

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



April 2017
No. 448

Editorial

Well 2017 marches on apace, here we are in April already with all of the wonderful things that the coming of spring promises. Amazingly, this is the fourth edition I have edited, thus completing my three months trial. I imagine the Management Committee had hoped to appoint someone with vast journalistic experience, global understanding, drive, determination and, panoramic vision, to take the Wedmore News forward. Sadly, as no one with such attributes came forward, I am afraid you will have to put up with me for the foreseeable future.

In the Parish Council Business Report, immediately following this Editorial, we are advised that unless we use Bus Route 67 (Burnham to Wells), we are highly likely to lose it. Please forgive me using my esteemed position here, but as a driver of the Wedmore Community Bus I am only too aware that exactly the same applies to that splendid facility, which unless numbers increase will probably be placed elsewhere by Somerset County Council.

Well I keep harping on with each passing month that we have yet another bumper edition and this is absolutely no exception, so again I can only hope everyone will find some or indeed several events that will both appeal and provide enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who got in touch since the last edition and to those who contributed to this one. Happy Easter.

Bill Sutton

Deadline for May Edition: 1 April 2017

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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

This photo of lambs at Orchard Farm was taken last year by Charles Sweeney.

News

Parish Council Business

April is the time of year when the council tax bills arrive and need to be paid. At the February meeting, the Council was told by its County Councillor, David Huxtable, that council tax would rise by 3.9% in Somerset, including a 2% increase to cover the cost of social care for children and the elderly. He also informed the Council that the revised speed limit through Theale and Latcham should be in place by the end of this month or early May. The Council agreed once more to make a grant to 'Wedmore Arts' towards funding performances during the summer.

Route 67

Cllr Huxtable had recently chaired meetings of Parish Council representatives affected by the potential closure of the route 67 bus from Burnham to Wells via Wedmore. The County would continue to fund the service until July but after that time it would be down to Parish Councils to finance. This service could cost the Parish between £4k and £5k each year, depending on the number of journeys per day. A recent survey undertaken by the bus company showed that on average three passengers were using the service each day from Wedmore. Obviously these statistics will have to be carefully considered before the Parish Council commits to spending public money. In fact, some of the smaller parishes along the route either could not or would not agree to fund it. Cllr Huxtable's message was 'Use it or lose it'.

*Rod Pring
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Telephone 713087, email: wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com*

Wedmore First School Academy

Wedmore First School Academy is in need of supply staff who can help at times when permanent staff are sick or on training courses. We are looking for people who could help in the main school in a teacher assistant role or in a lunchtime supervisor role or as assistant in the nursery.

Please contact the school office by email: office@wedmore.somerset.sch.uk or phone 01934 712643 to express an interest.

Val Jones

Wedmore Harvest Home

Do you fancy a new challenge for 2017? Have a little spare time on your hands? Do you enjoy meeting new people? Wedmore Harvest Home Committee needs you!

We are a small group of individuals, from all walks of life, who meet on the last Wednesday of every month, and we would be delighted to welcome you on board!

No expertise needed, just a friendly face and an extra pair of hands!

Please do come along to our meetings and offer feedback and new ideas, as we are a community event! We need you, and the feedback from the community, to help run our local, family fun event.

Please contact Tom Willcox on 07983887891 for further information.

Wedmore Real Ale Festival 2017

Last year's Wedmore Real Ale Festival raised a whopping £17,000 for 14 local beneficiaries. This brings our grand total of fund-raising for local, worthy causes to a staggering £150,571 since the festival began back in 2001!



Planning has now begun for the 17th festival which takes place on Friday 15 to Sunday 17 September at Wedmore Village Hall.

Whether you've volunteered to help, sponsored a barrel, sponsored the festival pint glasses, donated an auction prize or turned up and quaffed ales in 2016, without you none of our fundraising would have been possible. So many, many thanks for attending in the past and here's hoping you, your loved ones, colleagues and everyone else you know can join us for our 17th year of the Wedmore Real Ale Festival!

This year's festival will as always have a fun and enjoyable theme and will include an incredible mix of live music on both the evenings as well as our Saturday afternoon Live Local Music showcase. Finally, our legend who is DJ Olly Eade from DJ Enhance will also be with us all weekend.

Alongside this musical line-up there will be over 65 different choices of real ales, ciders, perrys and wine, with food available throughout the weekend.

The beer bucket challenge will return in 2017, and we have already recruited this year's willing contestants, so start thinking about which of the following you would most like to bid on.

Jeff Richards
Kevin Jones
Bert Banwell
Matt Denham
Tim Moreman
Ian Scott

Hazel Anstey
Sarah Denham
Nicki Maguire
Ellen Culliford
Gill Adams
Safi

Evening admission to the festival will be £5 per person, which will include a 2017 festival pint glass to take away. Our ever-popular fancy dress on Saturday evening will be revealed shortly, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details.

If you sponsored a barrel in 2016, you will shortly receive your renewal sponsorship pack for this year. Please contact Amanda if this does not reach you by late March. If you would like to sponsor a barrel at this year's festival, then please also get in touch with Amanda (Amanda.carver@outlook.com / 07816400999).

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

Roll on September!

Alan Page

Wedmore Neighbourhood Plan

By the time you read this, a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire should have dropped through your letter box. Please take the time to fill it in since it is your opportunity to influence the future of Wedmore over the next 15 years.



If you have not received a copy you can:

- access a copy on www.wedmore.online (print out or do it online)
- pick up a copy from the Parish Room
- ring the Parish office (713087) and we will send you a copy.

Remember, the closing date is 12 April 2017, so don't delay.

We have also commenced a 'call for sites'. Anyone with land in the Parish can submit their sites for consideration and possible allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan. The form can also be found on the www.wedmore.online site.

We hope to report back on the results of the questionnaire and the call for sites exercise in late June.

Bob Sellwood
Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Isle of Wedmore Website

PC? Laptop? Tablets? Smartphone?

Why not add your Wedmore Website as a favourite?

Then click on the favourite daily and you will see:

- rolling news about the word Wedmore wherever mentioned in the world;
- the latest weather for our area;
- latest Twitter feeds from our businesses, clubs and organisations;
- latest information from the parish's major activities throughout the year;
- a calendar of Forthcoming Events;
- information on "Walks around Wedmore" and links to local attractions;
- a copy of the Wedmore News Magazine available to all around the world;
- easy links to all our businesses, clubs, associations, photo albums, forums.

Reminder to businesses, clubs, and associations to check your information is up to date.

Your Isle of Wedmore website team.

Rob Evans

Wedmore Playing Fields and Management Committee (WPFMC)

The Wedmore Playing Fields Management Committee has two vacancies, Treasurer and Secretary. The Treasurer will be required to attend four meetings a year, undertake general book keeping and VAT Returns as part of the role. The Secretary will also be required to attend four meetings a year. This role involves helping organise meetings, minute taking and distribution. Both are voluntary positions and each will join the WPFMC Management Committee.

Ian Monson

Somerset Wildlife Trust

Somerset Wildlife Trust is pleased to present the return of its successful Somerset Nature Reserves Fund. Launched in 2016, the Fund was established to raise money to safeguard some of Somerset's most iconic landscapes and precious wildlife, and has already helped achieve some enormous gains for wildlife across the county. The Trust hopes that this year it will be able to do the same with the help and support of wildlife lovers across Somerset who will hopefully kindly donate this year.



The Fund last year supported some amazing results for wildlife and was critical in conserving habitats for populations of some of Somerset's most charismatic wildlife, from otters to dormice. The county is now the stronghold for bittern, with five booming males recorded last year on Somerset Wildlife Trust's National Nature Reserve Westhay Moor, thanks to the restoration of their reedbed habitat. And the Trust's Green Down Reserve now holds 36% of the UK population of large blue butterfly.

For more information on the Fund and some examples of where monies raised will be spent, please visit Somerset Wildlife Trust's website: www.somersetwildlife.org/reservesfund

Any gift given to The Somerset Nature Reserves Fund will go directly to wherever the need is greatest on Somerset Wildlife nature reserves, ensuring that they are kept in the best possible condition to support wildlife and our conservation goals. You can donate securely by card on our website at somersetwildlife.org/reservesfund or by telephoning 01823 652429. Every donation, whatever the size, will make a difference.

Barry Squance – Wedmore Chiropody / Retirement



Barry and his wife Diane Dennis

I have been anticipating retiring from my surgery for sometime now, but I continued until I could find someone sufficiently qualified, who was local, and whom I found to be the right person to take the surgery forward.

After 22 enjoyable years in Wedmore, I am pleased to announce that as of 7 April 2017, an excellently qualified professional, Diane Dennis, will be the new proprietor of the Wedmore Foot Clinic in The Borough Mall.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the community of Wedmore and surrounding areas for your loyal patronage, your trust, laughter, and friendship over the 22 years.

Barry Squance

Treasurer Required for Wedmore Junior Football Club

Wedmore JFC require a treasurer for the coming season 2017-2018. Only basic accounting skills are required and you will only be required to attend about 4/5 meetings per year. Rachel Baker has been the treasurer for a number of years and would be happy to assist the new appointee with the transition and also to help out whenever required. No knowledge of football is needed. If you fancy doing something for the local community contact the Chairman Jim Cavanagh either by email james.cavanagh6@btinternet.com or call him on 01934713829

Marathon for Mind – Becca Willcox

Hi everyone,



At the end of this month I'm going to be taking on the terrifying but exciting challenge of running the 26.2 miles around London to raise money for Mind, a leading mental health charity. I am now living in London working for an environmental organisation, but grew up in Wedmore and my family are all still in the village. Mind do amazing

and invaluable work, providing advice and promoting awareness and understanding to ensure that everyone experiencing a mental health problem gets support. Mind need funding to do this work for the thousands of people whose life depends on it. Mind is one of the seven mental health charities which make up the 'Heads Together' partnership spearheaded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. Heads Together is the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon Charity of the Year! By taking on this challenge, I hope to help in my own 'small' way.

If you could sponsor me, and help this amazing charity I would really appreciate it!

Please donate online via - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Becca-Willcox>

There are also collection tins and sponsorship forms in The Swan and The George if you have any change left over after a night at the pub!

Thank you,

Becca Willcox

A Day in the Life of

RVS Volunteer Alison Campion

'Love reading but can't get to the library?'



This caught my eye while reading the local paper a few years ago. It was an article about The Home Library Service, and a need for volunteers to deliver books to people who were housebound or could not easily get to the library.

I love reading and I realised how I might feel if I didn't have access to books. (Might need to bear in mind that we are talking about a generation who are not so conversant with Kindle or a Tablet!)

I went along to an introductory information session and learnt about the work that the RVS have

undertaken, in helping to deliver not only library books, but talking books, cassette and CDs, large print books, and some people preferring hard back or paper back books depending on the strength in their hands.

(The Royal Voluntary Service is possibly better known by its former name the WRVS who delivered Meals on Wheels).

There is a RVS coordinator for the area, who allocated me a number of people who needed books delivered to their own home. This is just to explain the nuts and bolts of the service which makes it sound like a commercial white van delivery service, and it is certainly not that!

I have got to know a variety of such interesting people, with fascinating life stories, talents and interests. This has been important so that I have a better idea about the kind of books they wish to read; some people see reviews in magazines or the newspaper and let me know, so I can order them for them. Sometimes I can make suggestions about a book that I feel they might like too. However, we also have conversations about their garden or family and share jokes, it is great fun. It is very much a two-way process. I've learnt, among other things, about village life in earlier times, experiences during the war, and bringing up families in less affluent circumstances.

Some people are well supported by their family, however they may be busy with their jobs or their younger family, so having someone who can stay for a chat is welcomed. For others who do not have relatives living nearby and many of their contemporaries having died, they seem to value having a visitor who calls in on a regular basis. It is up to each volunteer to mutually agree with people how often they will visit. They can have as many books out as they like and they are not charged for overdue books or reservations.

I have got to know the hard working librarians at our local library, and they are very helpful and informative. I now know my way about the shelves, selecting books, and making reservations on the website. www.librarieswest.org.uk which seems to be very efficient, and has recently added more libraries in adjoining counties, so I've found books come reasonably quickly.

One 93 year-old lady surprised me by quoting word perfect a poem she had learnt at school when she was 14 years old. It seemed a great shame that her wider family wouldn't have a record of this. I arranged to record her reciting it, and a friend kindly burnt it onto a CD with a personalised cover. The lady in question was thrilled to have these CDs which she was able to give to a great grand nephew for his wedding and would be a lasting memory for them.

If you would like to visit someone who cannot easily get to the library for the RVS Home Library Service, or you know someone who would like to receive library books please contact Kirsty Jenssen tel: 07920 250834 or email her at kirsty.jenssen@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

I hope you enjoy this volunteering as much as I do.

Alison Campion

Wedmore News Would Like to Hear from You

Are you involved in running a local organisation in the Isle of Wedmore? Would you like to share some of the things that you do and raise awareness of your organisation by sharing your 'Day in the Life'? Please contact the editor Bill Sutton email editorwedmorenews@gmail.com, and share your day.

Bill Sutton

Focus on Businesses

Blooming Grooming – Looking After Dogs' Appearance and Wellbeing

Elizabeth Nash, known as Buffy, has been grooming dogs in her premises in King Alfred Mews for nearly 11 years. However, her first job was focused on people rather than animals.

Buffy grew up in the Axbridge-Cheddar area and attended Bridgwater College to train in complementary therapies, such as holistic massage, aromatherapy and reflexology. She practised for about 10 years and had a number of private customers, but found that the market was quite crowded and competitive. She complemented her income with a cleaning business.

When Buffy came into a small inheritance she decided to try something different. She always had a love of dogs and, when she was younger, she had wanted to be a hairdresser, so combining the two seemed a good idea. She looked into dog grooming courses and chose one in Cheltenham, home to one of the top trainers in the country. Buffy took an intensive four-month course and passed her City and Guilds Certificate Level 3 with flying colours.

She thought about setting up a mobile business but realised that she would need a big van for all the equipment and the thought of driving it around the narrow roads



and into small driveways was a bit daunting. She saw an advert in the newspaper for a business premises to rent in Wedmore in King Alfred Mews. She did some research to check on the potential and found that no-one else was offering a grooming service. She rented the shop (which had previously been a florist) and fitted it out for her new business. The business has gone from strength to strength as the demand for professional pet grooming has increased and Buffy now has two employees – one groomer and one brusher and bather. All dogs and breeds are welcome – from very small to very large. Most start to

come when they are puppies and most of them love being bathed and groomed.

As I know nothing about dogs, I asked Buffy to explain to me what grooming they need. She told me that well-cared for pets need to be groomed at least once every two months. The coat can be clipped according to the breed standard or the owner's preference. Generally, most owners just want to make sure that their dog looks neat and tidy and is comfortable, with the eyes clear and nails clipped. Buffy and her staff always check the ears and paws to see if they need special attention. During the winter months, particularly, small mud clots can get stuck in the paws and cause discomfort. For everyone at Blooming Grooming, the wellbeing of the dog is paramount!

Liz Sweeney

Do You Run a Business in the Parish?

Then how about telling our readers more about yourself? 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? If you would like to share your story, send an email to editorwedmorenews@gmail.com or photoswedmorenews@gmail.com and I will contact you for a short interview.

Liz Sweeney

Reports and Society Updates

St Mary's Church 100 Club

Margaret and Michael Gelder were the lucky recipients of £20,1st Prize in the March draw with their holding of No.44; and Heather & Clive Banwell received £10, the 2nd prize with their No.66 (double numbers!). Congratulations to them.

Thelma Jenkins-Jones

Wedmore WI Report February 2017

Jill welcomed everyone, and after singing Jerusalem we had a break with tradition and welcomed the speaker. This was Angie Horne, a Wedmore resident and known to many of us. She had wanted to celebrate her 80th birthday last year, and she entertained and impressed us with what she did.

During 2015, the Inner Wheel President's charity was Parkinson's Disease and Angie held a coffee morning in the house in Wedmore that she and her husband, who has Parkinson's, had recently moved into.

On looking at the Parkinson's Disease fundraising website, for balloons, posters etc, she saw at the bottom 'Why don't you raise ££s by doing a Wing Walk?' This seemed to be a great idea for a birthday celebration, but her first thought was 'how do you practise?' The Tea and Tower day in Wedmore was one answer, so up the church tower she went.

The endless steps were not a problem, more of a challenge was the big step at the top, but having got up that, she found she enjoyed the view and was not bothered by the height. The next step was to register, she found she needed £100 just for the paperwork, and had to guarantee at least £750 in sponsorship. This was a big sum, and gave her a few sleepless nights. The wing walk was to be at Compton Abbas near Shaftesbury and the initial date was 21 May, but this had to be postponed because of the weather. The next date, 2 July, coincided with the Street Fair, but as the walk was not till 4pm, she could do both. At the airfield, the first thing was to be weighed – a maximum weight of 12 stone is allowed, but this includes tights, long johns, jeans, 4 layers of tops, a windproof jacket and a tee shirt with logo on top.

The briefing came next, the pilot Richard said she must keep her arms spread out from the start, otherwise the wind would stop her from moving them, and he would look at her in his mirror every 20 seconds. Thumbs were to be kept up, if turned down that would mean she was unhappy, and don't worry about smoke from the engine, it is new. The plane was a biplane, a small stool was all there was to climb onto the pilot's seat. Then it was 'sorry, we will have to push you' in order to get from the seat to the lower wing, and to the upper wing. Angie described being strapped in, and told not to push the catch! There was the choice of a gentle flight, or more dramatic with ups and downs, Angie opted for the latter. As the runway was on a plateau, the plane took off and then dipped out of sight of the spectators, which was alarming from the ground, but great fun in the air. There were loops and turns, the fastest speed was 107mph, the highest the plane went was 1,200 ft. Angie said she had a broad grin throughout, and



managed to keep her arms up. Her windproof clothing was excellent, and in all she did five flypasts, before landing to cheers from the spectators. The story had been on Somerset Radio, and all her family and many friends donated money. The cards and letters kept coming in, one from a friend saying she would have preferred to sponsor her not to do it. She was amazed to find she had raised £6,332 for Parkinson's Disease, the most ever raised by a wing walk. We were all impressed with the story, and enjoyed seeing a short film of the flight, and a book of photos. After thanks from Hazel, we had green heart biscuits and coffee, and a good time to chat. The business meeting afterwards came as a bit of an anti-climax, but members felt it was a good way round to have the meeting. Diana is collecting names for the outing on 8 June to Exeter and Cothay Manor. Family and friends are all welcome, we need at least 25 people to keep costs down. Contact Diana on 713136 if you are interested.

Our meeting in April is on Thursday 20, when we will have Jules Bishop talking about 'Hedgehog Rescue'. The competition is a vegetable hedgehog.

Chris Barker

April Director's Blog – Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads'

As rehearsals progress I am stunned at the feat of memory displayed by the three actors! When I first proposed doing these three half-hour monologues, one or two people refused to believe that the actors would be capable of memorising such a huge role. Possibly goaded by this unwarranted lack of confidence in their skill and dedication, the three actors have thrown themselves into the task with Herculean effort. It's the reverse of that other recognised truth: the fewer lines an actor has, the later he leaves it to learn them!

These three small plays are now taking shape beautifully. Elizabeth Coulter is doing 'Soldiering On', originally performed by Stephanie Cole; Alan Philips will do 'A Chip in The Sugar', originally played by Alan Bennett himself; and 'A Lady of Letters', originally played by Patricia Routledge, is to be performed by Carole Knowles (who many Wedmore Theatre fans will remember as Carole Johnson).

Once we started work on them, it became clear to us that we would need consciously to adapt the plays for live theatre. It is such a different medium from television, and whilst the notion of 'talking heads' is entirely appropriate for a close-up of a face on a small screen, once the actor is on a stage then we are talking bodies, not heads. And the stage opens up so many other dramatic opportunities – of lighting, sound, set, movement – that we are bound to explore them all as we turn a televisual experience into a theatrical one. So, whilst Bennett's glorious words remain sacrosanct, we need to feel free to bring them to life in a way that is true to the form of a stage play.

And that process is proving to be very creatively rewarding. Especially with three such accomplished and experienced actors, each of whom must people their respective story with a host of unseen but real characters, encounters and conversations. It's a real privilege to watch them turning Bennett's words into living theatre.

We plan to stage the show in the semi-round, on blocks on the floor of the Village Hall. Having only one actor onstage during an entire story makes it a very intimate experience for both performer and audience, and if the actor were up on



the proscenium stage it would create a barrier with the audience that would diminish their experience.

Performances are on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 May, at 7.30 at Wedmore Village Hall. For more information about the production, and for details of where to buy tickets, visit our website www.wedmoretheatre.com

Sue Rippon

The Wedmore Harvest Home 2017 Business Directory

Do you run a business in or around the Wedmore area? If so, are you interested in having a £25, £50, £100 or £200 advert in the Wedmore Harvest Home 2017 Business Directory of which 1000 copies will be handed out on the day (Friday 18 August)?

Please contact Kerry on 07881750576 or Claire on 07964 749701.

Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting – Thursday 23 February 2017

Tessa Munt returned to the Masonic Hall exactly four years after her last visit, this time to talk to us about her life after being an MP.

She said that when no longer an MP you are normally able to turn up on time for functions because you have not the constraints of a political life!

One of the first jobs you have to do after your instant loss of the job following an election is help your team to find new careers because of course they too lose their jobs.

She also had to sort out the 23,000 files she had accumulated and if the subject of the files did not want them back after the four years, for security reasons they had to be legally shredded.

Since leaving Parliament Tessa stated she has been spending a lot more time with her partner David and seeing her family. She has also been spending a lot of time on many of the interests she had as an MP and is still invited to about a dozen events a week and although she received a redundancy package when she lost her seat most of her new interests are unpaid. Tessa is continuing to do TV and Radio work, speaking to many organisations and still works with Vince Cable.

It was a most interesting talk revealing what happens to an MP after they lose their seat.

Chris Edwards

Wedmore Harvest Home 100 Club Lottery 2017

Be quick! Don't miss out on a number! Only £30.00 per ticket (£2.50 per month) and you could win:

1st Prize - £100.00

2nd Prize - £50.00

To enter please speak to Kerry - chip787@hotmail.com. Your number will go into every draw, so you could win 24 times! Monthly draws will take place at the Wedmore HH committee meetings.

This is a great way to help fundraise and sponsor the Harvest Home, whilst being in with a chance of winning some extra money! For further ways to sponsor or fundraise with us please email Kerry on chip787@hotmail.com

Beth Skeen

Bigger And Better Than Ever! – Wedmore Arts Festival 2017

More events confirmed.



It's still a couple of months before the start of this year's Arts Festival, but plans are in full swing and new events are being finalised all the time. These include a ground-breaking poetry performance written by award-winning poet, Sarah James. The Magnetic Diaries features a modern Madame Bovary in a contemporary English setting. This narrative of

love, lust, betrayal and depression has already enjoyed rave reviews at poetry and literary festivals around the country and we are delighted to welcome this 'rich and complex' performance to Wedmore on Thursday 13 July.

The visual arts will also be well represented during the Festival week. Renowned local artist Jane Percival died last year but her stunning paintings will be exhibited in a special anniversary retrospective in Lerburne House. The work of local potter Jan Tomes will also be on display during the week, as will a selection of exhibits from local artist groups. There will even be representation from some of our very own Turnip Prize-winners!

Music-lovers are also in for a treat with two new events being added to the line-up: Wedmore's favourite pianist, Richard Lennox, and organist James Kealey, Senior Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral, will both be performing lunchtime concerts in St Mary's Church. Also in the church, on Sunday 9 July, we are lucky enough to welcome Bristol's Brunel Sinfonia Orchestra who have generously agreed to open their pre-performance rehearsal exclusively to local children who are learning to play a musical instrument.

Other musical events of course include Wedmore favourite Marie Vassiliou (soprano) as well as three nights from Wedmore Opera, who open the Festival on 6 July, this year performing the hugely popular Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera, Pirates of Penzance. With such an abundance of musical talent in the area, the entire cast has been drawn from local residents of Wedmore and surrounding villages. They will be accompanied by a small ensemble, including the magnificent Richard Lennox on grand piano and conducted by Musical Director Carolyn Doorbar. Last year's Night

at the Movies was a sell out; production plans and rehearsals for this year are already well under way. Yet again Wedmore is in for a real treat!

The Somerset Levellers will end the Festival with a Ceilidh, playing a selection from their extensive repertoire of lively traditional tunes, songs and dances. The band play a wide range of instruments; so if you don't know what a mandola, a bodhran or a kantale are, come along to the Village Hall on Saturday 15 July and find out!

In fact, you can find out all sorts of interesting facts at the Wedmore Arts Festival, especially during our series of lunchtime talks at The Swan, where you will be given unique insights into subjects as diverse as national defence and security, newspaper scoops, and growing old competitively... And of course if you just want a laugh, you'll be amused by our Friday evening event featuring the hilarious comedian Simon Evans who is more usually to be found Live at the Apollo, on Channel 4's Stand up for the Week or perhaps putting the comedy into commodity on BBC Radio 4. All this plus children's author Jeremy de Quidt, Ed Leaker's Blaze quintet, and plenty more besides...

Look out for the full programme in May, and keep an eye on the Festival website: wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk

Dorothy Wright

IT for the Terrified

I.T. for the Terrified – for all your computer training needs. A skill-sharing, informal, community project. Run by a Committee – Staffed by Volunteers.



I.T. for the Terrified is now using Cheddar and Watchfield Village Hall for our computer training sessions, with an ethos of friendly, informal, relaxed and individual help to use your computer, tablet or smartphone. We can cover Windows, Macs, android phones, android tablets and iPads. If you need the use of one of our machines, please let us know as this can be arranged.



Anyone of any age or ability can learn how to order prescriptions or library books, do your shopping, share photos, email or chat to friends and family online, etc.

Our opening hours are flexible, because we have different trainers with different skills on different levels on different days, and need to work round when the halls are available, but we will arrange an appointment to suit both parties as quickly as we can.

Appointments are essential and cost £20 for a two-hour session.

Contact us at I.T. for the Terrified:

01934 741751 (usually goes to answer phone – please leave a message and we will ring you back) www.itfortheterrified.co.uk itfortheterrified@btconnect.com

Cheddar Village Hall, Church Street, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3RF

Watchfield Village Hall, Watchfield Corner, Watchfield. TA9 4RD. On the B3139 between Mark and Highbridge.

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

Registered Charity No. 1130308: Company No. 06779600

Walk Programme – West Mendip Walkers

Thursday 6 April

Moderate circular walk 8.2mi/13.3km from Dundry Down. OS Map Ex155 ST556669. Start 10.00a.m. Park in car park on Dundry Down. Contact Ken Masters Tel: 01749 670349/07784 941439 or ken@kenmasters265.plus.com



Thursday 13 April

Easy circular walk 4.5mi/7km from Wedmore. OS Map Ex141 ST437482. Start 1.30p.m. Park Wedmore Free Carpark. Contact Jill Ollis Tel: 01934 713068/07709 767907 or jill.m.ollis@gmail.com

Thursday 20 April

Moderate circular walk 9.8mi/15.7km from Mincing Valley Lake. OS Map Ex114 SX941940. Start 10.00a.m. Park south end Valley Park (off Calthorpe Road). Contact Tony Strange Tel: 01934 733783/07976 902706 or anthonyestrangle@gmail.com

Thursday 27 April

No walk

Tony Strange

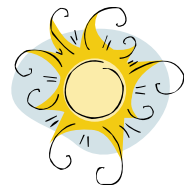
Weather Report for February 2017

RAINFALL



Monthly total	52.0mm	(2.0ins)
30-year average	54.9mm	(2.2ins)
Wettest day (6th)	8.0mm	(0.3ins)
No of dry days	14	
Last 3 months (Dec-Feb)	141mm	(5.6ins)
*Year ending 28 Feb 17	688mm	(27.1ins)
30-year annual average	796mm	(31.3ins)

TEMPERATURES



Maximum (2nd, 19th)	12.0 °C	(53.6 °F)
Minimum (6th, 9th, 28th)	- 2.0 °C	(28.4 °F)
Number of air frosts	10	
Monthly average maximum	8.9 °C	(48.0 °F)
30-year average maximum	8.7 °C	(47.7 °F)
Monthly average minimum	3.2 °C	(37.8 °F)
30-year average minimum	2.0 °C	(35.6 °F)

COMMENTS

*The Annual Rainfall Total of 688mm (27.1ins) is now running at 13.6% below the 30-year average.

Denley Brown

Cheddar Valley Lions Club, Egg Raffles and Duck Race

The Cheddar Vale Lions Club Easter Egg Raffles are drawing to a close, but there is still time to buy your ticket – if you haven't already done so. Past winners have said the chocolate is really yummy! All proceeds will go to the Lions work in the community, including the Centennial Defibrillator Appeal.



We will be out and about selling Duck Race tickets later this month so please give generously, tickets are still only £1 and proceeds go to the Children's Hospice South West. You can watch the races in Cheddar Gorge on Monday 29 May from 2pm.

There is still some money in the Tree of Light pot for distribution. So if your group has a project that could benefit from some funding please send details to Lion Brian Airey, 125 Totterdown Road, Weston-s-Mare BS23 4LW. If it benefits the community we will support it.

Vera's Verse

Spring Is Here

*Spring has come
With all the wonderful things we can share
And although I've lost the spring in my step
The joy in my heart is still there.
The unusual sounds of Seagull's cries
Means they have come to follow the plough
It only happens once a year
How do they know it is now?
The first big Bumblebee arrived in the garden
And smaller bees visit the Jacob's Coat they like best
The Swallows have arrived to inspect the stables
Or maybe the barn to replenish this year's nest.
The Cuckoo is the bird I miss the most
The Swift used to dive on him
When he used to sit on the garden post
He stays in France so the chance of his coming is slim.
The hedges are blossoming
All the bare trees have lovely green leaves that please
Blue skies and warm sun
Mean that winter aches will ease
And put the spring back in my step!*

Vera Banwell

Forthcoming Events

Wedmore in Bloom Work Party – Saturday 8 April

Our usual monthly work party will be on Saturday 8 April. Meet at 9.30am outside The George. Bring your trowel, brooms, rubbish bags. Contact Andrea West 712161

Green Wedmore 17th Freecycle Day – Sunday 9 April

Green Wedmore is holding the village's 17th Freecycle Day on Sunday 9 April at the Wedmore car park from 10 am to 11.30 am. Following the huge success of the last sixteen we're asking parishioners to have another sort through their 'junk' and bring it along.

What you do is collect together all the 'stuff' that you don't need any more, all those bits and bobs in the shed, garage or attic; bring it down to the car park and set up your stall. Then everyone comes along and helps themselves!

There only two rules:

1. No money must change hands
2. You take home what you cannot give away.

One man's junk is another's treasure! And less goes to landfill.

This is a fun way to encourage the second mantra of reduce, reuse and recycle thus slowing a little our insatiable consumerism. Also a chance for a good chat and gossip with the neighbours. More information on our website at www.greenwedmore.co.uk.

Blackford Village Hall Café – Wednesday 12 April

In the Blackford Village Hall, 2 – 4pm.

Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 14 and Friday 28 April

Panborough Inn, 8 pm, open mic.

Theale Film Club – Sunday 16 April

Theale Village Hall, 6.30pm.

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 19 April.

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

Wedmore WI – Thursday 20 April

At 7.30pm at the Masonic Hall. The talk will be by Jules Bishop, about Hedgehog rescue. The competition is for a vegetable hedgehog. We welcome visitors and guests, and would be glad to see new members. Contact Jill on 709842 for more information.



Wedmore Gardening Club Annual Coffee Morning and Plant Sale – Saturday 22 April

The annual coffee morning and plant sale will be held in the Masonic Hall on Saturday 22 April, 9.30 am -12.00 noon. There will be lots of really good plants and cakes for sale, as well as coffee and biscuits. Contact Jean Windridge on 712046.

Wedmore Gardening Club Meeting – Tuesday 25 April



Brian Carlson will be giving a talk and demonstration on Hanging Baskets at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. A great time for new ideas for the summer. Brian grows all his own plants so there will be lots for sale - always a great addition to the evening! We know Brian is a really good speaker as he came last year when he gave a really interesting talk on 'All Aspects of Fuchsias'. I've managed to over-winter the fuchsias and pelargoniums I bought from him, which were really lovely last year. He is happy to take questions and, if necessary, give advice. We look forward to seeing members and guests. Contact Jean Windridge (712046).

Wedmore Harvest Home Management Team – Wednesday 26 April

The George, 8pm.

Isle of Wedmore Society – Thursday 27 April

The monthly meeting will take place in the Masonic Hall, at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be Pete Tinney. Pete is a local raconteur and story teller of tales about his parents and two sisters, as he was bought up on a Somerset dairy farm from the 40's onwards. His talk will be entitled 'Childhood Memories.' Members free. Visitors £3, with free tea/coffee and biscuits after the talk. Contact Ian Tomes, 710390

St. Mary's Church Tower Open Day – Monday 1 May

The tower of St. Mary's Church will again be open to visitors on bank holiday Monday 1 May from 10am to 4pm. Watch out for the banner with details about booking your slot!

Contact David Hopkins, 01934 710149, dahopkins@aol.com

Flower Arranging Demonstration with Afternoon Tea – Tuesday 9 May

At St Mary's Church at 2.30pm Glenda Martin, President of the Burnham Area Evening Flower Club will be giving a hands-on talk and demonstration of arranging flowers with special reference to church flowers.

Glenda has many years' experience in arranging flowers, not only in local churches, but in cathedrals and stately homes. A keen competitor, she takes part in shows around the country and has entered world shows. This will be an informal guide with helpful suggestions for new ideas for decorating all aspects of the church and other situations, choice of flowers, colour schemes, greenery, etc and with hints and tips to help us. This talk is aimed at anyone who loves flowers and is an opportunity to revise our flower arranging skills and boost confidence in an informal way and is followed by tea and home made cakes.



Open to all at a cost of £6.00. Tickets in advance from Caroline Patterson 713705 or Anne Blandford 713045, raising funds for St Mary's Church as part of the Grow Money Project.

Wedmore Theatre Club Presents Alan Bennett's Talking Heads – Friday 12 and Saturday 13 May

Performances commence at 7.30pm in the Wedmore Village Hall. For more information about the production, and for details of where to buy tickets, visit our website www.wedmoretheatre.com



AGM of the Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund – Monday 15 May



The AGM is at the Axbridge Surgery and will commence at 2.30pm. Anyone wishing to have information about the Fund and its purpose can ring the Chairman Alan Benson 713112 or Secretary Shirley Wederell 712089.

Registered Charity Number: 801664

Charity Golf Day, Isle of Wedmore Golf Club – Friday 30 June

Golfers are again invited to raise funds for the Weston and North Somerset branch of the Samaritans.

The competition will be a four-ball Bowmaker format, maximum handicap, men 28, and ladies 36; all competing for many prizes including for the winning, 2nd, 3rd and 4th placed teams and nearest the pin on certain holes. Individuals and companies are being invited to sponsor a hole on the day. The day will include a raffle and silent auction. Coffee and bacon baps on arrival and a running buffet after your round.

To enter a team of four or to become a sponsor please contact: Holly Cole 713392 email hollyrcole@gmail.com; Andrew Midgley 712642 or Shirley Turner 713214.

The Annual Wedmore Street Fair – Saturday 1 July

The theme this year is 'Pirates.' Further details will follow in the next edition.

Please find a booking form inside the rear cover. (Gareth Gosling 2017 Chairman).

Golf Competition at Wedmore Golf Club – Saturday 8 July



In aid of Wedmore Playing Fields and Junior Football Club and a small donation to the Wedmore Farmers Preserving Club. Teams of four, 18 holes, £25 per player (£100 per team). A meal afterwards is included. Come and join us for a great day of golf! To take part and register your team please contact Peter Bird 07973 931675 peterbird@thedrurypartnership.com.

Events Taking Place Outside the Parish

North Somerset Decorative and Fine Arts Society – Wednesday 5 April and Wednesday 3 May

Lectures are held at the 37 Club, between Woolavington and Puriton.

Wednesday 5 April at 2.15 pm. Stephen Richardson MA ‘Prinny and the excesses of regency period style’

The Regency period’s eponymous figurehead, the extravagant George Frederick, Prince of Wales, Prince Regent and ultimately King George IV (Known as Prinny), was in the vanguard of new developments in architecture, decorative style and art collecting. The lecture explores the many facets of Regency architecture, interior decoration and furnishing.

Cheddar Valley U3A – Thursday 6 April

Talk “Heaven on Lundy” by Alan Mildren, wildlife photographer 2-00 pm for 2-30 pm Cheddar Village Hall. For information call 01934 744241.



Cheddar Valley Lions Club, Annual Senior Citizens Party – Saturday 8 April

Cheddar Valley Lions Club will be holding our Annual Senior Citizens Party on Saturday 8 April from 2pm in Shipham Village Hall. Refreshment and entertainment are included and transport can be arranged. If you would like to book a free ticket please contact Lion Marion Adcock on 01934 740366 by 26th March.



Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society – Wednesday 19 April

Hazel Hudson will be giving a talk on ‘Hidden Wedmore’. Hazel was born in Wedmore and has lived there all her life. She can trace her family in the parish back into the late 1400s. She has researched the history of the parish extensively and has published a number of books and articles on the subject.

Meetings are held in Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Non-members are very welcome to attend but a donation of £3 is requested.

For details of our summer programme of summer visits please see our website www.aalhs.co.uk

Cheddar Valley U3A – Thursday 20 April

Coffee Morning, Cheddar Village Hall 10.30 am to 12 noon

Details 01934 744241 or search online for Cheddar U3A

Godney Amateur Dramatic Society Presents ‘An Evening of Food and Fun Entertainment’ – Saturday 29 April

At Godney Village Hall. Performance commences at 7.30pm, doors open at 7pm. Cost: £12 per head (includes a three course meal), licensed bar available



‘In a restaurant setting, the audience will enjoy a three course meal whilst being entertained with a variety of comic one act sketches’

Tickets available from Box Office 07555 894765 or www.gadssomerset.org.uk

Wednesday 3rd May at 7pm. Dr. Evelyn Silber: ‘Taking tea with Mackintosh’

Glasgow was a centre of artistic innovation and tea rooms served as art galleries for paintings by the Glasgow Boys. In 1900 Rennie Mackintosh had the opportunity to redesign an entire room of an Ingram St. tearoom. The lecture focuses on Charles Rennie and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh’s varied and innovative work for Miss Cranston’s Glasgow tearooms and also explores the tearoom phenomenon in Glasgow.

Cheddar Valley Lions Club Duck Race – Monday 29 May

You can watch the races in Cheddar Gorge on Monday 29 May from 2pm.

Weston Hospicecare – June to September

The Hospice has opened its 2017 calendar of events, which offer participants an opportunity to have fun whilst raising much-needed funds for the hospice.

The three main events include:

- The Mendip Challenge (which will take place on 4 June 2017);
- The brand new Bubble Rush (which will take place on 5 August); and
- The Midnight Beach Walk (which will take place on 30 September).

For further information about our work or about other ways you can support us, visit www.westonhospicecare.org.uk.

The Garden in April

For the obvious reason that February is a short month, the deadline for this April contribution always seems to come quickly. For me, February has gone particularly fast this year, because I was having a hip-replacement op. on the 24th. Now that has happened, I hope I can soon get back to some semblance of normality. Although it was slightly colder this morning (28 Feb) by and large it has been a fairly mild month, in fact a fairly mild winter. Today the winter, meteorologically speaking, is over and we are into spring. However we are supposed to be talking about April, so I had better get on with it. Early aphid attacks can occur this month on many plants, particularly in mild conditions; prompt treatment reduces their numbers. This can be by insecticide, soaps, fatty acids or simply by hosing them off or squashing them with your fingers.

Sweet peas can be sown directly into where they are to flower now, to flower later than those brought on under glass or over-wintered from an October sowing. Remember to pinch out their tips when a few centimetres high, to encourage the plants to grow several stems.

Summer flowering bulbs such as gladioli, or tuberous rooted plants such as dahlias and cannas can go directly into containers or borders (but look out for late frosts).



Early flowering shrubs, such as forsythia, chaenomeles and csmanthus, should have done their thing by now and can be pruned to give the maximum amount of new growth to on which to flower next year.

From the end of the month, look out for the larvae of the gooseberry sawfly, which can defoliate gooseberries, redcurrants and white-currants, within days of appearing; they are like small black caterpillars and can be dealt with as for aphids.

In the kitchen garden, continue planting potatoes (this should really be completed by the middle of the month, as should planting onion sets).

Continue direct sowing of vegetables and salad crops; beetroot, carrots, lettuce, radishes peas and spinach can all go in in succession. Protect carrots from carrot fly by putting a knee-high barrier of fleece around the bed (the flies fly fairly close to the ground) and cabbages from cabbage-root fly with paper discs at the base of the plants. If you have young cherry or plum trees, they can be pruned to shape as the leaf-buds open. Going back to salads; sow various mixed-leaf salad crops for cutting young like those that are often sold in bags in supermarkets. Home grown ones are much cheaper and provided you don't sow too much at any one time, they can keep you going for weeks without going to waste. Rose pruning should have been completed by the end of March and to ensure strong growth they should be fertilized and mulched immediately after, using a proprietary rose fertilizer (organic or chemical) and well rotted manure or compost for mulching. New evergreen trees and shrubs can still be planted or moved. Trim off wind and frost damaged foliage from evergreens like pittosporum or photinia (spread hard pruning over two or three seasons). Before sowing new lawns, eliminate perennial weeds by digging them out to a spade's depth, or spraying if necessary with systemic but non-persistent weedkiller. Cultivate your seedbed then firm it well by treading (provide it is not too wet) and sow seed at the rate recommended on the packet. In established lawns where moss and weeds are problems, consider using a combined feed/weed and moss-killer, but not on a windy day. Bear in mind that moss may be a symptom of acidity, excessive shade or poor drainage; attempt to correct these problems where they exist, or else it will return. I occasionally get asked about dead or dying patches on lawns. If these are brown breakfast-plate sized and you don't own a bitch, they may well be caused by chafer grubs, the larvae of the may-bug, or leatherjackets, the larvae of the crane-fly. If the patches are receiving attention from rooks, this is quite likely the case. Professional green-keepers have chemicals available to control these pests, but not the amateur gardener, you will have to try to dig them out. Yellow patches with a cotton-like fungal growth on them may be signs of fusarium patch or snow-mould which occurs in cold wet conditions; again the amateur has nothing in the armoury with which to control this and will have to wait for the weather to improve.

Adrian Hutchinson

Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You



Easy Chinese Sweet and Sour with Egg Fried Rice

This is an alternative way to serve the chicken nuggets, breaded chicken portions, chicken or fish goujons, fish in batter, even fish fingers that you've got in the freezer. I was never a fan of Sweet and Sour until I tweaked the recipe to get to this. It's neither too sweet nor overpoweringly 'ketchupy'. Everything can be done in the time the meat is in the oven.

Serves two.

Cook two portions of chicken or fish according to the packet instructions. Then get some rice cooking and prepare the sauce.

Ingredients

- ½ onion
- ½ red pepper
- 2 oz ketchup
- ½ oz rice wine vinegar (or white wine vinegar)
- 1 oz sugar
- 2½ oz water
- 1½ level tsp cornflour
- 1 sliced red chilli or to taste

Method

Roughly chop the onion and pepper and fry briefly in a small saucepan. Mix the rest of the ingredients and add to the pan. Bring to the boil and cook briefly until the sauce is clear.

Meanwhile, cook 5-6 oz of basmati or Thai jasmine rice in a pan of lightly salted simmering water for about 9 minutes, stirring occasionally. You'll know it's nearly cooked when it starts to froth more. Put through a sieve over the sink, sit the sieve on the pan and rinse with boiling water from the kettle. Swill the pan and pour that water back through the rice. If you get it right, you'll end up with a clean pan and 'dry' fluffy rice. In a frying pan, lightly fry two eggs, break them up, then fold in the rice and fry briefly.

Bring the sauce back up to the boil if needed. Arrange the rice on the plates, put the chicken or fish on top, then pour the sauce over. Add a dash of dark soy sauce and serve.

Stuart Fisher

Thought for the Month

Dear Friends,

Among the most beautiful of Greek myths is that of Pandora's Box.

It is a time of harmony among all people and Pandora's husband

Epimetheus has been given a beautiful box to care for. He has

been given strict instructions that it is not to be opened and Epimetheus passes on these orders to Pandora herself. Pandora, however, left at home on her own for much of each day, becomes increasingly captivated by the box and by the wonderful noises that seep out from it. Lovely and pitiful voices beseech her to open the box so that they can be free. So one day, with her husband away, Pandora gives into temptation and opens the lid of the box. Immediately a cloud of vicious, biting and stinging insects swarm out and begin to fly over the earth. These are all the vices that afflict humanity – greed, jealousy, hatred, lust, arrogance and so on. The time of harmony is over. But before Pandora closes the box, one more insect manages to escape. It is a beautiful butterfly – Hope.

Hope can often seem like a lovely yet fragile butterfly – seen sometimes only in glimpses, never settling for long, often close to destruction, but always beautiful and capable of raising the spirits. And in uncertain and fearful times, hope is rarely extinguished.

At the heart of the Christian gospel, the good news, is also a story about hope. The resurrection of Jesus from the grave acts, among other things, as God's guarantee that death and pain and sadness and evil do not and will not have the final word. Easter Sunday brings a new dawn, a new day, a new creation and a hope that is certain and not fragile.

These continue to be uncertain and fearful times, but the wonderful message of Easter is that there is hope – hope for the world and hope for each of us too. So, this year, do come to church and experience Easter; experience that life of Jesus that cannot be contained even by the grave. Experience hope.

Richard Neill – Vicar of The Isle of Wedmore



Sport Reports

Wedmore Tennis Club

We're delighted to report that Head Coach, Craig Phillips, has now been joined by Assistant Coach, Alec Blake.



Alec is a Level 3 LTA coach, with five years' experience in coaching in Somerset. He helped deliver Junior Academy Performance sessions at Taunton Tennis Centre and has worked with Somerset County players. He also represented Somerset at County Cup, having trained at the Taunton Performance Academy.

Alec has experience in coaching all ages and levels, including wheelchair users - he coached two times Paralympic Bronze medallist, Lucy Shuker!

He is also available for one-to-one coaching and hitting sessions. Alec's individual coaching rates are £23 per hour and £11.50 per half hour.



New Assistant Coach Alec Blake

New Rusty Racquets Group

A mixed rusty racquets group has recently been launched for adults; it's open to both members and non-members and is suitable for complete beginners as well as rusty returners. The session runs from 10.30am to 11.30am on Wednesdays.

Easter Holiday Camps

Junior camps will be on offer during both weeks of the Easter school holidays from 9am until 3.30 pm. During week 1 they will run from Monday 3 April until Wednesday 5 April, and during week 2 from Monday 10 April until Wednesday 12 April. Mini Red, Orange, Green and Yellow ball players will be catered for and both junior members and non-members are welcome to attend. These will be multi skills tennis camps, with prizes, competitions, games and, possibly, a fancy dress

day. Please contact Craig in advance to find out more and reserve a place.

To arrange individual coaching or to enrol on any course, please contact Craig directly on mobile 07546230727 or tennis.phillips@hotmail.co.uk

Other Junior News

Junior Social Night will commence for yellow and green ball junior members after the Easter holidays on Friday 21 April and run from 7pm to 8pm.

Congratulations to Rufus Cardale, Autumn Williams, Jacob Savage and Charlie Relf who represented WTC recently and were runners up in a competition hosted by Cheddar Club.

Upcoming Open Tournaments

The next open tournament will be held at the club on Sunday 23 April. This will be a grade 5 mini event for U8, U9 and U10 age categories and a grade 4 for U12, U14 and U16 boys and girls. Men's and a ladies' doubles competitions have also been scheduled. Spectators will be very welcome.

An open junior event will also be taking place at Cheddar on 7 – 9 April; the next event at Wedmore is scheduled for 11 June.

New Membership Category

Following the AGM, an accompanying named parent/guardian/grandparent membership category will be introduced for those who wish to play with their child only. We're very keen for our juniors to have the opportunity to practise in between squad sessions or just to enjoy hitting with an adult on the courts. We'd also be delighted if those young parents who currently only have time to play occasionally with their children find that they'd like to play more frequently and decide to become regular club/team members.

Winter League

With most of the matches now having been played, points are becoming more valuable.

The A team face a tense end to the season lying only two points above second placed Trull A in the first division. Having lost 4 7 to Trull this month, they recently collected 10 points thanks to a win against Wedmore B.

Having now played all of their matches, the fate of the B team, with wins against Backwell (8 2 Nicky, Clare, Baz and Tony) and Woodlands (8 3 Nicky, Clare, James, Kieran) this month, is dependent on the number of points collected by their near rivals in their final matches.

The C team recorded wins against Victoria, 10 1, and Wells A, 6 4, this month and, with one match left to play, sit mid table. The D team also recorded a pleasing win, 10 2 against Backwell. Sandra, Charlotte, Tony and Mark won all of their matches. They will have two more opportunities to collect points and avoid relegation.

The two Vets teams lie in strong mid table positions. The As beat Bridgwater at home and away, with a score of 8 4 on both occasions; the Bs lost to table-topping Cheddar and won a close match on games against Clevedon.

Thanks

Thanks to Dae Sasitorn for her contributions to the Club over the last few years. Her energy and talents in both photography and website design have been a much appreciated asset to the Club following the move to the current site.

Sarah Cunningham

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

In February, the lady members of the bowls club held their annual lunch at Isle of Wedmore Golf Club. Forty-three ladies from the indoor, outdoor and social sections of the club attended. After a very pleasant lunch, Captain Julie Collins thanked the members for their support during the 2016 outdoor season. Julie was then presented with a bouquet of flowers by the incoming Captain, Audrey Birch.

The men's section has played two more matches in the SCIBA League first division. All of these games are played two rinks at home and two away. In the first match, against Clarrie Dunbar, J White, J Runciman, R Newell and C Moss, playing at home, were leading 14-9 playing the 13th end. Unfortunately, Wedmore dropped 5 shots to leave the scores level. Wedmore then took four of the next seven ends to leave them with a 3 shot lead with the last end to play. When the skips came to bowl, Clarrie Dunbar were holding 3 shots before the Wedmore skip took the jack into the

ditch to give a 1 shot win on the end with an overall score of 23-19. The other three Wedmore rinks were unsuccessful losing 12-31 at home and 17-23 and 16-23 away.

In the second SCIBA match against a strong Yeovil team, Wedmore lost on all four rinks with the two away rinks losing by just 19-20 and 16-18. Wedmore are currently on 14 points and next to bottom in this very competitive league. Their one remaining match is to be played against Minehead who are in bottom position on 5 points. Wedmore need to win a minimum of two rinks to take 4 of the available 16 points to be sure of finishing above Minehead.



Bowls Captain Julie Collins thanks the ladies for their support

Play is continuing in Friendly matches and club leagues with the majority of games to be completed by the end of March. Finals of club competitions will be played on the weekend of 18 and 19 March with the presentation of prizes taking place on 7 April. The outdoor green is due to open on Saturday 15 April, weather permitting.

Sandra Moss

Isle of Wedmore Cricket Club

The 2017 Fixture List is now available, with the first match being a friendly at home to Uffington on 23 April. The Club runs four youth sides from under 9s to under 15s, two senior sides and a mid-week T20 side.

The Club is always looking for new players and welcomes players of all standards or those who just want to have a drink at the bar. We run nets throughout the summer.

Please contact us via Facebook if you are interested in playing. Lastly, a 6-aside tournament will be run in July.

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

February saw the culmination of the inaugural Seniors' Winter League at Wedmore GC which this year has replaced the four winter medals, with the winner decided on the three best out of the four rounds played. Leader after the first three rounds was Roy Tomlins with a total of 119 points but he was away for this final round giving others the chance to come past him. Best score of the day came from Geoff Musson-Thorp, winning division three on 43 points, 6 clear of Eddie Parlour and Mike Nicholls in second and third place, but this only took him to 111 overall, a few points back from the leaders. No real challengers emerged from division 2 either with Tony Roe on 38 points beating Chris McGowan on countback with Ian Hollands third on 35. The real excitement though came in division 1. Frank Denniston continued his fine form, coming third on 37. Bill Lander came second on 39, enough to improve his aggregate by a single point but not enough to get into the lead. Winner of the division was Mike Cowie on 41 and when the maths were completed this proved



Roy Tomlins and Mike Cowie

enough to take him to 120 points on aggregate, snatching first place by a single point from Tomlins with Lander third on 117.

The Seniors also played a couple of innovative fun competitions. Two teams broke well clear of the rest of the field at the "Lone Ranger" Bowmaker. The team of David Taylor, Reevely Stephens and Dave Hollingdale played in the coldest of the rain so it was perhaps fair that they took first place from John Russell, Francis Rabbits and Gordon Risk on countback over the back nine after both scored 83 points. This was five points better than the next two teams who, in another quirk, also finished on the same score. Countback was needed again, therefore, and this time gave third place to John Vowles, David Bates and Mike Clark ahead of Phil McMahon, Ian Hollands and Alan Hill.

They then played a variation on a Bowmaker with the two best Stableford scores being multiplied rather than added together. This created scope for very high as well as very low scores but in the end it also created a very close finish with a single point covering the first three teams. Winning by that single point was the team of Bobby Jones, Geoff Brooks and Francis Rabbits with 108 points. Second place came down to countback with Peter Bennett, Peter Searle and Dennis Howard just holding off Chris McGowan, Dave Hollingdale and Mike Nicholls on the back nine after both scored 107.

In a busy month for Seniors the monthly Stableford also escaped the worst of the weather. Bill Lander had the best gross of the day, his score of 73 equating to 41 Stableford points and 2 points better than runner-up Terry Simpson. Graham Hayes was a further point back in third. Best points total came in division 2 with John Stent scoring 42 to win by 2 points from David Hollingdale with David Coggan third on 39. The heavy conditions had most impact on the higher handicappers in division 3. Roger Harding led the way with 36 points and in a tight finish Mike Clark and Mac Hargraves were both just a point behind with Clark taking second place on countback.

The Club medal and Stableford went ahead as usual. In the Stableford best score of the day, 43 points, came from Bobby Jones, winning division 2 by 4 points from Andy Favell with Jonathan Raeside a point back in third. Nick Parker won division 1 on countback from Alan Richardson on countback after both scored 41. Chris Norris was third on 39. David Bedford matched Bobby Jones score of 43 to win division 3 by 3 points from Robin Knight who beat Nigel Young on countback.

In the Medal, best round of the day, both gross and nett, came from John Russell. His one over par gross 71 equated to a nett 65. This was enough to win division 1 by 3 shots from Toni Ribi who beat Dale Worthington on countback. There was a blanket finish to division 2 with the first three players all finishing on nett 66. Countback gave first place to Roger Griffin ahead of Bobby Jones and Dom Channon. Remarkably the first three players in division 3 again all finished with the same score, nett 70. This time Liam Cann took the honours by virtue of the best back nine ahead of Chris McKinley and Don Sarjant. Pam Berry had the best ladies' score, a nett 76.

The Ladies were most affected by the weather losing one competition to Storm Doris and bad weather also caused some of the Ladies to drop out of the Bowmaker earlier in the month, and the competition itself to be reduced to just nine holes. In

cold, windy but dry conditions, the team of Pam Berry, Eunice Bond and Mary-Lou Denny were the only side to beat their handicaps, coming in with 39 points. This was 4 better than the next two teams with countback over the last six holes giving second prize to Carol Horsley, Shirley Restorick and Linda Roberts ahead of Claire Biggs, Joan Peck and Sue Tarry, who scooped the pool with the only two of the day.

There was a very close finish to the Ladies Greensomes the following week with four pairs all finishing within one shot. Just clear winners though were Ronnie Follenfant and Chris Simpson, finishing with 34 points, which was one better than the next three pairs. Countback was needed yet again to sort out the places with Pam Berry and Maggie Tolchard finishing as runners-up, Gina Falcon and Wendy Lucas taking third place with Saybria Sims and Sue Tarry, current and immediate past, captains edged out into fourth place. Their final competition was a straightforward Stableford, but this contrived an exciting finish with Sue Edwards just beating Jennifer Fell on countback after both finished on 35 points. This put them three clear of third placed Chris Simpson with Ashley Ribbi and Eunice Bond taking the next two places in a group of four players all finishing on 31 points

Church News

‘On a Wheel and a Prayer’

On Tuesday 18 April the vicar will be conducting the next ‘cycle prayer pilgrimage’, cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the particular communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.



Parish Registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the following baptised into God’s church recently:

Rowen Avi Penfold, daughter of Richard and Katie Penfold of Bristol, at Allerton Church on Sunday 19 February 2017.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of:

Cyril Moreman who died on 27 January 2017 age 86 and whose funeral took place at Dulverton Cemetery and Memorial Service took place at Wedmore Methodist Church on 23 February 2017.

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Communion is celebrated most Wednesdays at 9.45 am

Sunday	2	Lent 5	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	9	Palm Sunday	10.30 am	No Service
			6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
Tuesday	11		8.00 pm	Compline & Address
Wednesday	12		8.00 pm	Compline & Address
Thursday	13	Maundy Thursday	6.00 pm	Bring & Share Supper & Communion
Friday	14	Good Friday	10.00 am	Stations of the Cross for Children
Sunday	16	Easter Sunday	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	23	Easter 1	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	30	Easter 2	10.30 am	Benefice Communion

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	2	Lent 5	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	9	Palm Sunday	9.00 am	No Service
Friday	14	Good Friday	2.00 pm	An Hour at the Cross
Sunday	16	Easter Sunday	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	23	Easter 1	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	30	Easter 2	9.00 am	No Service

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	2	Lent 5	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	9	Palm Sunday	9.00 am	No Service
Friday	14	Good Friday	10.00 am	Walk to Bagley Baptist
Saturday	15	Holy Saturday	8.30 pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday	16	Easter Sunday	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	23	Easter 1	9.00 am	Stations of the Resurrection
Sunday	30	Easter 2	9.00 am	No Service

Allerton Church

Sunday	2	Lent 5	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	9	Palm Sunday	9.00 am	Palm Sunday Procession
			9.30 am	Benefice Communion

Sunday	16	Easter Sunday	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	23	Easter 1	9.00 am	Youth Communion
Sunday	30	Easter 2	9.00 am	No Service

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

Holy Week and Easter Services

Easter falls on Sunday 16 April. Here is a list of the special church services we will be holding in the week leading up to Easter (known as Holy Week).

Sunday 9 April

(Palm Sunday; when we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem to the acclaim of the crowds). Procession starts from Allerton Cricket Field at 9.00am with a special Communion Service in Allerton Church at 9.30 am. In the evening St Mary's is holding a Choral Evensong at 6.00 pm.

Monday 10 April

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

Tuesday 11 April

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

Wednesday 12 April

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

Thursday 13 April

Bring and Share Supper and informal Communion at St Mary's at 6.00 pm. Suitable for all ages this is an opportunity to remember the Last Supper of Jesus and his Disciples.

Friday 14 April

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

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

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

Saturday 15 April

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

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

Sunday 16 April

(Easter Sunday, the most important day in the church's year when we give thanks for Jesus' resurrection). The day begins with a sunrise service at Bagley Community Orchard. We begin at 6.10 am let off party poppers, helium balloons and sing joyful hymns. Bacon rolls and coffee are then served at Bagley Baptist Church.

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's
- Special Easter Sunday Communion Services at all our churches which will be full of joy and colour. Easter egg hunts for the children follow these.
- 9.00 am at Allerton Church and Holy Trinity Blackford
- 10.30 am at St. Mary's Wedmore
- 11.00 am at Christchurch Theale

Bagley Baptist Church

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

Every Wednesday 10am -12noon "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 extra services, breakfasts and brunches over Easter. Please look at our website for details, or ring the office.

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

For details, please ring us on (01934) 710779 / 712812 / 713267

Email us on contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk or

come & see us at www.bagleybaptist.co.uk

Wedmore Methodist Church

Preachers for April

Sunday	2	10.30 am	Elizabeth Manley
	9		Revd Roly Sims Holy Communion
	16		Jacqueline Cobb (Family Service, Easter baskets for the children).
	23		Rob Haskins
	30		Moira Cowell

Crickham Baptist Church

Sunday Services: 6.30pm

Sunday School: 10.30am

Contact *Dulcie Hooper* 712187.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar

Contact *Father Philip Thomas* - telephone 709244.

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.

Please visit the website at www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk, or visit / telephone the practice 732464 or 712774 for changes to opening hours.

You can also obtain 24 hour general medical advice by telephoning NHS 111, or visit the NHS 111 website.

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	Thelma Jenkins Jones	710467
Controller Street	Rosy Brooks	713697

The bus is also available for private hire. It can be booked by contacting Jo Keen, 710759



Wedmore Street Fair – 2017 Booking Form

c/o Gareth Gosling, Applewood, Mutton Lane, Wedmore BS28 4DS
or gareth.gosling@btinternet.com.

I/we would like to book a stall at Wedmore Street Fair on
Saturday 1 July 2017. Theme is 'Pirates'
Charities £17, local groups and societies £22, commercial stalls £40.

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 & 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: _____

What's On in the Parish

April 2017

1 - Sat	Fairtrade Coffee Shop	9.30am	St.Mary's Church
3 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
	Green Wedmore Meeting	8.00pm	The George Inn
4 - Tues	Wedmore Tuesday Club	11.00am	Wedmore VH
	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George Inn
5 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
7 - Fri	Theale Frolics	8.00pm	Theale VH
	Limelight Night - Open Mic at the Swan	8.00pm	The Swan
8 - Sat	Wedmore in Bloom Work Party	9.30am	The George Inn
9 - Sun	Green Wedmore 17th Freecycle Day	10-11.30am	Wedmore car park
	Blackford Holy Trinity Church Breakfast	8.30am	Blackford VH
10 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
11 - Tues	Wedmore Tuesday Club	11.00am	Wedmore VH
12 - Wed	Probus	10.15am	Golf Club
	Blackford Village Hall Cafe	2 - 4pm	Blackford VH
14 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Open Mic	8.00pm	The Panborough Inn
16 - Sun	EASTER SUNDAY		
17 - Mon	EASTER MONDAY		
18 - Tues	Wedmore Tuesday Club	11.00am	Wedmore VH
	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George Inn
19 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Council Rooms, Grant Lane
20 -Thurs	WI Meeting Guest Speaker Jules Bishop	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
22 - Sat	Theale Community Cafe	10.00am	Theale VH
	IOW Gardening Club Coffee Morning & plant sale	10am- 2pm	Masonic Hall
23 - Sun	Theale Film Club	6.30pm	Theale VH
24 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Club	9.30am	The Scout Hut
25 - Tues	Wedmore Tuesday Club	11.00am	Wedmore VH
	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George Inn
	IOW Gardening Club Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
26 -Wed	Probus	10.15am	Golf Club
	Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting	8.00pm	The Recreation Soc Club
27 -Thurs	IOW Society Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
28 -Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Open Mic	8.00pm	The Panborough Inn
	Limelight Night - Open Mic at the Swan	8.00pm	The Swan

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY				
Fitness2Unique	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane Lisa	07977 415799 07801 272255
Art Group	2 - 4.00pm	Wedmore VH	Chris Midford	01749 712522
Modern Dance	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Kaye Morgan Anstee	01278 641194
Beavers	5.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Bridge Club	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Steve Pedrick	01934 712852
Scouts	7.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
TUESDAY				
Fitness2Unique	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Chair Yoga	10.00am	The Swan Inn +	Jo Willis	07552 711101
Tuesday Club	10.30am	Masonic Hall	Sue Freeman	01934 741861
Ballet Classes	4.00pm	Bristol Ballet Centre +	Bristol Ballet Centre ashermann99@hotmail.com	
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	07776 82231
Cardiodance	7.30pm	Wedmore First School	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
WEDNESDAY				
Fitness2Unique	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
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 +	Abbe 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	Bristol Ballet Centre +	Bristol Ballet Centre ashermann99@hotmail.com	
Cubs	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
FRIDAY				
Fitness2Unique (2 Classes)	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Tots and Tinies	9.15am	Wedmore First School +	Jo Page	01934 710431
Wedmore Art Group	2.00pm	Masonic Hall +	Eileen Sanders	01934 710353

+ Not taking place during school holidays