

# ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

**March 2016**  
**No. 435**

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# Editorial

We have Easter to look forward to this month, which for me hails the start of brighter weather (I hope), and certainly longer days. So with the delights of Easter eggs for those who enjoy them and the prospect of spring to look forward to, we have our first bank holidays since Christmas. Polly has produced a lovely spring lamb recipe which sounds just right for a delicious Easter lunch.

The first shoots of spring seem to have been around for some time this year with early daffodils and some blossom on the trees. With the promise of brighter things to come, many of us will be out in our gardens. The Wedmore in Bloom team will also be out and about and are looking for volunteers to help them. I recently attended their AGM and had the opportunity to meet the people who work so hard to make our village look lovely. I also attended the Blooming Monday event – yes that is me in the picture! We were wearing our brightest clothes in gloomy January, raising awareness for Mental Health Research UK.

With all the events that are coming up in Wedmore and the surrounding villages, I am looking forward to getting out and about and I hope you are too.

Sue James

## Front Cover

Looking ahead to brighter days, this photo shows the Wedmore Drove on a May morning last year. It was taken by Alison Crooks.

## Deadline for April Edition: 1 March 2016

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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.*

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*The editors also reserve the right to edit or amend any contribution for reasons of space, conformity, legibility or legality.*

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# News

## Parish Council Business

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 23 March in the Masonic Hall. This meeting is open to all residents of the parish and will be chaired by Glenys Cousins, Chair of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is keen to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and a guest speaker at this year's Annual Assembly is a member of Ashcott Parish Council. Ashcott having recently completed their plan, Wedmore residents will be able to find out more about what is involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

If anyone wishes to add an item to the agenda for this meeting, please submit details to the Parish Clerk by Monday 14 March. At the meeting The Henry Butt trophy will be presented and Hervey Trust funds will be awarded to a local young person or persons.

## Neighbourhood Plan

CLr Steve George writes:

'Your Parish Council has agreed to embark on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan, once agreed and accepted by consultation and referendum, will set out the planning policy for the parish and will support the strategic development needs defined in the local plan currently in the consultation stage with Sedgemoor District Council.

For the plan to be successful, the wider community must be involved. The 'Neighbourhood Area' will include Blackford and Theale. The plan will provide some control over the design and location of new developments and can also include the requirements for improved infrastructure. The plan, once adopted, will also increase funds available from the Community Infrastructure Levy and help to prioritise which projects money should be spent on.

We need to set up a neighbourhood forum and a steering group. If you are willing to get involved, please register your interest with Rod Pring, Parish Clerk.'

*Rod Pring*

*Wedmore Parish Council, Grants Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4EA*

*Telephone 713087, Email: wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com*

## Wedmore News needs you!

Wedmore News is still seeking expressions of interest from members of the local community who would like to join the Wedmore News Committee; we would like to recruit two community members. Currently the committee is comprised of Parish Council representatives, our treasurer and other volunteers who compile and produce the magazine each month. The responsibilities are not onerous. We meet four times a year to discuss and agree any policy issues, day-to-day running of the magazine and allocate funds to local charities and organisations. This is a voluntary role.

If you would be interested in joining the team, please contact our Chair, Glenys Cousins, telephone 712565. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Sue James*

## Wedmore Community Power Co-operative - Grants available to local organisations

Over the next 25 years, more than half a million pounds in community grants will be awarded to local organisations on the Isle of Wedmore. Could your own group be one to benefit in 2016?

Wedmore Community Power Co-operative raises the money by selling clean electricity generated by our solar arrays at Quab Lane on the edge of Wedmore. Last year we gave grants totalling £5,000 to the following:

- Village halls in Wedmore and Theale;
- Friends of Wedmore First School Academy and Nursery;
- Wedmore Cricket Club;
- Local branch of the Samaritans.

This year we have £6,000 to give out, and the deadline for applications is 31 May 2016. Successful projects will meet one or more of these criteria:

- address a social need;
- provide a long-term benefit to the community on the Isle of Wedmore;
- support at least one of the Co-operative's objectives of working in partnership with others, increasing sustainability and reducing reliance on fossil fuels
- ideally be innovative in its approach.

You can find out more and apply on our website, [www.wedmorecpc.co.uk](http://www.wedmorecpc.co.uk).

*Rob Richley, Wedmore Community Power Co-operative*

## Blooming Monday



*Shortlist for the Wedmore Best Dressed Award! From left to right: Phil and Fred Parkyn, Sara Hincks, Sue James, Henry and Jane Parkinson (who organised the event).*

On Monday 18 January Wedmore hosted an event for Mental Health Research UK's Blooming Monday. Blooming Monday is an annual event that takes place on the third Monday in January to brighten up the day which is known as Blue Monday, supposedly the most depressing day of the year.

Mental Health Research UK asks people to dress up in bright clothing to cheer up the day and to show they care about mental illness. They are also asked to talk about

mental health issues to help break down the continuing stigma attached to mental illness which affects at least one in four of us.

Wedmore's event included a quiz, aimed at dispelling some commonly held misconceptions about mental health, and a Best Dressed Award. Phil Parkyn was voted Best Dressed at the Wedmore event and has subsequently received the overall Blooming Monday Best Dressed Award which is judged by the trustees of the charity.

Phil Parkyn said: 'I was just pleased to have the opportunity to dress up in such silly clothing and to learn more about mental health issues. Receiving these awards was such a surprise and the small chocolate rabbit I received for winning in Wedmore was awesome.'

Mental Health Research UK funds research into the causes of mental illness and helping to develop much better treatments to reduce the misery resulting from it. It pledges to use at least 95% of all donations to fund its high quality research as its running costs are very low.

To find out more about Blooming Monday, or to keep up to date with Mental Health Research UK and its efforts to improve the lives of those suffering from mental illness, look for the Blooming Monday Facebook page, tweet them at @MHRUKCharity or visit the website at [www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org](http://www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org).

*Henry Parkinson*

## **It's official – we're cool.**



Somerset was recently voted No. 11 on the National Geographic's 'Cool List' 2016 – one place above Rio de Janeiro and five above the Great Barrier Reef.

Three new attractions catapulted the county into the realms of a celebrity destination, one of which was the new Hoseasons Bath Mill Lodge Retreat (basically a slightly upmarket caravan park). It is surprising that this earned more brownie points than the fact the Rio is hosting the Olympics this year. Equally remarkable is the idea that the beaches at Weston and Burnham could somehow trump the Great Barrier Reef. But who are we to argue?

The listing also mentions the 'spa facilities dating back to Roman times' in Bath. These are hardly a new addition (first opened 70AD), so one struggles to see how this would suddenly push the region up the rankings. Oddly enough there's no mention of the fact the county hosts the planet's coolest festival (Glasto).

One can only assume that the task of preparing the list was given to an intern working at the magazine's head office in Washington DC. They glanced at the submission from Visit Somerset and thought 'Hey, cool, somewhere I've never heard of!' That might also explain why Washington DC is right up there in the number 3 slot (expect a rapid exit from the list if Donald Trump gets into their White House).

So here's a suggestion for next year. Get Wedmore Parish Council to send them a press release with details of our cool international arts competition (the Turnip Prize), our cool artisan Real Ale festival (Wedmore Beer Festival) and our cool new rock band (Kindred Spirit). We might even make it into the top ten...

*Jim O'Connor*

## Can you help Wedmore Theatre Club?

Our April production of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' is in need of a very special 'handbag', a crucial part of the plot as I am sure many of you know.

We need a large black leather bag (like a carpet bag). Ideally with a metal closure / lock. It doesn't matter if it is a little battered.

Whilst you are up there in the loft, is there any chance of finding a small metal watering can (we are talking of a play set in the late 1890s) or, a bit more difficult, a lorgnette? The kind people of Wedmore have helped us out with our search for props before, so thank you in anticipation.

It's not only props we need but also a couple of extra people to help backstage. Is there is anyone out there (especially one with a bit of muscle), who would like to join the backstage crew? It is great fun but you do need to be available between 1-10 April.

For more information, or the offer of help/props, please telephone Pam Duke, 713710, or email [pam@pamholmes.com](mailto:pam@pamholmes.com).

## Wedmore Brownies turn 80!

On 6 March 2016 Brownies will have been in Wedmore for an amazing 80 years. Brownies, the junior section of Girlguiding UK, for girls age 7-10, started in 1914, when younger sisters of Guides decided they wanted some of the action too. Initially called 'Rosebuds' they rapidly evolved into the organisation we know today. In Wedmore, Brownies arrived in 1936, and have been an active part of the community fabric ever since, with generations of young girls passing through, learning the Promise and Law, being part of a Six, gaining badges and enjoying the mix of games, craft, outdoor and community activities for which Brownies is famous.



We plan to celebrate our eightieth birthday with several special events this year. The first is a church service at St Mary's Church in Wedmore at 6.00pm on Wednesday 9 March 2016, followed by a celebration at the village hall, with some refreshments and entertainment from our Brownies. Local Guides, Rainbows, and their leaders are all invited, as well as Brownies and their parents, plus anyone who has been involved



with the Guiding movement over the years and who would like to help us celebrate! If you do want to attend, please email [wedmore.brownies@gmail.com](mailto:wedmore.brownies@gmail.com) so we have an idea of numbers. I am trying to put together a mini-archive and display, so if you have stories or pictures from Wedmore Brownies over the years, I would love to hear them.

Further events this year will be a fundraiser, a day out, and we hope an overnight 'stay away' for the Brownies (sleep does not tend to feature on these occasions).

We wish to thank Wedmore Beer Festival for the grant we received recently for Brownie books. Please see all the happy faces in the photo with Brownies wearing borrowed Beer Festival t-shirts!

If you want to find out more about Wedmore Brownies please visit <https://wedmorebrownies.wordpress.com/>. If your daughter would like to join and is not part of Girlguiding already (i.e. a Rainbow), and is between the age of 7-10, please speak to me, Lisa Hall, about membership. We are always short of adult help, particularly trained Guiders, so if you would like to volunteer please also contact me.

*Lisa Hall, Brown Owl*  
*wedmore.brownies@gmail.com 01934 713566*

## Wedmore Street Fair – 2 July 2016

Wedmore 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wedmore Real Ale Festival Returns for its 16th Year

Last year's Wedmore Real Ale Festival raised a whopping £15,000 for 16 local beneficiaries. This brings our grand total of fund raising for local worthy causes to a staggering £133,571 since the festival began back in 2001!

Planning has now begun for the 16th festival which takes place from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September, at Wedmore Village Hall.

Whether you've volunteered to help, sponsored a barrel, sponsored the festival pint glasses, donated an auction prize or turned up and quaffed ales in 2015, without you none of our fundraising would have been possible. So many, many thanks for attending in the past and here's hoping you, your loved ones, colleagues and everyone else you know can join us for our 16th year of the Wedmore Real Ale Festival!



Alongside the musical line-up there will be over 60 different choices of real ales, ciders, perrys and wine, with food available throughout the weekend.

Evening admission to the festival will be £5 per person, which will include a 2016 festival pint glass to take away and a free half pint to drink! Our ever popular fancy dress on Saturday evening will be revealed shortly, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details.

If you sponsored a barrel in 2015, you will shortly receive your renewal sponsorship pack for this year. Please contact Amanda if this does not reach you by late March. If you would like to sponsor a barrel at this year's festival, then please also get in touch with Amanda on [Amanda.carver@outlook.com](mailto:Amanda.carver@outlook.com) telephone 07816 400999.

To keep up to date with our planning for the festival please join our Facebook group 'The Wedmore Real Ale Appreciation Society' or go to our website [www.wedmoreale.com](http://www.wedmoreale.com)

See you in September!

*Alan Page*

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## Reports and Society Updates

### St Mary's Church 100 Club

Gill & Bill Litherland were the happy recipients of the £20 first prize in February's Monthly Draw with their No.26, and Liz & Robert Hector received the £10 second prize, holding No.57. Congratulations!

*Thelma Jenkins-Jones*



### Wedmore WI Report – January 2016

Hazel wished everyone a 'Happy New Year', and after Jerusalem asked us to stay standing to remember Joan Smith who had recently passed away. Business news included the skittles team who had had a good time but got knocked out of the tournament, and Sue was the winner of the 2015 competitions. There will be an exhibition about WIs in the



Cheddar Valley in King John`s Hunting Lodge, Axbridge, during April and May, to which we will contribute.

Our speaker was Colette Jeff, WI adviser, who kept us amused by an account of her life 'How I got here'. Her early life was affected by the war, and the first school she attended made her unhappy, but at a later school she learnt to read, and we heard about walking home to save the bus fare for sweets. At high school she had to learn a different style of writing, and became involved in many out-of-school activities, including a youth club in a very grotty church hall, where the charge was 3d (old pence) if at school, 6d if over 16, and 9d if at work. Colette kept us amused with tales of how she met her future husband, of nursing training, which she found she hated, but completed 'to show her parents', and the trials of eventually getting married and returning from honeymoon to find herself on night duty!

After having children and returning to London, she found herself involved in teaching, completed a teacher training course, and progressed to being Deputy Head, then after the head teacher had an accident involving a model railway and a loft, was promoted to Acting Head and got paid for it!

After retiring and moving to Draycott, she joined the WI and became an adviser. Her most treasured possession at that time was the Somerset Street Atlas, and she has thoroughly enjoyed travelling all over the county meeting people. We thoroughly enjoyed her talk, and the vote of thanks was given by Christine. The competition, for 'A snowy Christmas Card', produced an amazing number of cards; the winner was Diana.

Our speaker in March will be Ian Caskie, from the SS Great Britain Trust, who promises to be very interesting. The competition is for 'A paper boat'.

Also in March is the Coffee Morning, to be held in the Masonic Hall on Saturday 19. There will be a variety of stalls, including a tombola and a raffle, and good coffee and cake.

*Chris Barker*

## **Isle of Wedmore Society Report – January 2016**

Our 2016 season of talks opened with the ever popular Wedmore archivist Hazel Hudson, who was giving us her 20th talk – some record!

The talk, entitled 'Hidden Wedmore' was all about the artefacts that were hidden and have now been found and those that have been found but are now hidden. Hazel started by telling us that over the 10,000 acres in the Parish many digs were implemented and in 1893 the bones of two dinosaurs were found and they were named Avalona Santoro and Picodon Herver; they would have been about 9 metres in length. Other finds were a 7000 year-old new stone age axe, bronze age torques, a trackway near Blakeway Farm which was 4500 years old and various Roman pots found on a number of local farms.

Saxon pennies were found in 1853 and the best well known find was probably the Wedmore Saxon ring, dug up in a garden on Cheddar Road, dated about 500-600 AD. The local jeweller, Erica Sharpe has produced wonderful replicas. Mud walls from 1327 were found locally to stop flooding on the levels – nothing changed there then!!

More recently, the Rev Harvey (1876-1898) lived in one of the oldest houses in Wedmore namely The Old Vicarage situated in Church Street. St Mary's church

used to have a spire on the north-west corner of the present tower but it was later taken down.

Hazel mentioned that there are lots of interesting sites around Wedmore still to be excavated, so who knows what else lies hidden in and around the village? It is thought we had our largest ever number of people attending this meeting.

*Chris Edwards, Speakers Secretary*

## March Director's Blog – 'The Importance of Being Earnest'



Oh, the joy of working with youth! The sheer physical energy of our four delightful young romantic leads is quite exhilarating. Last week in rehearsal, I called them to the stage and one of the young men ran, at full stretch, the length of the hall floor and leapt to the stage in one bound, bypassing the available steps! Sometimes, just watching them can be exhausting.

Another phenomenon is the capacity to eat. There are two scenes involving the consumption – by Algernon – of large platters of cucumber sandwiches and muffins. All while delivering quick-fire dialogue, with no loss of vocal clarity! I decided we needed to have an early 'dry-run' of this, to establish the actor's (literal) capacity. I needn't have worried. Tristan Palmer appears to have hollow legs! He managed to polish off two huge platters of cucumber

sandwiches, whilst never once mumbling his lines or missing a timing beat in the scene. What a star! It's enough to give those of us with a more mature system severe indigestion, just thinking about it!

We also let them have a go at the dressing-up box, for a dry run with costumes. You can see some of them rehearsing in their finery here. For more rehearsal pics, check out our website.

I'm delighted that, for this production, Wedmore Theatre Club has decided once again to offer numbered seats, as there has been so much advance interest, especially

from groups of local people who want to be sure to get good seats all together. The Club Secretary, Jendy Weekes, who is also responsible for ticket sales, tells me that numbered tickets will be available via Priority Booking to WTC members from 15 February, and Open Booking via Wedmore Village Stores, or direct from Jendy on 01278 641370, from 7 March.



Performances are on Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Saturday 9 of April, at 7.30pm at Wedmore Village Hall.

(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**

In order to provide floral displays in the village, we have always relied on the sponsorship of local businesses, clubs, societies and local residents. With their help and with a small amount of fundraising through plant and bulb sales, plus an annual coffee morning, we have been able to cover our costs. However, with the ever rising price of plants, soil, fertiliser and now the occasional employment of help with some of the heavier jobs, we are asking for further support to maintain these floral displays.

The plants in the containers are renewed seasonally, twice a year, and in addition, we maintain a wildflower area in the churchyard. We have also planted a small copse of silver birch surrounding the Millenium Stone in the recreation grounds, along with various other projects, the latest being the grass and stone beds at the Borough Mall.

Wedmore in Bloom are asking for your support to help us maintain the work we do. Just £25 pays for the planting of one container and your sponsorship would be recognised by displaying your name on our notice board in Church Street. If

you would like to donate, or have any questions, please contact Barbara Horton, telephone 712402.

We are always hoping that more of you will come and join our work parties which are held on every second Saturday of the month. We meet up at The George at 9.30am and after about an hour and a half of work, which could mean clearing plants or planting them up, or just weeding and tidying, we meet up again for a coffee and a chat. If you are interested in joining these work parties and would like to know more, please contact Andrea West, telephone 712161.

*Andrea West*

## **Wedmore Twinning Association**

Our AGM took place on Sunday 7 February. We now look forward to this year's events which will involve fundraising and fun. This year we travel to France. We have been invited by our friends in St Medard to visit them in the week of 8 - 13 August 2016. There is still time for new members to accompany us. If you are interested then please do get in touch. St Medard is in the Bordeaux wine region and not too far from St. Emilion. We get there either by car or plane to Bordeaux airport.

The pressoir, near the doctors' surgery, which was a gift to the village to celebrate 25 years of twinning, will very shortly be refurbished thanks to grants from the Wedmore Real Ale Festival and the Parish Council. Our grateful thanks to them and to Jon Bethell who will be undertaking the refurbishment for us. For more information please contact Cameron Swales, telephone 713342.

*Cameron Swales*

## **Mendip Rotary Club**



*LEFT; Chris Steel, president of Mendip Rotary Club, presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Mandy Gardner at Farleigh House*

*RIGHT; Tim Westbrook, Lee Mears and Mandy Gardner from Bath Rugby Foundation with Chris Steel president of Mendip Rotary Club, holding a Bath Rugby European Cup shirt signed by the Squad, which was auctioned on the evening*

Mendip Rotary Club organised a curry, beer and rugby evening before Christmas which raised an impressive £1,000 in support of Bath Rugby Foundation. One hundred guests heard Mandy Gardner, general manager of Bath Rugby Foundation, outline the excellent work undertaken by the Foundation. They work in the local community to support vulnerable people, both young and old, using the values found in the game of rugby – camaraderie, loyalty, discipline and respect. Once attendees had enjoyed their curry, Lee Mears, the former Bath and England International hooker, and trustee of Bath Rugby Foundation, entertained the crowd with amusing insights into the life of a professional rugby international. He also shared his view of the recent Rugby World Cup.

Later, Chris Steel, president of Mendip Rotary Club, presented a cheque for £1,000 to Mandy Gardner at the Foundation’s office at Farleigh House and said: ‘The objective of the evening was to raise the awareness of the fantastic work that Bath Rugby Foundation does to help vulnerable members of our community, whilst enjoying a good night out, and I think all those attending would say Mandy and Lee fully meet this objective’.

*John Manders*

## **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. We will be closed for the Easter break from Friday 25 March to Sunday 9 April inclusive. (Last day of term Thursday 24 March, we reopen Mon 11 April).

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). To contact us telephone 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)**

On Thursday 3 March we welcome back auctioneer Richard Kay. His talk this time is ‘An Auctioneer’s Ten Commandments’. Richard is an excellent speaker and very willing to answer questions from the audience. Join us at Cheddar Village Hall at 2.15pm, entry £2. Visitors welcome.

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

On Thursday 17 March we have our Meet & Greet Coffee Morning at 10.30am - 12 noon at Cheddar Village Hall. U3A provides the opportunity to pursue interests or develop knowledge of particular subjects with like-minded people. Come along and have a chat and find out what we can offer. Telephone 744241 or visit [www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk) for more details.

*Roger Coe*

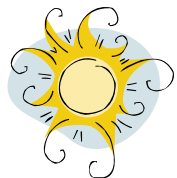
## Weather Report for January 2016

### RAIN FALL



Monthly Total	68.2mm	(2.69")
30 year average	72.6mm	(2.86")
Wettest day (9th)	9.6mm	(0.38")
No of dry days	12	
Last 3 months (Nov-Jan)	202mm	(7.9")
Year ending 31 Jan 2016	766mm	(30.1")
30 year annual average	797mm	(31.4")

### TEMPERATURES



Maximum (25th)	13.5 °C	(56.3 °F)
Minimum (20th)	-7 °C	(19.4 °F)
Number of air frosts	8	
Monthly average maximum	8.8 °C	(47.8 °F)
30 year average maximum	7.9 °C	(46.2 °F)
Monthly average minimum	2.7 °C	(36.9 °F)
30 year average minimum	2.4 °C	(36.3 °F)

**COMMENTS** Rainfall total just below the long term average. Temperatures continuing above average – little sign of winter.

NB: The 30-year averages have been rolled forward by one year and now cover the period 1986 -2015.

*Denley Brown*

## Forthcoming Events

### 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. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Fairtrade Coffee Morning – Saturday 5 March

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.

### **Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 11 and 25 March**

At the New Inn, Wedmore at 8.00pm. Open mic sessions. On March 11 we feature Marianne Mc Allen, an award-winning Irish singer. Come along, sing a song, play a tune, recite a poem. All welcome.

### **WI Meeting – Thursday 17 March**

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. We will hear about the SS Great Britain from Ian Caskie of the SS Great Britain Trust. Friends and visitors will be made very welcome. For more information please contact Chris Barker, 2 Dunns Close Wedmore BS28 4BL, telephone 712182, email [chris@cjbarker.plus.com](mailto:chris@cjbarker.plus.com).

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

In the Masonic Hall, from 10.30am - 12 noon. There will be freshly prepared coffee and cake, and a variety of stalls. Come and meet the ladies of the WI, entry £1.



### **Theale Film Club – Sunday 20 March**

The film is 'Burnt by the Sun'. 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 22 March**

At 7.30pm at the Masonic Hall we have a talk by John Addison on 'Arts and Craft Gardens'. Members and guests always welcome. Details from Carol Gibson on 01278 641345.

### **Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 23 March**

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall. This meeting is open to all residents of the parish and will be chaired by Glenys Cousins, Chair of the Parish Council. The Henry Butt trophy will be presented at this meeting and local young people will also receive funds from the Hervey Trust towards their educational projects.

### **Isle of Wedmore Society – Thursday 24 March**

The meeting will be in the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm when Roy Ackrill will talk about 'Elf and Safety – Fact or Myth'. This will be an illustrated talk about some of the major industrial disasters from 1974 to 1999. Members free, visitors, who will be most welcome, £3. Tea/coffee and biscuits

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

Presents 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at 7.30pm in Wedmore Village Hall. Numbered seats will be available.



## **Wedmore Methodist Church Spring Bazaar – Saturday 23 April**

A Spring Bazaar will be held in the Masonic Hall, Church Street, Wedmore on Saturday 23 April from 10.00 am until 12 noon. Various stalls will include, crafts, homemade cakes and preserves, tombola, bric-a-brac, books, toys, plants, raffle. Tea/ coffee and biscuits will be served. Sit around with your friends for a friendly chat. Everyone welcome. Anyone wishing to take a craft stall please contact either Gwen Fisher 712629 or Angeline Duckett 712631 for further details.

## **Theale Flower Show – The Queen’s 90th Birthday Tea Party - Saturday 23 April**

Theale Flower Show would like to invite you to a very special birthday party, celebrating the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at 3.00 pm at Theale Village Hall. There will be traditional afternoon tea, a quiz (one for adults and one for children), live piano accompaniment, as well as a children’s fancy dress parade, with prizes for the quiz winners and the best fancy dress.



Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for children. There will be a limited number of tickets so please apply promptly if you would like to be there! Telephone Sheila Badman, 712414 or Yvonne Hutchison, 712729 or find out more and book tickets online by 15 April at [www.thealeflowershow.com](http://www.thealeflowershow.com).

## **An Evening with the RNLI on Sunday 15 May**

At The Swan Hotel, Wedmore at 6.30pm. Mr. Alan Tyson, an RNLI volunteer, will be giving a talk / film about the history of the RNLI.

Tickets will be available from 1 April from the RNLI shop Burnham-on-Sea, Wedmore Paper Shop and The Swan Hotel.

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# **Events Taking Place Outside the Parish**

## **North Somerset Decorative and Fine Arts Society – Wednesday 2 March**

Join us for interesting lectures on the arts from recognised experts. Lectures are held at the 37 Club, between Woolavington and Puriton, on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings are at 2.15pm. This month we will be joined by Stephen Duffy talking about ‘The Founders and Treasures of the Wallace Collection’.

## **Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society – Wednesday 16 March**

At Cross Memorial Hall, BS26 2EL. Starting at 7.30pm. We will be joined by Fiona Torrens-Spence who will give a talk about ‘The Draining of Allerton Moor - The Power of Maps’



Detailed maps of the Manor of Chapel Allerton (1785) and of Weare Parish (1815) give us fascinating insights into the impact of the drainage of the Somerset 'wastes' on rural communities. This talk will focus on the forces driving wide-scale drainage of Somerset moors in the late eighteenth century and on how this was carried out on Allerton Moor. It will also examine the short and longer term changes the draining of the moors brought to the rural communities on the edge of Allerton Moor.

## **Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre – Friday 18 March**

'The Lady in the Van' is showing, starring Maggie Smith as the homeless woman who parks her van outside writer Alan Bennett's house.

Tickets 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.

## **Mark Community Association present The Schmoozenbergs – Saturday 19 March**



Mark Community Association, in conjunction with Take Art, is pleased to present the Schmoozenbergs commencing at 7.30 pm in Mark Village Hall. The Schmoozenbergs is a band of musicians with a passion for gypsy jazz and swing music, who would love to share the magic and energy of this music with you! They recreate the sound of Paris in the 1930s and 1940s; they bring irresistible rhythms and lyrical melodies, and their bouncy, happy music will put a smile on the faces of young and old alike.

Tickets costing £12.00 and £6.00 (under 16s) are available from Jendy Weekes on 01278 641370 and Mark Village Stores.

## **Brent Knoll Book Fair – Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 March 2016**

From 10.00am – 4.00pm each day, Brent Knoll Bazaar hosts a monthly book stall, which is always very popular with differing books on sale each month, so that our regular customers have an opportunity to find new works by their favourite authors or can be inspired by different writers or topics. Consequently, there is a store of books. Recently we have had a considerable number of good books given to us, so we are holding a Book Fair, when all our books will be on display. Please come along to find something to interest you.

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## **Polly's Kitchen**

Easter is early this year and I wonder what the weather will be doing... 9 years ago, as I was awaiting the arrival of my son, it was boiling hot and I went into hospital with a suntan! But this isn't a weather column, so back on track Polly! We recently had a very casual supper party and I slow roasted a leg of lamb for about 5 hours. It was so simple and utterly delicious, served with the vegetables that I threw in half way through the cooking process and some couscous. It would make an extremely easy Easter lunch.



You can prepare the veg in advance and pop it in a food bag in the fridge. If you can marinate the lamb for 12 hours before you cook it, then it will be even tastier.

## Spiced Leg of Lamb (Serves 6)

### Ingredients

1 leg of lamb

For the rub:

1 tablespoon ground cumin

1 tablespoon ground coriander

1 tablespoon hot, smoked paprika

1 large clove of garlic, crushed

Juice of 1 lemon

4 tablespoons olive oil

Freshly milled black pepper and sea salt to season.

For the veg:

1 aubergine, diced

1 small butternut squash, peeled and roughly chopped

1 head of fennel, roughly sliced

4 carrots, peeled and roughly chopped

4 red onions, peeled with stalk still in place and cut into 6

Handful of chopped, fresh rosemary

Good glug of olive oil

Salt and pepper to season.

A large handful of fresh, chopped coriander.

### Method

Begin by mixing all the marinade ingredients together in a small bowl. Trim any excess fat off the lamb and slash the meat, about 1/2 inch on both sides. Then, with your hands, massage the spice paste into the meat, pop in a food bag, seal and refrigerate for 12 hours. Be sure to remove the meat from the fridge at least 30 minutes before cooking, to allow it to warm up a bit.

Heat the oven to 130 degrees c.

Prepare the vegetables, pop them all in a large food bag or bowl, along with the seasoning and olive oil, and mix together well. Pop in the fridge, until you need them.

Place the lamb in a large roasting tin, big enough to get the veg in later, and cover securely with tin foil, tucking the edges around the roasting tin, so you have a tight seal. You want the lamb to slow roast and not dry out. Cook like this for 3 hours. I added a little water to keep it moist. After 3 hours, turn the heat up to about 145 degrees c, add the veg around the meat, maybe add a little more water if needed, recover and cook for a further 2 hours, until they are tender, stirring every so often for even cooking.

When ready, serve on a large plate, the lamb in the middle, surrounded by the veg. The lamb will be so tender that you will merely have to pull it apart with a couple of forks. Any juices in the pan can then be poured over the meat and a sprinkling of fresh, chopped coriander is the perfect finishing touch.

Serve it with a big bowl of couscous or basmati rice.

## Hot Cross Bun Bread and Butter Style Pudding

An easy pudding to follow this would be a hot cross bun bread and butter style affair.

### Ingredients

For 6 you will need:

6 hot cross buns, cut in half, lightly buttered and then spread with marmalade.

A rectangular, oven proof dish, big enough to fit the buns in and around 3 inches deep.

1 pint of double cream

4 heaped tablespoons of caster sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3 free range eggs

Butter for greasing the dish

Double cream or crème fraiche to serve with it and then a lie down!

### Method

Heat the oven to 170 degrees c.

Pour the cream into a mixing bowl, add the eggs and sugar and vanilla. Whisk together.

Lightly butter the dish and place the buttered and marmalade topped hot cross buns in it and then pour over the custard mix, ensuring the buns get a good, even coating and are lapping all the liquid up. Sprinkle over a little demerara sugar and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until golden brown. Let it cool for 10 minutes before serving with some cream or crème fraiche....not a great one for the slimmers!

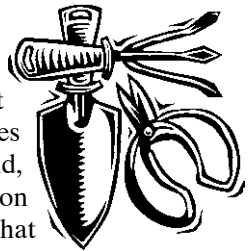
*Polly Costello*

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## The Garden in March

I am writing this on 31 January and so far we have had very little winter to speak of. A couple of weeks ago, the weather forecast suggested that winter had come at last and that the temperatures we had been experiencing were going to plummet; well they did, but here in Theale that meant it dropped down to about -6.0 °C on one morning and then steadily rose again back to pretty much what it had been before. It may be that February will be colder. When I was young (many years ago), the first couple of weeks of February were often the coldest of the winter and most likely to bring snow, so we shall see; by the time you read this it will be March.

I have always thought of March as the beginning of the serious gardening season, which should keep us all busy for the next eight months or so. Most of us will have had bulbs coming into flower ever since Christmas, certainly snowdrops, daffodils and some crocuses have already been in flower for a while and cyclamen coum are beginning to show some colour. However, March is really daffodil month and it is little wonder that the daffodil is the flower normally associated with St. David's day



on 1 March. I suppose there are Welsh patriots who prefer a leek, but most people would prefer not to have one under their nose all day.

When bulbs are at the peak of flowering it is a good time to decide whether they need adding to or thinning out. If daffodils become too crowded this can lead to decreased flowering, although this doesn't seem to happen with wild ones. You can split clumps up when they have died back in May and replant healthy bulbs at the correct depth (the rule of thumb is, twice as much depth of soil over the bulb as the diameter of the bulb). If you do err, make it on the deep side rather than too shallow, which can also lead to decreased flowering. To add to daffodils in the garden, it is often worth planting some new ones in pots and then planting them out at flowering time, when you can see the gaps in the established ones. This can also give the opportunity to plant more of a variety in a given area. I have a preference for species narcissi or the smaller hybrid varieties rather than big blousy ones like 'King Alfred'. There is a huge range of these available from proper bulb catalogues and good garden centres, so have a look at spreading the flowering time by choosing something other than the ubiquitous 'Tete a Tete'. Daffodils, large or small, will do better if you leave the foliage to die off naturally and don't cut it off while still green. However, nipping off seed pods will encourage the plants to put their energy into forming new bulbs, rather than seeds.

You can still plant lilies and gladioli for this year; the latter of course are mainly not frost hardy, so keep an eye on the weather. Try planting gladiolus callianthus, frequently sold under the defunct name of acidanthera murielae. They are beautifully scented when in flower, particularly in the evening, so put them somewhere where you can benefit from this. They do need to go in as early as possible if they are to flower before frost in the autumn.

You should now be sowing seeds of greenhouse vegetables. Aubergines and capsicums need a long season if they are to produce a good crop, so get them in, in the house or greenhouse, before tomatoes which can be sown a little later. Tomatoes are usually self-fertile i.e. pollinated by other flowers from their neighbours, so the seed of many that you buy will come true to type (except for F1 and F2 varieties). If you like the ones you buy from your greengrocer, try planting the seeds of those (remove the gelatinous coating on tissue to make them easier to handle).

Bear in mind that, with all of these fruits, the plants can be damaged by night frosts early in the year, even in the greenhouse, so if you don't have a thermostatically controlled heater, keep an eye on the temperature.

Fruit pruning should have been completed by now (before bud-burst). If you have moved any shrubs, roses or even trees during the back-end of the winter, make sure that the ground around them is firm, in case the March winds rock them and loosen the roots. If you are planting new roses, think about pruning them before planting, rather than disturbing shortly after planting. It is now the end of the season for planting bare rooted trees and shrubs including hedging plants.

Flowering shrubs in bud and early flowerers like camellias will need protection from sudden drops in temperature. Camellias can be particularly susceptible to damage to their flowers by early morning sunshine following frost, so if they are in a vulnerable spot, cover them with fleece if possible.

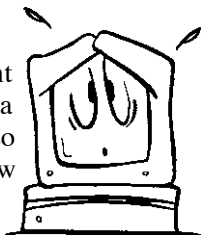
It is quite likely that your lawn will need an early cut if the mild weather persists, but don't scalp it, as a cold night afterwards will scorch it. If you have workable soil, think about getting on with successional sowings of vegetables, but don't be over eager, as frosts shortly after germination may kill them or cause them to bolt. Well as usual, I have gone on too long, so we'll have to look at seed sowing in more detail next month.

*Adrian Hutchison*

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## Thought for the Month

Soon after it was launched, I upgraded to Windows 10, and bought some new word software at the same time. Having been using a different processing programme, it was a lot to learn all at once, so I didn't know if my struggles were due to the upgrade or the new programme.



It also became apparent that a number of people, much more techy than I, were experiencing problems with Windows 10. I was fortunate there and over time have got used to it, but I really should have watched the demo because what I realise now is that it can do pretty much anything. If only one can figure out how!

And it made me think. We too can do pretty much anything and while we can work a lot out for ourselves, life would be so much easier for everyone, if only we were to watch the demo and keep searching and exploring the maker's instructions.

Jesus came to demonstrate and teach us how to have life in all its fullness, so as we move through this season of Lent you might use this time to explore who Jesus is; why, as an innocent man he chose the way of the cross and how that is a demonstration of his love for you. In so doing, I pray that you meet with the risen Christ on Easter day, because he does not faff about with upgrade, he will completely transform your life and give you a joy and a peace you cannot otherwise imagine.

May God bless you and reveal himself to you this coming Easter.

*Carol Chaplin*

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## Sport Reports

### Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

*There was a roaring in the wind all night and the rain came heavily and fell in floods*  
Wordsworth got the weather forecast spot on for January which meant even the well-drained greens and fairways at Wedmore Golf Club struggled to stay playable. All of which was a disappointment for the new captains setting out on their year of office. The last of these to take office was Club Captain Tony Ribi who took over at the AGM in December. As outgoing Captain, Mike Garbutt was able to look back over

a successful year, culminating in the handing over of a cheque for £7,350 to the Captains' chosen charity, The Frenchay After Burns Unit. Tony Ribi announced the new charities for 2016 as GOSH and the Motor Neurone Disease Association, introduced by volunteer John Wellington. All charities then got off to a good start at the traditional Captains Drive-in, following some unusually good if not entirely straight drives from all three Captains.



*The 2016 Captains: Toni Ribbi, Sue Tarry and Mike Tanswell*

The weather was still unexpectedly dry as Father Christmas made an early appearance for the Christmas Bowmaker. The best behaved team obviously was Ann Adams, Pauline Warner and Audrey Cowlin who gained 44 points and first prize.



*Winners of Christmas Bowmaker: Pauline Warner, Ann Adams and Audrey Cowlin*

This was 5 points better than the runners-up Deidre Wheadon, Maggs Willetts and Heather Wilcox who pushed Jane Midgley, Liz Sims and Marie Mackle into third place on countback. Chris Simpson, Glenda Donald and Alison Crick were fourth with 37 points. Prizes were presented at the party in the evening when Christmas puddings from the previous week's competition were also distributed. Top three prizes in bronze division went to Judy Cutter (first), Gill Jones and Jan Jenkins. The first three places in silver division were filled by Shirley Gooding, Cathy Olive and Liz Hill.

The December medal saw divisional wins for Jim Dobbs beating James Vowles on countback, Chris Norris who had best score of the day with 65 and Dale Worthington. The Stableford saw Nigel Jones winning division 1 with a one under par gross 69 for 43 points. These points were matched by Trevor Denny winning division 2 with 43 points whilst Brian Fry won division 3 with 40 on countback from Paul Stevenson and Frank Denniston.

The January Medal went to Geoff Fisher who must have kept out of the mud to score nett 63 in division 1, with Ben Barwell only second despite being level par gross. Derek Moody took division 2 with 69 and David Bedford stormed through division 3 to win by 5 shots. For the January Stableford there was wind as well as rain and the weather forecast alone was enough to put a lot of players off. Congratulations then to Simon Moore and Tom Smith, the only players to beat par coming first and second in division 1. There were good performances as well from John Sims and Steve Smith who scored 36 points to come first and second in division 2 and Daniel Milford and Pete Beavan who matched this in division 3.

The Seniors December Medal incorporated the 'Master Putter' trophy for fewest putts taken. This went to Tony Glover who took 25 putts. In the Medal itself, there was a very tight finish in division 1 with four players on 66. Countback gave first place to Martin Peakman with John Russell second, Tony Biggs third and Chris Norris fourth. Keith Thomas was clear winner of division 2 with Francis Rabbitts also a clear cut winner of division 3 on 66. The Seniors January Medal was lost to the storms but they did manage a Stableford, albeit teeing up through the green which possibly helped Terry Simpson to a remarkable 47 points to win division 2. Ellis Nearn won division 1 with 43 and Alasdair McDonald won division 3 with 40 points.

Spring surely must be just around the corner and all our winter woes will be forgotten as the ball bounds down dry, firm fairways.

*Tony Biggs*



### **Wedmore Bowls Club**

Wedmore club Treasurer and founder member Maureen Hordle, pictured left, has won many titles in the club over the years and distinguished herself this year in the County competition for the champion of champions. Maureen reached the final having overcome some stiff opposition. 'I didn't realise it was the final until the umpire told me on arrival. I played well but was beaten by a national level player. I was pleased to be there.'

*Bob Dearden*

# Wedmore Tennis Club



## Winter League

Further to wins against Clevedon A and Minehead A this month, Wedmore A are proving to be the strongest team in the league and require only five more points to win division one.

The B team, in division two, have continued to amass valuable points with one close loss and a resounding win this month. They require only six more points this season to guarantee promotion to division one.

Away against Backwell, Tony Pearman and Baz Attiwell lost in straight sets while the ladies, Clare and Nicky, won their opening match in three sets. Baz and Nicky then lost their mixed match in straight sets; Tony and Clare's three set win earned Wedmore four points overall against Backwell's eight.

In their second match, at home against Cheddar A in cold drizzle, Tony and Baz fought a tough three-set match to win 6.4, 4.6, 6.2. The ladies, Nicky Attwood and Olivia Evans, played some very long rallies and well-constructed points to win 6.3, 6.1. Both mixed teams then outplayed their opponents to win both matches in straight sets and achieve a very praiseworthy 10 1 win.

The C team's first match of the year was against Wells A at home. Playing in persistent, cold drizzle, Mark, assisted by A team regular Matt, overpowered the Wells men with a 6.0, 6.3 win. The ladies, Susan Cunningham and Liz Randall, determinedly won a hard fought three-set match 4.6, 6.4, 6.4 to avenge the reverse rubber at Wells last year. Both teams then went on to comfortably win their mixed matches in straight sets.

In their second match, under overcast skies, the C team produced another heroic home performance in their battle to avoid relegation. Captain Tess led the team by convincingly winning the ladies match with Shirley, 6.2, 6.1. Meanwhile Matt and Steve battled through three sets before winning 6.4, 5.7, 7.5. In the mixed matches, Matt and Tess won 6.4, 6.1, while Steve and Shirley had a tougher job, pushed to winning a tie break in the third set 6.4, 1.6, 7.6. Well done to all the team, especially Steve who had to play six sets on his comeback from injury. The overall result a 10 2 win.

With the D team heading Division 5 and having lost 4 7 away to Woodlands last year, their first match of the year was keenly anticipated. Wedmore ladies, Jo Attiwell and Sandra Evans, played an excellent rubber to win in two sets leaving the men, David Evans and John Gould, to battle through three sets. Having lost the first set David and John easily won the second. Unfortunately, the Woodlands men revived and won the third set to leave the match well balanced at half time.

In the mixed rubbers, husband and wife David and Sandra, came up against a mother and son combination from Woodlands who proved too strong and won after two hard-fought sets. John and Jo eventually won the first set of their match after a keenly fought tie-break. The second set proved a little easier; Jo and John won to take the rubber and reverse the overall result of the previous encounter.

In their second match the D team travelled north to take on Backwell in the wind and rain on their freshly painted hard courts. Jenny Fitzpatrick, returning after a long lay-off following injury, and Charlotte Wright adapted well to the conditions and



managed to win the ladies doubles in three sets. Unfortunately David Bennett and John Gould quickly crashed to a two sets defeat. In the mixed doubles Charlotte and David managed to win a close first set on a tie-break but lost the next two despite a close run third set. Jenny and John seemed to on course to win in two sets but let the second set slip and were 0.3 down in the third before they fought back to win the rubber. A win for Backwell by eight points to five.

For their first match of the year, the veterans A team welcomed the 2014/15 champions Bridgwater A to the club. Wedmore's Tess Hodgson and Shirley Turner took on the formidable pairing of Vicky Flicker and Jean Russell and, despite battling hard, were beaten 6.2, 6.1. Mark Jackson and John Gould played Alistair Graham and Bob Kippen and, after two tough sets, managed to win 6.4, 6.3 leaving Bridgwater ahead in games.

In the mixed matches, Mark and Tess battled from being a set and 4.1 down to seizing victory against Vicky and Bob in a third set championship tie-break. Meanwhile, John and Shirley won a close first set against Jean and Alistair 6.4 and came back twice in the second set only to lose that 6.4. The championship tie break was lost leaving the match all square, but Bridgwater were awarded the additional two points due to a five-game margin.

### Clubmark Accreditation



David Bennett (left), the Chairman of Wedmore Tennis Club, being presented with the Lawn Tennis Association's Clubmark Accreditation plaque by David Pottow, former Club Director of Tennis.

Chairman, David Bennett was presented with the Lawn Tennis Association's Clubmark Accreditation plaque by David Pottow, former Club Director of Tennis, prior to the most recent committee meeting at the clubhouse. This Accreditation is a measure of high standards of management within a club and was achieved through the combined efforts of David Evans, David Pottow, and Nina Hopestone-Bell. Well done to all concerned.

### **Clare Allen**

Members were greatly saddened to hear that Clare passed away recently. Clare was a keen, long standing member of the club. She represented Wedmore for a number of years in the summer league, enjoyed club tennis sessions, especially on Saturdays, and played for many years in regular fours. On court she could be relied upon for her steadiness and consistency, and her support as a doubles partner. Noted also for her good sense of humour, kindness and interesting breadth of knowledge, she was a dear friend to many at the club and will be sorely missed.

*Sarah Cunningham*

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## **Church News**

### **Mothering Sunday**

All are welcome to our churches on Sunday 6 March for special services to mark Mothering Sunday. All services then will be non-communion services with the opportunity for involving all ages. Posies will be given to mothers.

### **Lent Lunches**

During Lent a number of people from St Mary's are holding a series of 'Lent Lunches' to raise money for specific charities. They offer a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese etc. in return for donations.

All are welcome and booking is not essential, but if you are able to let the people concerned know in advance that you are coming, this will help with catering.

### **Thursday 3 March**

Lady Chapel, St Mary's Church – Gill Litherland, telephone 712592, Romey Williams, telephone 712344. In aid of Christian Aid.

### **Monday 7 March**

The Vicarage, Manor Lane - The Revd Richard Neill, telephone 713566. In aid of the Hope Christian Trust.

### **Wednesday 16 March**

Purlieu House, Sand Road – Tom and Jane Wright, telephone 713494. In aid of Excellent Development – a charity building sand dams in drylands of the world.

All lent lunches take place between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm. You can turn up at any time between these hours.

*Gill Litherland*

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Easter falls in March this year on Sunday 27 March, almost as early as it can be. Here is a list of the special church services we will be holding in the week leading up to Easter, known as Holy Week.

### **Sunday 20 March**

Palm Sunday; when we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem to the acclaim of the crowds. Procession starts from Wedmore First School Academy at 10.00am with a special Communion Service in St Mary's at 10.30am.

### **Monday 21 March**

We join together with others from across the Cheddar Valley for a special service in Cheddar Roman Catholic Church at 7.00pm. Ministers from different churches and different church traditions each lead a short reflection on one of the Stations of the Cross; an imaginative and reflective way of entering into Jesus' suffering and death.

### **Tuesday 22 March**

Night Prayer at St Mary's at 8.00pm. A short reflective service with a sermon to end the day.

### **Wednesday 23 March**

Night Prayer at Holy Trinity at 8.00pm. A short reflective service with a sermon to end the day.

### **Thursday 24 March**

Bring and Share Supper and informal Communion at Theale Village Hall at 6.00pm. Suitable for all ages, this is an opportunity to remember the Last Supper of Jesus and his Disciples.

### **Friday 25 March**

Good Friday when we remember Jesus' death on the cross. Stations of the Cross for children at St Mary's at 10.00am. An interactive journey around St Mary's tracing events of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. This will be followed by making hot cross buns and creating an Easter garden.

At 10.00am some members of Christchurch walk up the hill to Bagley Baptist Church for a service there at 10.30am remembering Jesus' death.

An Hour of the Cross at Allerton Church at 2.00 pm. Readings, hymns and reflections to mark the last hour of Jesus' life.

### **Saturday 26 March**

Holy Saturday when we remember Jesus lying in the tomb and prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter Sunday.

Easter Vigil at Holy Trinity at 8.30pm. We listen to important bible readings, sit in silence and wait before lighting lots of candles and proclaiming with joy Jesus' resurrection.

## Sunday 27 March

Easter Sunday, the most important day in the church's year when we give thanks for Jesus' resurrection. The day begins with a sunrise service at Bagley Community Orchard. We begin at 6.45am, let off party poppers, helium balloons and sing joyful hymns. Bacon rolls and coffee are then served at Bagley Baptist Church.

8.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's.

Special Easter Sunday Communion Services at all our churches which will be full of joy and colour. Easter egg hunts for the children follow these.

9.00am at Allerton Church and Holy Trinity, Blackford

10.30am at St Mary's, Wedmore

11.00am at Christchurch, Theale

## 'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Wednesday 23 March, 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

Margaret Armstrong (formerly of The Wells Nursing Home) who died on 26 December 2015 aged 94 and whose funeral took place at Mendip Crematorium on Friday 8 January 2016.

Joan Maude (formerly of Mark) who died on 28 December 2015 aged 87 and whose funeral took place at Holy Trinity, Blackford on Tuesday 12 January 2016.

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# Church Services

## St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Sunday	6	Mothering Sunday	10.30 am	Family Service
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	13	Lent 5	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	20	Palm Sunday	10.00 am	Palm Sunday Procession
			10.30 am	Benefice Communion
Tuesday	22		8.00 pm	Compline & Address
Friday	25	Good Friday	10.00 am	Stations of the Cross for Children

Sunday	27	Easter Sunday	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Parish Communion

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

### **Holy Trinity Church**

Sunday	6	Mothering Sunday	9.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday	13	Lent 5	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast at the Village Hall
Sunday	20	Palm Sunday		No Service
Wednesday	23		8.00 pm	Compline & Address
Saturday	26	Holy Saturday	8.30 pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday	27	Easter Sunday	9.00 am	Parish Communion

### **Christchurch, Theale**

Sunday	6	Mothering Sunday	11.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	13	Lent 5	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	20	Palm Sunday		No Service
Thursday	24	Maundy Thursday	6.00 pm	Bring & Share Supper & Communion
Friday	25	Good Friday	10.00 am	Walk from CC to Bagley Baptist
Sunday	27	Easter Sunday	11.00 am	Parish Communion

### **Allerton Church**

Sunday	6	Mothering Sunday	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	13	Lent 5	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	20	Palm Sunday		No Service
Friday	25	Good Friday	2.00 pm	An Hour of the Cross
Sunday	27	Easter Sunday	9.00 am	Parish Communion

*Revd 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	6	10.30am	Ken Young	
Sunday	13	10.30am	Liz Rankin	
Sunday	20	10.30am	Lois Emm	
Sunday	27	10.30am	Revd Rob Shannon	Family and Communion Service

## 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 & 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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# 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.

# Somerset Waste Partnership, March Collections



<b>Wednesday</b>	2	Recycling and green garden waste
<b>Wednesday</b>	9	Recycling and refuse
<b>Wednesday</b>	16	Recycling and green garden waste
<b>Wednesday</b>	23	Recycling and refuse
<b>Thursday</b>	31	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



# What's On in the Parish

# March 2016

1 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
2 - Wed	<b>Camelot Quilters'</b>	10.00am	Wedmore VH
4 - Fri	<b>Wedmore Arts Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall
	<b>Womens' World Day of Prayer</b>	7.30pm	Allerton Church Chapel Allerton
5 - Sat	<b>Fairtrade Coffee Morning</b>	9.30am	St Mary's Church
6 - Sun	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>		
9 - Wed	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
	<b>Blackford Cafe</b>	2.00pm	Blackford VH
11 - Fri	<b>Wedmore Arts Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall
	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic + Marianne McAllen</b>	8.00pm	The New Inn
12 - Sat	<b>Wedmore in Bloom</b>	12.30pm	The George
13 - Sun	<b>Holy Trinity Breakfast</b>	8.30am	Blackford VH
15 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
16 - Wed	<b>Camelot Quilters'</b>	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	<b>Club 50</b>	2.30pm	Masonic Hall
17 - Thurs	<b>WI Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
18 - Fri	<b>Wedmore Arts Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall
19 - Sat	<b>Wedmore WI Coffee Morning</b>	10.30am	Masonic Hall
20 - Sun	<b>Theale Community Cafe</b>	10.00am	Theale VH
	<b>Theale Film Club</b>	6.30pm	Theale VH
22 - Tues	<b>IOW Gardening Club Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
23 - Wed	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
	<b>Wedmore Parish Council Meeting</b>	7.00pm	Council Rooms Grant's Lane
24 - Thurs	<b>Isle of Wedmore Society</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
25 - Fri	<b>Good Friday</b>		
	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic</b>	8.00pm	The New Inn
27 - Sun	<b>Holy Sunday</b>		
	<b>Daylight Saving – Clocks go forward</b>		
28 - Mon	<b>Easter Monday</b>		
29 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George

## 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

### THURSDAY

<b>Wedmore &amp; Blackford Toddlers</b>	9.30am	Blackford VH +	Gareth Smith	01934 710471
<b>Yoga +</b>	10.30am	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 +	Jo Page	01934 710431
<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