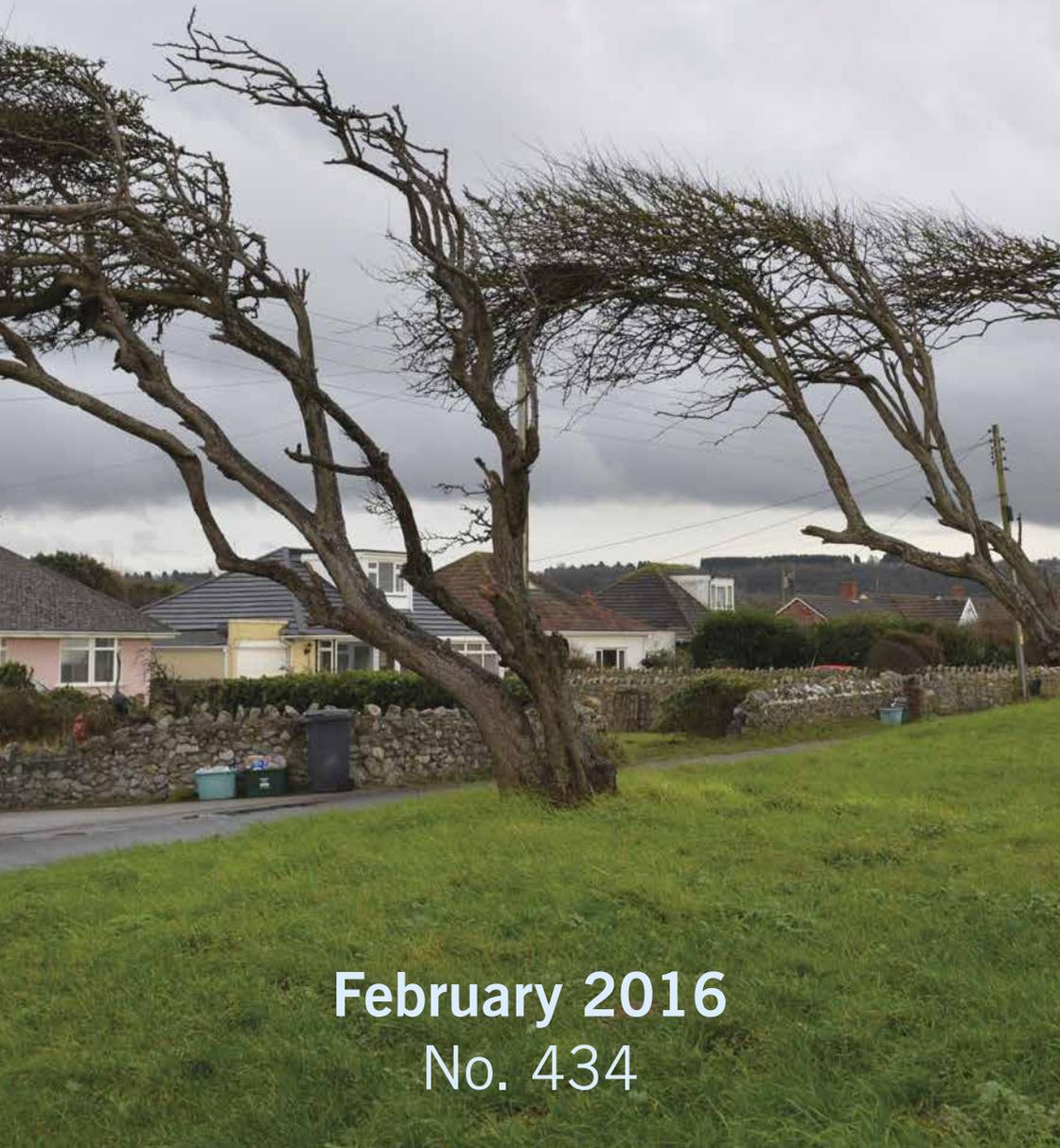


# ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



February 2016  
No. 434

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# Editorial

Need something to cheer you up during the dreary days of winter? Now that January is behind us and we can see the first buds of spring why not take a trip on the new Wedmore Community Bus? Bill Sutton, a member of Wedmore News editorial team and also a new recruit to the community bus driving team has put together an article about the life of a new driver recruited to the team.

This February is also a Leap Year and Liz Sweeney the final member who makes up the editorial team has been looking at Leap Year and has produced some interesting and maybe little known facts. This is in addition to all our regular articles and information about local events and businesses.

Nominations are also sought for the Henry Butt (adult) and Hervey Trust (Year 11 students). So if you know someone who meets the criteria listed below, why not seek to get these endeavours recognised by your Community.

Just a reminder that we are still working on developing a small library of photos to use on the front cover of Wedmore News. So if you have any pictures that depict the village or surrounding area at different times of the year or different village events please do let us have them. The photos should be emailed to [photoswedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:photoswedmorenews@gmail.com). They need to be medium to high resolution (which usually means at least 1MB-2MB) and vertical, rather than horizontal ('portrait' rather than 'landscape' in photo-speak), bearing in mind the shape of the cover. Please include your name and what the picture is, or where it was taken and ask permission if the photo includes people or features private property.

Sue James

## Deadline for March Edition: 1 February 2016

### Contact the Wedmore News

#### Editorial Copy/Items for Publication

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Email [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com)

#### What's On Listings and Contact Details for your Club/Organisation

Bill Sutton, 5 Dane's Lea, Wedmore (710475)  
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#### Front Cover Photos

Liz Sweeney, Cheddar Road Farm House, Cheddar Rd, Cocklake (710637)  
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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.*

*Wedmore News is digital! Each edition (without adverts) will be published on The Isle of Wedmore Website, [www.theisleofwedmore.net](http://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. The editors also reserve the right to edit or amend any contribution for reasons of space, conformity, legibility or legality.*

## Front Cover

Many thanks to Bob Chapman of Crickham for this dramatic photo of windswept trees, which he took a few miles away at Sand Bay. It reminds us of how windy it can be around here!

If you have taken any good photos lately in and around Wedmore, we would love to hear from you. Please see the information in the Editorial.

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# News

## Parish Council Business

Christmas seems a long way away but the Parish Council were pleased to support the local traders who participated in the 'Wedmore by Lamplight' event. It was by all accounts a tremendously successful evening...and it stayed dry! The Council made a grant towards the street entertainers (on roller skates) and, as well as providing local businesses with Christmas trees, provided mince pies after the service at St Mary's. Thanks to Poppy, Amelie, Mia and Honey who helped with the distribution.

At the December council meeting, members agreed to start posting recordings of the meetings on social media. They also agreed a grant towards the refurbishment of the wine press in St Medard Way on behalf of the Twinning Association. In addition, it was agreed to press ahead with flashing warning signs on the road at Hugh Sexey Academy, although staff shortages within County Highways Department may result in some delay in the work taking place.

Following a meeting of the Council's Finance Committee, the full Parish Council agreed that the annual precept for 2016/2017 would remain unchanged at £62,000. This is the funding paid to the Parish by the District Council and is based on the number of Band 'D' dwellings in the Parish. Council Tax payers within the parish of Wedmore will not see any increase in their contribution towards parish council expenditure for the third year in succession.

Copies of agendas and minutes of all council and committee meetings can be seen on the Parish Council website.

## Henry Butt Award

Residents are encouraged to submit nominations for this community service award presented annually at the Parish Assembly in March. Last year's winner was Mrs Margaret Tinney from Stoughton. If you wish to nominate someone who you think has given outstanding service to the local community, please let me have details by Monday 15 February at the latest. The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday 23 March 2016 at 7.00pm.



*Rod Pring  
Wedmore Parish Council, Grants Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4EA  
Telephone 713087, Email: wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com*

## Hervey Trust

The award is offered annually to one or more students who have been judged to have made a contribution to school and village life and is for them to use in any further education or employment. The award may be useful to those who receive it and of value when writing a C.V.

If you are in Year 11 currently and live in the parishes of Wedmore, Theale or Blackford and would like to apply, or you would like to nominate someone perhaps because of a particular or long-standing community involvement, someone who has overcome particular obstacles and is looking to flourish in education, or someone with plans for the future which would benefit from being considered for the award, then contact the Revd Richard Neill at [richardneill1967@sky.com](mailto:richardneill1967@sky.com) or 713566 for further information.

*Richard Neill*

## Wedmore News – News

After several years our delivery person for the Sand and Heathhouse area is moving on to new things.

For a small remuneration each month we are therefore looking for someone to deliver the 80 copies of the Isle of Wedmore News around this part of the Parish. If you can help, please contact John Cousins as soon as possible, telephone 712565, or email [cousins389@btinternet.com](mailto:cousins389@btinternet.com)

*John Cousins*

## 3Cs Oil Syndicate

At the end of this winter we shall be ordering the heating oil in March. Hopefully, if the current trend continues, it will be at the lowest price ever! Please can we receive orders by Tuesday 1 March for delivery during the following week.

*Bob and Mary Chapman (Co-ordinators)*

## Cheddar Male Choir

Cheddar Male Choir is recruiting for the coming year 2016, and we invite all budding singers to join us. Now is the right time of year as we will be learning new songs to add to our vast repertoire. We meet at the Draycott Village Hall on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, so do come along, you will be made most welcome.



The choir was founded in January 1985 and has 40 members. Performances have been given in the Royal Albert Hall, Wells and Bristol Cathedrals, the Colston Hall, Assembly Rooms Bath and the Cardiff Millenium Centre. The choir has also toured Jamaica, Norway and Tuscany. 'We Aim to Entertain' is our raison d'être.

For more information visit the website to get a flavour of what we do, [www.cheddarmvchoir.co.uk](http://www.cheddarmvchoir.co.uk). Go on give it a go!

*Tony Brown*

## Green Wedmore – 2016

Green Wedmore (formerly the Isle of Wedmore Green Group) will be celebrating its 10th birthday in 2016. To help celebrate, Steve Mewes is planning on speaking to as many of the local groups on the Isle of Wedmore as possible, letting people know what we have been up to, why we do what we do, but more importantly to find out what people would like to see in the area in the next ten years. Perhaps bicycle routes, more renewable energy, more home working? It is up to you. If you would like Steve to speak with your group please drop him an email at [s.mewes@virgin.net](mailto:s.mewes@virgin.net). Oh and don't forget our meetings have moved to the first Monday of the month at 8.00pm in 'The Swan'.



*Steve Mewes*

## Quiz Night in aid of 'Aid Box Convoy' - 26th February 2016

Pit your wits! A superb opportunity to hone your general and trivia knowledge! Also the chance to bid for a week's holiday in a fabulous chalet (sleeps six) in the French Alps near Meribel; a great place to ski from, or to enjoy a wonderful summer walking holiday. The evening will be in aid of an amazing Bristol-based grassroots organisation, a team of committed volunteers dedicated to the coordination, delivery and distribution of aid at refugee camps in Northern France. They provide humanitarian care to refugees and offer support to the existing charities and organisations on the ground. Every penny donated will be used to help keep people warm and fed this winter. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, in Wedmore Village Hall. Supper is included and there will be a bar. £10 per head for teams of four. Tickets available from Wedmore Village Stores, or ring Penny and Mike Edmunds, 713065 or David and Holly Cole, 713392.

## Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre Spring programme – February to April

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre's spring 2016 programme once again includes some of the biggest names in film and, just after Easter, the return of one of the village's favourites.

On Tuesday 23 February the British film '45 Years' comes to Cheddar trailing accolades including a Bafta nomination for outstanding British film. 'The Lady in the Van' is showing on Friday 18 March, starring Maggie Smith, who has received a Bafta best actress nomination for her role as the homeless woman who parks her van outside writer Alan Bennett's house. Finally, comedian Richard Herring, is appearing at Kings Theatre on Monday 18 April in his 12th solo stand-up show, 'Happy Now?' in which he ponders – happiness.

Tickets for all events are available online at [www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts). For help call 744939 extension 2 or visit Kings Fitness & Leisure in person. Payment for the new booking system is by credit/debit card only and cash will only be accepted for tickets sold on the door.

Copies of the programme are available in local shops, the leisure centre and on the organisation's website [www.kowessex.co.uk/cheddarArts](http://www.kowessex.co.uk/cheddarArts).

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre is a collaboration between the Kings of Wessex School and the village community, centred on the school's state-of-the-art studio

theatre. For more details visit [www.kowessex.co.uk/cheddarArts](http://www.kowessex.co.uk/cheddarArts) or for queries email [cheddararts@googlemail.com](mailto:cheddararts@googlemail.com).

## Thank you from the Children's Society

Over the past 12 months the Wedmore Civil Parish has raised £1,493.75. This is slightly less than last year's total but is still a worthwhile sum from a population of just over 3,000 in the three villages:

Boxes and donations	£815.52
Christingle at St Mary's	£448.08
Sale of Christmas cards	£230.15

In addition, there will be a further cheque going to The Children's Society from Christ Church, Theale following their Christingle Service.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way over the last year, including the Christingle makers.

*Sue Burton*  
*Hon. Local Secretary, The Children's Society*

## Wedmore Street Fair – July 2016

Early notice that the Street Fair will take place on Saturday 2 July 2016. For more information, or if you would like to book a stall, please complete the form below and return to Gareth Gosling. c/o Gareth Gosling, Applewood, Mutton Lane, Wedmore BS28 4DS, or [gareth.gosling@btinternet.com](mailto:gareth.gosling@btinternet.com).

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### Wedmore Street Fair – 2016 Booking Form

I / We would like to book a stall at Wedmore Street Fair on Saturday 2 July 2016.  
Charities £17, local groups and societies £22, commercial stalls £35.  
I do/ do not require a table at an additional £3.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation  
or type of stall \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel no: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (obligatory)  
for receipt and stall details \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for:-

£ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Wedmore Street Fair or BACS to WSF account:  
Sort code 30 91 84 Account Number 24297168.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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# Letters

The Blackford Play Park Committee would like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to all the contributors towards our funding over the past year or so. We would like to thank the Blackford Harvest Home Committee, Wedmore Real Ale Festival, Isle of Wedmore News, The Blackford Educational Trust and Wedmore Parish Council.



Since we set up in April 2014 we have used the Annual Park Assessment to ensure any issues have been fixed, held group weeding sessions, cut back brambles, had the benches repaired and painted, filled the huge area under the climbing frame with fresh bark and most recently replaced the matting under the baby swings. We hope that, if you have paid a visit to the park recently, you will agree our efforts have made the park a brighter and safer place for the children who use it. Over the next year, with further fundraising, we hope to continue with our maintenance and improvements to the park: in particular, getting much of the metal work cleaned, repaired and repainted and replacing the matting under the second set of swings.

I would also like to thank all past and present members of the Blackford Play Park Committee for their time and support in achieving these improvements. We are currently looking for a few new members to join us. If you think this would be of interest to you, please contact me, Kerry Thorne at [misskmharris@aol.com](mailto:misskmharris@aol.com) or telephone 710201. Many Thanks

*Kerry Thorne (Chairperson)*

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## Reports and Society Updates

### St Mary’s Church 100 Club

The January draw took place on New Year’s Day, and the lucky first prize winners were Margaret & Michael Gelder, holding No. 42, receiving £20. The second prize of £10 went to Suzie Ladbrooke with No. 100! A good fun start made to 2016, congratulations.

*Thelma Jenkins-Jones*

### Wedmore WI Report – December 2015



Our last meeting of the year was very well attended. Hazel welcomed us to a festively decorated room, and promised us cake and Schloer at the end. The business part included a reminder to bring something for the trading table, either small for 50p or bigger with 20% of the price going to Wedmore WI funds. We voted on the resolution to go forward to the National AGM, and wait for the result of the next round of the skittles tournament.

Our speaker, Peter Tinney, is well known to all of us, as among other things he is married to WI vice-president Margaret. Some of us have heard him talking on ‘Childhood Reflections’ at other groups,

but he is so funny that we were looking forward to hearing him again. His talk is based on his experiences at Chapel Allerton School in the 1940s, but he started by telling us about his birth, his mother assisted by ‘Granny Page’, a comely lady with apron, hairnet down to her eyebrows, who hadn’t seen her feet for years, and who was present to help mothers at all the local births from the 1930s to the 1950s. She also laid out the dead. His arrival was not easy, and he apparently, at 11lbs, still holds the record for being the heaviest baby delivered at a home confinement in the Axbridge district.

In 1943 he went to school in Chapel Allerton, along with the other primary school children in the village, all taught together in one room by Mrs Rogers. The only traffic on the way to school would be Mr Keynes the postman, the only danger Farmer Ham’s dog, which looked like a wolf, and could be stirred up by throwing conkers at it, after which you had to run fast. Mrs Rogers was also comely, and had a large leather bag in which she kept items confiscated in class, such as rubbers, and in winter three pairs of large knickers with yards of elastic top and bottom. She also had a beautiful grey long-haired cat, Thomas, who came to school every day too. There were dried figs in the bag, which Mrs R would surreptitiously eat during lessons, when the seeds would get stuck on her false teeth and have to be removed by picking with a crochet hook.

There was a tortoise stove in the classroom, which in winter served to warm up the bottles of milk that every child drank. It was also used to toast sandwiches, which arrived somewhat battered by the adventures that small boys inevitably get up to on the way to school, whether climbing trees for conkers or baiting Farmer Ham’s dog. Mrs R’s knickers would be hung up to dry in winter, and the guard railings were just right for wiping unsavoury messes off shoes. Mrs Rogers had no easy task, with children in five different age groups, but it was a sad fact that between 1936 and 1954, no child out of a yearly average of 27 pupils passed the scholarship to go to grammar school. One time, an inspector appeared in class. Following this visit, a timetable appeared, with ‘Nature Study’ on Thursdays. In Peter’s year group of eight pupils, three girls were sent out to gather leaves from different trees and bring them back to identify. Another three girls were told to collect fruits – hips, haws, spindle berries, dewberries - and the two boys sent out to pick wild flowers from the verges. They went out unaccompanied, as Mrs R couldn’t leave the other 20 children unsupervised, and Peter and his friend Gerald found a whole row of garden tubs along the roadside outside one house, full of peonies, so they picked them. This did not go down well with the owner of the tubs! There were more reminiscences in the same vein, and after an evening of laughter Val gave a vote of thanks. We rounded off the night with cake left over from our birthday party, all the better for being matured, and soft drinks. The competition, for ‘My earliest childhood memory’, was won by Sue and Jane. The speaker at our next meeting, on 18 February will be Sue Simmons from Wessex Water. The competition is a photo of a lake or reservoir. Visitors and guests are very welcome.

*Chris Barker*

## **February Director’s Blog – ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’**

Costumes are the big issue this month. I have already paid a visit to the Bath Theatrical Costume Hire place – which is a veritable Aladdin’s Cave of gorgeous frocks, hats, capes, breeches and the rest – along with Sue Burton, our Wardrobe Mistress, and

Katie Tollworthy, our very own local fashion student who is commissioned to design and make two spectacular outfits for Lady Bracknell. We found, amongst other things, what looked like a very effective Victorian corset for Lady B.



There followed a somewhat panic-stricken phone call from Alan Philips 'There's talk of a corset!' came his terrified whisper. I reassured him that his waist would not be cinched-in to within an inch of his life. 'We'll make sure it's comfortable' I said, 'it's just to give you a bit of feminine shape. After all, you're not playing a pantomime dame – we want you to look gorgeous.' He seemed pleased.

Sourcing the handbag is proving tricky. The Bath Theatrical Costume Hire people had a selection of suitably capacious carpet-bags, but they were all in coloured patterns, and the script defines ours as 'black leather'. We may need to have one made to order, unless some kind person in the local community calls to tell us that they have an old one that might fit the bill?

Set design has begun, but is proving quite ambitious, as each of the three acts has a completely different set. One of my theatrical horrors is to have long set changes with scene-shifters milling around the stage in the half-dark, wearing black, while the audience restively rustles the sweet-papers. We'll have to figure out a way around this. Watch this space.

Rehearsals are going brilliantly, and this month all books are down, as, allegedly, the cast all now know their lines. We'll see.

Performances are on Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Saturday 9 April, at 7.30pm at Wedmore Village Hall, and numbered seats will be available. (You can read all of the monthly Director's Blogs, and find out more about 'The Importance of Being Earnest' and about Wedmore Theatre Club at [www.wedmoretheatre.com](http://www.wedmoretheatre.com))

*Sue Rippon*

## **Wedmore in Bloom**

We had a successful year in 2015 with the tubs all blooming beautifully. We are always grateful for the nice comments we get when we are planting or generally weeding and tidying. We also maintain and clean areas like the seat at the top of The Lerburne, the seat in Sand Road and around the beds in front of the schoolroom. We also have a tidy up in the churchyard once or twice a year.



Wedmore in Bloom would like to ask if anybody knows who looks after the map on the left-hand wall at the entrance to The Mall? In the absence of any information we will arrange for an updated map to be printed and installed and the surround painted.

We are always looking for new helpers, so please get in touch if you are interested. It doesn't have to be strenuous work – in fact the social aspect, like the cup of coffee after a work party, is very important. We have a summer lunch and a social evening in January.

*Andrea West*

## Wedmore Twinning Association

This year's visit to St Medard will take place between Monday 8 and Saturday 13 August. We look forward to seeing our friends then.

Our AGM will be on Sunday 7 February at 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall, Wedmore. All are welcome - especially if you are interested in joining our visit to St Medard this year. Wine and nibbles will be available!

*Cameron Swales*

## Mendip Rotary Club



*Young Musician winner Phoebe Lynch*

Young people aged between 10 and 17 took part in 'Cheddar Valley's Got Talent', a music competition organised by the Rotary Club of Mendip which took place at Kings of Wessex Academy recently. The best under-13 entrant was Marishelle Harris with her piano playing of 'Moody Prawn Blues' by Franklyn Gellnick. The senior competition was won by Phoebe Lynch, a trumpeter, who played 'Slavonic Fantasy' by Carl Höhne. Phoebe will go on to take part in the district competition in 2016.

Organiser Maggie Steel said 'We have had a wonderful evening's entertainment, showing that there is a great deal of musical talent in the Cheddar Valley'. She went on to thank the adjudicators; Jayne Obradovic from Wells Cathedral School, professional singer Katherine Harris, and the music staff from

Hugh Sexey Middle School and Kings of Wessex for their support.



*The under-13 entrants with organiser Maggie Steel*

*John Manders*

## Wedmore Preserving Club Skittle League as at the half way point in the season.

Gundry Cup Winners - Tilham

Young Farmer Cup Winners - Tilham

Highest Individual Score YFC - Mike Nicolls

Team	Points	Pin Difference
Tilham	16	294
Cocklake	16	180
Theale	12	-42
Nyland	11	26
Sand	10	82
Blackford	10	43
Wedmore	8	-26
Crickham	8	-88
Westend	8	-129
New Inn	7	-60
YFC	6	-280

*Trevor Prideaux*

## IT for the Terrified

IT for the Terrified, for all your computer training needs. A skill-sharing, informal, community project. Run by a committee, staffed by volunteers.

We offer 1:1 sessions to help you to use a computer, iPad, tablet, smartphone or Mac in a friendly, relaxed environment.

Thursday afternoons 'Computer drop in' £2.00 per visit. Ideal for a small problem that doesn't need a full 2-hour session. No need to book, just drop in (term time only 1.30-3.30pm).

Courses for February – Photo management starting on Thursday 25 February from 10.00am-12.00 noon, £35 for 6-week course. Contact us on 741751 or email [itfortheterrified@btconnect.com](mailto:itfortheterrified@btconnect.com), or visit our website [www.itfortheterrified.co.uk](http://www.itfortheterrified.co.uk)

IT for the Terrified, The Old Cowshed, Station Road, Cheddar. BS27 3AG. Next to the War Memorial - not the Market Cross. Opening hours match Kings Academy term times.

Registered Charity No. 1130308. Our normal opening hours are 10.00am-12.00 noon and 1.30pm-3.30pm, Monday-Friday.



If you can spare two hours a week and have skills on any level, including basics, especially on iPad or tablet, that you would like to share with others, please get in touch.

## Cheddar Valley University of the Third Age (U3A)

We will be holding our monthly speaker meeting on Thursday 4 February at 2.15pm in Cheddar Village Hall. Our guest

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

speaker is Jane Dawes and her talk is entitled 'Jane Austen - Her Life'. Entry is £2 and visitors are welcome.

Our 'Meet and Greet' Coffee Morning takes place on Thursday 18 February in Cheddar Village Hall from 10.30am – 12.00 noon.

Visitors are most welcome to join us to see what we offer. For more details phone 744241 or visit [www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk).

You are also welcome to come along to Cheddar Library on any Monday from 10.30am -12.00 noon for an informal chat.

*Roger Coe*

## Cheddar Lions Club



Cheddar Vale Lions Club will be holding a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall (Church House), Wells Road, Cheddar on Saturday 13 February. Doors open at 2.00pm. If you have any jumble to donate then please bring to the hall after 11.00am.

The Christmas Raffle raised £1,375 for our Cheddar Valley Defibrillator Appeal and the prizes were spread throughout the area.

Thank you all for your support.

If you have a few spare hours a month, are interested in volunteering and in joining the Lions and would like to know more about what we do, then phone 248114.

*Janet Clark*

## Weather Report for December 2015

	<b>RAIN FALL</b>	Monthly Total	68.4mm	(2.69")
		30 year average	80.8mm	(3.18")
		Wettest days (30th)	21.4mm	(0.84")
		No of dry days	12	
		Last 3 months (Oct-Dec)	176mm	(6.94")
	<b>TEMPERATURES</b>	Year ending 31 Dec 2015	781mm	(30.75")
		30 year annual average	795mm	(31.3")
		Maximum (5 days)	14.0 °C	(57.2 °F)
		Minimum (9th)	2.5 °C	(36.5 °F)
		Number of air frosts	Nil	
		Monthly average maximum	12.2 °C	(54.0 °F)
		30 year average maximum	8.1 °C	(46.6 °F)
	Monthly average minimum	7.3 °C	(45.1 °F)	
	30 year average minimum	2.7 °C	(36.9 °F)	

**COMMENTS** Rainfall 15% below average. Temperatures quite remarkable; the average minimum of 7.3°C was warmer than that for September, October and November 2015!

*Denley Brown*

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# Forthcoming Events

## **International SpooF Competition - Friday 5 February**

Starting at 8.00pm. The event will see international spoofers from across the globe converge on The New Inn, Wedmore to try to claim SpooF Champion 2016. Entrance fee £3.00. Cash prizes. For more information contact Frank or Debbie, telephone 712099.

## **Wedmore Theatre Club, Take Art Music Event, Graffiti Classics – Friday 5 February**

At Wedmore Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. A classical concert, a gypsy-folk romp, an opera, a stand-up comedy set and a brilliant dance show all rolled into one. Graffiti Classics is a group of four musicians whose aim is to make classical music wickedly funny and exhilarating for everyone, young and old. Tickets £9, £5 for children, available from Wedmore Village Shop and Liz McDonnell 712649. Cabaret-style seating and a bar, so bring friends and family and book (with Liz) a table of 8.

## **Fair Trade Coffee Morning – Saturday 6 February**

St Mary's Church welcomes everyone to visit our Fairtrade coffee shop from 9.30am to 12.00 noon. There will be a variety of homemade cakes to enjoy with Fairtrade tea and coffee. Pop in for a quick visit or enjoy some relaxation with the daily newspapers. We look forward to seeing you.



## **Wedmore First School Academy PTA Winter Supper – Saturday 6 February**

At 7.30 pm in Wedmore Village Hall. The annual Winter Supper is a real highlight on the social calendar during the long winter months. An informal night of good food, drink and laughter, the event is open to anyone, not just school parents. It is also a vital fundraiser for the school.

Tickets cost £17.50 each, which includes a glass of Prosecco and a two-course meal, and are available from the school office and Wedmore Village Stores.

## **Wedmore Twinning Association AGM – Sunday 7 February**

At 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall. New and existing members welcome. Light refreshments available.

## **Theale Panto 'Aladdin' – Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 February**

At 7.30pm in Theale Village hall. For more information please telephone 712758.

## **Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 12 and 26 February**

At the New Inn, Wedmore at 8.00pm. Open mic sessions. Come along, sing a song, play a tune, recite a poem. All welcome.

## **Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 17 February**

The meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm at The Council Rooms, Grants Lane. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

## **WI Meeting – Thursday 18 February**

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. The speaker will be Sue Simmons from Wessex Water, the competition is a photo of a lake or reservoir. Visitors are very welcome, we have refreshments and a cup of tea or coffee at the end of each meeting.

## **Flamenco Dancing and Paella Evening - Saturday 20 February**

At Wedmore Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Mendip Rotary Club is bringing some Spanish sunshine to Wedmore this winter with a flamenco dancing and paella evening. Tickets £25 per head or £180 per table of 8 from Chris or Maggie Steel, 713412 or email [chris@mhpkuk.co.uk](mailto:chris@mhpkuk.co.uk).



## **Theale Film Club - Sunday 21 February**

The film is 'Mr Holmes'. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.00pm prompt start, at Theale Village Hall. For more information please contact Lesley Luke, 713176, [lesleyluke@live.co.uk](mailto:lesleyluke@live.co.uk), Bernard Coulter, 712144, [bcoulter@talktalk.net](mailto:bcoulter@talktalk.net), or Pam Meadows, 712143.

## **Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club – Tuesday 23 February**

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. Nigel Phillips will talk about 'Wild places and wildlife on the Somerset Levels'. Members and guests welcome. Contact Andrea West on 712161.

## **Isle of Wedmore Society - Thursday 25 February**

The meeting will be in the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker, Antonio Paladino, will talk about 'Bioaqua Farming' and describe the local enterprise at Blackford. Members free and visitors, who are most welcome, £3 to include tea / coffee and biscuits.

## **Quiz Evening – Friday 26 February**

in Wedmore Village Hall in aid of Bristol-based 'Aid Box Convoy'. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Supper is included and there will be a bar. £10 per head, teams of four. Tickets available from Wedmore Village Stores or Penny and Mike Edmunds, 713065, or David and Holly Cole, 713392.



## **Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 4 March**

At 7.30pm in Allerton Church, Chapel Allerton. The theme for the service, prepared by the women of Cuba, is 'Receive children, receive me'.

This is the first time that the Allerton Church community will be hosting the service for the Wedmore Group of Churches, so come along and give your support. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **Wedmore WI Coffee Morning - Saturday 19 March**

From 10.30am to 12.00 noon in the Masonic Hall, a variety of stalls including cakes, tombola and a raffle. Come and have a great cup of coffee and meet the WI ladies.

## **Wedmore Theatre Club – Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 April**

Presents ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ at 7.30 in Wedmore Village Hall. Numbered seats will be available. More information next month.

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# **Events Taking Place Outside the Parish**

## **Cheddar Vale Lions, Jumble Sale – Saturday 13 February**

At Church House, Cheddar. Doors open at 2.00pm.

## **The Return of ‘Fougere Rouge’- Saturday 13 February**

‘Fougere Rouge’, no not a red fern, but one of the most entertaining Ceilidh bands in the South West, is returning to Brent Knoll Parish Hall. Doors open 7.30pm, fiddles and flutes will start duelling at 8.00pm, providing an abundance of jigs and reels to dance to. Cost £10 to include an Irish stew supper. Tickets from Brent Knoll Village Shop or telephone 01278 760986. For further information please ring Jenny on 01278 760 477.

## **Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society – Wednesday 17 February**

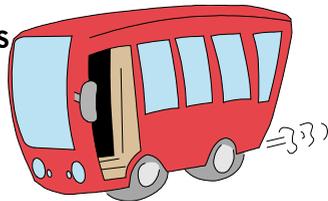
Burnham Lighthouses by John Strickland at 7.30pm at Cross Memorial Hall.

## **Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre – Tuesday 23 February**

The British film ‘45 Years’ comes to Cheddar trailing accolades including a Bafta nomination for outstanding British film. Tickets are available online at [www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts), telephone 744939 extension 2 or visit Kings Fitness & Leisure in person. Payment is by credit/debit card only, cash will only be accepted for tickets sold on the door.

## **All aboard - Isle of Wedmore Community Bus**

The cover photo of the January edition of the Wedmore News featured the brand new replacement Isle of Wedmore Community Bus. As you may know, the bus runs from Wedmore to Taunton on Tuesday, Bridgwater Wednesday, Weston Thursday and Street on Friday, departing daily at 9.30am, returning early afternoon. The bus is also available with a driver for private hire.



I became aware of the bus via a cartoon advert featuring the hapless Inspector Blake and his jovial crew Stan and Jack from ‘On the Buses’. Being of a certain age,

I remember this programme as passing for comedy back in the 70s. I will not admit to watching any of the present repeats being shown on ITV3! The advert asked for volunteer drivers, so, being newly retired, I made contact. Before one can be accepted as a driver, it is necessary to undertake a Driving Assessment with Somerset County Council (SCC) in Taunton and to obtain a Disclosure Certificate (CRB in old speak). This is arranged by the Bus Management Team who, when initially briefing me, invited both new and old drivers for coffee and cake. My first rule of survival is never refuse either, so a good start.

I have to confess to apprehension about the Driving Assessment in Taunton. After all, there are two things no man will admit to doing badly and driving is one of them. However, it is important to remember that the bus is a larger and longer vehicle than those of us who do not drive LGVs are used to and hence the course is designed to give such experience. Fellow students (three on my course) acted as passengers, each of us spending 30 minutes of actually driving in conditions which varied from motorway to busy town centre. Spacial awareness is key, ensuring you drive this larger, slower vehicle in a manner to ensure the maximum safety of both your passengers and other road users.

I was assured that my driving was indeed safe and secure. Further, my Disclosure Certificate arrived stating that I was a stout fellow hale and hearty, so I quickly found myself ready to become operational and was allocated the number Driver No 29. I am assured however that promotion can be swift and I could reasonably expect to become Driver Number No 1 in about 40 years.

I was aware that this brand new bus was being sought from SCC to replace the ageing existing vehicle, however I did not expect it to arrive the afternoon before my first trip, making me the very first to drive it. Being an avid dog walker, I thought I knew Wedmore well. However, picking up passengers from every nook and cranny around the entire village and beyond took my knowledge to a new level.

So what are the advantages of using the bus? Well, firstly the price; the service is free if you hold a bus pass and compares extremely favourably if you don't. Be warned that fellow passengers will talk to you, it's a friendly trip. The bus can seat 16 people and has an integrated hydraulic lift for wheelchair access. The view from the bus on a sunny clear morning can be outstanding as the routes are planned across some outstandingly beautiful countryside. Should you wish, you could have a drink with your lunch.

Having only been driving for a short time I do not have many stories to tell. However, when driving to Street this morning I missed a pickup for two ladies on the moor near Godney. Not to be left behind, they immediately jumped into their car and chased the bus, by which time the passengers had noticed my mistake and I had turned around. Imagine other bus operators doing this.

So the purpose of this short article is to highlight this excellent service and, in the face of seemingly ever decreasing public finances, urge you to use it or possibly risk losing it at some future point. New drivers are always welcome; these duties are not onerous - once or twice a month would be the average, more if you wish - so if you have the time, please come forward.

*Bill Sutton*

## 2016 is a Leap Year

As Sue mentioned in her Editorial, this year is a Leap Year. So what is a leap year and why do they occur? A leap year has 366 days instead of the normal 365, with the additional day (Leap Day) being 29 February. Leap years are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. It takes the Earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to circle around the Sun. However, the calendar has only 365 days in a year so we need to add a day nearly every four years to make up for the extra time.

Julius Caesar introduced leap years in the Roman Empire over 2000 years ago, but applied the simple rule that any year divisible by four would be a leap year. As the Earth takes just under six hours extra a year to go around the Sun, it resulted in too many leap years. When the modern Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1582 this was corrected by taking the following criteria into account when deciding whether or not a year is a leap year:

- the year is evenly divisible by 4
- if the year can be evenly divided by 100, it is not a leap year, unless it can also be divided by 400.

So, 1900 was not a leap year, but 2000 was. People born on 29 February are leaplings. If you were born on 29 February 2000, the good news is that you get a birthday this year. Happy birthday! The bad news is that you will have to wait until 1 March 2017 to get a provisional driving licence, as the UK counts 1 March as your official birthday, although some other countries count the day before, 28 February.

There are many traditions and superstitions linked to a leap year, but the most well-known one is that women can propose to men. According to an old Irish legend St Brigid struck a deal with St Patrick to allow women to propose to men (instead of the other way round) in a leap year. In some places, leap day has been known as 'Bachelors Day' for the same reason. A man was expected to pay a penalty, such as a gown or money, if he refused a marriage proposal from a woman on leap day.

*Liz Sweeney*

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## Polly's Kitchen

When I fancy a veggie supper, I often make this pretty simple vegetable curry. Adding fresh ginger is a real bonus, giving it a lovely little extra heat and also at the end I pop in a few boiled eggs, which lend themselves so well to curry. All finished off with some tasty mango chutney and simple steamed Basmati rice...and, if I have it in my fridge, a topping of freshly chopped coriander.



### Veggie Curry (serves 4)

#### Ingredients

1 onion, finely chopped

A thumb-sized piece of root ginger, finely chopped  
2 cloves of garlic, crushed  
2 medium sized carrots, peeled and roughly chopped  
1 small aubergine, diced  
2 large potatoes, peeled and diced  
1/2 a small cauliflower, cut into small florets  
1 can of chickpeas  
1 can of chopped tomatoes  
1 rounded dessert spoon of Garam Masala  
1 teaspoon turmeric  
1/2 teaspoon ground chilli powder  
1 teaspoon mustard seeds  
1 teaspoon coriander seeds  
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom  
Sea salt and black pepper  
4 peeled, hard boiled eggs  
Fresh coriander, chopped  
Coconut oil

### Method

1. In a large pan heat a dessert spoonful of coconut oil, then add the onion and ginger and gently cook until softened.
2. Next, add all the dried spices to the pan and cook for a minute.
3. Now add the potato, carrot and garlic and stir well. Add the chickpeas, tomatoes and then fill the empty tomato can with water, swill around and pour into pan, season well.
4. Let the curry gently bubble away for about 40 minutes, then add the cauliflower florets and cook until just tender.
5. Steam some Basmati rice and just before serving pop in the eggs, so they just warm through.

Serve with mango chutney and a sprinkling of chopped, fresh coriander.

Polly Costello

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## The Garden in February

I am writing this on 30 December at the end of an exceptionally wet day. I have been out in my garden this afternoon (having been away for a week I was suffering withdrawal symptoms!) when the rain eased for a while, but it was impossible to do very much as it resembled a rice paddy.

Two years ago I was bemoaning the fact that we had had a very wet year; a few days ago I would have said that was not the case this year (in this area) but certainly December has been exceptionally wet and mild and spring flowers are well advanced. I have numerous snowdrops in flower and some



aconites (confusing, that name, as they are *eranthis hyemalis*) that have actually finished flowering and I would normally not expect that for about six weeks or so.

Yet again, certain newspapers that were predicting the coldest winter in living memory seem to be wrong, but I suppose there is still time for the weather to get much colder. The worst winter I can remember, in 1962/63, began on 26 December with a fairly normal snowfall which was followed by an exceptionally heavy fall a couple of days later. This in turn was followed by a big freeze which left us with snow and ice for about three months. So look out!

If you can get into the garden, now is a good time to apply well-rotted manure and compost to your soil; make sure whichever you use, that it is well rotted, because if it isn't it may well be full of weed seeds, or even roots, which will cause major problems later. If you want to apply bone meal, pelleted chicken manure or seaweed products (other than liquids), these should also go on early. Whatever you use, follow the maker's instructions (these may not be available for farmyard manure).

I have been receiving e-mails from garden centres, telling me that they are selling off last year's stock; if plants are well reduced in price they can often be a bargain and seeds with modern packaging will often last for several years. Look at the dates on the packet. Vegetable seeds have a legal requirement that their germination rates are high, so you can accept these being slightly reduced by age, especially as the packet often contains far more seeds than you really need.

Out-of-date composts may be somewhat reduced in nutrient levels, as many of the fertilisers used in them gradually deteriorate from the day they are made (especially once moist) but they can still be good as a mulch and for improving soil structure.

February is an ideal time for planting bare-rooted trees, shrubs and hedging, as long as the ground is not frozen or too wet. Containerised plants can be planted over a much wider period of course. This is also a good time for moving shrubs and trees, deciduous ones, before conifers and other evergreens.

Birds will soon start looking for nesting sites, so as well as putting up nesting boxes sooner rather than later, get any hedge-trimming and pruning done, to avoid disturbing the birds later.

Fruit tree pruning should be completed by the end of February, before 'bud-burst' (although if the mild weather persists, this may be sooner). As I have said on many previous occasions, do not prune plums and other members of their family in the winter.

Late summer flowering shrubs, such as buddleias, technically buddleja now, which flower on new wood can be pruned hard, as can *hydrangea paniculata* cultivars. This will cause flowering to be a little later and also produce larger flower heads.

If you are able to sow seeds under glass or in some protected environment, it is worth getting some seed sowing under way. Peppers and aubergines need an early start and you can also try lettuces and some spring brassicas. Do not fall into the trap of having plants to put out too early, unless you have a heated greenhouse. Garden centres often sell plants of one sort or another that are too big, too soon; a cynic might say that that gives them the opportunity to sell you another lot when they die.

Soon you will see seed-potatoes for sale; if you have a suitable, well-lit, frost-free place, it is worth chitting some seed now, of first early varieties. Don't be afraid to try

some outside a little on the early side if it remains mild (despite what I said above). Potato tubers can shoot again if the shoots are frosted, but not if the tuber has been frozen. Peas and broad beans can be sown from February onwards also.

Again, verbosity has been my undoing so we'll have to leave anything else I planned to write until March.

*Adrian Hutchison*

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## Thought for the Month

I feel I'm at rest – the busyness of Christmas is over and it's the last few days of 2015 between the Bank holidays.

But is it rest or am I just wasting time?

Other than the sleep each night, do we also need times of rest?

The rest I am experiencing is of being unhurried in what I am doing – not of doing nothing: working at such a pace that I extract every bit of joy and satisfaction from the experience, having time to hear God's prompting in the process.

A conversation is recorded with Sir Isaac Newton in 1726 where Sir Isaac said that 'It (the notion of gravity) was occasioned by the fall of an apple, as he sat in contemplative mood...' That contemplative moment resulted in the Universal Law of Gravity.

In the 21st century our lives can be full of hurry and stress – pushing ourselves and those around us to limits our bodies and minds were not designed to handle. The body's emergency driving force – adrenaline - is used to keep us going. There is no time to rest.

In more recent years medical science has found that our bodies activate all the restorative functions as well as activating our creativity and emotional resilience through – you guessed it, rest.

I read recently, 'You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of Spiritual life'.

Work is not the enemy, nor being busy, but it's the rush and hurry that robs us of joy and delight.

Busyness can migrate into hurry and we let it squeeze God out of our lives.

Jesus lived a busy but unhurried life that included times of rest when He would be alone in the presence of His Heavenly Father, from whom He gained His strength and direction.

No one has achieved so much in so short a time!

As you read this at the beginning of a New Year, maybe it would be good for us to have regular times of rest to regain our strength and direction.

*Bob Drew*

*Bagley Baptist Church*



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# Sport Reports

## Wedmore Tennis Club

### Winter League

In light of the gales and downpours, it was fortunate that only three matches were scheduled for December this year!



The B team held their position at the top of division 2 through a home win against Cleeve, the 8-2 score being identical to that in their earlier away match.

The D team also hosted their final match of 2015 to win against Bridgwater C. Team captain, David Evans, and John Gould proved too strong for the Bridgwater men and won in two sets, as did Sandra Evans and Jo Attiwell in the ladies doubles. In the mixed, the first pair of Jo and John won an easy opening set, but then had to fight back with some excellent serving and volleying from being 4-1 down in the second set to win the match in a tie-break. Sandra and David played another husband and wife team in the other rubber and, after a struggle in the rain, won in two sets.

The Vets A team also celebrated a 10.0 win, against Cheddar A, to lift them close to the top of their division. In glorious sunshine, Tess Hodgson and Shirley Turner saw off the Cheddar ladies, Ruth Rogers and Joan May, 6-1, 6-3. Clive Ross and Mark Jackson had more of a battle against the Cheddar men of Steve Watkins and Mark Rickard but came through to win 7-5, 6-0 after Mark R sustained a foot injury which forced him to retire. Consequently, Cheddar conceded one rubber in the mixed and Mark and Shirley, despite Shirley taking a tumble on the slippery surface and sustaining a nose injury, managed to hold on to win 6-2, 7-5.

### Ladies' Xmas Party

Forty two ladies gathered at Nanny Ida's on 15 December to celebrate another happy year of tennis and to toast their soon-to-retire captain, Tony Pearman. Tony's fairness and unwavering encouragement and support during his captaincy has probably doubled the number of ladies inspired to play in the league, and also guaranteed a regular practice session for many throughout the year on a Tuesday evening.





*Tony Pearman and some of participants at the Ladies' Christmas Party*

To add to his growing collection of ladies' apparel and ornamentation, Tony was presented with a very glamorous blonde wig and new, fuller chest which he gamely modelled. He was delighted that so many members, including a number of newcomers, were able to attend and lift the decibel level and kindly presented everyone with plants as parting gifts.

*Sarah Cunningham*

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## Church News

### Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent is traditionally a time of penitence, fasting and self-examination (that's why many people give something up for Lent). In the early church it would be kept by those preparing for baptism at Easter, but as time went on, it seemed a good idea for everyone to set aside time for this in the weeks leading up to the most holy time in the church's calendar.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday when ash is smeared on our foreheads as a sign that one day we will die and thus of the need to get our lives right.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 10 February, and in the benefice we will be marking this important day with a said communion at St. Mary's at 10.00am and a sung benefice communion at 7.00pm at Allerton. The imposition of ashes will be offered at each service.

## Start the Week

Start the Week is a quiet meditative service held most Sunday evenings at 6.00pm in St Mary's Lady Chapel. Led by a range of people there may be music to listen to, readings, a guided meditation and an extended period of silence. All are welcome.

## Messy Church - Saturday 6 February 3.00pm-5.00pm at St Mary's Church

- Is a way of being church for families involving fun;
- Is 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.
- Is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together.



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

## 'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Wednesday 24 February, the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the particular communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.



## Parish Registers

### Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Joan Fisher of Mudgley Cross who died on 4 December 2015 aged 78 and whose funeral was on Monday 21 December at St Mary's.

### Baptisms

Welcome to the following baptised into God's church recently:  
Evelyn Callow daughter of Christopher Callow and Jasmine Crocker of Cheddar, baptised at Allerton Church on Sunday 13 December 2015.

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# Church Services

## St Mary's Church, Wedmore

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 8.45am*

Saturday	6		3.00 pm	Messy Church
Sunday	7	1 before Lent	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Wednesday	10	Ash Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	14	Lent 1	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	21	Lent 2	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Family Service and Baptism
Sunday	28	Lent 3	10.30 am	Parish Communion

*Junior Church welcomes children aged 4-11 on the fourth Sunday of each month, while a supervised crèche for pre-school children runs on special occasions.*

Every Sunday evening	6.00 pm	Start the Week meditative service
Every Tuesday morning	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

## Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	7	1 before Lent	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	14	Lent 1	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	21	Lent 2	6.00 pm	Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing
Sunday	28	Lent 3	9.00 am	Parish Communion

## Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	7	1 Before Lent	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	14	Lent 1	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	21	Lent 2	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	28	Lent 3	11.00 am	Come & See

## Allerton Church

Sunday	7	1 Before Lent	9.00 am	Family Service
Wednesday	10	Ash Wednesday	7.00 pm	Benefice Communion
Sunday	14	Lent 1	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	21	Lent 2	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	28	Lent 3	9.00 am	Youth Communion

*Rev'd Richard Neill, Vicar of the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore can be contacted on 713566.*

## Bagley Baptist Church

Every Sunday 10.30am, Morning service (Groups for 3-15s).

Please always check the website for any last minute changes, especially during the winter weather.

Every Wednesday 10.00am-12.00 noon is our really popular 'Coffee with a View'.

Come for free coffee and home-made cakes, our wonderful view and a warm welcome. Bring a friend, or come and make some new ones here. We have good parking and wheelchair access.

We have various Bible studies and youth groups which we'd love to tell you about!

For details, please ring us on 710779 / 712812 / 713267, Email: [contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk](mailto:contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk), or visit our website, [www.bagleybaptist.co.uk](http://www.bagleybaptist.co.uk)

### **Wedmore Methodist Church**

Sunday	7	10.30am	Anna Auty
Sunday	14	10.30am	Revd John James Holy Communion
Sunday	21	10.30am	Local arrangement Family service
Sunday	28	10.30am	Revd Roly Sims

### **Crickham Baptist Church**

Every Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday School
	6.30 pm	Evening Service

*Contact Dulcie Hooper on 712187.*

### **Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar**

Thursday	10.00am	Mass
Friday and Saturday	9.30am	Mass
Saturday	10.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sundays	9.00am	Mass

*Contact Father Philip Thomas on 742564.*

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# **Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice**

## **Surgery Opening Times**

### **Wedmore Surgery**

Mondays and Fridays ..... 8.30am to 6.00pm  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays ..... 8.30am to 1.00pm  
Telephone 712774

### **Axbridge Surgery**

Monday to Fridays ..... 8.30am to 6.00pm  
Telephone 732464 - Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.

### **Extended Surgery Hours**

The practice offers an extended opening hours service. This extra service is being offered in response to the wishes of patients expressed in the Patient Surveys. During the 'Extended Hours' a GP will be available for routine appointments outside normal surgery times.

These appointments are not for emergencies or to see a nurse, they are dedicated to those patients who find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours.

Extended hours surgeries are held:

### **Axbridge Surgery**

Wednesday and Thursday . . . . . Alternate weeks 6.30pm to 8.00pm

### **Wedmore Surgery**

Wednesday and Thursday . . . . . Once a month 7.00am to 8.00am

Saturday . . . . . Alternate weeks 8.00am to 9.30am

*Please note, these hours may be subject to change depending on the availability of doctors.*

During extended hours 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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# **Somerset Waste Partnership, February Collections**



<b>Wednesday</b> 3	Recycling and refuse
<b>Wednesday</b> 10	Recycling and green garden waste
<b>Wednesday</b> 17	Recycling and refuse
<b>Wednesday</b> 24	Recycling and green garden waste

Use brown food waste boxes for all cooked and raw food, including:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Meat and fish
- Cheese and egg shells
- Bread, pasta, cereal
- Tea bags and coffee grounds

Use green recycling boxes for:

- Paper including: newspapers, magazines, leaflets, printed paper, white envelopes and telephone directories
- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminium foil (clean, not paper or plastic backed)
- Clothes – bagged to keep dry
- Shoes – tied in pairs and bagged
- Car batteries
- Note - Please do not put clothes or shoes out on wet days.

Use black recycling boxes for:

- Food and drinks cans
- Plastic bottles only (no tops)
- Cardboard (flattened) – clean packaging card, corrugated card and greetings cards
- Brown envelopes

Please do not put out:

- Drink cartons or Tetra Pak
- Broken glass, Pyrex, window glass, tableware, light bulbs
- Plastic pots, tubs or film
- Plastic bottles used for engine oil and garden or DIY chemicals
- Household batteries
- Business waste for recycling

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## Wedmore Community Bus



The Wedmore Community Bus is available for everyone, travelling to Taunton (Tuesdays), Bridgwater (Wednesdays), Weston-super-Mare (Thursdays) and Street (Fridays).

The service acts less like a bus and more like a personal taxi service. You get on and off wherever you tell us is the most convenient place - usually outside your own house. Travel is free if you

have a current bus pass. If you have to pay, then fares compare very favourably with alternative forms of transport - saving money on fuel and parking. For example, the 50-mile round trip to Taunton is only £4.80.

The bus departs from Wedmore at 9.30am and is back by early afternoon - leaving plenty of time for those needing to collect children from school. To book a seat ring the friendly controller between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the evening before your journey:

Controller Taunton	Angeline Duckett	712631
Controller Bridgwater	Angeline Duckett	712631
Controller Weston super Mare	Pam Meadows	712143
Controller Street	Rosy Brooks	713697

The bus is also available for private hire. It can be booked by contacting Rachel Bennett, telephone 07807 156069 or email [rachbennett1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachbennett1@hotmail.co.uk).

# What's On in the Parish

2 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
3 - Wed	<b>Camelot Quilters'</b>	10.00am	Wedmore VH
5 - Fri	<b>International Spooof Competition</b>	8.00pm	The New Inn
	<b>Wedmore Theatre Club – Grafitti Classics</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore VH
6 - Sat	<b>Fairtrade Coffee Morning</b>	9.30am	St Mary's Church
	<b>Messey Church</b>	3.00pm	St Mary's Church
	<b>Wedmore First School Academy PTA Winter Supper</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore VH
7 - Sun	<b>Wedmore Twinning Association AGM</b>	7.00pm	Masonic Hall
10 - Wed	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		
	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
	<b>Blackford Cafe</b>	2.00pm	Blackford VH
11 - Thurs	<b>Theale Panto Aladdin (Until 13 Feb)</b>	7.30pm	Theale VH
12 - Fri	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic</b>	8.00pm	The New Inn
13 - Sat	<b>Wedmore in Bloom</b>	9.30am	The George
14 - Sun	<b>Holy Trinity Breakfast</b>	8.30am	Blackmore VH
16 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
17 - Wed	<b>Camelot Quilters'</b>		Wedmore VH
	<b>Wedmore Parish Council Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Council Rooms Grant's Lane
18 - Thurs	<b>WI Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
20 - Sat	<b>Theale Community Cafe</b>	10.00am	Theale VH
	<b>Flamenco Dancing and Paella Evening</b>	7.00pm	Wedmore VH
21 - Sun	<b>Theale Film Club</b>	6.30pm	Theale VH
23 - Tues	<b>IOW Gardening Club Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
24 - Wed	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
	<b>Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Mtg</b>	8.00pm	The Recreation Social Club
25 - Thurs	<b>Isle of Wedmore Society</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
26 - Fri	<b>Quiz Evening in support of Aid Box Convey</b>	7.00pm	Wedmore VH
	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic</b>	8.00pm	The New Inn

# February 2016

## Regular Weekly Events

### MONDAY

#### Modern Dance

<b>Hugh Sexeys Blackford Crew</b>	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
<b>Beavers</b>	5.00pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Bridge Club</b>	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Thelma Jenkin-Jones	01934 710467
<b>Scouts</b>	7.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

### TUESDAY

<b>Tuesday Club</b>	10.30am	Masonic Hall	Sue Freeman	01934 741861
<b>Ballet Classes</b>	3.45pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre	0117 960 5844
<b>Acting Up Drama Club</b>	3.45pm	Wedmore VH +	Lou Merryfield	07973 429947
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Circuit Training</b>	7.30pm	Blackford VH	Nigel	07775 682231
<b>Cardiodance</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore First School	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204

### WEDNESDAY

<b>Rainbows</b>	4.30pm	Wedmore VH +	Gail Millard	01934 713922
<b>Beavers</b>	5.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Brownies</b>	6.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Lisa Hall	01934 713566
<b>Guides</b>	7.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
<b>Yoga</b>	8.00pm	Blackford VH	Sandra Mailey	01934 712686

### THURSDAY

<b>Wedmore &amp; Blackford Toddlers</b>	9.30am	Blackford VH +	Gareth Smith	01934 710471
<b>Yoga</b>	9.30am	Masonic Hall	Shane Allen	01275 790175
<b>Life Drawing Class</b>	10.00am	The Swan	Lily Sawtell	
<b>Over 50s Dance Group</b>	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Pat Taylor	01934 713430
<b>Yoga</b>	11.30am	Masonic Hall	Shane Allen	01275 790175
<b>Ballet Classes</b>	3.45pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre	0117 960 5844
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Mendip Rotary Club</b>	7.15pm	IOW Golf Club	Chris Steel	07799 068669

### FRIDAY

<b>Tots and Tinies</b>	9.15am	Wedmore First School +	Sarah Maddock	01934 713578
<b>Wedmore Art Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall	Eileen Sanders	01934 710353
<b>Karate</b>	5.00pm	Blackford VH	Kayleigh Branston	07748 916695

+ Not taking place during school holidays