

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



November 2015 No. 431

Editorial

In September I completed my sponsored walk of the Somme, a very moving experience and something I will be reflecting on this month when we remember the fallen of both world wars and conflicts since, as part of Remembrance Sunday.

I continue to walk and have enjoyed the changing landscape of our lanes and fields with the changing seasons. What is disappointing, however, is the increase in the amount of litter that I see in the hedgerows and on roads. Much of it, such as fast food wrapping and small used metal nitrogen oxide canisters, appears to have been shed from passing cars. We have an active Green Group who do their best to highlight and address litter issues, but our local environment belongs to us all and our future generations. So perhaps we all need to be reminded and to remind members of our family of how easy it is to use the litter bins, or bring home our rubbish to recycle.

Sue James

Front Cover

A photo of the Wedmore war memorial, taken on a beautifully sunny day by Charles Sweeney.

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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.

News

Parish Council Business

Following the successful meeting at Theale in August, the September meeting was held at Blackford Village Hall and was attended by several residents. Members agreed to purchase a video camera to record their meetings and to make maintenance grants to local churches. One of the members had recently attended a seminar concerning ‘super-fast broadband’ and would update other members at the next meeting. Members had been invited to a public consultation event hosted by Bruton Hospital Trustees in relation to a proposed development at Paradise Barton, Blackford. It was suggested that when the planning application was submitted, the local Planning Committee meet at Blackford to enable local residents to express their views.

Members were also informed that the waste contractor who emptied the recycling bins at Wedmore Playing Fields intends to charge the Parish Council if the correct items are not placed in the correct bins! This could have severe financial consequences for the Parish Council who have no facility to continuously monitor the site. This issue will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Highways and Byways Report

The Parish Council Highways Committee has been busy looking at issues in the parish raised by parishioners. Summarised below are some of the priorities identified by the group with activity to date.

1. Public lay-by on the corner of Glanville Road and Pilcorn Street

There has been confusion for some time regarding the status of the parking area opposite St Mary’s Church. This has now been resolved and it is clear that the area in question forms part of the public highway and is a “lay-by” for public use. It is hoped that residents will avoid monopolising this parking area. Please note the lay-bys outside the houses further up Pilcorn Street and outside the bungalows in Grants Lane are not for public use, but for the sole use of the residents.

2. White lines

These have been re-painted and in some locations extended to improve vehicle passing points. These lines, whilst having no enforceable status, are advisory and rely on the common sense and neighbourly behaviour of residents and visitors. Police may remove vehicles if they are causing an obstruction.

3. Road safety

The speed indicators at Blackford and on the Cheddar Road that were in place for some months show that a problem exists with 85% of vehicles exceeding the ‘intervention limit’ of 38mph. Work is underway to improve road safety.

4. Heavy goods vehicles

The passage of large heavy goods vehicles transiting the villages along the B3139 continues to cause problems with damage to property, bridges and the highway. Although advisory signs were erected in 2012 to direct lorries onto the preferred freight routes, some of these signs have since been damaged.

A volunteer resident has kindly surveyed all junctions noting omissions and signs with poor visibility due to overhanging undergrowth; this survey has been discussed with a representative from the County Highways department.

Further meetings with the county and police authorities are scheduled to explore potential mitigation measures.

Some town and city centres have introduced a 20mph zone. Bearing in mind many of our village streets are without pedestrian walkways the Highways Committee would be interested in having comments from residents on a 20mph zone in Wedmore and how to mitigate the impact of heavy goods vehicles. Comments or ideas please to Steve George (Chairman of Highways Committee) by e-mail to s.george110@btinternet.com

Rod Pring

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

Ethel Pople Deceased Charity and The Wedmore Charities

The late Ethel Pople, formerly of The Old Smithy, Cocklake, Wedmore, who died in 1978, left a trust under her will for the assistance of the elderly and/or infirm of Cocklake, Clewer and Wedmore to be called 'The Ethel Pople Trust' in honour of 'Our Blessed Lady of Wedmore'. Every year invitations are invited by the trustees from those who think they may qualify with a view to distribution of Trust income.

The trustees of the Wedmore Charities, an entirely separate trust, also make annual distributions of trust income, predominantly to those within the parish who fall within the same definition, in other words, the elderly and/or infirm.

The trustees of both charities meet in December each year to decide how their combined distributions can be applied for the greater benefit of those entitled each year.

The trustees of both the Ethel Pople Trust and the Wedmore Charities therefore invite written application from those who qualify under the terms of these Trusts. Letters should state briefly the basis on which the applicants qualify, i.e. whether by reason of age or infirmity and with any other relevant information regarding the applicants' circumstances that they feel able to give.

Please note that if you have applied successfully before the Trustees would like you to provide written confirmation that your circumstances have not changed.

The trustees of both charities will consider applications early in December 2015 with a view to distribution of Trust income before Christmas.

Applications should be addressed to the Ethel Pople and Wedmore Charities Trustees, John Hodge Solicitors, Cheddar Road, Wedmore BS28 4EH.

Helen Knocker

Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee - Notice of 2015 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee will take place at 8.00pm on Thursday 5 November 2015 in the small hall of Wedmore Village Hall.

The treasurer, booking secretaries and chairman will deliver their annual reports and the committee will be elected for the coming year.

Under the terms of the Trust Deed governing Wedmore Village Hall, the management committee may be comprised of nominated representatives from all the organisations that are regular users of the hall, plus six independent members, elected at the AGM, from which the officers of the committee will subsequently be elected.

To nominate a representative, and/or an elected committee member, or to propose a resolution for consideration at the AGM, please contact the current secretary, Gail Colthurst, Prospect Villa, Wrights Lane, Wedmore, BS28 4EA dick.colthurst@btinternet.com

Nominations must have a 'seconder' and the consent of the nominee.

*David Summers-Cooke
Chairman*

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxed Campaign 1-18 November 2015

It's that time of year again, when hundreds of thousands of people in churches, schools and workplaces all around the UK join together to do something really special. The idea is simple; children and adults fill shoe boxes with toys, sweets, stationery etc, and take them to a drop-off point. The boxes are distributed to children in refugee camps, orphanages, war-torn areas or other needy situations around the world. Over 124 million boxes have been delivered to more than 150 countries and territories since 1990. This mammoth task has been achieved using planes, boats, camels, elephants, helicopters, covered wagons and dog sleds! Thank you to the many people from the Wedmore area who fill boxes every year and to the lovely ladies who knit for the project. Every one of you is much appreciated. OCC is a Christian charity, open to people of all faiths or none. Each shoebox is a gift to a child with nothing asked for, or expected in return; no pledges, no obligation to go to church or attend classes, 'no strings attached'. It partners with local churches to distribute the boxes and if those local partners feel it's culturally appropriate, they also offer a booklet of Bible stories. If the ethos of OCC doesn't tie up with yours, please feel free to fill a box via a different organisation, but do fill one somehow! For each child who receives a box, it will almost certainly be their only Christmas present - a powerful reminder that love can reach beyond all known boundaries.

Bagley Baptist Church is again acting as a local dropping off point and will be open to receive boxes from 9.00am-1.00pm, Monday-Friday from 1-18 November. If you



come between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on a Wednesday morning we'll even give you coffee and cake!

OCC ask for £3 per box, to cover transport costs. This can be as cash or cheque inside the box, or an online payment. They also ask for their own labels to be used. You can pick these up from Bagley, either before or when you drop off your box(es), or you can print them direct from the website.

For what to put in your box, plus lots of other information, go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox or ring Bagley Baptist Church on 710779, or Sharon Rabbitts on 713267 or Julie Harding on 713078. Thank you very much

Sharon Rabbitts

Turnip Prize

Entries will be accepted from Sunday 1 - Saturday 21 November. Entries should take the least amount of effort possible to create. Preliminary judging on Sunday 22 November. Final judging will take place at The New Inn on Monday 7 December at 6.30pm. To enter, contact Trevor on 710004 or 07812 848011, or call The New Inn on 712099.

Alternatively, leave your entry at The New Inn, Combe Batch, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4DU. Please include your name or pseudonym and contact phone number. For more information visit The New Inn or The Turnip Prize Facebook page.



Trevor Prideaux

The Cost of Repairs to St Mary's Tower Parapet



Readers may recall original estimates for the repair to the tower parapets were well over £50,000. However, thanks to the efforts of Benjamin and Beauchamp

Architects, Ellis & Co contractors and Wellington Scaffolding we were able to negotiate a cost (net of recoverable VAT) of approximately £32,000.

The work has been completed thanks to a very significant donation from a local parishioner, another from the Church Fabric Fund and £5,000 from Friends of St.Mary's.

Vicar Richard and Curate Joy ventured up the tower to inspect the work, and now we are exploring the possibility of organised visits up the tower, but first some additional safety measures must be taken. Then we are

very much in the hands of our insurers who must approve the access, otherwise the personal liability of the Vicar and Churchwardens are in jeopardy.

These access improvements and the professional fees etc still have to be paid for and so support for the Promises, Pasties and Parapets event is very important.

Mike Gelder

Wedmore Harvest Home Children's Tea

This year we saw over 400 people sit down for the Children's Tea at Wedmore Harvest Home and preparation has already started for 2016! There are so many people that help make this event successful; we have cake makers, sandwich makers, servers, shoppers and ticket sellers to name just a few. If you feel that you would like to be involved in next year's event please telephone Jacqui on 713913. We would love to have some new faces join our team; it's great fun and very rewarding.



Mary Ellis, Jean Windridge and Howard preparing sandwiches

It is the generosity of people that keeps this event going and we must say a huge thank you to everyone who helped on the day. Special thanks this year to Cathy Butterworth for supplying a delicious selection of gluten-free treats. Mr Hael, who kindly donated milk for the teas and Dean from Pisces who donated salad and eggs for our sandwiches. Also a big thank you to Val Godfrey who has been preparing the eggs for our egg mayonnaise sandwiches for 30 years!

*Jacqui Redman and Jenny Blackshaw
- Children's Tea Convenors*

The 15th Wedmore Real Ale Festival

Our final pint was pulled on Sunday 20 September and the doors closed on a very successful 15th Wedmore Real Ale Festival.

What a great rugby-themed festival we had. Friday night was opening night for both the festival and the Rugby World Cup and the marquee was full to capacity for the England win over Fiji. It was a great start to a weekend where more than 5,500 pints were consumed.

There was a great music line-up again with Paul Dockerty and the Dry White Bones providing Friday night's entertainment. Saturday's music started early afternoon, with the XV Factor's Music Showcase, giving the stage to local musical talent who performed in front of a lively crowd of festival-goers. Saturday evening's music was the crowd-pleasing set from Yeovil's five-piece party rock band, 'Livewired'. DJ Enhance finished the musical line-up for both evenings, with popular hits to get the dance floor pumping.

This year's Sunday raffle made over £1,800 and the trolley of beer donated by Bath Ales was won by the lucky local builder Steve Haigh. The auction alone made over £3,500 which includes a whopping £790 from the festival's finale, the 'Beer Bucket Challenge', which saw the following local participants getting doused in a lovely blend of dark ale by those who clearly cared:

Participant	Winning Bid
Dave Bunt (Bunty)	£30 Polly Costello
Dr Matthew Dolman	£45 Trevor Prideaux
Alice McKinley	£55 Bob Jackson
Jacqui Redman	£50 Amanda Carver
David Summers-Cooke	£50 Gareth Gosling
Jonny Bethell	£50 Olly Eade
Maxine Kidd	£55 Mike Bewick
Kelly Jones	£55 Iain Jones (husband)
Sue Moreman	£80 Tim Moreman (husband)
Bob Jackson	£120 Alan Willcox
James Heapey MP	£200 Nigel the Pilot

Many thanks to all of our brilliant sponsors and volunteers for their continued support and for working hard to help us make the 2015 festival a real success.

Application forms from local worthy causes wishing to benefit from the funds will by now have been submitted. Presentation night will be held at The Swan in Wedmore on Saturday 14 November.

Next year's festival will be running from 16 – 18 September 2016. We will keep you posted on its developments via our Facebook group. Keep up to date with all things festival-related by joining our Facebook group 'The Wedmore Real Ale Appreciation Society' or go to our website www.wedmoreale.com.

Alan Page



Letters

Macmillan Coffee Day



A huge thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Macmillan Coffee Day at Wedmore Village Hall on Friday 25 September. £900 was raised and this amount has been matched by Lloyds Banking Group, so the wonderful sum of £1800 will be sent to Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you so much to everyone for your generosity, from the Macmillan girls.

Rachel Bennett

Walking the Somme

I would like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to all my friends and neighbours who supported my fund raising efforts by attending coffee mornings and bringing their friends, or by making donations. Altogether, with other donations received, I raised £600 (we had to raise £500 plus pay all of our own expenses to participate).

I completed the walk in all weathers – yes, I did discover how difficult the Somme terrain is when it is wet, and in the driving rain. It was very moving to walk from the Allied front line through ‘No Man’s Land’ and into the German front line, visiting cemeteries in places which would easily be missed in a car. We also visited Lochnagar crater where the memorial to nurses and VADs who served and gave their lives in WW1 will be sited.

I also met and walked with the wife of a veteran of Afghanistan who suffers from PTSD and has benefitted from some of the funding which has been donated to help them.

My thanks and appreciation to you all.

Sue James

Reports and Society Updates

St Mary's Church 100 Club

Congratulations to Margaret Riddington who won £20 with No 93 in our September draw, and to Ann Blandford holding No 6, winning £10.

Thelma Jenkins-Jones

Wedmore WI Report - September 2015



Hazel welcomed everyone by telling us that the first WI meeting took place 100 years ago on 16 September. She also showed us a copy of the Cheddar Valley Gazette WI Centenary Supplement, which included items about Wedmore. We were reminded about used stamps for Freewheelers, the arrangements for the skittles matches, a visit to Radstock Museum to see the Centenary Exhibition, shoe boxes to be filled for young people for Christmas, and the Christmas carol service in Wells Cathedral. Our birthday lunch is to be in Cheddar on 26 November.

Our speaker, Ms Erica Sharpe, was introduced, though as she has been in her shop in the village for 10 years, she was already known to many of us. She proceeded to give us a fascinating account of how she became interested in jewellery creation, where she gets her ideas from, and the process of making a

piece of jewellery. From a foundation art course she went as an apprentice to an Indian jeweller, learning to make the very traditional pure gold pieces worn for ceremonial occasions such as weddings. She then set up shop in Wells, gaining customers by word of mouth, and is now in Wedmore, where she is celebrating ten years since opening her shop in the Borough Mall.

Most of her work is made to commission, but she also designs and makes pieces for exhibitions, demonstrations, catwalk collections and magazines, and she enjoys taking the occasional masterclass. Erica showed us lovely slides of the original designs for a piece, often based on water colours of flowers, and then how each section is made and fitted together, with as much emphasis being made on the finish at the back as well as the front. She is obviously very enthusiastic about her work, but also very proud to be one of the first Fairtrade Gold licensees. This means that all her gold is ethically sourced, and there is a special Fairtrade hallmark on each piece in addition to the regular hallmark.

She showed us a series of items made with a honey bee theme, some with amber which made a good contrast to the silver, and talked about the very ancient technique of granulation, where very small beads of gold are applied to a base to make a pattern. This method was used thousands of years ago, and re-discovered in the 18th century.

Having been on a one week course, it then took two years of practice to get it right! Tiny snips of gold, when heated, form into balls. These are coated with a vegetable gum mixed with copper carbonate, arranged into the pattern on the gold base, and heated nearly to melting point. The copper melts to form an alloy and welds the tiny balls to the base.



We had lots of questions, before a vote of thanks was given by Sue, and Erica let us look closely at the pieces she had brought with her. The competition, for a piece of silver jewellery, was won by Beryl H.

Chris Barker

Isle of Wedmore Society, September 2015

For the first meeting after our summer recess we welcomed Dr Richard Brunning from The South West Heritage Trust who gave us a most interesting talk about Somerset's Changing Coast.

In 45 minutes he covered 10,000 years of archaeological history from the end of the last glaciation in roughly 7,850 BC up to the present day.

Richard Brunning told us about the low wetlands situated either side of the Bristol Channel and how the sea used to come right up to Glastonbury and Langport. There were over 100 islands in that area making it look like a Somerset archipelago.

As the sea levels began to slow down around 4,500 BC the freshwater reed swamps along the coast began to expand across the marsh forming the first peat layers.

Amongst the findings by archaeologists were a bronze age site near Aller and long-lost village settlements including the Glastonbury Lake Village.

For thousands of years the people of this area of Somerset have chosen to live on the outcrops of hard rock above the flood plain and even in 2014 photos show the higher parcels of land that escaped the worst of the floods.

A number of questions from the audience finished off a most informative evening.

Chris Edwards

Theale Flower Show 2015

This is the second year the committee have used Christchurch, the Village Hall and a number of marquees to stage the show and we are delighted with how well it has been supported once again.

We would like to thank everyone who came to the show. Apart from a shower during the lunch hour, we were blessed with a dry if somewhat chilly day. This year we had in excess of 630 entries, more than last year, and a number of new exhibitors joined the many regulars who enter year on year.

The show was opened by the Flower Show Queen, Clarissa Dawkins and her Princess Suzanna Fox.

This year saw the return of the ever popular dog show for which our thanks go to Axe Valley Vets for organising it. Christchurch staged the plant and flower exhibits and during the afternoon there was a flower arranging demonstration by local business woman Amy Raisey. Local resident Jackie Scriven was awarded the Mr & Mrs E.J. Bryne cup for Flower Arrangements & Flowers / Plants, the Silver Cup for Best Flower, plus the Champeney Memorial Cup (most points awarded to an adult Theale Parish resident). The children's exhibits were delightful as usual. We had a scarecrow masquerading as Her Majesty the Queen (we think)! Maddie & Poppy Rousell were rewarded for their efforts by receiving the Janet Miller Trophy and The Juvenile Challenge Cup respectively and Charlie Tucker won a cup for the Best Children's Exhibit in the Show. Local children's author Michael Malaghan attended during the afternoon to present two half-hour storytelling sessions and promote his latest book. The judges were most impressed by the quality of the exhibits and commended the exhibitors on their many skills and talents.

There was a variety of food available during the day from bacon butties to cream teas and a bar that had to do an emergency dash to the supermarket during the afternoon to replenish stocks!

A highlight of the vegetable section was the weighing of Ted's Taters in a Tub. If you haven't already had the pleasure of witnessing this spectacle you really should put the date in your diary and come along next year. Better still enter.

We were incredibly well supported again this year by our sponsors and would like to thank them all for the generous donations, made to so many classes. In addition, our thanks go to all those who, once again, contributed gifts for the tombola.

Our thanks must also go to Christchurch, Edwin & Sheila Badman for the use of their field and Dave & Anne Bodley for the use of their orchard.

Next year's show will be held on Saturday 3 September 2016.

Nick Avery

Green Wedmore

Green Wedmore is the new name for the Isle of Wedmore Green Group. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Swan's Club Room, and everybody is welcome.



On 4 November we have two speakers from the Soil Association on the growing use of maize for biofuel and the crop's impact on soils and water.

For more information about Green Wedmore, contact Steve Mewes at s.mewes@virgin.net or Rob Richley at mail@westword.demon.co.uk.

Rob Richley

Mr Punch's Folk Club Annual Concert

This will be held on Friday 20 November at Theale Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

We feature 'Quick Silver' who formed in 2002 with their sparkling vocals and guitar work impressing audiences ever since. Hilary is best known as 'That Voice' in accapella Meistersingers 'Artisan'. Grant is probably best-known for his four-year sojourn as one of Esther's boys on 'That's Life!'. Ned Sherrin said of them, 'comic song tinged with gold'.

Also appearing will be new local singing group 'Peter and the Rabbits', a rag-tag and bobtail collective who enjoy singing for fun, family and friends.

Tickets £10 each (no concessions). Book early to avoid disappointment. For more information telephone 710020 / 712144.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Theatre Club

On Friday 27 November in Wedmore Village Hall at 7.30 pm Wedmore Theatre Club are proud to present Pip Utton who is 'Playing Maggie'. Not merely a reflection on how to portray this lady but a live audience with Margaret Thatcher. Saviour or witch? Love her or hate her? Not for Pip to decide, only to portray. She divided the nation like no other politician, she changed the face of Britain and perhaps world politics for ever; the effects of her influence and policies are still felt today. Listen to her philosophies, her inspiration and her logic and thenask her a question!

Pip Utton is known for his spellbinding portrayals of Hitler, Churchill, Dickens, Casanova, Chaplin, Hancock and many others. 'Maggie' is probably Pip's greatest challenge yet. Pip not only becomes Margaret Thatcher but risks taking audience questions, and answering them as Maggie.

Tickets are available from the Village Shop and also Jendy Weekes on 01278 641370

Jendy Weekes



Theale Players Auditions - Panto Time!

On Sunday 15 November, at 3.00pm, Theale Players will be holding a read-through / auditions for their next pantomime, 'Aladdin' at Theale Village Hall.

New members are very welcome to come and see whether or not they'd like to get involved, on the stage or behind it. Theale Players' productions are well known for their fun and inclusiveness.

Old and young welcome. We sing, we dance and make people laugh if we can! Performances are scheduled for 18 - 20 February 2016. Rehearsals take place over a

relatively short but intense number of weeks, starting after Christmas. Contact Bernard Coulter on 712144 or by email at bcoulter@talktalk.net

Bernard Coulter

The Rotary Club of Mendip – Knickers help raise Money for Charity



Over 100 people enjoyed an excellent evening's entertainment organised by the Rotary Club of Mendip at Wedmore Village Hall recently, featuring Rosemary Hawthorne, otherwise known as 'The Knicker Lady'. Rosemary is a classically trained actress from RADA who gave an informative and very humorous exposé of the past 200 years of ladies' lingerie. She traced the history of the undergarments from the late 18th century where the lingerie style was voluminous, to the 21st century where the styles are anything but voluminous!

'Pumpkin' of Wedmore provided an excellent two-course meal which was accompanied by good wine.

The evening was a great success and raised £1300 towards several Mendip Rotary charity projects;

The Bristol Downs Trust, Canine Partners, and the Club's own Ugandan community project. President Chris Steel said 'We have all had a fun evening, and we thank our sponsors, those who donated raffle prizes, and those who attended.'

John Manders

IT for the Terrified

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

We offer one to one sessions to help you to use a computer, iPad, tablet, smartphone or Mac in a friendly environment. No exams, no pressure, just a volunteer sharing their individual ways of using technology. You can bring your own device or use our machines. We can cover most topics on most computers/devices at most levels.

Thursday afternoons we have a computer drop-in, £2 per visit, which is ideal for a small problem that doesn't need a full two-hour session. No need to book, just drop in (term time only, 1.30pm to 3.30pm).

A photo management course starts on Thursday 5 November, from 10.00am-12.00 noon. It costs £35 for the six-week course using a free download, Picasa. It covers loading photos to a PC and organising and editing them.

Contact us on 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 to 12.00 noon and 1.30pm to 3.30pm, Monday to 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)

Join us and enhance your social life, make new friends and improve your knowledge.

On Thursday 5 November there will be a talk entitled ‘A career behind the scenes in TV’s Antiques Roadshow’ by Tiggi Trethowan, Event Manager for the BBC programme, at Church House, Cheddar at 2.15pm, entry £2. Visitors welcome.

On Thursday 19 November, there is a Meet and Greet Coffee Morning at Church House, Cheddar, 10.30am to 12.00 noon. For more information telephone 744241 or go to www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk.

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Roger Coe

Cheddar Lions Club



The ‘Tree of Light’ has a new venue for 2015. This year we will be using the Tree at the Bath Arms in the heart of Cheddar with kind permission of Sean and Jacqui and provided by Cheddar Parish Council. Cheddar Garden Centre, who have hosted the Tree since it started, continue to support the project and the Club are extremely grateful for their enthusiasm and help in getting this project off the ground.

The lighting of the ‘Tree’ and Dedication Ceremony will take place on Thursday 3 December at 6.30pm when those sponsoring a light will be invited to join us and reflect on those we are remembering at this busy time of year. The carols will be again accompanied by the brass band from Cheddar Valley Music Club under the direction of Anne Higgs.

All those who have sponsored in the past will be contacted direct, anyone wishing to sponsor for the first time can pick up a sponsor form wherever you see a poster in Cheddar, Wedmore, Draycott, Shipham or Axbridge. Alternatively, the form will be available to download from our website www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk.

The Senior Citizens Christmas shopping trip to Cheddar Garden Centre, with tea and mince pies, takes place on Thursday 19 November. If you would like to attend please ring Lion Marion on 740366.

This year our Christmas Raffle will be raising money for a defibrillator for the village, so please buy some tickets when you see us out and about selling!

Janet Clark

Weather Report for September 2015

	RAIN FALL	Monthly Total	61.4mm	(2.42ins)
		30 year average	58.2mm	(2.29ins)
		Wettest days (22nd)	16.0 mm	(0.63ins)
		No of dry days	18	
		Last 3 months (Jun - Aug)	274mm	(10.8ins)
		Year ending 30 June 2015	849mm	(33.4ins)
		30 year annual average	795mm	(31.3ins)

	TEMPERATURES	Maximum (10th, 11th)	21.0 °C	(69.8 °F)
		Minimum (26th, 27th)	2 °C	(35.6 °F)
		Number of air frosts	NIL	
		Monthly average maximum	17.6 °C	(63.7 °F)
		30 year average maximum	19.1 °C	(66.4 °F)
		Monthly average minimum	7.1 °C	(44.6 °F)
	30 year average minimum	9.8 °C	(49.6 °F)	

COMMENTS Rainfall just above average, occurring during middle period of the month. Temperatures well below normal.

Denley Brown

North Somerset Decorative & Fine Arts Society (NSDFAS)

Members were treated to a most interesting September lecture on 'King Alfred, Cakes and Vikings' by Dr Sam Newton. We learned that King Alfred was born in 849 and died in 899. He succeeded Ethelred, the third of his elder brothers, as King of Wessex in 871 and successfully defended his kingdom against persistent attempted conquest by the Vikings.

After many years of invading skirmishes in other kingdoms the Vikings arrived in Wessex in 870 and during the first year of his reign he fought many engagements, some successfully, others not so. He was eventually forced to make peace with the invaders after a defeat at Wilton, probably paying them to withdraw. In 876 the Danes occupied Wareham in Dorset. Alfred again negotiated with them but they broke their word and took Exeter. Alfred blockaded the ships in Devon forcing them to withdraw. In 878 the Danes attacked Chippenham, a royal stronghold. Most were killed but Alfred escaped to Athelney where he built a fort in the Somerset marshes. It was here that the legend of Alfred letting the cakes burn started when he was sheltering in the cottage of a peasant woman. The story first appears in chronicles in the 12th century.

Alfred was able to mount an effective resistance movement, rallying the local militias from Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire and won a great victory at the Battle of Edington in Wiltshire where Alfred converted and baptised the Danes and adopted their leader Guthrun as his son. By the time of his death he was the dominant ruler in England and styled himself as king of the Anglo-Saxons. He is one of only two English monarchs to be called 'The Great', the other one being Cnut. Alfred was renowned



for being a great champion of learning, justice and civilisation. Alfred was a learned man and wanted his people to be educated and had writings translated into their own language and sent to all the bishops. It is thought that the famous King Alfred jewel was the top of an aedel, a reading pointer.

Much of this early history is recorded in Anglo Saxon Chronicles, whereas Scandinavia has no contemporary written records.

Join us for interesting lectures on the arts from recognised experts. Lectures are held at the 37 Club, between Woolavington and Puriton, on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings are at 2.15pm in the winter and during the summer they are at 7.00pm.

Rosie Lishman

Forthcoming Events

Wedmore Village Hall AGM – Thursday 5 November

Commencing at 8.00pm in the small hall of Wedmore Village Hall.

Grand Wine Tasting and Food Tasting – Friday 6 November

At Wedmore Village Hall from 6.30-9.30pm, tickets £5 per person. This will be our fourth year of organising this event and last year we raised almost £1250 for Wedmore in Bloom and the children's play area. John Thorners will be offering tasting of many new Christmas treats, not seen at previous tastings.

Donations will once again be made to Wedmore in Bloom and the play area, as well as the ice rink on candle night. For more information contact mark at Wedmore Village Store, telephone 712545.



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

Friday 6 November at 8pm. Open mic at Mr Punch's, The New Inn Wedmore. All welcome, entry £1.

Friday 20 November at 7.30pm. Mr Punch's annual concert at Theale Village Hall, featuring the band 'Quick Silver' and local singing group 'Peter and the Rabbits'. Tickets £10 (no concessions). Licenced Bar.

For more information telephone 710020 / 712144.

Fairtrade Coffee Morning and St Mary's Church, Annual Charities Fair – Saturday 7 November

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

In addition, this month from 10.00am to 12.30pm, St Mary's PCC is opening the church to various charities to give them an opportunity to sell their Christmas cards, calendars and gifts and, at the time of going to press, there are only four stalls still

available. If you wish to have a stall (registered charities only), contact Sue Burton on 712092.

Bagley Community Orchard, Quiz Night - Friday 13 November

To be held in Theale Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Teams of up to six, with an entry fee of £6 per person, to include a Ploughman's Supper. There will be a bar. To enter a team or for more information email team name and numbers to bagleyorchard@gmail.com, to ensure we have enough cheese and cider to go around! However, you are welcome to turn up on the night.



Theale Players Panto Auditions – Sunday 15 November

Read through /auditions for 'Aladdin' take place at Theale Village Hall at 3.00pm. New members welcome. Performances are scheduled for 18- 20 February 2016. Contact Bernard Coulter, telephone 712144 or email

Theale Film Club - Sunday 15 November



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

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 18 November

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 November

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. There is a change of speaker; Mr Peter Davey will talk about "Around Bath by Tram". The competition is "The strangest pub sign you have seen". Visitors and guests are always welcome. For more information contact Chris Barker, 2 Dunns Close, Wedmore BS28 4BL, telephone 712182, or email chris@cjbarker.plus.com.



Wedmore Harvest Home Winter Supper - Saturday 21 November

Presents 'Chilly Bingo' at the Masonic Hall. Starts at 7.00pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Arthur Gadd on 713063.

Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club - Tuesday 24 November

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. Our speaker is Lynn Parfitt who will demonstrate 'Christmas Decorations' so our homes will be full of floral Christmas cheer this year. Members and guests welcome. For more information contact Andrea West on 712161.

Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting – Thursday 26 November

The last meeting of the society for 2015 will be in the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm when Mike Penn will speak about 'The History of Haines Museum'. Members free, visitors, who are most welcome, £3 to include a complimentary glass of wine.

Wedmore Theatre Club - Friday 27 November

In Wedmore Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Pip Utton is 'Playing Maggie'. Not merely a reflection on how to portray this lady but a live audience with Margaret Thatcher.

Tickets are available from the Village Shop and also Jendy Weekes on 01278 641370.



Christchurch Theale Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 28 November

From 10.00am - 2.00pm. Bric a brac, books, Christmas craft and home produce for sale together with a raffle and tombola. Coffee and biscuits will be available in the morning and ploughman's lunches will be served. All are welcome.

Wedmore Guides Jumble Sale - Saturday 28 November

Wedmore Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Any donations will be gratefully received by Elaine Tilling at The Copper Kettle, Heath House or telephone 713650 for collection of small donations.

Wedmore Methodist Church, Annual Carols and Candlelight Concert – Wednesday 2 December



At 7.00pm. Concert is in aid of Charlton Farm Children's Hospice, South West. Admission is free, a collection will be made for the charity towards the end of the concert.

Christmas gifts and refreshments will be on sale after the concert and CHSW representatives will also be selling their charity cards, calendars and gifts. Memory Stars at £1 each for those wishing to remember a loved one can be purchased and hung on the 'Memory Tree' which will be kept in the Chapel and remembered in the service prayers throughout the Christmas period. Everyone welcome.

St Mary's Christmas Fayre - Saturday 5 December

From 9.30am - 12.00 noon. There will be all the usual stalls, singing from pupils of Wedmore First School Academy and the coffee shop will be open throughout.



Quiz Evening – Saturday 5 December

Weston Harriers Pony Club is running a team quiz at Wedmore Village Hall in aid of NGS Macmillan Well Being Centre at Southmead Hospital. Commencing at 7.30pm, teams of four at £7.50 per person to include supper. Drinks at the bar. If you haven't got a team we will find you one! A fun evening for a great local cause. Tickets from the Paper Shop, Garrett Saddlers Draycott or Julie Fenny on 712598.



Turnip Prize Final Judging - Monday 7 December

Taking place at The New Inn at 6.30pm. For more information visit The New Inn or The Turnip Prize Facebook page.

Events Taking Place Outside the Parish

North Somerset Decorative & Fine Arts Society (NSDFAS) Meeting - Wednesday 4 November

At 2.15pm at 37 Club, between Woolavington and Puriton. The talk is entitled 'The Glamour Holiday: The Grand Era of Travel in the 1920s and 30s' by Dr Clare Walsh. Hear about how the advent of steam, hotels, boarding houses, seaside resorts and Thomas Cook made travel no longer the preserve of the wealthy, but an activity for the middle classes. This compelled the social elite to search further afield and look for new destinations that had class and luxury.

Paradis Palm Court Trio 2015 Concert Series, Wartime Songs - Friday 6 November

Concert commences at 12.30pm until 1.30pm, at The Assembly Room, Midsomer Norton. Entry by donation. Home-made cakes and tea / coffee on sale.



Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre – Friday 6 and Tuesday 17 November

On 6 November Cheddar Arts brings Jeffrey Holland of 'Hi-de-Hi' fame to the village as he becomes Stan Laurel in '...and this is my friend Mr Laurel'.

On Tuesday 17 November the hit film is 'Far from the Madding Crowd', the British romantic drama based on the Thomas Hardy novel.

Tickets for all events are on sale available online at www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts, or call 744939 extension 2, or visit Kings Fitness and 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.

Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society - Saturday 7 November

At 7.00pm in Wells Cathedral. Music will be Bach Lutheran Mass BWV233, Cantata 140, Brandenburg Concerto 1, Music for Awhile Orchestra. Matthew Owens Conductor. For tickets visit the website www.wcos.org.uk or telephone 01749 672773.

Fair Trade and Fashion Show – Saturday 14 November



At Shipham Hall from 10.00am to 3.30pm. The fashion show will take place at 11.00am. From 1.30pm to 3.00pm there will be a Christmas Willow Workshop, suitable for all ages. Cost £5 per person or £10 per family. Make something to take home! A variety of stalls including Silverchilli jewellery and Chandi Chowk. Tradecraft refreshments and lunches available. For more information visit the website <http://shiphamfairtrade.my-free.website>.

Cheddar Vale Lions Club, Senior Citizens Christmas Shopping trip to Cheddar Garden Centre - Thursday 19 November

With tea and mince pies. If you would like to attend, please ring Lion Marion on 740366.

Axbridge & Wedmore Medical Practice Coffee Morning – Friday 20 November

From 11.00am to 1.00pm at Axbridge surgery. Sedgemoor Life Line, Weston Hospice Care and our new Village Agent will be present, so please drop in for coffee/tea and homemade cakes and to see the information available; or just come for a chat. All of our patients are welcome!

West Mendip Orchestra Concert - Friday 27 November

Commencing at 7.45 pm at Friends Meeting House Sidcot. Music by Smetana: Vitava, (The Moldau) from Ma vlast, Bizet, L'Arlesienne Suite no.1 and Tchaikovsky, Symphony No 5. Director of Music - Nicholas Bromilow and Leader -Christine Gladwin. Tickets on the door £10, concessions £8, children and students £2. Further details at www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk.



The Somerset Singers Christmas Concert - Saturday 28 November

At St Cuthbert's Church in Wells at 7.30pm. George Frederick Handel's 'Judas Maccabaeus'. Tickets priced £12 available in advance from Wells Tourist Information Centre, or telephone 842353. Tickets priced £14 will be available on the door. Further information may be found on line at www.somerset-singers.co.uk.

Cheddar Vale Lions Club, Tree of light - Thursday 3 December

The lighting of the 'Tree' and Dedication Ceremony will take place at 6.30pm. Carols will be accompanied by the brass band from Cheddar Valley Music Club. Sponsorship forms for first time sponsors can be obtained wherever you see a poster in Cheddar, Wedmore, Draycott, Shipham and Axbridge. Alternatively, the form will be available to download from our website, www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk.

Polly's Kitchen

Chicken Gumbo

Serves 4-6. Preparation time 30 minutes. Cooking time 2 1/2 hours.

Ingredients

- 1 chicken, weighing 1.5kg/3 lbs 5oz, cut into 6 pieces
- 2 celery sticks, 1 broken in half and 1 finely diced
- 1 carrot, finely diced
- 2 onions, 1 sliced and 1 finely diced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons ground nut oil



50g/1 3/4oz plain flour
2 large garlic cloves, crushed
1 green pepper, cored, de-seeded and diced
450g/1lb fresh okra, trimmed, then cut crossways into 1cm/1/2 inch slices
225g/8oz chorizo sausage, sliced
2 tablespoon tomato puree
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon pepper
400g/14oz canned plum tomatoes
Cooked long grain rice and hot pepper sauce.

Method

1. Put the chicken into a large saucepan with water to cover. Place on a medium-high heat and bring to the boil, skimming the surface to remove the foam. When the foam stops rising, reduce the heat to medium, add the celery halves, carrot, sliced onion, 1 bay leaf and salt and simmer for 20 minutes, or until the chicken is tender and the juices run clear when a skewer is inserted into the thickest part of the meat. Strain the chicken, reserving 1 litre/1 3/4 pints of the liquid. When the chicken is cool enough to handle, remove and discard the skin, bones and flavourings. Cut the flesh into bite-sized pieces and reserve.

2. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium-high heat for 2 minutes. Reduce the heat to low then add the diced onion, carrot, celery, chorizo, garlic, green pepper, cayenne, dried thyme, and bay leaf, stirring frequently for 2 minutes, then add the flour. Mix thoroughly and continue to stir for a minute or two to cook the flour, then add the reserved cooking liquid and mix well.

3. Add the tomato puree and the tinned tomatoes and crush them slightly with the back of a wooden spoon, and add the okra, season with salt and pepper and cook gently, on a low simmer, uncovered for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

4. Add the chicken to the pan and simmer for a further 30 minutes. Taste and adjust the seasoning if necessary. Remove the bay leaves and spoon the gumbo over the rice. Serve with a bottle of hot pepper sauce on the side.

Polly Costello

The Garden in November

A day or two ago, I was reading Bob Drew's 'Thought for the Month', not because I have undergone some 'Road to Damascus' experience (although we have just returned from Turkey, less than 600 miles from there), but because Bob is my neighbour, about 50 yards away on the opposite side of the lane and it reminded me of a folk song which is somewhat seasonal (some might say also morbid). It goes something like this 'What's the life of a man any more than a leaf, a



man has his season, so why should we grieve, all through our life we appear fine and gay, but like the leaves we must wither and all fade away.....’ and of course, by the time you read this the leaves will be well and truly falling (although, I hope none of us will have faded away). Coincidentally, Bob and Ruth have in their front garden a katsura tree, *cercidiphyllum japonicum*, which turns a beautiful yellow before losing its leaves and smells of burnt sugar; we can detect the scent on the fine days we are presently experiencing, almost as soon as we open our front door, about fifty yards from the tree. The fine weather we are having at the moment is brought about by high pressure; the days may be sunny and warm, but the nights cold and things like outdoor tomatoes and runner beans are not too happy, but so far it has not been cold enough to damage the more tender late flowering herbaceous plants like dahlias and chrysanthemums, which are still putting on a good display, as are some gladioli.

I said in my last piece that I hoped to be able to report on Theale Flower Show, which, as always, took place on the first Saturday in September. As the format was changed last year, it is difficult to make direct comparisons, but, this year, entries in fruit and vegetables were about 10% down on last year and flower and flower arrangement entries were about 20% up. Vegetable quality and size were generally good, but giant vegetables were not as big as last year, so overall it is difficult to decide whether the season we have had has made a lot of difference.

Now, in November we are coming to the end of the bulb planting season; tulips can be the last to go in, but daffodils and most others should have been planted by now. If you are late with bulbs, try putting them into pots and keeping them protected for a few weeks, until they catch up a bit; however, many of them require a cold spell to make them flower, so don't be over protective. Also, remember that shallow planting of bulbs can often be the cause of poor flowering, so plant bulbs at least twice as deep as the size of the bulb. At the time of writing, apple and pear trees are laden with fruit; these will soften as they ripen and become prone to attack by birds and, of course, wasps, if there are any still about. Today I watched a carrion crow fly off with an apple about the size of a tennis ball, which it had plucked from our Blenheim Orange tree and then about ten minutes later come back for another (it may have been another crow of course, as one looks much like another, although they may not think that).

Deciduous hedging plants should be available by now and it is as well to get planting done, in a well manured trench, before the soil becomes too cold and wet.

Roses can be pruned of excessive growth, to stop winter gales from rocking them about, but they will require their final pruning in the spring, as they come into growth again.

In the vegetable garden, this is a good time to plant the broad bean, *aquadulce claudia*; as I mentioned last month; today I saw broad beans referred to as a “superfood”; I have been eating them for at least 65 years and probably more than that, so my parents knew something that food writers have just found out. Planting broad beans now means that they crop earlier than spring sown ones and can be cleared away and followed with a successional crop that can take advantage of the nitrogen that the beans symbiotic bacteria fix in the soil; they are also less inclined to suffer badly from black bean aphids, as the beans are further on when the ‘black army’ arrives.

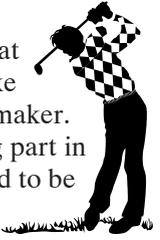
Next time, I shall be writing about December and Christmas, perish the thought.

Adrian Hutchison

Sports

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

September was yet another busy month at Wedmore Golf Club and at the end of the month even treated us to a rare burst of what seemed like summer. The ladies held two major events starting with an Open Bowmaker. This involved 146 lady golfers, including 89 from visiting clubs, taking part in a 4-player team. With at least one visitor in every side there was bound to be at least one winning visitor but in fact there were four, as the winning team, Sandra Atkins, Ros Chidgey, Lesley Davis and Mary Beakes were all from Minehead. Their score of 87 was 4 better than three teams, with countback determining the places. Gill Jones, Esme Gulliver, Joan Peck and Ann Collins (Mendip) were runners-up ahead of Carole Lewis with Kath Sheills, Lesley Moore and Viv Ellis from Farrington. June Smith, Liz Hill, Liz Miller and Shenna Foley (Enmore) were fourth. Linda Lynch, Heather Crump, Chris Collins (all Taunton & Pickeridge) and Vanessa Warden of Oake Manor took the visitor's prize.



No visitors were involved at the Autumn Meeting which is purely for Wedmore players. They started with a Stableford with four trophies. The Committee Cup went to Margaret Rogers who won the bronze division with 35 points, one point ahead of runner-up Ali Owen with Linda Rogers 2 shots further back in third. In silver division, the Tarry Cup, went to Rachel Lockley whose 37 points put her three ahead of second placed Carole Lewis with Angie Webber third on 33.

This left the overall trophies to be decided with the Allington Cup going to the winner. Ronnie Follenfant played excellently to record 39 points but a strong finish from Liz Hill was enough to get her to 40 points and swing the result in her favour. There was then a nine hole Bowmaker in the afternoon with first place going to the team of Carole Lewis, Jenny Thomas and Sue Highes and second place going to two teams who could not be split: Beryl Richards, Vera Ireland and Maggie Morris; and Cathy Olive, Gina Falcon and Jennifer Kellaway.



Prize winners of the Ladies' Autumn Meeting celebrating with Captain Ann Adams

There were also two big weekend events. At the start of the month, 36 players from Wedmore set off to the Wiltshire Golf Club to fight out their own “Ryder Cup” between the Professional, Nick Pope’s team and a team led by John Russell. This year players also competed for a new trophy, presented by Greg Cox and named after the group’s oldest player, Fred Linham, who celebrated his 84th birthday on the Saturday of the trip. He celebrated by scoring a hole in one on the 191 yard par 3 sixth, only the second ace in the 17-year history of the event, the only previous one coming from Fred Linham. His trophy went to David Bates, who won all four of his matches including a resounding 8 & 6 victory in the singles. The overall match went to Nick Pope’s team who edged ahead in the ongoing contest between the teams, winning by a convincing margin of 26.5 points to 18.5.

The Captains hosted a weekend of golf starting with a Stableford for the Captains’ Cups, with over 100 players taking part. The Ladies bronze trophy, donated by Alison Dodkin, went to Judy Cutter who beat Pauline Hales on countback, both scoring 35, with Sue Edwards third. Alison Dodkin then received a trophy, winning the silver division trophy donated by Hilary Crandon with 37, ahead of Claire Biggs and Cathy Olive. The Men’s division 2 went to Dale Worthington on 40 points, 2 better than Charles Woodard, with Terry Simpson a shot back in third. Best score of the day came from division 1 winner Rich Vowles who scored 41, just 1 better than runner-up Bob Jones and Tim Harris despite his one over par 71.

The final event was a fun waltz Bowmaker but Dale Worthington was there again, winning alongside Liam Cann, Greg Cox and Simon Moore on 94 points ahead of Josh and Ben Barwell with Pete Beavan and Tony Hoskings on 91.



Captains and Winners of the Captains’ Cups

The Senior Captain had his own special competition earlier in the month. Seniors’ Captain’s Day was a Stableford with a shotgun start which enjoyed beautiful weather. Division 3 was won by Gordon Newbery with 37 points, 3 clear of Ron Barrett who beat Barry Lucas on countback. Jeff Elliott was division 2 winner on 39 points, a comfortable 4 shots ahead of Derek Osborn with David Bates a shot back in third. A tight finish to division 1 saw Tony Glover finish on 38, just one better than both Tom Bennett and Mike Tanswell, with Tom taking second place on countback.

There were also prizes for both best score by an over 70 and unusually for an under 70. These went to Martin Peakman with 42 points and Ian Sentence with 40. Top prize though went to overall winner Chris Donald with a magnificent 43 points. The previous week the club's excellent effort in reaching the County Seniors Scratch final ended in disappointment with a 4-1 loss to Taunton and Pickeridge. This should not detract from a great performance and if a couple of close matches had gone the other way the result could have been different.

At the opposite end of the age scale the Juniors held their own Championship with a small but talented field taking part. Winner of the girls' gross championship was the Club's 'wee wonder' Harriet Lockley with Georgia Pope taking the net prize. Josh Barwell retained the boy's gross trophy with George Cox taking the net prize. Once again, apologies to all the winners of social golf, Friday Night League, Medals and Stablefords whose successes have gone unreported (again) this month.

Tony Biggs

Thought for the Month

Someone brought a clock to one of our harvest services. Because he wanted to say thank you to God for the gift of time. Now I have always said that God is outside of time, that clocks are something we invented to which we have ever since been bound, but that in God we have all the time we need. So I was intrigued by the presence of a clock at harvest and we were led to remember that we all have the same time each day, and it is a gift from God, so alongside all the traditional gifts of produce, skills and talents our time needs to be used carefully and fruitfully.



None of us know when our time here will end and the Bible has much to say about how to live as if each day were our last. I feel fortunate to have been born into a comfortable life which I have enjoyed thus far for over 60 years. November is a time when we remember and honour those who gave their lives at a young age to enable such comfort, we also remember those we have loved, and who have used their time well; so upon this theme I would share some words spoken by my nephew as he reflected upon the deaths of his great gran at 102, his nan at 79 and his sister at 25, he said 'We can't choose when we leave, but we can choose how we live. A great life isn't about how long you live. It's about how you live'. This choice perhaps is the greatest gift for which we should give thanks.

Let us then give thanks for the time we have and pray for wisdom to use it well. May God Bless your endeavour.

Carol Chaplin
- *Wedmore Methodist Church*

Church News

Remembrance Sunday will be commemorated, as usual, with special services at St Mary's and Christchurch on 8 November. At St Mary's we begin in church at 10.15 am. (please note the time – it's the same as last year, but ¼ hour earlier than the usual Sunday service at St Mary's) before moving to the war memorial for 11.00am. The service at Theale will begin at 11.00am.

Armistice Day itself, 11 November will be marked with a ceremony, including two minutes silence, at the War Memorial beginning at shortly before 11.00am. All are welcome to attend.

The last weekend in November sees the beginning of Advent, the time in the church's year for preparing ourselves to receive our Lord Jesus when he comes, both at Christmas in human form and at the end of time in glory. Advent Sunday, 29 November, will be marked in the evening when Holy Trinity will move from darkness to light during the Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm. This is a particularly moving service in which the theme of the coming of the light of Christ is invoked with hymns, music and readings appropriate to the Advent season.

St Mary's once again invites you all to the annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5 December between 9.30am and 12.00 noon. There will be all the usual stalls, singing from pupils of Wedmore First School Academy and the Coffee Shop will be open throughout.

Christchurch Theale will be holding their Christmas bazaar on Saturday 28 November between 10.00am and 2.00pm. There will be bric a brac, books, Christmas craft and home produce for sale, together with a raffle and tombola. Coffee and biscuits will be available in the morning and ploughman's lunches will be served also. All are welcome.

Bell Ringing at St Mary's, Wedmore

The tower bell ringers of St Marys will be continuing to honour those killed in the Great War from the Isle of Wedmore with a series of peals, rung with the bells half muffled, over the course of the next few years. There will be reminders in future Isle of Wedmore News but they will be ringing on the following occasions

- Mid-2016 for the 11 who died that year between 23/3/16 and 28/9/16
- Mid-January 2017 for the 7 who died between 1/10/16 and 21/3/17
- August 2017 for the 8 who died between 1/5/17 and 30/11/17
- June 2018 for the 12 who died between 23/3/18 and 8/8/18
- November 2018 for the 10 who died between 2/9/18 and 5/9/20 which will also cover the Armistice anniversary for 100 years.

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Wednesday 11 November, 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

Parish Registers

Weddings

Congratulations go to Paul and Faye (nee Short) Tilbee of Blackford whose wedding took place at St Mary's on 12 September 2015.

Congratulations go to Andrew and Rebecca (nee Whitmarsh) Walton of Devon whose wedding took place at St Mary's on 19 September 2015.

Congratulations go to Tom and Emily (nee Fielder) Crabtree of Bristol whose wedding took place at Allerton on 26th September 2015.

Baptisms

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

Phoebe Anne Alesbury and Humphrey Paul Lyndall Alesbury, daughter and son of Richard and Naomi Alesbury of Hereford baptised at St Mary's on Sunday 20 September 2015.

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Sunday	1	All Saints Day	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday	10.15 am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday	15	2nd before Advent	8.00 am	Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Family Service & Baptism
Sunday	22	Christ the King		No Service
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	10.30 am	Parish Communion

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

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	1	All Saints Day	9.00 am	Parish Communion
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Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday		No Service
Sunday	15	2nd before Advent	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	22	Christ the King		No Service
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	6.30 pm	Advent Carol Service

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	1	All Saints Day	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Remembrance Sunday	11.00 am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday	15	2nd before Advent	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	22	Christ the King	11.00 am	Patronal Festival Communion
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	10.30 am	Service of Light

Allerton Church

Sunday	1	All Saints Day	9.00 am	Family Service
Saturday	8	Remembrance Sunday		No Service
Sunday	15	2nd before Advent	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	22	Christ the King		No Service
Sunday	29	Advent Sunday	9.00 am	Youth Communion

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

Bagley Baptist Church

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

Please always check the website for any last minute changes to normal service times and dates.

Every Wednesday 10am-12noon is our really popular 'Coffee with a View'.

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

We will be open from 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday - Fridays between 1-18

November, as a dropping-off point for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. For more information please see item in this month's edition in the News section.

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

For details, please telephone 710779 / 712812 / 713267, or email us on contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk or visit our website www.bagleybaptist.co.uk.

Wedmore Methodist Church

Preachers for November

Sunday	1		10.30am	Local Arrangement
Sunday	8		10.30am	Tony Stevenson
Sunday	15		10.30am	Helen Wade - Family Service
Sunday	22		10.30am	Janet Day
Sunday	29		10.30am	Rev Roly Sims - Holy Communion

Crickham Baptist Church

Every Sunday		10.30am	Sunday School
		6.30pm	Evening Service
Every fortnight		2.30pm	Prayer meeting

Contact Dulcie Hooper on 712187.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar

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

Contact Father Philip Thomas on 742564.

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 9.30am and is back by early afternoon - leaving plenty of time for those needing to collect children from school.

To book a seat ring the friendly controller between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the evening before your journey:

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

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

Somerset Waste Partnership, November Collections



Wednesday 4	Recycling and green garden waste
Wednesday 14	Recycling and refuse
Wednesday 21	Recycling and green garden waste
Wednesday 28	Recycling and refuse

What's On in the Parish

3 - Tues	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
4 - Wed	Green Wedmore Meeting	7.30pm	The Swan
5 - Thurs	Wedmore Village Hall Annual General Meeting	8.00pm	Wedmore VH
6 - Fri	Grand Wine Tasting and Food Tasting	6.30pm	Wedmore VH
	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Open Mic	8.00pm	New Inn
7 - Sat	Fairtrade Coffee Shop and Annual Charities Fair	9.30am	St Mary's
8 - Sun	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY		
11 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	Probus	10.15am	Golf Club
	Armistice Day Commemoration	11.00am	Wedmore War Memorial
	Blackford Café	2.00pm	Blackford VH
13 - Fri	Community Orchard Quiz Night	7.30pm	Theale VH
14 - Sat	Wedmore in Bloom Work Party	9.30am	The George Inn
	WRAF Presentation Night	8.00pm	The Swan
15 - Sun	Sunday Breakfast	9.00am	Blackford VH
	Theale Players - Pantomime Auditions	3.00pm	Theale VH
	Wedmore Theatre Club - Auditions	5.00pm	Wedmore VH
	Theale Film Club - Les Miserables	6.30pm	Theale VH
17 - Tues	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
18 - Wed	Club 50 Meeting	2.30pm	Masonic Hall
	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	The Council Rooms
19 - Thurs	WI Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
20 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Annual Concert	7.30pm	Theale VH
21 - Sat	Theale Community Café	10.00am	Theale VH
	Wedmore Harvest Home Winter Supper Bingo	7.00pm	Masonic Hall
24 - Tues	Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
25 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	Probus	10.15am	Golf Club
	Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting	8.00pm	Rec. Soc. Club
26 - Thurs	Isle of Wedmore Society	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
27 - Fri	Theatre Club - "Playing Maggie"	7.30pm	Wedmore VH
28 - Sat	Christchurch Theale Christmas Bazaar	10.00am	Christchurch, Theale
	Guides Jumble Sale	10.00am	Wedmore VH
29 - Sun	Advent Carol Service	6.30pm	Holy Trinity, Blackford

November 2015

Regular Weekly Events

MONDAY

Dog Training	10.00am	Blackford VH	Sarah Cooke	01934 733716
Modern Dance				
Hugh Sexeys Blackford Crew	4.00pm	Blackford VH	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
Beavers	5.00pm	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	3.00pm	Blackford VH	Bristol Ballet Centre	0117 960 5844
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
Beavers	5.15pm	Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
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	9.30am	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	4.00pm	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	Sarah Maddock	01934 713578
Wedmore Art Group	2.00pm	Masonic Hall	Eileen Saunders	01934 710353
Karate	5.00pm	Blackford VH	Kayleigh Branston	07748 916695