



Congresbury *Life*

Issue 4 | March 2024

News from the Parish Council

Hello all, Chair of the PC here again. We've had a few enquiries about the planters by the cross on Broad Street. There has been some road resurfacing going on which necessitated moving the boxes. Unfortunately the workforce removed the compost and in replacing it, left out the stones which were in the bottom of the planters! Consequently, a large lorry was able to adjust the position of one of them, and the poor old bulbs are trying to show a brave face from deep in the planter rather than being up and showy in the top. The planters must be moved back again as they are primarily there to protect the cross, but this is a job for a large vehicle and a bit of road stoppage, not going to be easy for the Parish Council. Many of us feel strongly that N-Som should come and reposition them and would appreciate the support of residents in making individual complaints about their failure to do so. I hope everyone is managing to keep warm, cold and damp is worse than freezing but dry I think. Looking forward to the spring.

Jane Clarke, Chair. Congresbury PC.

Good news about the Millennium Green!

The Environment Agency drop in event in the Old School Rooms on 23rd February brought good news for

the village. The horrendously damaging plans for the Green have been abandoned! No trees will be removed, the Green will stay its present size and construction will take just a month, not 18 as originally planned. The Environment Agency will do some minor work along the rhyne and lower the river embankment in the field beyond the Green to improve drainage. They also promise to reinstate/repair the path from the car park to the Green after the work has been completed. Many thanks to local residents who repeatedly said the proposed changes were unnecessary for flood protection and would destroy our much-loved Millennium Green.

Village Clean up. Keep Congresbury Litter Free.

We are not yet winning the battle, but we are mustering the troops. There will be a Village Clean up session on Saturday May 11th. Everyone is welcome to turn up at Congresbury Youth Club between 10.30 and 12.30 where you can borrow litter pickers and gloves, get waste bags, and suggestions of where to go litter picking or weeding. Hot drinks and biscuits will be on offer as a reward. We are aware that there are some litter heroes out there already keeping their bit clean, without fuss or reward, but if anyone would like a bit more support with

individual action, consider signing up to:

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/parking-travel-roads/street-cleaning/adopt-street>

For more community action, the Gardening Club will be at the Precinct on Easter Saturday morning at 10am taking action to improve it.

And people can assemble at the Precinct every Wednesday at 10am in April and May (weather permitting) to tidy up and help with the planned refurbishment of the containers.

Please bring your own green bags, to take away waste as there is nowhere to dispose of it. Also, people should bring their own tools if possible, though some sharing can be arranged. Contact Seannamoore1954@gmail.com

Please turn the page to find out the latest from our many community groups.

And don't forget to look back over previous issues of Congresbury Life to see how you can volunteer for the village.

The Village Agent for Congresbury is **Maxine Gilman**, who has told us *"My role is to help those over the age of 50 who need assistance, care, or support to maintain independent living. My aim is to listen to your concern, find answers to your questions and provide a link to the support services you may require."* The service is free of charge and confidential. And she can help sort out all sorts of issues, or example:

- Feeling socially isolated and lonely
- Transport to medical appointments.
- Financial concerns and money matters.
- Mobility issues.
- Keeping fit and active.
- Fire safety checks.
- Advice on unwanted callers and scams.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Carer support.
- One-to-one support.
- Befriending.
- Volunteering.

If you would like advice please call her on 07967344766 or e-mail Maxine.gilman@curo-group.co.uk

Brand-new Flexercise class in Yatton

Local charity, Age UK Somerset, is launching a gentle and friendly seated exercise class for older adults in Yatton. Flexercise uses laughter and fun props to get you moving and is specially designed for people over the age of 55 who aren't very mobile.

Starting April 12th, 2024, this class will be held on Fridays at 3pm at Strawberry Gardens, Yatton, BS49 4GB, £3 per week.

For more information or to sign up contact Age UK Somerset's Ageing Well service on: 01823 345624 ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk

History Society.

www.congresburyhistory.org.uk

So far this year we have heard Jeff Lucas's fascinating story of Bristol's 45 bridges, and the challenge of walking across them all, as well as Ian Morton telling the epic story of the SS Great Britain from inception to its place as a world-renowned museum.

There is one more talk in this spring series.

17th April - "The Strawberry Line - Anecdotes and Accidents".

Dave Hart will tell tales from a bygone age about the people who used the line and worked on it.

7.30pm for 7.45pm prompt start in the Methodist Hall

To join the History Society, contact anne.dimmock2@hotmail.co.uk

Congresbury WI

April sees the start of the WI New Year. We'd welcome new members. A year's subscription costs £48. What do you get for your money? Interesting meetings, good company, plus a monthly magazine - WI Life - as well as an online newsletter- Avon News.

On 27th April (2.15 in the Methodist Hall) Michael Malaghan will be entertaining us with his talk "A Writer Abroad".

Enquiries to Susan Hibberd, 01934 833544

Congresbury Singers

"A Celebration of Classical Music" concert, Sat April 13 @ 7.30 @ St Andrews Church Congresbury - tickets £12 (inc. refreshments)

Tickets available from PO, Re-Store or on the door.

Congresbury Community Library

Your library is open every Monday and Friday between 2:00 and 4:30pm, Wednesday Morning between 10:00am and 12:30 pm and

Saturday morning between 10:00 and 12:00

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO LIBRARY USERS

Theory Test Pro - prepare for your driving theory test by using this online resource including a hazard perception simulator. Can be accessed at home as well as in the library.

LEARN 110+ LANGUAGES with Transparent Language online. Learn a new language for your holiday, or just refresh your vocabulary.

10i Find My Past, allows you to download records, including details from the 1921 Census. Only available in the library.

10h BFI Replay - this browser gives you access to thousands of digitised videos and TV programmes from the BFI archives.

For more information just call into the library and pick up a leaflet.

Dates for your Diary

Knitting Club April 19 and May 17

Find the Easter Chicks Hiding in the Library March 25 to April 5

PLEASE NOTE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY 29 MARCH AND MONDAY 1ST APRIL.

Congresbury Footpaths Group

This winter has been particularly challenging due to the very wet weather, but we have managed to carry on with our walks by using more made-up paths, rather than over muddy fields. Two of our members, Val and Shelagh led a very interesting walk taking in several Bristol bridges using the local bus.

Our walks carry on in April and May in the hope of better conditions. We meet at Riverside car park, bottom of Kent Road, by the ball court.

Dates of the next walks are Tuesday 2nd April, Sunday 21st April, Tuesday 7th May and Sunday 19th May. We end our Tuesday walks at a local coffee shop, and Sunday walks normally end at a local pub.

If you would like to join the group just turn up at the car park at the appropriate time. Don't worry in you haven't got transport we normally share cars.

If you would like any more information please contact.
marilyntalbot16@gmail.com

The Gardening Club will be holding their final meeting before their summer break on the 4th April with a talk by Caroline Pakenham on Cultivation and use of Herbs, held in The Methodist Hall at 7-30. Guests and new members are always welcome.

During the summer the club will be holding coffee mornings and trips away to various lovely gardens.

On the 4th May there will be a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning 10-12 at the Methodist Hall.

The annual Rose Show and village Fete will be on the 29th June this year. Schedules will be available nearer the time, but we are hoping for a bumper year of exhibits from cooks, photographers, growers, and artists to name just a few. Details of show classes and events can be found on
congresburygardeningclub.com



Forthcoming BLUEY
Day Trips for residents

Weds 17th April to Cardiff
Weds 22nd May to Exeter
Weds 19th June to St. Fagans
National Museum of History, Wales

Pick up points:

The Precinct at 9.30am and Riverside Car Park, Millennium Green, at 9.40am, for all trips

There will be a charge of £6.50 per person for Cardiff and St Fagans, Wales trips and £7.50 for Exeter trip (payable on the bus)

Bluey also operates a regular Tuesday Shopping trip to Weston-super-Mare. Pick up and drop off from your own front door.

We are a 15-seater, wheelchair accessible bus available to clubs, societies, groups and individuals to hire.

We are looking for volunteer drivers. All training given. Could you spare a few hours? To book a seat or for information please ring 01934 257247 (leave a message if no reply, we will get back to you) or email:
bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com



Nature is our Neighbour - experience the joy of birdsong on two local walks:

SPRING BIRDSONG WALK @
COBTHORN RESERVE,
CONGRESBURY

Saturday, 20th April, 9 - 10.30am
Meet at the junction of Cobthorn Way & Furnace Way

Join Trevor Riddle and the warden Graham Lovesey, to listen for our resident birds proclaiming their nesting territories. This should be particularly relevant to those wishing to learn the songs of local birds. For more info, please email birds@yacwag.org.uk In the event of rain or strong winds the walk will be rescheduled.

EARLY MORNING BIRDSONG WALK
Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May, 7-9am
Meet at the Mosaic Seat on the Strawberry Line, Yatton, accessed from Chescombe Road.

A circular walk to include YACWAG's Congresbury Moor Reserve. You should hear seven species of warbler singing along with other birds. Mark Savage and Trevor Riddle will lead, finishing around 9am with an optional post-walk breakfast in the Strawberry Line Cafe at Yatton station. The walk will be re-scheduled if wet or windy. More info email
birds@yacwag.org.uk



Bereavement Peer Support Group

The Yatton and Congresbury Star Group has moved. Now at Congar's Café, Broad Street. Every 3rd Monday of the month. 2-4 pm
For more information,
congarscafe20@gmail.com

Memorial Hall.

Book Sales are held fortnightly on Saturdays to raise funds for the hall. The range of adult and children's books and jigsaws is amazing. Upcoming sales are advertised on a board outside the hall.



On Sat 27th April, Andy Ford, Bristol Hippodrome Panto Legend, will be performing "More Funny Stuff Live" Tickets £18 from
andyfordcomedian.com
Hall also available for functions at competitive rates. Follow us on Facebook Congresbury War Memorial Hall.

The community café

During March and through to the end of April, we are raising money to support St Andrews school with this year's, Year 6 camp. We have set a target of raising a minimum of £750. The local Police Beat team will run a **surgery and cycle security marking** session at the café on Friday 5 April.

The café is normally open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings, from 9.30 till 13.00.

CONCORDE

At a fascinating Library Talk in March Peter Gibbs talked of Concorde, and the making of the museum. On the day of the final flight into Bristol, school children in either Clevedon or Portishead formed up in the playground in the shape of a Concorde to watch the plane fly past. He is very keen to talk to anyone who remembers anything about this. E-mail peter.gibbs2@sky.com

Congresbury Allotments have several vacant plots at present.

Do you fancy growing your own fruit and veg, keeping fit and getting to know friendly and helpful plot holders? £45 for whole plot and £23 for half. Congresbury residents are preferred but those from villages nearby can also to apply.

Get in touch with Catrin at the Parish Office - admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk or phone 01934 939902



Congresbury Youth Partnership was registered as a charity in 2003, with the aims of providing facilities for recreation and other leisure time activities for children and young people resident in Congresbury, developing their physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing and supporting adults and young people volunteering in the community. Initially this was seen primarily as a way to meet an apparent need of other smaller groups for additional support, although CYP did run a very popular one-week summer playscheme for several years.

Over the years, the organisation changed and expanded. The young people's Millennium Cybercafe, bid for by and run by the Youth Council was handed on to CYP when

members of the Youth Council grew up and moved away, and later CYP took on management of the Youth Club building, where a successful North Somerset funded club ran until the Youth Service nationally fell foul of "austerity", providing a weekly safe space, with advice on drug and alcohol misuse, sexual health information, and specific week-long projects targeting young people at risk of dropping out of education, or of offending. Camping trips, offshore sailing experiences, legalised graffiti, motor bike and go kart projects were arranged to channel potential offenders. It appears that dismembering the youth service may be a false economy, which could cost us more down the line.

As someone involved with CYP since its beginnings, I've seen lots of change. I ask myself why we no longer have a Youth Council, why youth services became no longer seen as important nationally, and why the funding is no longer available for the projects that used to happen, and that I have experienced changing lives for vulnerable young people.



However, our village community is very fortunate in having a Parish Council who were prepared to pick up some of the services no longer provided by the district authority, and CYP now receives part of its funding from the parish, which is supplemented by fundraising by adults and young people. We also have access to BLUEY, to take members out of the village to broaden their experience, which we do in school holidays. In term time we run three weekly sessions in the CYC building:

Monday 3.30 - 6pm - Code Club, supporting young people of all age experimenting with SCRATCH and

PYTHON coding languages, and with simple electronics.

Wednesday 3.30 - 5pm - After school club for school years 4 to 6

Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30 - Youth Club for school years 7 - 11.

Easter Holiday Activities:

Wednesday 3rd 10am - 4 pm at CYC

Monday 8th Bus to Bristol

Weds 10th Mulligan's Indoor Golf

See our Facebook page for our Spring Half Term Activities at the end of May.

The first attendance at any session is free, thereafter a charge between £1.50 and £2.20 is made to cover basic running costs. Trips have additional costs, of course, but CYP is always happy to negotiate support for those who have difficulty with meeting the costs. The main aim is still to support the wellbeing of young people. We really welcome young people coming through the door and asking us to help them organise the things they want to do.

We also need the support of adults in the community, to help run the regular clubs, provide one-off skills sessions, and of course to help with the funding. If you can't join us in person, you could join the 100 Club lottery which currently costs £12 for 12 monthly draws.

Further information about everything CYP, talk to Alex, who wrote these words.

alex@congsyp.org.uk

07894338995

This issue is sponsored by CONGRESBURY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP. If you could sponsor a future edition, or wish to submit information, please contact congresburylife@gmail.com

We are also always looking for new volunteers to join our editing team!

If you might be interested in volunteering for a few hours every two months, please let us know.