer: to Berkeley Castle in May; Sidmouth in June; Barnstaple and Bideford in September; and The Wye Valley and Monmouth in October. Despite the hot summer all has gone well this year.

We are busy compiling a list for 2027. It is difficult as many venues are expensive to go in these days, and we are conscious that it is £25 for the coach to get there, so we try to have at least two trips where you are free to wander, like a seaside town or bigger city.

In November we will revert to our winter programme of a talk and tea in the Masonic Hall. The next meeting is on Wednesday 18 November at 2.30pm when Liz Anderson will be talking about

‘Seasonal Flowers’. No need to book, just come along. £3 for tea and cake.

On 16 December we will hold our member's Christmas lunch at Rich's Cider, Watchfield. Let Andrea or Heather know if you would like to join us. Please contact Andrea by phone on 01934 712161 or Heather on 01934 712216 for further information.

Andrea West



Wedmore Dance Group

Wedmore Dance Group meets 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

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 will be £59, which includes admission and the coach journey.

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

Suzanne Metters

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The winners of the October draw for the 100 club are Ann Mason and Bob Cutler. Many congratulations!

Liz Henderson

Sports Club Reports

Wedmore Tennis Club

What a summer it's been. Unusually, we had games cancelled due to extreme heat rather than rain! Now, with lovely autumn days upon us, everyone has been enjoying relaxed tennis before the winter season kicks in.

The knockout competition wrapped up with one of the year's highlights - Finals Day! Members and family gathered to cheer on some fantastic, competitive tennis, while enjoying nibbles and refreshments provided by the club. The results: Boys' Singles – Ben Marks defeated Jake Savage; Men's Singles – Ben Marks defeated Mike Robinson; Men's Doubles – Mike Robinson and Joe Purves defeated James Halford and his son Fin Halford; Ladies' Doubles – Liz Randall and Elaine Steckler triumphed over Tess Hodgson and Charlotte Wright; Mixed Doubles – Ben Marks and Elaine Steckler defeated Tom Hopestone Bell and Charlotte Wright; Padel: Tom Hopestone Bell and Joe Purves beat Paul Steckler and Phillip Hills. A huge shoutout to Ben Marks for his incredible triple crown victory, well done Ben!



Boys' Singles Finalists



Ladies' Doubles Winners



Men's Doubles Finalists

The Winter Mixed Doubles League has started, and we've got teams competing in Divisions 1, 3, 5, and 6, plus two vets teams battling it out in Division 1, so plenty of competition ahead.

Exciting News: Padel Court Ownership!

We're thrilled to announce the club now officially owns the Padel court! This fantastic addition is here to stay and is a great reason to join the club if you want to enjoy this fun and fast-paced game.

Shirley Turner

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club



*Family Pairs Winners,
Paul and Teresa Alden
with runners up Terry and
Christine Simpson*



*Chris and Suzi Coles,
multiple winners*



*Andy Tiffin and Ian Gallop,
Aussie Pairs winners*

As the curtains were finally drawn on the final day of the Outdoor bowls season, the irony was that the Wedmore bowls green was looking in great condition and up for at least another month of play. However, after a long season the same could not be said of the bowlers. The weather, as often is the case, played a significant part

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of the ups and downs of the club's season. A damp start, excessive heat, prolonged drought, a month's average rainfall in an hour, we seem to have had it all. But it was our Men's County league team that had the hardest luck. On August Bank Holiday weekend playing at home against an already relegated team, the Bristol Water rain-dancers got result they wanted, a biblical deluge, and we got the result we did not want, no play, no points, relegation. Our other Men's league teams, in the Clevedon and District, and the Weston and District leagues, both finished as runners-up. So a good season for the Men. Our Ladies team endured a difficult season but under the plucky leadership of captain Teresa Alden finished a highly creditable second in the Victoria Ladies league and third in the Wessex Ladies league.

The high point of the month of September is always Finals Weekend. Some fantastic bowls were played over the two days in the eleven finals. Exceptional performances by Chris Coles secured him both the Men's 2 Woods and 4 woods titles. Suzi Coles was victorious in the Ladies 2 Woods and the Mixed Pairs with Rob Salway. Ann Gouldney and Teresa Gray had a great tussle in the Ladies 4 Woods with Ann just edging the result. The Family Pairs was an absolute epic. A large audience witnessed a last end, last bowl nail-biter with Paul and Teresa Alden coming out the narrowest of winners over Terry and Christine Simpson. The Veterans (over 70) was won by Dave Nicholls while Peter Gower narrowly won the New Winners against an inspired Jacqui Trupia. The Open 4 Woods singles was another hard-fought affair won by Graham Dormer over Mark Wilson. Finally, the Men's Pairs was won by Garry Wingrove and Matt Bullock while the Ladies Pairs by the evergreen duo of Ann Hughes and Fran Wilford. At the end of play on the Sunday over 60 members sat down to a splendid Hog Roast served by the amazing Somerset Sausage Company. Well done everyone!

Chris and Suzi Coles' exploits did not stop there. At the Somerset County Finals Mixed Pairs semi-final they comprehensively defeated a pair from Bath/Weston Bath and then just a couple of hours later produced a magical performance to defeat a highly rated pairing from Ilminster by 17-16 shots. This achievement is all the more remarkable as Suzi was 26 weeks pregnant at the time. Well done Chris and Suzi, you are a credit to our club. Hopefully you have a big mantlepiece!

The season finale was Captains Day when we were able to say a big thank you to our Ladies Captain, Teresa Alden and our Men's Captain, Trev Gray. The weather wasn't kind on the day but 'rain stopped play' enabled us all to get to the safe haven of the clubhouse and enjoy a fabulous two course lunch provided by the outgoing Captains. Thanks both, we salute you!

With attention now focused on the Indoor game, should you wish to become part of this fantastic community club please check out our website: www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org or contact Stuart by email at millhaven44@icloud.com or by phone on 01934 310034. We offer free coaching and equipment loan. We look forward to welcoming you.

Peter Gower



News and Events from Outside the Parish

Cheddar Arts @ King's Theatre

Cheddar Arts' autumn season continues on Friday 13 November with 'The Christophers' starring Michaela Cole, Ian McKellen, and James Corden. The Christophers is a witty comedy about the estranged children of a once-famous artist who enlist a skilled forger to finish his abandoned paintings, setting off a tense and humorous clash of wills with the artist himself. '...terrifically exhilarating and funny.'

Entrance to the theatre is from Kings Leisure Centre car park. There are no online bookings, with tickets 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

Cheddar Valley u3a

Cheddar Valley u3a's aim is the advancement of education by providing learning and personal development activities for retired and semi-retired people. We have around 40 special interest groups and over 500 members from the Cheddar Valley area.



Cheddar Rock Band

Join us this November for our social events, everyone is welcome to attend and make new friends. On 5 November our speaker's meeting is at 2.00pm at Cheddar Village Hall, featuring 'Deep Sea Diving and Mining'. Entry £2.00. Our monthly coffee morning will take place on 19 November, 10.00am to 11.30am at Cheddar Village Hall.

On 13 November enjoy a poetry afternoon at Cheddar Catholic Church Hall 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission by ticket £3.00 including refreshments. On Saturday 28 November we will be holding a Winter Dance in aid of Cheddar Village Hall. This will take place at Cheddar Village Hall, with doors opening at 7.00pm and entertainment from the Cheddar Rock Band starting at 7.30pm. Free entry by ticket with retiring collection. Bring your own refreshments. Contact 07762 702721. Tickets available for these events at Cheddar Valley u3a speaker's meetings and coffee mornings. For further information please visit our website at www.cheddar-valley.u3asite.uk

Fiona Langstaff

Save the Children Lunches

You can help children in distress around the world and have a lovely lunch with friends! Our next lunches will be on Friday 13 and Friday 27 November, 12.30pm, in Shipham Village Hall. £5.50 for soup, locally baked bread, cheese, pickle, homemade biscuits and tea or coffee.



Save the Children

Children under 5 get a free lunch! All profits go to Save the Children Charity. Please come and join us! Bring a friend!

Ian Firth

Henton and District Garden Club

Join us on Wednesday 18 November, 7.00pm, for a fascinating illustrated talk by Abigail Willis, a Somerset-based writer and editor with a particular interest in gardening and the arts. Abigail's latest book 'Secret Gardens of Somerset' explores some of the county's most beautiful and intriguing gardens, including the magnificent Bishop's Palace Gardens in Wells.

Her talk, 'The Wardian Case and Other Bright Ideas That Changed Gardening,' takes us behind the scenes of gardening history to discover the inventions, experiments and inspired ideas that have transformed the way we grow plants. At the heart of the talk is the Wardian case, a deceptively simple invention that revolutionised the transportation of living plants. This made it possible for plants to survive long sea journeys, opening up the world and changing gardens forever. Come along and discover the surprising stories behind some of the things we now take for granted in our gardens.

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

Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

Fundraising

The 86th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain formed the centrepiece of the Branch's fundraising for the RAFA 2026 Wings Appeal and a total of £1,383 was raised by: Ad Astra Cider Farm Quiz £530; Wells Morrison's Supermarket collection £240; Cheddar Sainsbury's Supermarket collection £254; Battle of Britain Service collection, £120; Glastonbury Morrison's Supermarket collection £175; and Cheddar Sainsbury's Collection Tin £63. Thank you to all that supported us.



Events

The next Branch meeting is on Monday 2 November in Mendip Golf Club for a presentation by Baz Hamblin entitled 'The Gunpowder Plot'. The Branch December Event will be the Branch Christmas Lunch on Saturday 19 December at 12.15pm in the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club.

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

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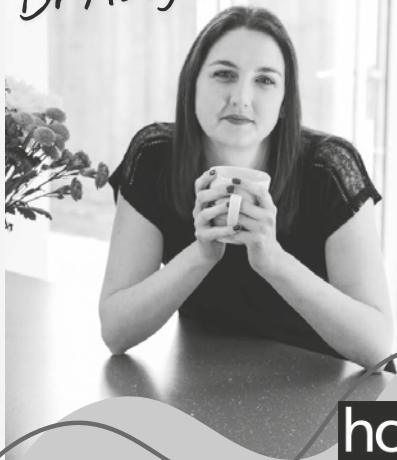
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RNLI Mendip Branch

Fundraising

RNLI Mendip Branch will hold a Christmas Pop-Up Sale inside Winscombe Community Centre on Saturday 7 November from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Entry is free to browse, and the sale will include larger items that have been donated, RNLI Christmas cards; jigsaws; Christmas stocking fillers; Christmas cakes and puddings; spring bulbs; Chris's tools and domestic items; a multi-prize Christmas raffle; and beverages, cakes and biscuits). All the stalls will have a Christmas flavour so come and see what will be available. For more details contact Tina Joyce by email at meejlfh@gmail.com or by phone on 01934 842304.

RNLI Mendip Branch is pleased to announce that two separate Tesco Supermarkets in our area will be authorising RNLI bucket collections in their stores during December. On Friday 18 December the Tesco Nailsea store will host our team between 9.30am and 5.00pm and, on Christmas Eve, the Tesco Shepton Mallet Store will host our team from 9.30am to 4.00pm with Stormy Stan and Stormy Sonny in attendance plus a supply of carrots from Stormy Sonny to give to the reindeer that evening!

Trafalgar Night Dinner and Dance Cancelled

A reminder that, 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 but will hopefully return next year.

September Shouts

In September, there were 17 'Shouts' between our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 1, Minehead – 3, Portishead – 9, Weston-super-Mare – 4). Five of the callouts at Portishead came over four days!

At 1.10pm on Sunday 27 September 2026, the volunteer crew at Weston-super-Mare were paged with reports of a casualty aboard a fishing charter boat needing urgent medical assistance. Jack Price, skipper of the fishing boat, described events before the pager alert came in, 'What started as a normal fishing experience with plenty of fish and laughs, quickly became a serious medical emergency. I noticed that a gentleman on board wasn't quite himself, despite assuring us he was okay, his condition became increasingly concerning. I had no choice but to put my safety at sea training into practice and call the Coastguard for assistance.'

The HM Coastguard alerted Weston lifeboats' launch authority requesting an immediate launch to the vessel which was situated near Brean Down. Due to it being low tide the D-Class lifeboat was launched, via



the low water route, with 4 crew members on board. Matt Lyons, volunteer boat crew said 'Due to the severity of the symptoms we knew we needed to get to the casualty fast. Once we reached the vessel we climbed aboard and conducted a casualty care assessment. A retired paramedic on board had already provided some valuable casualty support while waiting for us to arrive. Tidal conditions and the urgency to get the casualty to hospital meant an airlift was the quickest and safest way to do this.' Skipper Jack recounted 'It was such a great help to get the RNLI crew aboard and take over. It meant I could concentrate on helming the boat and looking after the other passengers. They were fantastic'. Matt noted 'As part of emergency training exercises, crews talk through helicopter assistance and winching people off but it's not a scenario you can practice'. Sea conditions were challenging, but everyone played their part to ensure it went as safely as possible. It was an outstanding coordinated response and a relief to know that the gentleman was getting the medical attention he needed. The casualty was taken to hospital in Bristol and discharged the following day.

Paul Ashmore

Church News

Parish Registers and Notices

Christenings

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

Imogen and Evalyn Kevill, daughters of Daniel and Alex from Blackford who were baptised on 6 September 2026 at Holy Trinity.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Molly Stitch, formerly of Wedmore, who died on 8 August 2026 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on Monday 7 September 2026.

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.

Special Services for Remembrance Sunday

Services will be held at St Mary's and Christchurch on 8 November. At St Mary's we begin in church at 10.15am before moving to the war memorial for 11.00am. Please note the start time, it's the same as last year, but half an hour earlier than the usual Sunday service at St Mary's. The service at Holy Cross will begin at 10.45am and Theale will begin at 11.00am.

At St Mary's service, ex-service personnel are invited to form a hollow square together with the uniformed youth organisations and, in addition to the normal prayers, laying of wreaths and the Kohima Epitaph, we will read out names of those who died in more recent conflicts. Blank small wooden crosses will also be available in church if there is someone in particular, not from the Isle of Wedmore, whom you would like to remember. These can be laid at the very end of the service, with the Isle of Wedmore named crosses as a means of commemorating these personnel if required.

There will be an opportunity to gather on Armistice Day itself, 11 November, around the War Memorial in the churchyard at St Mary's, and similarly in Allerton Churchyard for two minutes silence. Please gather by 10.55am

Messy Church

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



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

Advent Carol Service

The last weekend in November sees the beginning of Advent, the time in the church's year for preparing ourselves to receive our Lord Jesus when he comes, both at Christmas in human form and at the end of time in glory. Advent Sunday, 29 November, will be marked in the evening with a service this year at Holy Cross Mark at which the church will move from darkness to light during the Advent Carol Service at 6.00pm. This is a particularly moving service in which the theme of the coming of the light of Christ is invoked with hymns, music and readings appropriate to the Advent season.

Christ Church is Appealing

The foundation stone for Christ Church Theale, was laid in 1826 and the first service was held in 1829. For two hundred years the church has watched over the coming and going out of generations of Theale men and women, boys and girls. Special

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occasions and festivals have been celebrated there while Sunday worship continues to be offered each week.

The building is now in need of urgent repair and restoration to ensure its future. The roof, windows, turrets and porch are in especial need while the interior must be redecorated, and the cement render should be replaced with a more sympathetic lime render. We need to raise between £150,000 and £200,000 and it would be lovely to have the work completed in time for the bicentenary in 2029.

Before starting any appeal, we would love to hear what those in the village and local area think – those whom Christ Church seeks to serve. There is a questionnaire in church and in the village hall which we would be grateful for local people to complete. You can return it to one of the marked boxes in church or in the hall. The questionnaire remains open for several weeks and responses can be dropped off in church or in the hall.

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	1	All Saints Sunday	10.45am 3.00pm	Café Church, Creche and Seekers All Souls Service
Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday	8.00am 10.15am 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Remembrance Service Start the Week
Sunday	15	2 Before Advent	10.45am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Start the Week
Sunday	22	Christ the King	No Service	Patronal Festival at Christchurch
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	10.45am	Parish Communion at St Mary's

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	1	All Saints Sunday	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday	No Service	See St Mary's
Sunday	15	2 Before Advent	9.15am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	22	Christ the King	No Service	Patronal Festival at Christchurch
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	No Service	Parish Communion at Holy Cross

Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	1	All Saints Sunday	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday	11.00am	Remembrance Service

Sunday	15	2 Before Advent	11.00	Morning Worship
Sunday	22	Christ the King	11.00am	Patronal Festival
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	No Service	Parish Communion at St Mary's

Allerton Church

Sunday	1	All Saints Sunday	9.15am 3.00pm	Family Service All Souls Service
Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday	No Service	See St Mary's or Holy Cross
Sunday	15	2 Before Advent	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	22	Christ the King	No Service	Patronal Festival at Christchurch
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	No Service	Parish Communion at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Church, Mark

Sunday	1	All Saints Sunday	9.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday	10.45am	Remembrance Service
Sunday	15	2 Before Advent	9.15am	Café Church
Sunday	22	Christ the King	No Service	Patronal Festival at Christchurch
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	9.15am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Advent Carols

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.

We will be acting as a shoebox drop-off point for the Samaritans Purse-Operation Christmas Child from 9 to 15 November. Please contact the office for more details.

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 held at 2.30pm during the winter months, everyone is welcome, we have a short service followed by fellowship with tea, coffee and cake. You are sure of a warm Christian welcome.

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

Ruth Smith

Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

Surgery Opening Times

Wedmore Surgery

Monday 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am to 1.00 pm

Telephone 01934 712774

Axbridge Surgery

Monday to Fridays 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

Telephone 01934 732464

Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.

Improved Access Appointments

Axbridge Surgery, Tuesdays 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

Contact our Clinical Team through our Website

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

Improved Access Appointments

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

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

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

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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 2 November – 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 16 November – 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 14 November – 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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Left to right - Jen, Carrie, Cicely, Carol

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