

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



December 2015
No. 432

Editorial

It's December again and love it or hate it, whether you are a Happy Holidays or Bah Humbug type, its Christmas. The Wedmore News team would like to say 'thank you' to all our contributors and advertisers and of course our readers. We wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

Wedmore celebrates Christmas in many ways. From spiritual celebrations, Wedmore by Lamplight (always a popular and sparkling event), to enjoying the fine foods and victuals offered by the host of pubs and restaurants in Wedmore and surrounding villages of the parish that we are lucky enough to have.

If you are a photographer Wedmore News needs you, you could get out snapping at this and other times of the year, as we need to build up a library of photographs that reflect Wedmore and the surrounding area throughout the year for use as front covers in future editions. Please email photos to photoswedmorenews@gmail.com. Pictures need to be medium to high resolution (which usually means at least 1 MB – 2MB for front cover). Please include your name and what the picture is, or where it was taken and ask permission if the photo includes any people or features private property.

Twice a year in January and July we also publish the contact details for all the clubs and societies in Wedmore, so if there have been any changes in your group's contact details please email them to whatsonwedmorenews@gmail.com, or phone Bill Sutton 710475 by Wednesday 9 December.

Sue James

Deadline for January Edition: 1 December 2015

Contact the Wedmore News

Editorial Copy /Items for Publication

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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

Autumn trees on the Cheddar Road, taken by Charles Sweeney (again!). As mentioned by Sue in the editorial, we would welcome your photos. Don't forget that they need to fit the format of the cover and have space for the title.

News

Parish Council Business

The Parish Council is continuing to work with governors at Hugh Sexey, Church of England Middle School, Blackford, to establish a safe crossing for pupils, together with other road safety measures. This will need the full support of County Highways engineers. The Parish Council has earmarked funds to put towards a suitable scheme.

Once again the council is supporting 'Wedmore by Lamplight' on Wednesday 9 December, providing Christmas trees to local businesses and making a grant towards some of the street entertainment. It is also providing over 100 mince pies for distribution after the service at St Mary's Church. Let's hope the weather is kind and everyone enjoys themselves.

In my report last month, you will have read that the waste contractor responsible for emptying the recycling bins at Wedmore playing fields intended to invoice the Parish Council if the wrong type of waste was placed in the wrong bin. However, Sedgemoor District Council has announced that the waste contract has come to an end and a new contractor cannot be found. As a result, the recycling bins at Wedmore and many other villages in the district have been permanently removed. Residents are reminded to make full use of the doorstep collections, or to take waste to the recycling centres at Highbridge or Cheddar.

Finally, on behalf of the Chairman and members of the Parish Council and myself, we wish all readers of Wedmore News a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Rod Pring

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

Wedmore by Lamplight is Wednesday 9th December 6pm to 9pm

Yes it's that wonderful time of year again!

Anyone who loves Christmas will want to add this date to their diary as Christmas will officially start in Wedmore with Wedmore by Lamplight. All the traditional favorites will be here, starting with the St. Mary's Church crib service at 6.00pm and the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree.



The wonderful Wedmore shops will be open for the evening, offering a multitude of delights, the centre of Wedmore being alive with the traditional merriment of pig

roasts and mulled wine. All this whilst Burtle Band plays carols to get us all full of festive spirit!

Father Christmas has agreed to come all the way from Lapland despite his busy schedule. He will also be bringing some of his reindeer! We trust that you will encourage your friends and family to bring multitudes of children to invade his grotto! And we're promised some extra surprise entertainment too. Wedmore is a beautiful village, looking that bit more special by lamplight. It provides a wonderful opportunity for all your family and friends to combine the traditions and fun of Christmas ... even with the shopping!

*Joseph Rajkovic,
2J's Travel*

Wedmore News – News

Editorial team changes

It has been a busy time for the editorial team. We have another new member of the editorial team as Bill Sutton takes over the role of 'What's On' editor from Sue Moreman. Due to the pressure of other commitments Sue has decided the time has come to relinquish this role. Thanks go to Sue for her contribution over the past two years. Welcome and thanks also to Bill Sutton for agreeing to take over this role.



Donations to local charitable causes

The committee of Wedmore News will be considering applications for donations of up to £1000 (in total) to support groups, clubs and charities in the parish of Wedmore. If your organisation would benefit from an additional one- off small cash grant then we would like to hear from you. Please let us know

1. The name of your club / group / organisation / charity;
2. The aims of the organisation;
3. What you would use the money for;
4. Contact name, email and telephone number.

Please submit your application by Tuesday 19 January. Applications will be considered at the next Wedmore News committee meeting. For further information or to submit an application please contact editorwedmorenews@gmail.com

Sue James

The Children's Society Box Opening - Saturday 5 December

The Annual Box Opening for the Children's Society will take place in St Mary's Church, starting at 10.00am. All box holders and friends are invited to come along to enjoy a cup of coffee and browse the Christmas Market whilst your box is opened and the contents are counted. Children's Society Christmas cards will also be on sale.

For those unable to attend on 5 December, please bring your box to Sue Burton at Combe Cottage, Combe Batch, by Thursday 3 December.

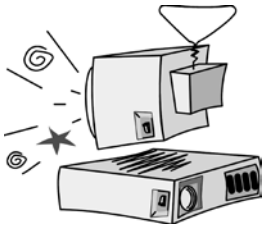
If you would like to become a box holder, and new collectors are urgently needed, please contact Sue Burton on 712092. All you have to do as a box holder is to either

put in a regular amount or just your loose change from time to time. It is surprising how one and two pence pieces soon add up!

As an alternative, if you do not wish to have a box of coins lying around the house, a new system is being introduced this year to enable supporters to make regular payments to The Children's Society by direct debit. If you would like to sign up to this scheme, please contact me.

Sue Burton

Calling All Budding Journalists – Your Website Needs You!



If you're 21 years of age or under and have an interest in literature, journalism, or have something you'd like to share with your community, then the Isle of Wedmore website would like to hear from you.

As we move into 2016 we'll be starting up an exciting new feature on the site whereby we'll be spotlighting the talented writings of the youth of Wedmore. We're looking for articles between 200-500 words on anything you feel passionate about, ideally with a local angle to appeal to our visitors.

If you're interested in submitting an article and seeing your name up in lights, then please contact us via either

email: webteam@theisleofwedmore.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/isleofwedmore

Twitter: [@isleofwedmore](https://twitter.com/isleofwedmore)

If you haven't visited the website in a while, now is the perfect time to do so. In addition to all the usual features such as local news, photo galleries, and a directory of businesses, clubs, and societies in the area, we now provide downloadable copies of this very newsletter – helping people far and wide keep abreast of developments in the village. As we move into December, we'll also be getting in the festive mood by covering 'Wedmore by Lamplight'.

Your website can be accessed from any computer, or mobile device, by simply entering 'Wedmore' into a search provider, such as Google, or by visiting us direct at www.theisleofwedmore.net.

Finally, your web team would like to thank you all for your support in 2015 and wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

James, Rob and Mark

Chairman's report on Wedmore Village Hall AGM

The committee continues with its programme of improvements.

Firstly, we have to thank the stagehand Mike Rippon, who has been referred to by another member of the committee as the 'Technical Manager', for it is he who has cleverly worked switching gear for both sound and lighting systems, concealing them behind panels or under the stage, linking them to a master control centre in a purpose-built cabinet on stage, much to the appreciation of theatrical producers.

Secondly, our most obvious improvement is the refurbishment of the lavatories. Last year we planned and sought funding but this year the scheme came to fruition with Neil Tucker's team seamlessly completing the work in just under six weeks (here I have described the working as 'seamless' to purposely give a plug to Neil Tucker, his men and especially Mark his foreman, for their high quality workmanship.) The cost was £42,000 (with £3,500 spent on architect's fees last year). We were greatly helped by funding from Viridor - £21,000, Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation - £2,000, Real Ale Festival - £1,900 and Wedmore Community Power - £370. We contributed £17,000+ from our reserves.

New chairs donated by the Parish Council last year brought us an unforeseen problem - weight. Storing these chairs in the same place as the old plastic chairs has proved to be a problem because the total weight on the dollies is doubled making their extraction from under the stage difficult. Our thanks to Rob Puddy for his help in trying to solve the problem by laser alignment of the pillars and rails that the dollies run on. Thanks too to Gerald Hellier for his help in fitting new castors. These remedial works still didn't cure the problem entirely and we have reached the conclusion that we must lighten the load. To this end we shall be reducing our chair stock over the next few weeks so each dolly will have less load.

We go into the next year with a healthy bookings calendar, income slightly above expenditure and our reserves at £16,000, enabling the committee to continue with its repairs and improvements. Your hall is looking good.

David Summers-Cooke

The 15th Wedmore Real Ale Festival

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, our wonderful volunteers and all those who attended, drank, bid, danced, raffled, ate, watched rugby and made merry at the 15th Wedmore Real Ale Festival, we're delighted to announce that the festival generated another whopping sum of £15,000 for local worthy causes.



Representatives from no less than 16 local beneficiaries gathered at our annual presentation night on Saturday 14 November held at The Swan, Wedmore and picked up cheques ranging from £200 to £2,550, that will in turn provide welcome assistance to a wide and varied cross-section of our community.

The concept of the WRAF from its infancy to the present day has always been about promoting and championing real ale. It's a fantastic coincidence for one and all that in doing so we've donated £133,571 in the last 15 years and enjoyed every minute of doing so!

The Wedmore Real Ale Festival Committee is delighted to announce that this year's festival beneficiaries were:

Wedmore Brownies	£200
Wedmore Tots and Tinies	£200
In Charleys Memory	£250
Wedmore Twinning Association	£400

IOW Green Group	£450
Wedmore in Bloom	£500
Community Bus	£500
Cots for Tots	£600
Orchard Vale Trust	£600
Somewhere House Somerset	£750
Wedmore Guides	£950
Weston Hospicicare	£1,300
Wedmore PTA	£1,675
Children's Hospice South West	£1,700
Wedmore Playing Fields Management Committee	£2,375
Wedmore Scout Group	£2,550

TOTAL **£15,000**

Cheques were issued to all the successful beneficiaries, who gave us all a small update into how their funds will be spent.

A big thank you to Thierry and the team at The Swan for their continued support, hosting and hospitality this year; it is very much appreciated.

For more information on sponsoring, volunteering, attending or anything else connected with the Festival, please contact Trevor on 710004 / 07812848011.

Dates for your diaries: next year's festival will be running from 16 – 18 September 2016. We will keep you posted on its developments via our Twitter profile and Facebook group. If you are not connected to us, join our Facebook group 'The Wedmore Real Ale Appreciation Society', follow us on Twitter @WedmoreRealAle or go to our website www.wedmorerealale.com.

Alan Page

Turnip Prize

Final judging takes place on Monday 7 December at in The New inn. Past winners in the Turnip Prize Hall of fame are

1999 David Stone, 'Alfred the Grate' A fire grate, containing two burnt loaves

2000 Jacqui Redman, 'The Minstrel Cycle' A small bicycle made of Minstrel sweets & Tampons

2001 Chloe Wilson, 'Nothing' Which was literally nothing!

2002 Jenny Vining, 'Pissed and Broke (Piston Broke)' A piston broken into several parts

2003 James Timms, 'Take leaf from my chuck' A raw chicken stuffed full of leaves

2004 Pearl E Queen, 'Jellied Deal' A wobbly jelly with submerged playing cards

2005 Ian Osenthroat, 'Birds Flew' An empty bird nest containing a flu remedy

2006 Ian Lewis, 'Torn Beef' An empty corn beef can

2007 Bracey Vermin, 'Tea P' Used teabags in the shape of a P



2008 Ivor Prance, 'Fleeced' A piece of sheep's wool depicting John Sergeant
2009 Frank Van Bough, 'Manhole Cover' A pair of large white Y fronts
2010 Doug Pitt, 'Chilli n'Minors' One large chilli and three smaller chillies
2011 Jim Drew, 'Jamming with Muddy Waters' A large jar containing muddy water and jam
2012 Miss Quick, 'The Three Tenas' A pack of lady tenas with three sticking out of the top
2013 Percy Long-Prong, 'Play on Words' A Shakespeare play on top of a dictionary
2014 Ms Drunken Shepherd, 'Ewe Kip' A sleeping sheep

Trevor Prideaux

Conker Competition

This year's annual conker competition at The New Inn, Wedmore on Friday 23 October, drew 69 enthusiastic entries.

The competition was frantic, fierce and feisty, which saw entrants bashing the living daylight out of each other's conkers. The 'stamping' rule, allowed entrants to 'stamp' on their opponent's conker if it fell on the floor, which resulted in some entrants being defeated by stamping on their own conker!



Amanda Carver and Mark Griffin



Kelly James and Frank Sparks



The winner, Jim O'Conner

In joint third place were Frank Sparks and Amanda Carver, second place went to Jacqui Redman and the winner was Jim O'Conner who received the annual Conker Trophy.

Trevor Prideaux

Penny Chuffin' Competition 2015

This year's annual International Penny Chuffin' competition at The New Inn, Wedmore on Friday 30 October, drew an amazing 69 enthusiastic competitors from across the globe, including Hong Kong, Canada and Australia.

Competitors had to lodge three two-pence coins between their cheeks of their backside, walk a distance of four yards and deposit the coins into a pint tankard. They had three runs at this making the maximum total possible nine coins, which then qualified them for the final.

In the first round players competed ferociously to get into the final with many going close with eight. Some waddled and some shuffled! Sadly, Chloe, Scott and Chris McKinley scored zero. Several competitors scored nine - Amanda Carver, Trevor Prideaux and Debbie Noon.

The final was tense with the best of 27. Debbie only managed to score 15 and Amanda 19. Trevor, in top form, claimed the title with 20, a wonderful example of a chuffin. £41 was raised for Children in Need.

For further information, contact Trevor on 07812848011.

Trevor Prideaux

Ethel Pople Deceased Charity and the Wedmore Charities

The late Ethel Pople left a Trust under her will for the assistance of the elderly and/or infirm of Cocklake, Clewer and 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 Ethel Pople Trust and also The Wedmore Charities 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

Planting Hope in Ethiopia



I have just returned to Westbury sub Mendip from a self-funded trip to Ethiopia to see the work of local charity 'Send a Cow', which helps farmers produce food all year round.

I visited Ethiopia for the first time two years ago, so this trip gave me the opportunity to see how the work has progressed.

The project is not about cows, it's about listening, building confidence and training, the starting point being 'What do you

have?', not what do you want?' Training is given by Ethiopian staff. The communities involved live with the stigma of Aids. They are an especially poor, vulnerable and marginalised people who regard poverty and hunger as an inescapable fact of life. However, I saw that within three months a family was eating vegetables grown in their backyard and thinking for themselves. As one farmer said 'My backyard is now my restaurant'.

Over the past two years a number of innovative practices have been initiated by the dedicated staff and also the farmers themselves, once their confidence had been boosted. These have included lessons in gender equality, challenging traditional views and encouraging team work from the beginning; a drought resistant crop being used to make flour; a school club, where children grow and sell vegetables to purchase school books, as well as taking the lessons home.

'Send a Cow' works in remote areas where, although the scenery is stunning, roads are virtually non-existent and there is no water or electricity, and there has been below average rainfall for two successive years. Places where other charities do not venture. The current estimate is that eight million people require food aid.

A tough trip, physically and mentally, but I have come home inspired by the successes of the farmers who have achieved results through their own hard work. I have seen for myself that 'Send a Cow' kick starts a rapid permanent change, building resilience to the challenge of drought and breaking reliance on handouts. I sat with farmers, sharing a simple meal, which a year ago would not even have been possible. They said 'we will never look back'.

'Send a Cow' has obtained UKAID match funding where all funds raised from UK supporters will be matched £ for £ by the UK Government until 31 December, so doubling every donation. Anyone wishing to learn more can visit www.sendacow.org and purchase Christmas gifts supporting their work from the online catalogue.

I am also available to speak to schools and local groups and can be contacted via email at jackie.laws@btinternet.com.

Jackie Laws

Ashton Horse Show

The Committee are delighted to announce the donation of £750 to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance from this year's show, held on 19 July at Ashton Mill Farm.

A very big thank you to all our sponsors, helpers, and competitors on the day, who made the day possible. Next year's show will be on Sunday 10 July 2016.



Steve Butler

John Hodge Solicitors MacMillan Coffee Mornings

John Hodge Solicitors are proud to report that the MacMillan Coffee Mornings held by the firm raised £211.04. Thank you to everyone who supported these events.

Vashti Ferris

Letters

Dear Editor

295 Houses Planned for Wedmore? Sedgemoor District Council is currently reviewing its local plan and has identified five possible sites which may be allocated for housing with the potential to create 295 new homes in Wedmore. As a resident I have a number of personal concerns regarding the impact that these proposals will have on our property and their wider impact on the village itself such as increased traffic congestion, increased pupil numbers at our local schools and the additional strain that will be placed on the infrastructure and our local services. I would urge all residents to carefully examine the Emerging Local Plan and take part in the public consultation process before it is formally adopted by the district council. Please respond to Sedgemoor District Council by visiting their website <http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/LocalPlan> and registering on the Local Plan Consultation Portal. If you are unable to respond online you can download a Local Plan Response Form and return it by post to Planning Policy, Strategy and Development, Sedgemoor District Council, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR. Alternatively you can email it to ldf@sedgemoor.gov.uk Your comments should be returned to the council by 18 December 2015.



Paul Martin

Reports and Society Updates

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of £20 in the November draw was Chloe Sullivan, holding No.31, and the second lucky winner was Moira Davies, holding No.77 and winning £10. Hoorah!

Thelma Jenkins-Jones



Wedmore WI Report - October 2015

It was our birthday celebration meeting, so Hazel welcomed our visitors from other WIs as well as from Wedmore, and cut short the business part of the meeting, just telling us about the lunch on 26 November in Cheddar, and that the members who had visited Radstock Museum to see the WI Centenary exhibition had thought it excellent. Margaret S was pleased to say that the skittles team had won their round against Henton WI, and as they have a bye in the second round, they are through to the third.

Our speaker, Jonathan Weekes, had been quietly filling a table with strange shaped musical instruments, and Hazel welcomed him back to give us the second part of his talk and demonstration of medieval music, 'A Blast from the

Past'. Things were not quiet for long! We had previously heard about reed pipes and woodwind, this time it was about horns, trumpets and stringed instruments. Horns were made from things that grew on animals, or in the sea – a conch shell produced a very pleasant sound, and would have been used at sea. Cow horns could produce three or four notes, and were also used for signalling. It got a bit louder with a ceramic hunting horn, and a Saxon horn with holes, which could produce some sort of scale. We were then shown a cornet, on which a good player could produce a lot of notes; Jonathon demonstrated by playing a tune mentioned by Shakespeare's Falstaff, Fortune my Foe. From this instrument were developed the tenor lizard and bass serpent.

In an excavation in a Billingsgate carpark, a 13th century trumpet was discovered, made in four parts, with roundels to secure a banner. We heard a rousing fanfare on a replica trumpet, and then an even longer slide trumpet, which worked on the trombone principle, but was very awkward to play, as the positions for the notes were a long way apart.

Next, Jonathon moved on to lyres, instruments dating from classical Greek times. All modern stringed instruments are descended from lyres, which were of two types – the shepherd's lyre, using a turtle or tortoise shell, and the posher kithara, made of wood, and the instrument of gods and priests. One was found in the Sutton Hoo ship burial. It is not known exactly how they were played, bowed or strummed, but we heard 'En Hiver', a troubadour song, which was tuneful and lively. The other long-lived string instrument is the harp, and we had a demonstration of that too. One lovely instrument



Jonathan Weekes playing a lyre

that Jonathon had brought was a lute; in Tudor times the best makers and players were English. Until recently the centre for modern lute making has been Damascus, but the situation in Syria cannot be good for lute makers. Jonathon performed the oldest known song in the English language, Bird on a Briar, which was found in Exeter Abbey, scribbled on the back of a Papal Bull of 1199. We also heard about the

tromba marina, the hurdy gurdy, the rebec, from which the violin family developed, and the psaltery and dulcimer from which the harpsichord and piano descended.

A vote of thanks was given by Christine, for a very tuneful and entertaining evening, and we then set about eating the buffet food that members had brought. The evening was rounded off with a slice of birthday cake, made by Hazel and iced by Val.

Next month our meeting is on Thursday 17 December when Mr Peter Tinney will talk on his 'Childhood Reflections'. The competition is 'My Earliest Childhood Memory'. This promises to be a hilarious evening, so please come, and bring a friend.

Chris Barker

Isle of Wedmore Society, October 2015

Another completely different subject to last month's talk – this month being the very sensitive and moving talk by Julia Ashley, a Weston Hospice Volunteer Ward Receptionist, at the In-patient department of this very highly caring organisation.

Julia became a volunteer after a friend was diagnosed with cancer and received wonderful care and support from the hospice. The hospice was started in 1989 in Weston super Mare to support people with life limiting illnesses, until then people had to travel to Bristol or Taunton for hospice services.

The unit, which has 10 beds, is helped by a band of volunteers, with health professionals caring for people with cancer and other illnesses such as motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. The hospice also provides care in the community, which includes emotional and financial aid. The fund raising services are organised without any cost to the hospice, raising £8400 per day, or £3 million annually. This is achieved through the hospice lottery, many different types of events and local appeals. There are also 18 retail shops which help to raise £500,000 a year. The hospice has seven volunteers for every one paid member of staff and this saves £1million per annum in salaries, enabling them to treat 1300 people every year.

Julia hoped she dispelled the myth that hospices are depressing places because she told us they are full of laughter and support and wonderful care.

Chris Edwards

Friends of St Mary's Church, Wedmore

Auction of Promises

This joint PCC and Friends production was a great success: 49 splendid lots, top class pasties, all you could drink and over £3000 raised. Thanks to everyone. We will surely have another auction soon.

Christmas Cards

The cards are of either a snowy, sunlit view of the village or a crib scene, detail from the lovely east window. To purchase your cards telephone 710149 or email dahopkins@aol.com.

The Tower Parapet

Work is now complete. The Friends were able to donate £5,000! We can all look forward to 'Tea and Tower' days soon, enjoying the best view in the village.

Membership

We have several new members, but would welcome more. Please become a 'Friend of St. Mary's'. Even those of us who are not 'churchgoers' go to church more often than we imagine, attending weddings, funerals and baptisms. This year, many of us were at the Harvest Festival services, there was a full house at the Remembrance Sunday service and the Christmas services will be packed out. The church is a community centre for all the village. A beautiful building providing the backdrop to our village lives. At present, most of the cost of the upkeep of our lovely church falls on the active congregation. They need our help!

David Hopkins

Wedmore in Bloom

During October all the tubs were planted up with their winter/spring flowers, and treated for vine weevil; this has plagued some of the plants these last few years.

It has been brought to our notice by those who empty the waste bin at Arthur Reynolds garden that people have been placing food and dog waste in the bin, resulting in maggots and making it a very unpleasant job to empty. Apart from the fact that food should not be placed in the bin, this is not a council bin and is emptied by a member of the Wedmore in Bloom committee. If this continues Wedmore in Bloom may consider removing the bin altogether. There is a convenient waste bin on the other side of the road for dog waste, but not food.



Wedmore in Bloom Committee

Wedmore Garden Club



Garden Club members enjoying the beautiful gardens

Wedmore Garden Club members paid a late summer visit to 'Lift the Latch' near Chard in Somerset. In February, Pauline and David Wright gave us a talk and slideshow on the garden which they have created from scratch. We followed this with a visit in September, where we were able to see the creative and colourful planting as well as enjoying tea and cake in the September sunshine. Pauline donates the proceeds from garden visitors to charity.

Andrea West

Green Wedmore

Green Wedmore is planning a movie night on Sunday 6 December at 7.30pm in Wedmore Village Hall. The film, 'This Changes Everything' has not yet been released in the UK, but we have managed to get permission to show it in Wedmore.

This is one woman's journey, set in a world where humans believe they are the masters of their planet. Unfortunately this is the planet. The film explores who we are and why we are doing what we do to this precious planet, our only home. It also focuses on the power we all have as communities to make the changes to the system before it is too late.

We are so lucky in Wedmore; we are not yet on the frontline. Our lights stay on, rubbish is collected and the countryside is beautiful. Sadly this is not the case everywhere. Other communities are hurting and hurting badly. But quietly, stoically, with passion and energy people around the world are waking up and fighting back.

Despite the provocative title this film does not set out to shock or scare, but to lay out the facts and positive ideas for change. I hope you can all join Green Wedmore (formerly Wedmore Green Group) to watch this film. It is also appropriate for children, so please do bring them along. Entry is free, bring your own popcorn! Any questions please email s.mewes@virgin.net

Steve Mewes

Theale Film Club



Theale Film Club was established in memory of James Mckay, a stalwart of Theale Players who kindly left a bequest. It has now been running for a year and apart from a few technical glitches it is running very well. The choc ices and magnum look-a-likes have proved very popular!

The club meets monthly on a Sunday evening showing a variety of films. It's not intended to show films that no one has seen before, that would be impossible. However, as with most clubs, film nights are intended to be social occasions and for people who enjoy sharing their love of films. Film club members have suggested films they would like to see or see again. We have had little interest in films specifically for children although this remains an option. We have also considered putting on additional films (at other times) with more limited appeal.

Membership fees have mostly covered our running costs and Theale Players have funded a new 5/1 surround sound system (just like being in the cinema!) and we are currently upgrading our screen. This entails boarding, plastering and painting the far

wall of the hall. Theale Players are funding most of this cost together with financial help from the Village Hall committee.

We do still need to raise more money so a fund raiser is planned on Friday 8 January when we are hosting a fun quiz night.

Membership starts again in January with new members very welcome. The cost is £16 for the year (12 films). For more information contact Phil Butterworth on 712775. Hope to see you.

Theale Film Club Team

Mendip Rotary Club organises District Conference



District Governor Bob Acland, a member of Mendip Rotary Club, with his wife Sue.



Mendip Rotary's 'Showcase', featuring local community youth projects



Ready to Party! Mendip Rotarians with their spouses at the conference Caribbean Night.

Rotarians from the Mendip Club organised the annual District 1200 Conference at the Four Pillars Hotel in Cotswold Water Park this year. Bob Acland, the District Governor, is a Mendip Rotarian, and had asked his own club to run the weekend.

Speakers during the weekend included Rt Revd Peter Price, the former Bishop of Bath and Wells, on his peace-making roles in Northern Ireland and the Middle East; David Flatman on Bath Rugby Foundation; and Jane Walker MBE on the charity she has founded to help child workers in the Philippines.

During the weekend, there was plenty of time to relax in the hotel spa, enjoy local walks and have fun at the two dinners, one of which was on a Caribbean theme.

The purpose of the conference was to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Rotary is a networking organisation: a network of friends who share a common passion, to make the world a better place and to play their part, individually and collectively, in promoting harmony and understanding amongst all peoples.

This weekend gave the three hundred attendees the opportunity to network amongst their closest friends and neighbours in the Rotary world, to exchange ideas and learn from the experience of others. A Rotary Club 'showcase' in which individual clubs had the opportunity to show the projects in which they were engaged, was open throughout the weekend, and the Mendip Club entry featuring its community youth work was one of four judged to be the best.

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 would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers, trainers, visitors and helpers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

We will be closed for our Christmas break from Saturday 12 December to Sunday 3 January inclusive, reopening on Monday 4 January 2016.



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

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

Contact us on 741751 or email itforheterrified@btconnect.com or visit our website www.itforheterrified.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)

On Thursday 17 December, we will be holding our monthly Meet and Greet Coffee Morning at Church House, Cheddar 10.30am -12.00 noon.

If you are retired and wondering what to do with your time, come and talk to us. U3A provides opportunities to pursue new interests or develop knowledge of a particular subject with like-minded people. For further details telephone 744241 or visit www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk.



Roger Coe

Cheddar Lions Club



Cheddar Vale Lions Club members will be out and about this month selling Christmas raffle tickets in aid of their defibrillator fund. The Lions are hoping to plug some of the gaps in the network of defibrillators in the Cheddar Valley. Please give your support as there are lots of lovely prizes to be won from a fabulous hamper, bottles of whiskey and family tickets for Wookey Hole – and lots more in between!

The Tree of Light Dedication Service takes place at the Bath Arms on Thursday 3 December at 6.30pm. All are welcome and if you'd like to sponsor a light, forms are available throughout the area and can be downloaded from our website at www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk.

Thank you all for your support throughout the year and have a lovely Christmas

Janet Clark

North Somerset Decorative & Fine Arts Society (NSDFAS)

Dr. Bertie Pearce entertained us with a fascinating and amusing October lecture entitled 'Now you see it now you don't', talking mainly of the art of illusion. He started with Rene Magritte, the surrealist painter 1898-1967 who questioned viewers'


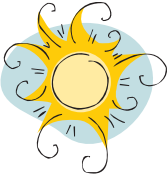
perceptions, using one of his *Giaconda* paintings of curtains and sky, followed by an image of 'Carte Blanche' a puzzling piece with a woman on a horse amid trees.

This was followed with many different images, including Hogarth's painting 'Satire on False Perspective' which contains 27 deliberate mistakes. A most entertaining speaker, he finished with a trick with three lengths of rope which none of us could comprehend.

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. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2 December. Toby Faber of Faber and Faber will talk about its history and design, tracing the history of the publishing house through its illustrations, covers and designs.

Rosie Lishman

Weather Report for September 2015

	RAIN FALL	Monthly Total	42.8mm	(1.69ins)
		30 year average	91.5mm	(3.60ins)
		Wettest days (29th)	9.2 mm	(0.36ins)
		No of dry days	21	
		Last 3 months (Jun - Aug)	209mm	(8.24ins)
		Year ending 30 June 2015	800mm	(31.5ins)
	TEMPERATURES	Maximum (10th, 11th)	18.0 °C	(64.4 °F)
		Minimum (26th, 27th)	1 °C	(33.8 °F)
		Number of air frosts	NIL	
		Monthly average maximum	14.3 °C	(57.7 °F)
		30 year average maximum	15. °C	(59.0 °F)
		Monthly average minimum	7.2 °C	(45.0 °F)
		30 year average minimum	7.6 °C	(45.7 °F)

COMMENTS October is usually our wettest month, but this year we had less than half our normal rainfall. Temperatures were a little cooler than the long term averages.

Denley Brown

Forthcoming Events

Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club Christmas Supper - Tuesday 1 December

At 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall. Members are free and visitors £6. Please let Andrea West know if you would like to attend. Telephone 712161.



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

Wedmore Methodist Church is holding its 12th annual 'Carols & Candlelight' concert in aid of Charlton Farm Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) on Wednesday 2 December at 7.00pm. Admission is free. A collection will be made for the charity towards the end of the concert. Christmas gift stalls and refreshments will be on sale after the concert and CHSW representatives will also be selling their charity cards, calendars and gifts. For those wishing to remember a loved one, Memory Stars at £1 each can be purchased and hung on the Memory Tree which will be kept in the chapel, with remembrance in the service prayers throughout the Christmas period. Everyone is welcome.

Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 4 December and Friday 18 December

At the New Inn, Wedmore, starting at 8.00pm. Open mic and special Christmas open mic sessions. Entrance £1, all welcome.



St Mary's Church Christmas Fayre - Saturday 5 December

From 9.30am to 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 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.

Green Wedmore Movie night – Sunday 6 December

The film 'This Changes Everything' will be shown at 7.30pm, Wedmore Village Hall. Entry free, bring your own popcorn! Suitable for all ages.

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.

Wedmore by Lamplight – Wednesday 9 December

Starting with the St. Mary's Church crib service at 6.00pm and the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree. The shops will be open for the evening and Wedmore will be alive with lots to eat and drink and entertainment. Burtle band will play carols and Father Christmas will be in attendance with some of his reindeer. Something for everyone.



Theale Film Club - Sunday 13 December

The film is 'Get Santa'. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.00pm prompt start, at Theale Village Hall.

It's days before Christmas and reindeer are found running loose through the streets of London. Meanwhile an astonished 9 year-old Tom (newcomer Kit Connor) discovers Santa (Jim Broadbent) in the garden shed. He has crash-landed while test-driving his new sleigh and enlists Tom and his father Steve (Rafe Spall) to help him get back to Lapland. Get Santa is a heart-warming and funny family adventure.

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 16 December

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 17 December

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. The speaker is Mr Peter Tinney who will talk about his 'Childhood reflections'. The competition is 'My earliest childhood memory'. 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.

Theale Film Club Fun Quiz Night – Friday 8 January

In Theale Village Hall, starting at 8.00pm. teams of six. The evening includes a light supper, raffle, winners prizes and film and music extracts, all for £7.50 per person. For more information telephone 712144



Flamenco Dancing and Paella Evening- Saturday 20 February

Mendip Rotary Club is bringing some Spanish sunshine to Wedmore this winter with a flamenco dancing and paella evening at the Wedmore Village Hall on Saturday 20 February, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £25 per head or £180 per table of 8 from Chris or Maggie Steel on 713412 or email chris@mhpuk.co.uk.

Events Taking Place Outside the Parish

North Somerset Decorative & Fine Arts Society (NSDFAS) Meeting - Wednesday 2 December

Toby Faber will talk about 'Faber and Faber - its History and Design', tracing the history of the publishing house through its illustrations, covers and designs. Commencing at 2.15pm at 37 Club, between Woolavington and Puriton.



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

Lighting of the 'Tree' and Dedication Ceremony commencing at 6.30pm at the Bath Arms. Carols will be accompanied by the brass band from Cheddar Valley Music Club.

Paradis Palm Court Trio 2015 Concert Series, Sleigh Ride – Friday 4 December

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

Allerton Players – Friday 4 and Saturday 5 December

Allerton Players present 'We've gone crackers' the annual Christmas entertainment at Weare Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm. Get into the festive spirit with a glass of mulled wine, a mince pie and plenty of laughs. Tickets are £9 and available from Carol Kilburn on 713158 or Margaret Tinney on 712324.

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre – Friday 11 December

Friday 11 December, 'Remembering Cheddar 95 - The Pageant', features archive film of the pageant performed 20 years ago to celebrate 100 years of Cheddar's history. Tickets 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.

Polly's Kitchen

Ok readers, I am setting you a challenge for December, stollen! For many it is a quintessential German Christmas cake, a rich and spicy yeasted bread, studded with fruit and marzipan, nuts and citrus peel, finished with a coating of butter and sugar, it is a proper bad boy! Bake it up to two weeks in advance to give the loaf time to mature. Chop, chop, no time to waste!



Cardamom Stollen *(Makes one large loaf)*

You will need 1 baking sheet, lined with baking paper

Ingredients

125g large raisins

50g chopped, mixed peel, chopped more finely

Zest and juice of 1 lemon

4 teaspoons of dark rum

125ml milk

Freshly grated nutmeg

Seeds from 2 cardamom pods, crushed

250g strong white bread flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

3 tablespoons caster sugar

1x7g sachet fast-action yeast

2 medium egg yolks at room temperature

100g unsalted butter, softened but not runny

50g whole blanched almonds, lightly toasted and roughly chopped

75g white marzipan

To finish

50g unsalted butter, melted

Icing sugar for dusting

Method

1. Put the raisins, chopped peel, lemon zest and rum into a small bowl. Stir well and cover tightly and leave to soak overnight.

2. Next day, uncover the bowl and stir again. Gently warm the milk with half a dozen gratings of nutmeg and the cardamom, then remove from the heat and leave to infuse for 15 minutes.

3. Sift the flour, salt and sugar into a large mixing bowl, or the bowl of a large free-standing electric mixer. Stir in the dried yeast. Make a well in the centre and pour in the warm milk and egg yolks. Work it with your hand or the dough hook, on a low speed, to make a very soft dough that holds its shape. If the dough seems dry and firm, work in some more milk, a tablespoon at a time. If the dough seems sloppy, work in a little more flour.

4. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured surface, and knead for 10 minutes (or 5 minutes in the mixer, with the dough hook, on a low setting) until the dough feels firmer and very elastic. Return the dough to the bowl, cover with clingfilm and leave in a warm place to rise for about an hour and a half until it doubles in size.

5. Cut the butter into small pieces and work into the dough (still in the bowl) with your hands, squeezing the dough between your fingers, until the butter is totally amalgamated. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and pat out to a rectangle, about 1cm thick. Scatter the fruit mixture - drain off any excess liquid, if necessary - and the almonds along the centre of the dough.

6. Fold in the two long edges of the dough so they meet in the centre, then fold the two short ends to the centre. Fold the dough parcel in half. Lightly dust your hands and the work surface with flour, and tap out the dough again and fold up 2 or 3 more times, until the fruit and nuts are evenly distributed. The dough will feel very soft and sticky, don't panic!

7. Return the dough to the bowl and cover as before, leave to rise for an hour and a half to two hours, until doubled in size. Don't be tempted to put it somewhere warm to rise as the butter will start to ooze out.

8. Flour your hands and the work surface again, then turn out the dough. Pat out to a rectangle about 20 x 15cm. With the side of your hand make a shallow groove down the centre of the dough. Roll the marzipan with your hands to make a sausage shape 18cm long and set it into the long groove in the dough. Fold the dough in 3: fold one long edge over to cover the marzipan, then fold over the other long edge to make a three layer sandwich with the marzipan under two layers of dough. Tuck the ends under neatly.

9. Transfer the dough to the prepared baking sheet and gently shape the loaf with your hands to make a neat oval. Cover loosely with a sheet of clingfilm and leave on the work surface to rise for an hour, until doubled in size. Towards the end of this time heat your oven to 180 degrees c/350 f/ gas 4.

10. Uncover the risen loaf and place in the heated oven. Bake for about 40 minutes until a good golden brown; cover the loaf loosely with foil or baking paper after 25 minutes if it is browning too quickly. Remove from the oven and transfer on

the baking paper to a wire rack. Brush the stollen with melted butter and dust with plenty of icing sugar. Leave until cold, then wrap in greaseproof paper and foil and allow to mature for at least a week. Dust with more icing sugar just before serving, cut into thick slices. Merry Christmas.

Polly Costello

The Garden in December

I am writing this on the evening of 1 November and it is hard to believe that I have, until a few minutes ago, been sitting on the patio, drinking a glass of beer, after a pleasant day in the garden. The weather is exceptionally benign for the time of year and it makes me wonder whether we really are going to get the hard winter that was being predicted a few weeks ago when I wrote my previous piece. We shall see!



I see that I wrote something similar in 2009 and I believe we did have some very cold winter weather after that.

Although the days are short in December and the sun is low in the sky, the days can often be quite pleasant, even if they are cold and provided it is not too wet, it is possible to get on with lots of tasks in your garden. By now, some of the winter blooming plants, such as winter jasmine, *jasminum nudiflorum*, and *iris unguicularis* should be doing their stuff and will soon be joined by the beautifully scented *viburnum fragrans* and its offspring *v. x bodnantense*. Nothing is as pleasant on a cold, sunny, winter's day as working close to one of these, with a robin singing nearby.

Of course, a lot of colour in the garden in the middle of winter is provided by berries and fruits, such as those of the holly, unless due to hard weather birds have already eaten all of them.

Winter pruning of fruit trees can begin now and continue until bud-burst at the end of February, but avoid pruning plums and cherries in the winter, as this can lead to them being infected with silver-leaf disease, which is very debilitating. The reason it is spread by winter pruning is that the spores of the fungus, which can be seen on the trunks of infected trees, as a smallish bracket fungus, are airborne in winter and can infect cut wounds.

Ornamental shrubs and trees, grown for their colourful bark, such as dogwoods and certain willows should not be pruned until the spring, as they come into growth again, this gives them the maximum time to grow their conspicuous young shoots.

Provided that the ground is not too wet and/or frozen you can carry on with any winter digging that you have to do and at least it will keep you warm. However, when it is too inclement to work outside, this is a good opportunity to clean out greenhouses and potting sheds. Consider adding extra insulation to your greenhouse with bubble-wrap, clipped onto the frame inside the glazing bars. Try planting some winter salad crops if you have room; there seem to be far more varieties available than was once the case. Go to garden centres and look at the seeds or young plants that are available.

In the vegetable garden, over-wintered brassicas, such as Brussels sprouts and cauliflowers, may need staking and heeling in to stop the wind from blowing them over.

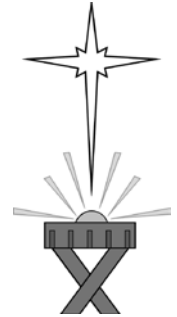
If you have outside taps and hosepipes, especially those with plastic fittings, protect them from sub-zero temperatures as the plastic is often cracked as the water expands on freezing and you may be unaware of this until the time comes to use them again in the spring. Soon, snowdrops and daffodils will start to appear and the gardening year will start all over again.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that Father Christmas brings you some garden related gifts and that you have time to sit by the fire and look at books or seed catalogues that will inspire you with hope for next season!

Adrian Hutchison

Thought for the Month

During December Mary and Joseph plus their donkey will be making their way towards Bethlehem. They will be taking the journey at a steady rate and visiting a number of homes on the Isle of Wight for sanctuary and rest on the way. Ok, so these are models, figures that I am talking about. The Travelling Crib is a tradition from South America, where it is called POSADA and is all about offering Mary and Joseph hospitality on their journey, and in so doing, opening one's home and heart to the stranger and to God.



Different households from our churches and beyond will offer to host these crib figures for an evening and when they arrive, the following interchange is played out: -

Can we come in?

No, we're too busy.

We need somewhere to stay.

There's no room.

Mary needs somewhere to rest.

Go away!

She's going to have a baby.

His name will be Jesus.

You'd better come in then!

There may well be a chance to meet some people you haven't before and offer food or drink as well as a dedicated space in the home for Mary and Joseph.

Many people will be looking for shelter this winter – children in care needing permanent homes, the homeless on our streets and, of course, the many, many who have fled conflict, oppression or economic hardship in the Middle East. The hospitality we are willing to give and the open hearted welcome we can provide as individuals and as a nation is one of the tests of our humanity. Jesus was born in a stable as there was no room anywhere else and spent his very early years as a refugee in Egypt. When we hear the Christmas story again this year or perhaps when we offer a space for Mary

and Joseph, may we offer a space in our hearts to their son Jesus and may we offer a space also for those, who, like him, have no permanent shelter or home of their own.

And if you want to host Mary and Joseph for a night, please contact 713745 or 710144.

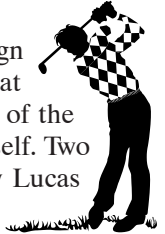
Lisa, Iona, Melissa and I thank you for all your good wishes and prayer over the past year. May you find the hospitality that is at God's heart this Christmas and beyond.

Richard Neill

Sport Reports

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

Winter rules coming in to play right at the end of October was a sure sign that winter is almost here but there was still a lot of golf to be played at Wedmore during the month. Most significantly there were the finals of the Summer Knock-Out matches. Six finals were played on Finals Day itself. Two finals had already been played the previous weekend when Wendy Lucas took an early stranglehold on the Macarthur Bronze singles and went on to win convincingly against Janis Lawrence. The Pinks Plate Ladies Singles was much closer but eventually Mary-Lou Denny triumphed over Jill McDonald on the seventeenth. The Seniors plate had been played on Friday with Peter Rowntree getting the better of David Taylor by 4 & 3.



This left six finals for Finals Day. The Frank Edwards Men's Singles is played over 36 holes and after the morning round Ben Barwell had built up a commanding 3- hole lead which he maintained until into the back nine. Mistakes off the tee on 15 and 17 though, allowed Rob Davis back in and he took advantage to clinch the match one up after 36 holes of hard fought golf. The Ladies Macarthur Singles was just as close with neither Rachael Lockley nor Shirley Turner able to gain the edge over 18 holes. The extra hole was required before Rachel won on the nineteenth. The Crandon Cup Ladies Pairs was just as tight and Alison Dodkin and Ange Webber had chances to win on 16 and 17 before Shirley Gooding and Claire Biggs held their nerve to win three holes in a row to win on the nineteenth.



Finalists in the Ladies Crandon Cup – Shirley Gooding, Claire Biggs, Ange Webber and Alison Dodkin



Finalists in Guys and Gals – Trish Phelps, Jim Crick, referee Ian Rosen, Bill Lander and Alison Dodkin

Alison Dodkin had better luck in the morning, partnering Bill Lander in the Guys and Gals Trophy. Their opponents, Jim Crick and Trish Phelps pushed them all the way, holding the lead at half way before the extra distance of the lower handicappers came through on the back nine but only just, winning on the eighteenth. John Russell was another player involved in two finals, both the Seniors Singles and Pairs. In the morning singles he played sub-par golf to see off Tony Biggs very easily. In the pairs though, playing with Gordon Summers against Geoff Brooks and David Taylor he was five down after six holes before turning the match around to win 2 & 1.

The last summer final had to be held back to the last day of the month but quite a match it was. Tony Rymell and Mark Higginbottom took an early three-hole lead against Ben Barwell and Tony Ribí in the Men's Pairs, but they fought back strongly, were level by the twelfth and powered though the par fives to take a two-hole lead with just three holes to play. However, pars on the next two holes were good enough to see the match level again going down the last. Ben seemed in control with a 3-foot putt and Mark putting from way across the green. It was only a cruel lip out that foiled him and Ben held his nerve, holed the putt and won the trophy.

The month also saw the last Open competition of the year, the Yonex Trophy, an Open Stableford. Leading the way was Frank Denniston with 45 points which put him 4 points better than his closest challenger. This was Jay James, winning division 2 with 41 points, in itself 3 points ahead of both Mark Sweeting and Marcello di Mascio, with Mark just ahead on countback. By contrast there was a blanket finish in division 1, with four players all finishing on 39. Countback decided that Geoff Fisher finished ahead of Bill Lander, with visitor Adrian Hands third and Derek Moody fourth.

At the opposite end of the age scale to the men's winner, young Harriet Lockley continued her irresistible rise to win the Ladies, her 40 points giving her a winning margin of 5 over Chris Simpson, division 1 winner with Dawn Chadwick second on 34. In division 2, Hazel Gough just edged out Jan Jenkins after both scored 35.

The ladies were back in action midweek playing another Stableford for the Olive Bowl. Mary-Lou Denny continued her magnificent season, taking first place with 39 points, 3 better than Shirley Gooding in second. Janis Lawrence was just ahead of Wendy Lucas on countback for third and Cathy Olive was one point back ahead of Sue Hughes for fifth and sixth.

Other highlights in the month were divisional wins in the Club Medal from James, Vowles, Jon Thompson and Marcello di Mascio and in the Stableford from Mark Cornish, Trevor Marshall and George Smith. Amongst the Ladies, Anya Patten started off her time at Wedmore with a hole in one when coming second to Linda Roberts in the Ladies Medal.

Tony Biggs

Wedmore Tennis Club

Winter League

Despite a number of injuries to backs, shoulders and a hamstring, an altercation with a kettle and a golfing weekend affecting the availability of many players, the winter league season has started in a relatively promising fashion.

Due to the favourable weather so far this autumn the A team in division one, captained by Ines Beeson, have managed to play and win three matches already. They beat Trull A 10.1, Minehead A 10.1 and Clevedon A 8.2; particularly commendable results as all matches were played away. Congratulations to Baz Attiwell who played for the first time in the A team and won two matches at Minehead with the loss of only one set.

The B team in division two have also been successful in winning their two away matches against Cheddar A (9.3) and Woodland B (8.3).

The C team, captained by Mark Jackson, have unfortunately been drawn against tough teams so far and have lost their matches 0.10 to Lymsham A, 4.9 to Wells A and 3.8 to Clevedon B. Even at this early stage, it is rumoured, they are stoically contemplating relegation by stopping at a hostelry en route home following away matches to drown their sorrows.

The D team in division 5, captained by David Evans, beat Backwell B 8.4 but lost to Woodland C 4.7.

The Vets campaign has not yet commenced due to matches being postponed.

Tony's Ladies



Ladies E team celebrating their success in the summer league

The organised Tuesday Tennis evenings have been very well attended both by long-standing members and ladies new to the club.

The Ladies Christmas Party will be held at Nanny Ida's on Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm. Please pay Tony £12 to cover the cost of the buffet and advise him of any dietary requirements.

Sarah Cunningham

Church News

Advent Sunday

On Sunday 29 November, Holy Trinity Blackford will be holding an Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm. The service begins with the church plunged in darkness as we welcome the coming of Christ's light. St Mary's church choir will be singing special advent anthems and our preacher this year will be Paul Kingdom.

There are details elsewhere in this edition of special services through the Advent and Christmas period and please do contact the Revd Richard Neill on 713566 if you would like to know more about any of them.

Messy Church

Saturday 12 December 3.00-5.00 pm at St Mary's

- A MESSY CHRISTMAS

- Is a way of being church for families involving fun
- Is for adults and children to enjoy together
- Uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together
- Is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together
- Is returning to the Isle of Wedmore on Saturday 12 December 3.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m. in St Mary's church



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

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Wednesday 16 December, the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the particular communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.



Parish Registers

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of

John Milton of Theale who died on the 23 September 2015 aged 97 and whose funeral took place at Mendip Crematorium on Thursday 8 October with the burial of John's ashes taking place at Christchurch on Monday 12 October 2015.

Richard Tattersall of Lascot Hill who died on the 27 September 2015 aged 63 and whose funeral took place at Allerton on Monday 12 October 2015.

Kath Leigh of Grants Lane who died on the 28 September aged 95 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on Wednesday 14 October 2015 with the burial of Kath's ashes taking place at Wedmore Cemetery on Wednesday 21 October.

Weddings

Congratulations go to Peter and Victoria (nee James) Wilkins of Mudgley whose wedding took place at St Mary's on 10 October 2015.

Church Services

Special Advent and Christmas Services at the Churches of the Isle of Wedmore

Sunday 29 Nov	6.30 pm	Holy Trinity, Blackford	Advent Carol Service
Sunday 6 Dec	9.00 am	Holy Trinity in Blackford Hall	Sunday Breakfast and Gift Service
	10.30 am	St Mary's	Gift Service
	11.00 am	Christchurch	Gift Service
<i>(Gifts of toys and toiletries at these gift services will be sent to a local women's refuge)</i>			
Wednesday 9 Dec	6.00 pm	Wedmore by Lamplight	Crib Service
Sunday 13 Dec	4.30 pm	Allerton Church	Christingle
	6.00 pm	Holy Trinity	Christingle
Monday 14 Dec	6.00 pm	St Mary's	Wedmore First School Academy Carol Service
Thursday 17 Dec	6.45 pm	Allerton Church	Rotary Carol Service
	7.00 pm	Holy Trinity	Hugh Sexey Carol Service
Friday 18 Dec	9.30 am	Holy Trinity	Hugh Sexey Carol Service
Saturday 19 Dec	6.00 pm	Christchurch	Christingle & Community Carols
Sunday 20 Dec	9.00 a.m.	Allerton Church	Nativity Play
	6.30 pm	St Mary's	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
	6.30 pm	Allerton Church	Carol Service
Monday 21 Dec	6.00 pm	Holy Trinity	Village Carols
Thursday 24 Dec	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Christingle
	11.30 pm	St Mary's	Midnight Mass
Friday 25 Dec	9.00 am	Holy Trinity	Christmas Morning Communion

	9.00 am	Allerton Church	Christmas Morning Communion
	10.30 am	St Mary's	Christmas Morning Communion
	11.00 am	Christchurch	Christmas Morning Communion
Sunday 27 Dec	9.00 am	Allerton	Family Carols
Sunday 3 Jan	9.00 a.m.	Allerton	Gift Service

(Gifts of toys and toiletries at these gift services will be sent to the Salvation Army)

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Sunday	6	Advent 2	10.30 am	Parish Communion & Gift Service
Wednesday	9		6.00 pm	Crib Service
Sunday	13	Advent 3	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	20	Advent 4	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Family Service
			6.30 pm	Carol Service
Thursday	24	Christmas Eve	5.00 pm	Christingle Service
			11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Friday	25	Christmas Morning	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sunday	27	Christmas 1	10.30 am	Benefice Communion

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	6	Advent 2	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	13	Advent 3	9.00 am	Christingle
Sunday	20	Advent 4	6.00 pm	Parish Communion
Monday	21		6.00 pm	Community Carols
Friday	25	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday	27	Christmas 1		No Service

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	6	Advent 2	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	13	Advent 3	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Saturday	19		6.00 pm	Christingle & Community Carols
Sunday	20	Advent 4	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Friday	25	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday	27	Christmas 1		No Service

Allerton Church

Sunday	6	Advent 2	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	13	Advent 3	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
			4.30 pm	Christingle Service
Sunday	20	Advent 4	9.00 am	Parish Communion
			6.30 pm	Carol Service
Friday	25	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion

Sunday 27 Christmas 1

Family Carols

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

Bagley Baptist Church

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

Please always check the website for any last minute changes to normal service times and dates, particularly during the winter time.

Every Wednesday from 10.00 am-12 noon is our really popular 'Coffee with a View'.

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

Please note 'Coffee with a View' will still take place on 23 and 30 December.

CHRISTMAS DATES:

Sun 20 December - 10.30am morning service as normal.

Christmas Eve - 7.00pm Candlelit Carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Day - 10.15am family service. Children, bring an unopened present.

Sunday 27 December - 10.30am morning service as normal.

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

Wednesday 2	7.00 pm	Carols and Candlelight Concert
Sunday 6	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 13	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 20	10.30 am	Family Carol Service
Sunday 27	10.30 am	Morning Service

Crickham Baptist Church

Every Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday School
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Sunday 13 December	6.30 pm	Musical Evening
Sunday 20 December	6.30 pm	Children's Carol Service
		Contact Dulcie Hooper: 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
Christmas Eve	9.00 pm	Mass
Christmas Morning	9.00 am	Mass

Contact Father Philip Thomas on 742564.

Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

Surgery Opening Times

Wedmore Surgery

Mondays and Fridays 8.30am to 6.00pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.30am to 1.00pm

Telephone 712774

Axbridge Surgery

Monday to Fridays 8.30am to 6.00pm

Telephone 732464 - Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.

Extended Surgery Hours

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

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

Extended hours surgeries are held:

Axbridge Surgery

Wednesday and Thursday Alternate weeks 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Wedmore Surgery

Wednesday and Thursday Once a month 7.00am to 8.00am

Saturday Alternate weeks 8.00am to 9.30am

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

During extended hours the front door will be locked. Please ring the video doorbell for access. Access will only be granted to patients with pre booked appointments. Surgery telephones are not manned during extended hours.

Wedmore Community Bus

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

The service acts less like a bus and more like a personal taxi service. You get on and off wherever you tell us is the most convenient place - usually outside your own house. Travel is free if you have a current bus pass. If you have to pay, then fares compare very favourably with alternative forms of transport - saving money on fuel and parking. For example, the 50 mile round trip to Taunton is only £4.80.

The bus departs from Wedmore at 9.30am 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, December Collections



Wednesday	2	Recycling and green garden waste
Wednesday	9	Recycling and refuse
Wednesday	16	Recycling and green garden waste
Wednesday	23	Recycling and refuse
Thursday	31	Recycling only – no garden collection

What's On in the Parish

1 - Tues	IOW Gardening Club Christmas Supper	7.00pm	Masonic Hall
	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
2 - Wed	Carols and Candlelight Concert	7.00pm	Methodist Church
4 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Open Mic	8.00pm	New Inn
5 - Sat	Christmas Fayre	9.30am	St Mary's
	Children's Society Box Opening	10.00am	St Mary's
	Quiz Evening	7.30pm	Wedmore VH
6 - Sun	Green Wedmore Movie Night	7.30pm	Wedmore VH
7 - Mon	Turnip Prize Final Judging	6.30pm	New Inn
	Green Wedmore meeting	8.00pm	The Swan, Club Room
9 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	Probus	10.15am	Golf Club
	Blackford Café	2.00pm	Blackford VH
	WEDMORE BY LAMPLIGHT	6.00pm	St Mary's and The Borough
12 - Sat	Wedmore in Bloom Work Party	9.30am	The George Inn
	Messy Church	3.00pm	St Mary's
13 - Sun	Sunday Breakfast	9.00am	Blackford VH
	Theale Film Club - Get Santa	6.30pm	Theale VH
15 - Tues	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
16 - Wed	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	The Council Rooms
17 - Thurs	WI Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
18 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Christmas Open Mic	8.00pm	New Inn
19 - Sat	Theale Community Café	10.00am	Theale VH
21 - Mon	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS START		
23 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
24 - Thurs	CHRISTMAS EVE		
25 - Fri	CHRISTMAS DAY		
26 - Sat	BOXING DAY		
29 - Tues	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
30 - Wed	Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting	8.00pm	Rec. Soc. Club
31 - Thurs	NEW YEAR'S EVE		

December 2015

Regular Weekly Events

MONDAY

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 +	Jemma Kingsbury	01458 860873
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 Sanders	01934 710353
Karate	5.00pm	Blackford VH	Kayleigh Branston	07748 916695

* 4th and 11th December only

+ Not taking place during school holidays