

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



May 2016
No. 437

Editorial

May in Wedmore - as ever, it will be a busy month. If you have a head for heights there are tours up the newly-restored church tower, and with the recent 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare, our annual visit from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre students brings us 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to enjoy. There is the usual round of fundraisers to choose from and lots of choral concerts in the surrounding area. We are well supplied with sporting activities and the Bowls Club offers you the chance to try the game out. If you want to volunteer or sponsor local events your input and support will be very much appreciated. So, all in all, Wedmore offers us plenty to keep us busy.

Just to remind you all that Wedmore News is compiled with all the news and articles that you the parishioners provide. The editorial team welcomes your contributions. If you are part of a voluntary group or hold a role of local interest and would like to be featured in 'A Day in the Life' then please email me, Sue James at editorwedmorenews@gmail.com. If you would like to be included in our business focus feature please contact Liz Sweeney or myself at photoswedmorenews@gmail.com or editorwedmorenews@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sue James

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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. 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

The photo, taken by Mike Lang, Burnham-on-Sea Lifeboats Press Officer, is of the D class Puffin lifeboat on exercise. A fund-raising event to replace the lifeboat will take place in 'The Swan' on Sunday 15 May at 6.30pm. Take a look at 'News' and 'What's On' sections for further details.

News

Parish Council Business

The Annual Parish Assembly was held at the end of March and was attended by 26 electors. This is not a Parish Council meeting but is a legal requirement for each parish to hold a meeting once a year. It is normally chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council. This year, as well as the presentation of the Henry Butt Trophy to Elizabeth and Bernard Coulter, the Chair of the Council, Glenys Cousins, gave a report on the workings of all six committees of the Parish Council. The busiest committee by far is the Planning Committee which considers and comments on over 100 planning applications each year, which is more than any other village in Sedgemoor district. Cllr Miss Venna Arnold from Ashcott Parish Council gave a most interesting talk on Neighbourhood Plans. This is something currently being worked on by the Parish Council and will have an effect on planning matters, local business requirements, housing, transport, recreation and many other matters affecting Wedmore. Cllr Arnold stressed that it was not a quick procedure (nor a cheap one) but would require the full involvement of the parish if it was to be successful. She was thanked for her presentation by Cllr Nick Avery.

*Rod Pring
Wedmore Parish Council, Grants Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4EA
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Your Hall Needs You!!

Question - What do shuttlecocks, pints of ale, grease-paint, wedding cakes, breathing exercises, badges and bouncy castles have in common?

Answer - Wedmore Village Hall!

Over the years Wedmore Village Hall has been the venue of choice for a wide variety of local clubs, events and entertainments including the Badminton Club, the Real Ale Festival, Theatre Club performances, wedding celebrations, ante-natal classes, the Brownie and Guide Packs, and children's parties; plus many, many more.

The hall is a very popular and well-used community facility – and the job of running it and keeping it open and available to all falls to the volunteers who form its Management Committee. That committee is now in need of some fresh faces. Both the Chairman and the Secretary of the committee will be standing down later this year and replacements for both posts are now being sought.

Chairman David Summers-Cooke has done the job for 10 years and helped steer the hall through a major programme of renovation and upgrading work. He has also been instrumental in the hall garnering its prestigious ‘Hallmark’ status in recognition of its first-class facilities and operating standards.

He said: ‘We are very lucky in Wedmore to have such a fantastic community building. I am very proud to be able to pass on the baton of chairperson at a time when the hall is structurally and financially sound. I have very much enjoyed my decade at the helm but I feel the time has now come for a fresh mind to apply a different perspective.’

Although the hall AGM does not take place until the Autumn, the committee feels it is a good idea to give the community good notice of the fact that a new Chairman and Secretary are needed.

Hall Secretary Gail Colthurst, who is standing down after more than three years in the post, explained: ‘The Village Hall is an iconic and integral part of Wedmore life, but the hall doesn’t just run itself. To ensure its continuity and survival we do need new office-bearers and hopefully there will be community-minded people out there who will be able to offer their support. By flagging this situation up now, a few months before the AGM, we hope it will alert the community to the fact that if the hall is to survive and thrive then we do need new people to come forward.’

Keeping the hall running is not that complicated. The management committee meets roughly every two months and meetings generally last no longer than 90 minutes. The committee deals with issues related to the day-to-day running of the hall, such as funding and prioritising hall maintenance projects. Bookings are dealt with separately by the Bookings Secretaries who, in turn, report to the committee. The hall currently enjoys a healthy financial outlook.

Anyone who would like to know more about taking up the post of either Chairperson or Secretary is welcome to contact either David Summers-Cooke, 713577 or Gail Colthurst, 713215 for further information - or email dsummerscooke@gmail.com or dick.colthurst@btinternet.com.

Alternatively, why not come along to our next meeting, which will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday, May 5 at 7.30pm, and see the committee in action?

So please, if you have ever hired the hall yourself, or attended an event there, do consider being a part of our ‘Love the Hall’ campaign. Remember, without office-bearers and a committee it cannot function.

Gail Colthurst

Theale Flower Show Class Sponsorship

Theale Flower Show is an annual event held on the first Saturday in September. It is a family event that combines fun and light-hearted competition with a dog show and entertainment to suit everyone and all budgets.

The show has been running for over 70 years and is one of a diminishing number of small, local shows. It incorporates its resources



with those of the Village Hall and Christchurch, Theale and runs successfully due to the generosity of local landowners and by the efforts of a small committee with friends and supporters from, surprisingly, far afield!

There are over 150 classes to be entered from the under-fives to adults, including preserves and baking, flower arranging, arts and crafts, photography, wine, beer and cider making, as well as flowers, fruit and vegetables - and dogs. Class entry is very reasonably priced at 40p, even less for children, it's free! Entry to the Show Field is £2 for over 16s.

Now let's be honest, the prize monies are not astronomical, we've yet to hear of anyone being able to retire early or buy a new yacht with their winnings! However, unless the entries in each class are high, the cost of prize money is a drain on the Flower Show.

Which brings me to my point. Approximately 40% of classes last year were sponsored either with money, tokens or gifts donated by local business, for which the committee is hugely grateful. But we could do better. A fiver is sufficient to sponsor a class (we recognise that gifts and tokens are invariably worth more than that) and we do give a receipt.

Our aim has always been to promote our sponsors by advertising and in 2016 this will be enhanced by printing the name of the sponsor alongside the class in the schedule as well as on the prize card. Sponsors may opt to choose the classes they wish to sponsor or let us choose. If we can have a "promise" of sponsorship before the schedule is due to be printed (late-May) then the schedule will show your name. The Flower Show is promoted on posters and in over 500 schedules at Wedmore Street Fair, in local shops and on notice boards.

If you would like to sponsor a class or classes, please contact the Sponsorship Secretaries, Janet & Nick Avery, by telephone 712809 or by e-mail jmagodwin@icloud.com or nickavery@btinternet.com.

Nick Avery

A Growing Need for Support?

Agriculture is facing numerous challenges, including low and volatile prices, bTB restrictions, late BPS payments, difficult weather conditions and insecurity caused by uncertainty about the future. Here in the South West farming plays an important role in the local economy and the actions of farmers help shape the landscape and the environmental value of the region.



The Farming Community Network in Somerset (FCN) has been walking alongside farming families since 1995 as they experience crises like BSE, foot and mouth, swine fever and flooding, but it is also here to help farmers with day-to-day concerns.

Farming is a unique way of life, because everything is tied up on the farm, your livelihood, daily work and routine, identity, lifestyle and family relationships. The

workplace is also your home, which means it is difficult to escape from work and all the problems occurring. Family relationships can be strained, especially when there are financial or health problems, and this will have a huge effect on the mental well-being of the whole family.

FCN in Somerset is part of a national charity with 33 other county groups. Here we started with just two volunteers but now we are blessed with 35 volunteers, all with a farming background and with many different and varied skills. Because of the wealth of experience we are able to cover many different issues such as mental and physical health, succession and retirement, issues with the Rural Payments Agency and BCMS and bereavement. All our volunteers have pastoral and listening skills and are there to give time to people feeling isolated, lonely and worried. We are also able to help practically by mediating with bank managers, credit controllers or government agencies.

At the moment, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall are taking 67% of the national calls. The first three months of 2016 have been particularly busy as many farmers did not receive their Basic Farm Payment early enough, bTB restrictions have been hitting really hard and the drop in milk and other farm prices is causing huge financial difficulties. Our volunteers are always ready to visit farms or talk on the phone. It is always hard to admit you have a problem. Farmers always have been, and always will be, very independent and resilient, but it can be reassuring to sit down with someone who understands the problems you are facing and share your concerns in confidence and without judgment.

If you would like to find out more about the Farming Community Network, please ring us: National Helpline 03000 111 999; Somerset Helpline 01934 712128. We are now also on Twitter @FCN Somerset and Facebook Somerset FCN.

Website www.fcn.org.uk.

We are available to anyone in the farming community; we listen to your concerns whatever they may be and we respond confidentially and quickly to requests for help or information. Our volunteers are ready to help wherever they can. We will support you as you seek to resolve problems – for as long as it takes.

Suzie Wilkinson

Cheddar Library New Opening Hours

Monday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm

The library will no longer close for lunch!!!

*Amanda Kelly,
Library & Information Assistant,
Cheddar Library*

RNLI Fundraiser at 'The Swan' Wedmore

Burnham on Sea RNLI station needs to replace the D class inflatable boat at a cost of £48,000. RNLI life-saving activities are only possible because of voluntary contributions. So, on Sunday 15 May, as part of our fund-raising activities, we invite you to join us at The Swan, Wedmore for an informal and informative evening. The evening commences at 6.30pm with a talk by Alan Tyson and a film about the work of the RNLI. Crew members from Burnham RNLI will be in attendance. You will also be able to enjoy delicious pork baps, spicy slaw and potato salad and wine. The evening will finish with an auction with a number of exciting lots to bid for. Tickets are £15 each, available from the Swan, telephone 710337, email info@theswanwedmore.com, from the RNLI shop Burnham-on-Sea or the Wedmore Village Store. We hope that you can join us.

David Ewens

Special Events in the Avalon Marshes 4-5 June



AVALON MARSHES

On Saturday 4 June Strode Theatre in Street will be hosting this celebration of the Avalon Marshes - Landscape, Heritage & Wildlife. It will be a day of talks, films and presentations by experts including local wildlife writer and broadcaster Stephen Moss, wetland archaeologist Dr Richard Brunning, archaeologist to Glastonbury Abbey John Allan, and wildlife expert and broadcaster Chris Sperring MBE.

The event will include the screening of the BBC film of Sir John Betjeman travelling through the Avalon Marshes on the much loved Somerset & Dorset Railway in the 1960s. This evocative film takes us back to an unhurried age of travel through a unique landscape.



Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from Strode Theatre at www.strodetheatre.org.uk. We expect the event to be a sell-out.

Hopefully Saturday's event will whet your appetite to explore the Avalon Marshes and find out more about its heritage and wildlife. So why not come along on Sunday 5 June to the Open Day we are holding at the Avalon Marshes Centre and adjoining nature reserves?

There will be a range of wildlife and heritage activities for the whole family. It will also be the first opportunity to see, close up, the new replica Romano British building and Saxon Long Hall which are under construction. Meet staff and volunteers from

the Avalon Marshes partners and learn more about the work we do to look after the wildlife and heritage of this amazing area.

The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust's travelling exhibition, commemorating the railway 50 years after its closure, will also be on display.

To find out more go to the events page at www.avalonmarshes.org.

Events organised by the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Mike Woodhead

Stone Allerton Open Gardens

As part of the National Garden Scheme, the gardens in Stone Allerton will be open this year on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June from 2.00pm to 5.30pm each day.

Combined admission £7.00. Children under 16 free.

If you cannot make it on the open days, the garden at Badgers' Acre is also open by appointment until the end of July.

In 2016 there will be 3,800 gardens opening for charity in the whole of England and Wales, 106 of which will be in Somerset. Last year the NGS donated £2.64 million to charity. The major beneficiaries included Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Hospice UK and the Carers Trust. Gardens in Somerset raised a total of £63,000.

For further information, or to arrange a private to visit Badgers' Acre, just call Lucy and Jim on 713159, email lucy.hetherington@ngs.org.uk or visit the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk.

Lucy Hetherington

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre's summer 2016 programme offers something for everyone – live comedy, celebrity conversation, spy thriller and moving period story.

The tense and critically acclaimed film 'Bridge of Spies' comes to the screen on Monday 9 May, starring Tom Hanks and Mark Rylance in a Cold War spy thriller.

On Friday 27 May, Kings Theatre welcomes Ian Lavender in conversation with Chris Serle in 'Don't Tell Him Pike!'

This will be followed on Monday 13 June by the screening of 'Dad's Army', starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Toby Jones and Bill Nighy. The season concludes on Tuesday 5 July with the warm and lovely film 'Brooklyn', the story of an Irish immigrant in New York.

Tickets for all events are available online at 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.

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 or for queries email cheddararts@googlemail.com

Jan Rance

Wedmore Arts Festival Welcomes Michael Morpurgo



Wedmore Arts Festival is delighted to welcome the well-known children's writer Michael Morpurgo as the latest addition to our packed week of events.

The week begins on 7 July when Wedmore Opera launch their 'Night at the Movies'. This glamorous red carpet event will feature a selection of operatic classics made famous

through the movies. Glitz and opulence over three nights and a taste of Hollywood in the village hall!

Michael Morpurgo has written a large number of inspiring and moving children's books, including 'War Horse', 'Private Peaceful', 'When the Whales Came' and 'An Elephant in the Garden', to mention just a few. On 8 July, Michael will come to Wedmore to talk about some of this huge body of work, and the inspiration behind it. This event will take place at 3.00pm in St Mary's Church and we hope it will be of particular interest to children at Wedmore First School and Hugh Sexey Middle School.

On Thursday 14 July the award-winning travel writer, Frank Barrett, explores the literary places of Britain in a quirky and engaging pilgrimage which begins, like all good things, in Somerset! Shenagh Govan will also perform on Thursday, bringing



*One of the dancers from Ballet Central 2016.
Photographer: Bill Cooper*

back to Wedmore her powerful rendition of 'War Crimes for the Home'. Both events will take place in The Swan.

On Friday 15 July, in a first for the village, Ballet Central 2016, the touring company from London's Central School of Ballet, will be entertaining us with a mix of newly commissioned works as well as some much-loved favourites in a show that will appeal equally to newcomers to ballet as well as to veterans of the art form.

Danny Ward, a rising star in the world of stand-up comedy, will be bringing his hilarious act to this corner of Somerset on Saturday 16 July, followed by a rare local performance from our very own Chris Jagger's 'Acoustic Roots'.

The programme is being updated constantly, so please check our website for the latest information. Tickets: 01278 641370 or tickets@wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk or via wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk

Dorothy Wright

Wedmore Street Fair – 2 July 2016

Wedmore Street Fair will take place on Saturday 2 July 2016. The theme for the event is 'Party Time' with fancy dress welcome and prizes available for the best fancy dress. For more information, or 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.

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 _____

Letters

Dear Editor,

Many of your readers will have heard the rumour that the post office might be moving from its current location to a counter at the Wedmore Village Store. At the time of going to press the picture is not entirely clear but the village might want to be aware of what is known.

1. Richard, the postmaster, has no wish to close the post office in Wedmore. This is being imposed on him by the Post Office seeking reduced costs. He wants to carry on in the present location!
2. At the Village Store there would be only one counter.
3. There would be some diminution of services. It would, for instance, no longer be possible to pick up missed deliveries.
4. The loss of footfall in The Borough Mall would certainly have a dramatic effect on the other businesses. We could easily lose Pisces, for instance.

From every point of view this seems to us to be a thoroughly unfortunate situation for the village. Speak to Richard, talk to your representatives on the Parish Council and Sedgemoor Council, sign petitions, write to the Post Office, write to our MP, talk to Tessa.

Yours sincerely

David and Venetia Hopkins

Postscript from the Editor

The following information has been taken from the leaflets supplied and available in the village and the Isle of wedmore website, isleofwedmore.com.

There is currently a public consultation taking place regarding the relocation of Wedmore Post office. This consultation finishes on 13 May 2016, so you still have time to provide feedback and give your views.

You can provide feedback in the following ways

- Complete the on-line survey via the following link postofficeviews.co.uk and enter the unique code 393511;
- comments@postoffice.co.uk;
- FREEPOST Your Comments;
- Phone 03457 223344, Textphone 03457 223355;
- Obtain a leaflet from Wedmore Post Office or Village Stores and use QR scanner or mobile phone to scan the bar code on the leaflet.

Sue James

A Day in the Life – Steve Mewes, Green Wedmore



We are definitely larks in the Mewes household. Up at 6am for breakfast, Helen is away to the train station at 6.45am and I head out for the all-important dog walk with Bella. Good exercise, but also a lovely quiet time of the day for thinking and planning. But enough about Bella; I also enjoy it.

Work for me at the moment is a part-time contract on the Hills to Levels project (www.hillstolevels.co.uk), a scheme looking at the whole water catchment of the area, helping landowners slow the flow of floodwater in the upper catchment and resilience for people who farm the levels. My task is community engagement, finding out what people's vision is for this beautiful county. It's great to be working on such an important project in the area where I was brought up and where I have spent most of my life.

Clearly my main passion is for the environment and that has always meant to me practising what I preach at home. So when not attending Green Wedmore, or other community meetings, you'll often find me tending the garden, growing veg, caring for our chickens, cutting or moving wood around for our boiler or looking after our fledgling coppice wood. I'm always looking to learn new skills (a scythe is my latest tool to try this summer) and where possible pass that knowledge onto others, vital I believe to the thriving community we have in Wedmore.

Then back home and a perfect evening for me is a glass of wine in the garden with Helen and pooch, enjoying the view and the sunset followed by something silly on the telly and an early night. A simple life for sure but incredibly content.

Steve Mewes

Focus on Businesses

Pisces Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

For the first of our features on businesses in the Wedmore area, I met up with Dean Downer, the owner of Pisces, the fishmonger and greengrocer in the Borough Mall, to find out more about him and his store.

Dean was born into a family of pub, hotel and restaurant owners as his grandparents owned and ran the 'New Moon' at Biddisham. His parents took over after his grandparents retired, before opening a hotel and restaurant in West Huntspill called 'The Sundowner'. As is the case with many family businesses, Dean helped out after school and in the holidays, so it was not surprising that he decided on a career in hotel and catering management. He started by attending a college in Taunton to do an OND in Hotel, Catering and Institutional Operations, followed by an HCIMA, which is a hotel industry-driven qualification, at Highbury College in Portsmouth.

His first job was at the Cadbury Country Club in Yatton, where he was responsible for the bar and wine service and was involved in the organisation of the cabaret evenings with artists like Lenny Henry and Danny La Rue. He then went back to work for his mum and dad at West Huntspill until they sold the business. The next move was to the Bridgwater area, running a pub in a converted industrial building on the docks and then working in a country club/hotel. Dean accompanied the hotel chef to the fish and fruit market in Bristol to purchase the fresh produce and, after the chef left, he carried on doing this. This was a time when fish was beginning to become more popular again, owing to its 'healthier' image, the fact that more people were travelling abroad and the rise of the celebrity chefs promoting fish. Rick Stein's first book 'English Seafood Cookery'



had just been published and he was soon to have his own TV programme after appearing as a guest on 'Floyd on Fish'. So Dean thought 'why not sell all this great produce at retail?'

His first idea was to run the business from a van, but then his parents, who had moved to Wedmore and had a Food Hall plus cake and coffee shop in Combe Batch, offered him some space on their premises. This was May 1991. At the time, there were several other food shops in Wedmore, but no fishmonger. When his parents retired, he was lucky that a suitable premises became available in the Borough Mall.

I asked Dean how his business has managed to thrive for 25 years, as many fishmongers had disappeared because they couldn't compete with the supermarkets. He puts it down to personal contact, local suppliers and knowing his customers. He prides himself on running a traditional store. He buys his fresh fish and produce in the market in Bristol, getting up at 4am 2-3 times a week. He can buy in quite small quantities to ensure variety. As he is always in the store, he has got to know what his

regular customers like to cook. He is also flexible and tries to respond to customers' requests. One of his most unusual requests was from a school science technician who wanted 30 fish heads for the children to dissect! Of course, Dean supplied them. As he celebrates his 25th anniversary, his aim is to continue to offer a first-class service, helping his customers to produce tasty meals using high quality fresh ingredients.

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

If you run a business in the Wedmore Parish and would like to feature in a forthcoming issue of the Wedmore News, send an email to editorwedmorenews@gmail.com with a few facts. Who are you? What is your business? Are you from the Wedmore area? If not, where did you come from? What motivated you to start, take over or carry on the business? We will then contact you.



Liz Sweeney

Reports and Society Updates

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The April monthly draw drew out No.63 as the 1st prize winner, earning £20, and owned by Diana Pearman. The 2nd prize went to Diana and John Allison with their No.40, giving them £10. Congratulations.

Thelma Jenkins-Jones

Wedmore WI Report – March

We had a very interesting meeting, starting off with the usual business items, including details of the outing in June, and changes to the next meeting, to celebrate the Queen's birthday; we will sing the National Anthem, wear something dressy, and have canapes and sparkling wine. Sue brought the completed poster for the Axbridge Museum exhibition, which will be open during April.

Hazel introduced our speaker, Ian Caskie, from the SS Great Britain Trust, who started by telling us of his love of ships since growing up in Merseyside. We were then treated to a colourful and interesting account of the history of the SS Great Britain, 'From Launch to Re-launch'. Using colour slides we learned how revolutionary the ship was, how it came to be built, and its varied history. I K Brunel was a pioneering engineer, who had no previous experience of ship-building, but had the confidence of the board of the Great Western Steamship Company. His innovations included building the first iron-hulled ship, which enabled the hull to be much longer – 300ft instead of 200ft, and allowed more space inside compared to wooden ships, as well as being much lighter. His most revolutionary



change was the use of a propeller screw instead of paddles, which was much more efficient in the open ocean.

The events in the SS Great Britain's history were illustrated in a most entertaining way and the pictures of the cabins and accounts of the menus were very interesting. The story of how the ship ended up in the Falkland Islands and was brought back to the UK in 1970 brought back memories for several members who had been among the 100,000 people who turned out on 19 July 1970 to see the ship towed up the Avon into Bristol Dock. Recent improvements to the visitor centre mean that the problem of rust eating away the hull has been solved. Ian told us about plans to open the first National Brunel Museum in Hotwells Road, at the site of Brunel's drawing office, which will include an exhibit allowing one to get inside Brunel's head! Hazel gave the vote of thanks for a talk which was enjoyed by all of us. The competition for a paper boat was won by Sue.

The May WI meeting is on Thursday 19 May, when it is time for the AGM and Resolutions. Hazel will be the speaker, talking about 'Holiday Memories', which could be from almost anywhere! The competition is 'My Dream Holiday'. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

Chris Barker

Isle of Wedmore Society Report – March

Roy Ackrill, a retired Health and Safety Executive, Factory Inspector and Regional Training Manager, gave us a very interesting talk and PowerPoint presentation about Industrial Disasters from 1974 up to the present time.

The title of 'Elf and Safety – Myth or Fact' was a description of the HSE by the press and, as Roy stated on many occasions, they got the facts completely wrong.

Roy was first employed by the well-known MP Barbara Castle and worked in many parts of the UK dealing mainly with schools and factories.

The Health and Safety Act first appeared 40 years ago and although, in many cases, the 'nanny state' has taken over things, Roy reckoned that 30,000 lives have been saved since that time.

Many prosecutions have taken place over recent times with the deaths at Bosley Wood Mill in Cheshire in June 2015 being one of the more recent occasions.

Although most situations are risk assessed these days, a 'hazard' is anything that can cause harm and Roy gave two examples of absurd examples of regulations that have gone too far. Children playing conkers at school was deemed too hazardous, as well as a blind girl having a white stick as someone could possibly trip over it!

The HSE was involved with the very tragic M5 motorway accident near Taunton a couple of years ago where the smoke from a local fireworks display was thought to be partly responsible for this terrible event; although all charges were eventually dropped.

Roy finished his talk with many examples of major industrial accidents from around the world.

*Chris Edwards,
Speakers Secretary*

Wedmore in Bloom

At the end of May / beginning of June we will be changing all the village tubs, ripping out the polyanthus which have flowered their hearts out for months, giving a real splash of colour, and replacing them with summer bedding plants. Watering will begin in earnest and everyone will be wielding hosepipes and watering cans. Please contact us if you'd like to lend a hand.



We'll have the usual work party on Saturday 7 May at 9.30am and then various dates for the re-planting later in the month.

On Saturday 21 May please join us for a Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Allingham House, The Borough, Wedmore from 9.30am to 12.00 noon.

Everyone welcome. For more information please contact Andrea West, 712161

Barbara Horton

Wedmore Gardening Club

On Tuesday 24 May commencing at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall we will be having a talk by Dave Usher on 'The Restoration of Hestercombe'.

Hestercombe is a beautiful Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens designed garden near Taunton, well worth a visit. In 1904, the house was greatly embellished by the addition of the formal garden designed by Edwin Lutyens with planting schemes by Gertrude Jekyll. The house was the headquarters of Somerset Fire Brigade for over 60 years, before it was acquired by the Hestercombe Gardens Trust in 2013 from Somerset County Council through the community asset transfer scheme.

Hestercombe was something of a secret garden. The formal gardens were so run down that Somerset County Council, with the support of the Fire Brigade, initiated what was to become one of the first major garden restorations in the country.

In 1995 the Hestercombe Gardens Project started the restoration of the landscape garden.

Come and join us for this interesting talk. Members and visitors welcome. For further detail please contact Andrea West 712161

Andrea West

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School – 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

On Friday 3 June at 7.30pm in Wedmore Village Hall once again, the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School is coming to Wedmore at the invitation of Wedmore Theatre Club and, believe it or not, this will be the 27th visit to us without a break! There will be 14 actors as well as technical staff such as Stage Managers, sound and light technicians. But, of course, many others have been involved, such as set design, building and costume. And have you seen the lovely poster? As this annual production is on tour in the South West (lasting some six weeks), sometimes the full set is required, as in Wedmore, whilst in smaller venues it needs to be adapted.

This year is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and to commemorate it the School decided that 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' would be most appropriate

as it is the most popular. The Director, Christopher Scott, who has been responsible for many productions in Wedmore, says there may be a few surprises!

Shakespeare put some of his most dazzling dramatic poetry at the service of this teasing, glittering and amazingly inventive play, whose seriousness is only fleetingly glimpsed beneath its dreamlike surface.

The story so far...Hermia loves Lysander and Helena loves Demetrius – but Demetrius is supposed to be marrying Hermia. When the Establishment tries to intervene, the lovers take refuge in the woods and wander into the midst of a dispute between the King and Queen of the Fairies.

The next instalment will be on 3 June. Come and see!!!

Tickets £10, available from 12 May from the Wedmore Village Store and Valerie Godfrey, 713009.

Valerie Godfrey

The Rotary Club of Mendip

Young Entrepreneurs Win 'The Big Pitch'

Twenty-two teams of year 9 Business Studies students from Kings of Wessex Academy started their own businesses last September directed by staff from the school, and mentored by members of the Rotary Club of Mendip. After five months of designing, manufacturing and selling at a variety of school and public events, four teams of semi-finalists were selected to present their reports to the Rotarians who then voted for the winners.



Although each team made a profit from their labours, the financial element was only a small part of the overall consideration given by the judges. The competition was judged using the following criteria: concept, brand image, sustainability, teamwork and success.

Runners-up were the ‘Message in a Bottle’ team, who produced a variety of sweets in attractive plastic containers. The winning team was ‘Pampawed’, a duo who manufactured and sold pet-related toys.

Big Pitch organiser Patrick Simpson said: ‘We are delighted to be able to support Kings of Wessex by running this event. We hope that the youngsters will seriously consider a career in business in the future, and bring to it some of the skills they have learned through taking part in The Big Pitch’.

Head of Business at Kings of Wessex Academy, Mrs Jo Wilson, said: ‘I would like to congratulate all semi-finalists this year who raised the standard of presentation yet again. They are a fantastically talented group of young entrepreneurs who will go far. A big thank you to the students and parents who supported them, and to the Rotarians who gave up their time on a weekly basis to support them and host the finals’.

Young Trumpeter goes through to Rotary’s Regional Competition

Phoebe Lynch, a young trumpeter from Axbridge and a student at Kings of Wessex Academy, having won first prize in the Rotary Club of Mendip Young Musician Competition, was entered into the Rotary District competition. She was runner-up in the instrumentalist section and as such has been put through with the winner, a young clarinetist



Entrepreneurs Aiden Malik and James Boston, young directors of ‘Pampawed’, were presented with the winner’s shield by Rotarian Mike Webb, senior partner of Webb and Co accountants in Wells, who sponsored the event.



Photo Phoebe Lynch is presented with her certificate by Brian Kirkup, past Rotary District Governor.

from Minehead, to the Rotary Regional Competition which takes place at Bryanston School in Blandford Forum later this month.

Phoebe was up against eleven other young people from across the District. She played 'Trumpet Voluntary' by William Boyce and 'Slavonic Fantasy' by Carle Hohne. The standard of all the competitors was very high indeed. The winner of the regional competition will be entered into the national finals which take place later in the spring.

Maggie Steel, from the Rotary Club of Mendip said, 'We are all thrilled at Phoebe's success. Up against an extraordinary array of talent from young musicians across the District, she gave a wonderful performance, and we wish her well as she progresses to the Regional Finals'.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Emma Treharne, a Year 12 student and Head Girl designate at The Kings of Wessex Academy, was selected to take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) scheme last month. She spoke at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Mendip about her experiences during the week-long course which was held in the Dartmoor Training Centre near Princetown. The object of the course was to develop positive leadership skills and appreciate the importance of teamwork and good communication; understand good ethics and respect for others in a team working environment; develop respect for the natural environment and tackle problem solving situations; and build self-confidence including public speaking. The course was led by Jack Russell of PDC Inspiration Ltd, a professional coach who works with all ages to develop personal skills.



Emma's week included hiking, an overnight camp in pouring rain, rock-climbing and abseiling, and a number of team-building exercises and lectures. She confessed to being extremely apprehensive at the thought of abseiling down a 100-foot cliff, but

managed it without any problems. Her ambition after A-Levels is to go to medical school and train as a doctor, and feels that her RYLA experience has helped her gain the confidence she needs.

Young Writers Win Mendip Rotary Trophies

Two students from the Cheddar Valley were each presented with a trophy and book token at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Mendip. Local young people had been challenged to enter the nationwide Rotary competition in the local heat and write a story or a poem on the subject of 'Our World is Beautiful'.

The winner in the Junior section was 10 year-old Ellen Knight from Hugh Sexey C of E Middle School. Her story focused on the beauty of human friendship with a tale

of a widow whose daughter and family emigrated following her son-in-law's posting to Kuala Lumpur leaving her lonely and depressed and how a young girl who had moved in next door befriended her and helped her cope.

The Intermediate section was won by 13 year-old Niah Vall, a student at Kings of Wessex Academy, whose story again focused on the beauty of the human spirit but this time focusing on putting others before oneself. It told the tale of a girl who risked her own life by staying with an abandoned young boy who was dying from a highly contagious disease.

Both entries will now go forward to the next stage to be pitted against other local winners across the District in the Rotary District Competition being held in April.

Rotarian Maggie Steel, who organised the competition, said: 'The standard of all the entries was very high, but the maturity shown by these two young people in their creative writing is quite amazing'.



Mendip Rotary Young Writers Ellen Knight and Niah Vall, with English teachers Gina d'Auria and Natasha Ashurst, and Rotarian Maggie Steel.

Inner Wheel and Rotary Mouse Racing Benefits Charities



Rotary and Inner Wheel members with their guests enjoy Mouse Racing

Members of the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs of Mendip raised over £1,900 for charity during their recent Mouse Racing Night held in Church House, Cheddar. The money raised will be donated to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's charities, and the Philippine Community Fund, a British charity that provides education, food, health care and skills training to families living on dump sites in the poorest slums of Manila.

Inner Wheel presidents Jackie Hiles and Barbara Millard said: 'The evening was full of fun and laughs, and we thank all who attended and the local business who supported the event by sponsoring races'.

John Mander

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).

eBay course starts Friday 6 May for 3 weeks.

To contact us telephone 741751, or email itfortheterrified@btconnect.com, or visit our website 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 hold our AGM on Thursday 5 May at Draycott Memorial Hall at 2.15pm. This is followed by 'Solo Walk in Africa', a talk by author Mr. Fran Sandham. Entry is £2 and visitors are welcome.

On Thursday 19 May we have our monthly Meet & Greet Coffee Morning from 10.30am to 12.00 noon at Cheddar Village Hall. Membership of U3A is open to the retired and semi-retired. We are a self-help organisation and you can join as many of our groups as you wish. Visitors are always welcome.

Telephone 744241 or visit www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk for more details.

Roger Coe



Cheddar Vale Lions Club



Annual Duck Race

This month is our Annual Duck Race in the Gorge on Monday 30 May. All proceeds will go to Children's Hospice South West who celebrate the 25th Anniversary of their foundation this year. Please buy a ticket when you see us out and about before the event and come and join in the fun on that afternoon.

Story Time with the Lions



Cheddar Library users may have thought it an April Fools prank when an enormous lion prowled around the bookshelves on Friday 1 April, but the children knew better!

Brian-the-Lion was there for the ever-popular 'Story time with the Lions'. After lots of roars with Brian-the-Lion, a rabbit hunt and colouring activities, the children enjoyed a variety of stories, read to them by members of the Cheddar Vale Lions Club. The children can't wait for Brian-the-Lion's return during the summer holidays – clearly a roaring success!

Janet Clark

North Somerset Decorative and Fine Arts Society

The March lecture of the NSDFAS was given by Stephen Duffy on 'The Founders and Treasures of the Wallace Collection'. This collection of over 5,500 pieces is housed in Hertford House, Manchester Square, just North of Selfridges. It was collected by five

generations, by the first four Marquesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace, the illegitimate son of the 4th Marquess from 1760 to 1880 and is now a National Museum. It was bequeathed to the British nation by Sir Richard's widow, Lady Wallace, in 1897.

Eight oil paintings now in the Wallace Collection were acquired by the first Marquess - six works by Canaletto and portraits of two of his daughters, which he commissioned from Joshua Reynolds. The second Marquess was Lord of the Treasury 1774-82, Ambassador to Berlin and Vienna and then Lord Chamberlain 1812-21. The third Marquess was Vice Chamberlain of the royal household and his son, the fourth Marquess, was born in London but remained in Paris with his mother when the marriage broke up. Like other English collectors they profited from the break-up of many continental collections during the French revolution and the Napoleonic wars. The 4th Marquess never married and the last thirty years of his life were devoted to collecting works of art. Like his father, he was attracted by the arts of eighteenth-century France, but he acquired a wider range of objects and on a far wider scale, with many pictures, fine pieces of Sevres porcelain and French furniture, miniatures, gold boxes, tapestries, sculpture and oriental arms and armour. He bequeathed his great collection to his illegitimate son, Richard Wallace.

The 4th Marquess never acknowledged his paternity and in 1842 Wallace took his mother's maiden name. Until his father's death he acted as his sale-room assistant and adviser.

Between them they made a wonderful collection and we all hope we can organise a trip to see it.

Rosie Lishman

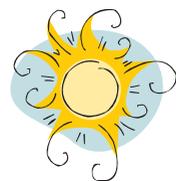
Weather Report for March 2016

RAINFALL



Monthly total	63.8mm	(2.51ins)
30-year average	50.0mm	(1.97ins)
Wettest day (8th)	20.2mm	(0.80ins)
No of dry days	20	
Last 3 months (Jan- Mar)	190mm	(7.48ins)
Year ending 31 Mar 2016	785mm	(30.90ins)
30-year annual average	797mm	(31.38ins)

TEMPERATURES



Maximum (25th)	14.0 °C	(57.2 °F)
Minimum (8th)	-3 °C	(26.6 °F)
Number of air frosts	14	
Monthly average maximum	10.1 °C	(50.2 °F)
30-year average maximum	11.1 °C	(52 °F)
Monthly average minimum	1.2 °C	(34.2 °F)
30-year average minimum	3.3 °C	(37.9 °F)

COMMENTS

Weather dominated by persistent high pressure from 9-23 March resulting in 15 dry days. Rainfall 27% above average; temperatures well below.

Denley Brown

Forthcoming Events

St Mary's Church Tea and Tower – Monday 2 May

Following last year's major tower works and detailed discussions with the church insurers the Friends of St. Mary's are arranging 'Tea and Tower' tours. These will take place from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The tour costs £6.00 per person to include tea/coffee and cake.

It is a steep climb but the view from the top of the tower is spectacular and we hope many of you will take this opportunity. For safety reasons it will not be possible for children under the age of 8 to climb the tower and those under 16 will have to be accompanied by an adult.

We will be going up in groups of 8 (6 climbers and 2 guides) every 20 minutes. Reservations advised. For reservations and more information contact David Hopkins, 710149.

Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 6 and 20 May

At the New Inn, Wedmore at 8.00pm.

Open mic sessions will take place on Friday 6 May and Friday 20 May. Entrance £1

St Mary's Annual May Fair and Fairtrade Coffee Morning – Saturday 7 May

The May Fair with all the usual stalls and attractions, including plants, cakes, bacon rolls and face painting, will take place from 9.30am to 12.00 noon, to be held outside the church if fine, inside if wet. Please come along and bring your family and friends! The Fairtrade coffee shop will also be open. We look forward to seeing you.

Wedmore Bowls Club Open Day – Sunday 8 May

Join us on our Open Day for taster sessions. You do not need any equipment or special clothing to get started as we can provide all the essentials on the day, but suggest that you may wish to bring a pair of sports trainers to wear. Light refreshments available and the bar will be open for normal business. The club, which is situated at the Wedmore Playing Fields (on the B3139 road to Blackford and Mark) will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please feel free to turn up at any time. For more information please visit the web site www.isleofwedmorebowls.org.

RNLI Fundraiser at 'The Swan' Wedmore – Sunday 15 May

As part of the effort to raise £48,000 to buy a new inflatable Life Boat for Burnham on Sea there will be a fund evening at 'The Swan' Wedmore. Starting at 6.30pm there will be pork baps, and salads, wine. The evening will start with a talk and film about



the RNLI and there will be an auction. Tickets £15 per person available by phoning 710337 or email info@theswanwedmore.com or from the RNLI shop Burnham-on-Sea, Wedmore Village Store and The Swan Hotel.

Club 50 Outings

The following outings will take place this year.

18 May, New Forest

15 June, Oxford

21 Sept, Sidmouth

19 Oct, Swindon and the Railway Museum

All will depart the Cheddar Road Car Park at 9.15am, returning approximately 6.00pm. Non-members are welcome, cost £15pp. To book please call either Pauline on 732517, or Val on 710059.

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 18 May

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 19 May

In the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm. Before the tea, coffee and time for chat, we will have our AGM, vote on the resolution for the NFWI, and hear about Hazel's 'Holiday Memories', which is always entertaining as she goes to such interesting places! Visitors and guests are very welcome.

The WI outing this year is to Berkeley Castle and the Bristol Blue Glass factory. It is on Wednesday 8 June, leaving from the village car park at 9.15am. The cost will be £29, and WI members, family, friends and anyone else who would like to come can get more details from Diana Rocky, telephone 713136. For more information contact Chris Barker, 2 Dunns Close Wedmore BS28 4BL, telephone 712182, email chris@cjbarker.plus.com.

Wedmore Twinning Association Quiz Night Rescheduled – Friday 20 May

The Quiz night, originally scheduled for 16 April, had to be postponed and will now take place on Friday 20 May at 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall. Tickets £7.50 per head, to include a light supper, can be obtained from Committee members or direct from Cameron Swales, 713342. A bar will be available. Our apologies for the change of plans - we hope you can still join us.



Wedmore in Bloom Coffee Morning – Saturday 21 May

Please join us for a Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Allingham House, The Borough, Wedmore. 9.30am to 12.00 noon. Everyone welcome.

Theale Film Club – Sunday 22 May

Academy Award nominees Carey Mulligan and Helena Bonham Carter and three-time Academy Award winner Meryl Streep, lead the cast of a powerful drama about the women who were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality in early 20th century Britain. The stirring story centres on Maud (played by Carey Mulligan), a working wife and mother whose life is forever changed when she is secretly recruited to join the UK's growing suffragette movement, galvanized by the outlaw fugitive Emmeline Pankhurst.

Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.00pm prompt start at Theale Village Hall. For more information please contact Lesley Luke on 713176, lesleyluke@live.co.uk, Bernard Coulter on 712144, bcoulter@talktalk.net, or Pam Meadows on 712143.

Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club – Tuesday 24 May

The talk will be by Dave Usher on 'The Restoration of Hestercombe'.

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. Members and visitors welcome. For more information contact Andrea West on 712161.



Isle of Wedmore Society AGM – Thursday 26 May

After the Annual General Meeting, the speaker will be John Robson, whose talk is entitled 'Teeth, The Original ID Card'. The meeting will be in the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm. Members free, visitors, who will be most welcome, £3. There will be free tea/coffee and biscuits at the end of the meeting.

Safari Supper – Friday 27 May

Host houses will all be in the Village Square. This event is being held for the Teenage Cancer Trust, the main beneficiaries, with some of the funds going to Wedmore in Bloom to help them continue with their work. Tickets are still available at a cost of £25 per guest, to include all wine and food. Telephone Suzanne Metters on 712515 to reserve your place.

Stone Allerton Open Gardens – Saturday 11 to Sunday 12 June

As part of the national Gardens Scheme the gardens will be open from 2.00pm to 5.30pm, combined admission £7.00, children under 16 free.

For further information or to arrange a private to visit Badgers' Acre, just call Lucy and Jim on 713159, email lucy.hetherington@ngs.org.uk or visit the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk.

The Big Birthday Lunch – Sunday 12 June

To commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday on the weekend of her official birthday, St Mary's will be holding a 'Big Birthday Lunch' on Sunday 12 June from 1.00pm.

All are welcome to the event in St Mary's. Tables and chairs will be set up both inside and around church (so we can cope with good and bad weather), with space for those who just want to bring a blanket. Simply bring the food and drink you need for your own group or family. Sharing is welcome but not compulsory! We will supply

the venue, the tables and chairs, the decorations, squash and water. There will be appropriately themed craft tables for children and hopefully a bouncy castle and a live band.

There is no charge and you are welcome just to turn up on the day; but so that we know roughly how many to expect, it will be helpful if you can pick up a ticket from Wedmore Village Store or from St Mary's. There is no dress code but why not come dressed in a 'Red, White and Blue' theme.

NANTWICH (Now ANOther That's What I Call Hymns) – Saturday 25 June

At 6.00pm. Friends of St. Mary's invite you to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. There will be hymns and readings from each decade of her reign enlivened by wine, the Bridgwater Salvation Army Band and local choirs. Watch out for ticket details as this will be a full house. For information contact David Hopkins, dahopkins@aol.com, telephone 710149.

Wedmore Arts Festival – Thursday 8 to Sunday 17 July

A festival of opera, drama, literature, comedy and music. For further details visit the website wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk.



Wedmore Methodist Church Flower Festival – Friday 15 to Sunday 17 July

This will be our third Flower Festival and the theme chosen for 2016 is 'Wedding Anniversaries'. It will take place in The Methodist Church and entrance is free. Friday and Saturday opening will be 10.00 am to 5.00pm with coffee and cake in the morning, soup and roll lunch time, cream teas in the afternoon.

Sunday morning there will be a 'Café Service' in the Methodist Schoolroom commencing at 10.30am. The Preacher will be Lois Emm from Cheddar. Everyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you again this year at our Flower Festival, further details available from all Methodist Church Members.

Events Taking Place Outside the Parish

Coffee Morning and Plant Sale – Monday 2 May

To be held at Stook House Farm, Littlemoor Road (two miles from Mark Church), from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Stalls include cakes, bring & buy, raffle, crafts and plants. There should be at least two plant stalls. Proceeds to Cancer Research UK. www.justgiving.com/maydaycoffeemorning.



North Somerset Decorative and Fine Arts Society – Wednesday 4 May

At 7.00pm at the '37 Club', TA7 8AD, situated on the former ROF site between Puriton and Woolavington off Junction 23 of the M5.

Juliet Heslewood will talk about 'Gauguin's Women'. The lecture looks at how Gauguin represented his mother, wife and daughter as well as his Parisian and Tahitian mistresses. Guests are welcome at £8 per lecture.

Hills to Levels Events – Thursday 5 May and Thursday 17 May

'Somerset Levels – World Class Wetlands' with Stephen Moss at 7.30pm on 5 May at Williams Hall, Stoke St. Gregory, TA3 6EU.

'History of Flooding in the Somerset Levels' with Professor Stephen Poole from the University of the West of England at 7.30pm on 17 May, Huish Episcopi Academy, 6th Form Auditorium TA10 9SS. Booking is not needed and all the events are free.

Visit the Hills to Levels website, facebook and twitter pages for all the latest updates.

Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society, Visit to Cadbury/Congresbury Hill Fort – Saturday 7 May

The meeting place is the car park of the Star Inn, BS 49 5AJ on the A370 (NGR: ST 447 650) at 10.30am.

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre – Monday 9 and Friday 27 May

The tense and critically acclaimed film 'Bridge of Spies' comes to the screen on Monday 9 May, starring Tom Hanks and Mark Rylance in a Cold War spy thriller.

On Friday 27 May, Kings Theatre welcomes Ian Lavender in conversation with Chris Serle in 'Don't Tell Him Pike!'

Tickets are available online at 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.

The Winscombe & District RNLI Branch, Plant & Garden Jumble Sale – Saturday 14th May

At 10.00am in the Community Centre, Sandford Road, Winscombe.

There will be a great variety of tomatoes/ greenhouse vegetables, bedding plants, vegetable plants, gardening books, tools and assorted items plus a raffle, hot dogs, tea and coffee. All donations of items for sale gratefully accepted and collection can be arranged. Please contact Tina at meejlfh@gmail.com or telephone 842304. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Weston-super-Mare New Lifeboat Station Appeal.

Somerset Singers Spring Concert – Saturday 14 May

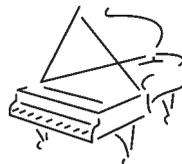
The Somerset Singers will perform 'A Sea Symphony' by Ralph Vaughan Williams at 7.00pm in Wells Cathedral, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter. The Somerset Singers have many members from this area, so why not come and support them. They

will be conducted by their Musical Director Jonathan Vaughan with the Brandon Hill Chamber Orchestra (Leader Katie McConochie) and Soloists Ruth Holton (Soprano), and Robert Rice (Baritone). The concert will also include a performance of the 'Hebrides Overture' by Felix Mendelssohn. Tickets priced £22 (Nave Front), £15 (Nave Rear) and £10 (Side Aisles) are available in advance from Wells Tourist Information Centre, telephone 842353. Tickets not sold in advance will be available on the door. Further information can be found on the website www.somersetsingers.co.uk.

West Mendip Orchestra – Saturday 14 May

In conjunction with Yatton Music Society, West Mendip Orchestra presents Humperdinck's 'Hansel and Gretel Overture', Grieg's Piano Concerto, Stanford's Symphony No. 4. Director of Music, Nicholas Bromilow; Leader, Christine Gladwin. The concert will take place at St. Mary's Church, Yatton, BS49 4HH, starting at 7.45pm.

Tickets £10 (members £8) Children and students half price. Tickets available at the Church Office 9.00 to 11.30am, Monday to Friday, and on the door subject to availability. For more information visit www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk. Charity no. 1041826.



Cheddar Male Choir 21st Annual Concert – 21 May

At St Andrews Church Cheddar, commencing at 7.30pm. A great celebration of songs from the musicals, pop charts, spirituals and some traditional male voice songs. Tickets £8, available from Deane's of Cheddar, a choir member or on sale at the door on the night. A night not to be missed.



Cheddar Male Choir celebrates a year's work for charities and good causes by putting on its Annual Concert. This year's concert marks the 21st year of formation. The choir will be joined by the renowned Cornish Treverva Male Voice Choir.

Cheddar Male Choir helps other charities and good causes by singing around 12 concerts per year and has assisted charities such as The Children's Hospice South West, Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance, Freewheelers Blood Bikers, RAFA, The Prince's Trust and numerous others.

Cheddar Valley Lions Club, Annual Duck Race – Monday 30 May

Commencing at 2.00pm in Cheddar Gorge. Come along and have a fun afternoon. This year Children's Hospice South West are celebrating their 25th Anniversary and all proceeds will be going to them. We also have a special prize draw for a family weekend to include accommodation, meals and local entertainment. All tickets purchased will be entered in this free draw. We will be out and about selling tickets throughout this month so please support this worthwhile cause.

The Lions are looking for any fetes or fairs etc. that would like us to bring along our coconut shy and/or candy floss machine – if you are interested then please ring Janet on 248114.

The Avalon Marshes ‘Landscape, Heritage and Wildlife’ – Saturday 4 June

Strode Theatre in Street will be hosting this celebration of the Avalon Marshes. It will be a day of talks, films and presentations by experts including local wildlife writer and broadcaster Stephen Moss, wetland archaeologist Dr Richard Brunning, archaeologist to Glastonbury Abbey John Allan, and wildlife expert and broadcaster Chris Sperring MBE.

The event will include the screening of the BBC film of Sir John Betjeman travelling through the Avalon Marshes on the much loved Somerset & Dorset Railway in the 1960s. This evocative film takes us back to an unhurried age of travel through a unique landscape.

Tickets are now on sale and should be purchased from Strode Theatre at www.strodetheatre.org.uk. We expect the event to be a sell-out.

Avalon Marshes Open Day – Sunday 5 June

At the Avalon Marshes Centre and adjoining nature reserves.

There will be a range of wildlife and heritage activities for the whole family. It will also be the first opportunity to see, close up, the new replica Romano British building and Saxon Long Hall which are under construction. Meet staff and volunteers from the Avalon Marshes partners and learn more about the work we do to look after the wildlife and heritage of this amazing area.



The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust’s travelling exhibition, commemorating the railway 50 years after its closure, will also be on display.

To find out more go to the events page at www.avalonmarshes.org.

Polly’s Kitchen

I love to bake and try, at least once, if not twice a week to make something yummy to take to my children as I pick them up from school. They always appear completely starving, and my daughter now just shoves her hand straight into my pocket to see what treat lays within, usually without even saying hello! But it is not always about the children and I also love to make breads or buns that need yeast to make them rise. Living in an old, draughty house does not always get the rising results I need, so I have to pop my dough in the airing cupboard, or, if we are lucky enough and the sun is shining, I pop it on the kitchen windowsill to do its magic. Recently I made this delicious focaccia recipe that I am going to share with you, but didn’t quite have enough yeast in my pot, so it was a little flatter than usual, but absolutely yummy with a crunchy, salty tang and the squidgy olives. You can always use sun-dried tomatoes or rosemary if you don’t like olives, but it is well worth making your own.



Green Olive and Thyme Focaccia (Serves 4-6)

Ingredients

500 g strong white bread flour
1 sachet (7g, 2 teaspoons) easy bake dried yeast
1 teaspoon sea salt
3-4 tablespoons olive oil
350ml warm water
85g green olives or lemon marinated olives, stoned
4 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves only
Sea salt flakes

Method

Rub the bottom of a baking tin with a little of the oil, set the oven to 220 degrees c, gas 7.

Put the flour and yeast into a large bowl and add the sea salt, finely crushed, then one tablespoon of the olive oil and the warm water.

Mix thoroughly, then turn the dough onto a well-floured surface and knead lightly for about five minutes.

As soon as the dough feels elastic, put it into a lightly floured bowl, cover with a clean cloth or cling film, then leave in a warm place to rise until it has doubled in size, usually around an hour or so.

Once risen, gently push it down with your fist, to knock the air out. Remove from the bowl on to a lightly floured surface.

Roughly chop the olives and thyme leaves and knead them into the dough.

Put the dough into the baking tin and push down firmly to flatten it. Cover as much as the bottom as you can, but don't worry if it doesn't quite cover it.

Set aside and cover with lightly oiled cling film, for a further 30 minutes, until well risen.

With a floured finger, push several holes deep into the dough, then spoon over half the olive oil. Scatter liberally with sea salt flakes. Bake for 25-35 minutes until pale golden, remove from oven, then spoon over the remaining olive oil. Whilst still warm, free the bread from the tin with a palette knife. Leave to cool on a wire rack and then tear into pieces. It is lovely dipped into good quality olive oil and balsamic vinegar and then even better dunked into some home-made dukka.....

Home-made Dukka

Ingredients

A handful of skinless hazelnuts
Half a teaspoon cumin seeds
1 tablespoon coriander seeds
2 tablespoons sesame seeds
Half a teaspoon dried chilli flakes
Half a teaspoon sea salt
A small handful of mint leaves, finely shredded

Method

First toast the hazelnuts, spread them onto a baking sheet in a single layer and pop them into a pre-heated oven at 180 degrees c for about 5 minutes, until they are lightly coloured. Leave to cool.

Toast the cumin seeds, coriander seeds in a small pan until they begin to release their fragrance, barely a minute. Bash them in a pestle and mortar until broken up, but not too fine. Put the sesame seeds into the pan and gently heat until just golden.

Add the sesame seeds, hazelnuts, chilli flakes and sea salt to the spice mix and bash again until the nuts are broken up into small pieces. Stir in the mint and the dukka is ready to use.

If you have any left, which is highly unlikely, it is really lovely sprinkled on top of chicken breasts to then be baked in the oven or stirred into a pasta dish; it never goes to waste in our house!

Polly Costello

The Garden in May

At the time of writing, the weather has actually warmed up a little; the spring had so far been rather cold, particularly at night and things are therefore somewhat backward. Numerous gardeners that I have spoken to have said that in January they were expecting an early season, but then the colder nights arrived and slowed everything down. A week ago, during the last days of March, I visited a wood near Shepton Mallet, where there are a lot of wild daffodils. Very few were in flower, but last year, when I went there on 26 March, there were a great many blooming.

However, by the time you read this, the daffodil season will be over, except for the 'Pheasant's Eye' types which are derived from narcissus poeticus, which flower by their thousands in the Pyrenees until the end of May.

Tulips should be well into their season now (one or two tulip species may flower before the end of March) and will carry on for a few weeks yet, to be followed by the summer bulbs such as lilies and gladioli.

It is still quite feasible that we will have night frosts into early May, so beware of putting out tender bedding plants, tomatoes, marrows, etc. unless you are prepared and able to rush out and cover them if there is a sudden drop in temperature.

In a greenhouse, there can be great differences in temperatures between day and night at this time of year; only a few days ago I forgot to open a greenhouse containing plants that do not like getting too wet (the reason for being under glass), and the temperature rocketed in the middle of the day, causing them great heat stress. Fortunately, they do seem to have recovered with judicious watering. Ideally, thermostatically-controlled window openers should be used, but do check that they are working properly before they are required.



Due to the cold nights, grass has not come into vigorous growth at the time of writing and lawns have only needed light cutting to tidy them up but that will soon change as temperatures rise and days lengthen. This is a good time to use 'feed and weed' type products on grass, possibly combined with a moss-killer, but remember that fertilisers increase grass growth and therefore the need for cutting. They can also encourage the growth of some of the coarser grasses at the expense of finer lawn species. Despite having once worked in the herbicide industry and not being opposed to their use in certain circumstances, I tend to think these days we should learn to live with a few broad-leafed weeds in the lawn or even encourage some, to produce a wild-flower meadow. Those that are a particular pest, such as dandelions, can be physically removed with a knife.

If you do use weed killers, be especially careful not to do so on windy days; even granular ones can blow on to borders and sprayed chemicals may drift quite a long way on the wind and damage particularly sensitive plants, such as tomatoes (yours or your neighbour's).

In the vegetable garden, May should be a busy month. French and runner beans can be safe outside, provided my comments above about night frost are remembered and cucumbers, marrows and outdoor tomatoes should be safe by the middle of the month. Sweet corn can be sown where it is to develop about the first week in May (I cannot grow it because badgers fell the plants when the cobs are ripe and eat them, a trick I suspect they have learned since silage maize became a popular farm crop). Continue to sow successional salad crops, such as lettuces, rocket and other leaf crops, also radishes and carrots. Remember when thinning carrots that the scent they give off attracts carrot fly; they fly fairly close to the ground and surrounding the carrot row or bed with fleece or polythene attached to canes up to about knee height will keep them off. I think chemical treatments are no longer available to amateurs. If the weather is wet, slugs and snails can be a menace, but if you don't like slug pellets (the ferric phosphate ones are safe to most other creatures) great vigilance and catching and dispatching them is the main method of control (drown them in salt water, or put salt on their tails). Don't simply throw snails away, because they have been shown to have a strong homing instinct (I did not write this on 1April!). There are parasitic nematode preparations available for slug control, but these only work on the black keeled slugs that attack potatoes and carrots etc. underground. It is worth checking up online if you can, on the RHS web site, to see what parasitic or fungus or bacterial treatments are available for pest control, as there is an increasing range coming on the market. Well, once again I have run out of space, so I had better finish now.

Happy gardening until June (let's hope it's a flaming one!).

Adrian Hutchison

Sport Reports

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

Golf was put in perspective this month by the sad news of the death of former Club Captain Brad Ruddick at the far too early age of 51. Having seemed to come through his personal problems over the winter, and just starting to play golf again, his loss was all the more tragic and he will be hugely missed around the club.



The club is not entirely about golf of course. There is a charitable theme which was highlighted by two events during March. Gill Jones, herself not long recovered from serious shoulder surgery, took part in a 10k run in Milton Keynes which raised £300 for the Senior Captain's Charity, GOSH.



Gill Jones, presenting the cheque to Club Captains Mike Tanswell, Sue Tarry and Toni Ribbi

A further charity event took place at the end of the month which combined golf and charity. This is the annual mixed Greensomes event in support of Childline. This year, the event, organised by Ladies Captain Sue Tarry, raised almost £1,000. There was also some excellent golf despite some rain, with Mary-Lou and Trevor Denny winning with 43 points, just ahead of Jan Jenkins and John Russell on 42, a score matched by Gill Jones and Dennis Howard in third place.

The match season kicked off with some national competitions. Storms caused the postponement of the Ladies opening rounds of the Daily Mail Foursomes and Mail on Sunday team singles for a day but both then proved disappointing against tough opponents from Farrington and Burnham & Berrow. The Men's team also played their version of the Mail on Sunday team event and it turned out to be an extraordinary match against Mendip Spring. At the end of the five matches the scores were level leaving the final pair to play on to a sudden death result. Sudden death was not really appropriate as six tied holes frayed nerves on both sides before Tim Harris finally

closed out the match for Wedmore on the seventh. The men's Foursomes team of Dave Skelton and Malcolm Tanner also progressed winning a tricky first round match away at Weston.



Mary-Lou Denny receiving the Childline Trophy from Sue Tarry, with prize-winners John Russell, Jan Jenkins, Gill Jones and Trevor Denny

In the Monthly Stableford, not for the first time, two Cornishes led division 1; Darren Cornish winning with 40 followed by Mark on 37, Jim Dobbs was third on 35. Ian Robson won division 2 with 40 points, 2 better than Jay James with Charlie Woodard third on 35. Terry Simpson won his second competition of the week in division 3 with best score of the day 44 with Brian Fry second on 42 and Paul Stevenson third on 39.

In the Club Medal later in the month the Ladies were led home by Harriet Lockley who has been selected for the Welsh U-14 squad. Her nett 69 just edged out Saybria Sims on 70. The men's field was reduced by a club outing in Cornwall. Good rounds were still needed to win though and in division 1 this came from Jeremy Richards with 70, with Darren Cornish second on 71 followed by Steve Lockley on 72. Derek Moody was clear winner of division 2 with 66, 4 better than runner-up Ian Robson with John Rowland third on 71. Best scores of the day came in division 3 with Steve Patch coming in with a remarkable nett 63 leaving David Coggan only second despite scoring nett 65 and Steve Miller third on 68.

It was almost spring like for the Seniors Stableford and new Captain Mike Tanswell revelled in the sunshine coming in first in division 1. It was a very close run thing though as his 38 points was matched by both Frank Denniston and John Bennett. Needing to recover from a disastrous start, Tanswell put in a strong back nine to win on countback with Denniston second and Bennett third. Best score of the day came from Derek Osborn in division 2. His 42 points put him 3 clear of second placed Brian Kidd with Chris Donald third with 38. There were more good scores in division 2 with Alan Caines winning with 41 points, just one better than Francis Rabbitts with John Sim a further point back in third.

Ladies' 4 Wood Singles	Winner: Maureen Hordle Runner Up: Trish Newell
Men's 4 Wood Singles	Winner: Eddie Payne Runner Up: Ron Barron
Ladies' Pairs	Winners: Lilian Adams & Maureen Hordle Runners Up: Barbara Disbrey & Beryl Carson
Men's Pairs	Winners: Roy Norris & Alan Birch Runners Up: Tony Collingwood & Geoff Coombe
Mixed Pairs	Winners: Di Maingot & Dave Nicholls Runners Up: Ann-Marie Wilkinson & Alan Birch
Mixed Triples	Winners: Bob Keen, Beryl Carson & Keith Pettit Runners Up: Lynda Deardon, Roy Norris & Dave Nicholls



Mixed pairs and Mixed triples winners – photos courtesy of Bob Deardon

Although some members continue to play indoors throughout the summer, most players are now looking forward to the outdoor season. The outdoor green will open on Saturday 16 April for a general practice. The first competitive matches are a ladies' game against City of Wells on 20 April followed by a men's game also against City of Wells on 22 April. The first league game of the season is a men's over 60 match in the Weston and District League on 26 April. Both the men's and ladies' sections play in three different leagues and there will also be many friendly matches throughout the season. Spectators are always welcome. If you would like to try your hand at bowls the club is holding a family open day on Sunday 8 May from 10.00am. until 4.00pm. Bowls and shoes will be provided and free light refreshments will be available.

Sandra Moss

Wedmore Tennis Club



Winter League

The winter league season was again an enjoyable and successful one for Wedmore with the A and B teams both winning their divisions and the D team runners-up in theirs.

The A team, who will be joined next winter by the B team in division 1, won 98 out of a possible 100 points! The D team will also be promoted next season – thanks in part perhaps to the Cheddar C team honouring Mothers’ Day and donating a walkover!

The C team, who had two very strong teams in division 3 to contend with, needn’t have suffered bouts of gloom and despair as they managed to finish in 4th position and so avoided relegation.

The Vets A team played two very close rubbers to finish the season, narrowly losing to Minehead on games and winning some very tight matches to secure 7 points against Cheddar A.

The Vets B team had to contend with the elements as well as their opponents, and also finished the season with some very close mixed matches with a loss of the rubber against Minehead 8:4, and a win on games, 42 to 40, against Avenue.

To view more detailed reports regarding individual team matches, please see the news section of the website.

AGM

The much more spacious new clubhouse allowed for a livelier AGM this year. Following a review of the club’s growth and successes, new committee members were proposed and those leaving thanked for their efforts and dedication to the development and day to day running of the club.

Long-serving member, Matty Small, who has been a continuous playing member at the club for more than 43 years, and who most recently worked hard on the interior design of the new clubhouse, and Clare Wills who, over the last year helped introduce a system for managing the clubhouse, have retired from the committee.

After many years’ service, John Gould and David Bennett also stood down.

John was instrumental in organising and securing funding for the relocation project, and remained on the committee after his Chairmanship to project manage the construction and relocation process, as well as serving on coaching and website sub-committees.

Chairman, David Bennett, also devoted a great deal of time, particularly over the last two years, to managing the club. He too was closely involved in the project to create the new courts and clubhouse and helped to recruit a new coach then served on the coaching committee at the new facility.

Retiring Ladies’ captain, Tony Pearman, offered to take over and was endorsed at the AGM as new Chairman of the club. Welcome also to new committee members Jenny Fitzpatrick (new Ladies’ captain), Susan Cunningham, Val Parker and Dae

Sasitorn. Also to Iain Lewis who recently joined the committee and is responsible for court maintenance and is the new club representative to WPFMC.

Tony's Tennis and Tea

Tennis and tea afternoons will be trialled on the last Saturday of each month this summer between 1.00pm and 4.00pm. This will provide an opportunity for members to meet each other and socialise as well as play tennis if they wish, and will be informal, 'drop in and stay for as long as you would like to' afternoons.

Tony will organise games and Diana Pearman and Jane Pottow provide refreshments (tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes, biscuits, etc) at about 3.00pm at the first of these events on Saturday 30 April. To cover costs, there will be a nominal charge of £1.

If successful, it would be lovely if other members could volunteer to organise the games and provide a simple tea on the remaining Saturdays up until 24 September. In July, the Saturday Social will be held on the 23, due to a junior tournament taking place on the 30.

Sad News

Long-standing members of the club will remember two former members who, sadly, passed away recently.

Richard Cook from Allerton was Chairman of the club in the 1970s when Wedmore was just a small club with two grass courts. Our condolences go to his family and his wife, Mary.

Eleanor Hick who, with her husband John, was a long-standing, active member of the club, also passed away recently. They came from Dinys Powys Club in Wales, which they helped to set up. They, being the oldest members, also helped to open the new Astro courts in 2008, together with the youngest member, Lewis, the first child of Ed and Sarah Hay. (See photograph taken on that day)

Eleanor and John, both competent players in their younger days, set an example of what is possible by playing well into their 80s. They regularly attended Saturday Club tennis, encouraged the juniors and were always friendly and willing to help out in any way possible.

Following John's death, Eleanor moved to Devon to be near to her son. Her funeral was at St Mary's, South Molton on the 6 April at 11.30am.

Sarah Cunningham

Church News

The Big Birthday Lunch

To commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday on the weekend of her official birthday, St Mary's will be holding a 'Big Birthday Lunch' on Sunday 12 June from 1.00pm. This coincides with the Patrons Lunch in London, when the Queen and Royal Family will sit down with 10,000 others, many invited from the 600 charities and community organisations of which The Queen is patron, for a picnic lunch on The Mall. It will

also be at a time when people from across the country are getting together for the annual 'Big Lunch', the UK's annual get-together for neighbours.

All are welcome to the event in St Mary's. Tables and chairs will be set up both inside and around the church (so we can cope with good and bad weather), with space for those who just want to bring a blanket. Simply bring the food and drink you need for your own group or family. Sharing is welcome but not compulsory! We will supply the venue, the tables and chairs, the decorations, squash and water. There will be appropriately themed craft tables for children and hopefully a bouncy castle and a live band.

There is no charge and you are welcome just to turn up on the day; but so that we know roughly how many to expect, it will be helpful if you can pick up a ticket from Wedmore Village Store or from St Mary's. There is no dress code but why not come dressed in a 'Red, White and Blue' theme.

In keeping with the community theme of The Patrons Lunch, members of the different groups and organisations that help make this a special place to live have been personally invited.

Hopefully it will have all the feel of a celebratory street party and be a great opportunity to get together and just celebrate being Wedmore together.

There will be further information in the June Wedmore News, but if you want to know more about the Patrons lunch and The Big Lunch, look at <http://www.thepatrons-lunch.com/> and <http://www.thebiglunch.com/index.php>

Parish Registers

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of

Mr Richard Cook of Ashton who died on 18 March aged 76 and whose funeral took place at Allerton Church on Friday 1 April 2016.

Mr Eric Golden-Hann of Wedmore who died on 14 March aged 79 and whose funeral took place at Mendip Crematorium on Monday 4 April 2016.

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Wednesday 18th May, 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.

Timings of the route are as follows:

10.30 am	Cocklake	Lane End Farm
10.40 am	Crickham	Crickham Baptist Chapel
10.50 am	Clewer	Clive Weare House
11.20 am	Stone Allerton	Stone Cross
11.30 am	Chapel Allerton	Allerton Church



11.40 am	Ashton	On the corner next to Hill View Farm
11.50 am	West Stoughton	T Junction with the road to Allerton
12.00 noon	Blackford	Holy Trinity
12.15 pm	Westham	On the corner next to Bockingford House
12.25 pm	Heath House	Ash Tree Farm
12.35 pm	Sand	Upper Sand Farm
12.50 pm	Mudgley	Court Farm Cottages
1.00 pm	Bagley	Bagley Baptist Church
1.10 pm	Theale	Christchurch
1.25 pm	Wedmore	St Mary's

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Sunday	1	Easter 6/Rogation	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	8	Easter 7	10.30 am	No Service
Sunday	15	Pentecost	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Family Service
Sunday	22	Trinity Sunday	10.30 am	No Service
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	29	Trinity 1	10.30 am	Benefice 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.

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	1	Easter 6/Rogation	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Easter 7	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast at the Village Hall
Sunday	15	Pentecost	6.00 pm	No Service
Sunday	22	Trinity Sunday	9.00 am	Benefice Communion
Sunday	29	Trinity 1	9.00 am	No Service
			6.00 pm	Start the Week

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	1	Easter 6/Rogation	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Easter 7	11.00 am	No Service

Sunday	15	Pentecost	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	22	Trinity Sunday	11.00 am	No Service
Sunday	29	Trinity 1	11.00 am	No Service

Allerton Church

Sunday	1	Easter 6/Rogation	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	8	Easter 7	9.00 am	No Service
Sunday	15	Pentecost	9.00 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	22	Trinity Sunday	9.00 am	No Service
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	29	Trinity 1	9.00 am	No Service

Revd Richard Neill, Vicar of the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore can be contacted on 713566.

Bagley Baptist Church

A group of ordinary people with an extraordinary God.

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

Sunday 22 May, Professor Stuart Burgess from Bristol University will be here for the morning service and a further afternoon session. His research interests include bio-inspired design, biomechanics and design in nature. He's also an avowed creationist – now there's a thing! You'd be most welcome to come and hear what he has to say for himself. Every Wednesday 10.00am-12.00noon '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 telephone 710779 / 712812 / 713267, email contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk, or come and see us at www.bagleybaptist.co.uk

Wedmore Methodist Church

Sunday	1		10.30 am	Ken Hill
Sunday	8		10.30 am	Tony Stevenson
Sunday	15		10.30 am	Revd Roly Sims – Holy Communion
Sunday	22		10.30 am	Janet Day
Sunday	29		10.30 am	Eric Small

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

Contact *Father Philip Thomas* on 742564.

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.

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 9.30 am 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 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm 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

What's On in the Parish

May 2016

2 - Mon	May Day Bank Holiday St Mary's Church Tea and Tower Green Wedmore	10am – 4pm 8.00pm	St Mary's Church The George
3 - Tue	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
4 - Wed	Camelot Quilters'	10.00am	Wedmore VH
6 - Fri	Election Day, Police and Crime Commissioner Wedmore Arts Group Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic	6.30am – 11pm 2 – 4.00pm 8.00pm	Wedmore and Blackford VHs Masonic Hall The New Inn
7 - Sat	Fairtrade Coffee Morning St Mary's Annual May Fair Wedmore in Bloom	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am	St Mary's Church St Mary's Church The George
8 - Sun	Holy Trinity Breakfast Wedmore Bowls Club Open Day	8.30am 10.00am	Blackford VH Wedmore Playing Fields
11 - Wed	Probus Blackford Cafe	10.10am 2.00pm	Wedmore Golf Club Blackford VH
13 - Fri	Wedmore Arts Group	2 – 4.00pm	Masonic Hall
14 - Sat	Craft Fair	11am – 1pm	Wedmore VH
15 - Sun	An Evening with the RNLI	6.30pm	The Swan
16 - Mon	Blackford Village Hall Meeting	7.30pm	Blackford VH
17 - Tues	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
18 - Wed	Club 50 Outing to the New Forest Camelot Quilters' Parish Council Meeting	9.15am 10.00am 7.30pm	Dept Cheddar Rd Car Park Wedmore VH Council Rooms Grant's Lane
19 - Thurs	WI Meeting and AGM	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
20 - Fri	Wedmore Arts Group Wedmore Twinning Association Quiz Night Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic	2 – 4.00pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	Masonic Hall Masonic Hall The New Inn
21 - Sat	Wedmore in Bloom Coffee Morning Theale Community Cafe	9.30am 10.00am	Allingham House Theale VH
22 - Sun	Theale Film Club	6.30pm	Theale VH
24 - Tues	IOW Gardening Club Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
25 - Wed	Probus	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
26 - Thurs	IOW Society AGM	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
27 - Fri	Wedmore Arts Group Safari Supper	2 – 4.00pm tbc	Masonic Hall Wedmore Village Square
31 - Tue	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George

Regular Weekly Events

MONDAY

Modern Dance	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
Beavers	5.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Bridge Club	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Thelma Jenkin-Jones	01934 710467
Scouts	7.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

TUESDAY

Tuesday Club	10.30am	Masonic Hall	Sue Freeman	01934 741861
Ballet Classes	3.45pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre	01179 605844
Acting Up Drama Club	3.45pm	Wedmore VH +	Lou Merryfield	07973 429947
Cubs	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Circuit Training	7.30pm	Blackford VH	Nigel	07775 682231
Cardiodance	7.30pm	Wedmore First School	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204

WEDNESDAY

Rainbows	4.30pm	Wedmore VH +	Gail Millard	01934 713922
Brownies	6.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Lisa Hall	01934 713566
Guides	7.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
Yoga	8.00pm	Blackford VH +	Sandra Mailey	01934 712686

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Tots and Tinies	9.15am	Wedmore First School +	Jo Page	01934 710431
Wedmore Art Group	2.00pm	Masonic Hall	Eileen Sanders	01934 710353
Karate	5.00pm	Blackford VH	Kayleigh Branston	07748 916695

+ Not taking place during school holidays