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Blueey — Our Community Transport

Blueey operates a regular Tuesday shopping trip to Weston super mare.

Our next trip for residents is to Bath (Xmas Markets) on Wednesday 6th Dec. Depart: 9.30am (Our trips will re-commence in Spring 2024).

Pick up and drop off from your own front door!

WE NEED NEW DRIVERS URGENTLY and committee members

For more info on hiring, volunteering, or going on trips, ring: 01934 257247 or email: bookingmanagerblueey@gmail.com

Congresbury Community Library

Opening times:

Monday 2 pm - 4:30 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 12:30 pm
Friday 2 pm - 4:30 pm
Saturday 10 am - 12:00 pm

Can't find the book you want to read? Remember books can be reserved for free or we might have a copy in our Honesty Library! Just come into the library and talk to one of our volunteers.

Dates for your diary:

15 December Monthly Knitting Group 10:00 am — Midday in the library. We knit items for various local, national, and international groups. All patterns and wool are provided by the library. Everyone welcome.

22 December Looking for ways to entertain the children before Xmas. Come along to the library to listen to some seasonal stories between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. All welcome.

19 January 2024 Monthly Knitting Group 10:00 am — Midday in the library. All welcome.

25 January 2024 Our library talk this month is being given by Tom Leimdorfer who is talking

about "Engaging with Conflict". Talks are held at the Methodist Hall, High Street, starting at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £4 and are available from the library or on the door.

Remember we have a selection of jigsaw puzzles that you can borrow at any time and a selection of children's games that are available for you to play in the library on Saturday.

Congresbury Youth Partnership

After School Club Wednesdays in term time 3.30 - 5.00.

Come and check us out. (that's potential new members aged 8 to 11 and new adult volunteers). Your first visit is FREE, thereafter it's £2.20 a session to include toast, a drink, and a bag of TUCK.

Mondays after school in term time is Code Club. We welcome potential new young coders and adult volunteers. Come and see our working buggies - an amazing mix of electronics and Python code.

Christmas Holiday Activities will be advertised on our Facebook page shortly or contact Karen@congsyp.org.uk for information.

CYP is funded in part by the Parish Council, but we also have to raise funds ourselves. You can support us by joining the 100 club (12 draws per year for £12 - information from 100club@congsyp.org.uk) and by coming to our next quiz at The Plough on Sunday Dec 17th, starts promptly at 8.00pm.)

St. Congar's Day 2023

Join us on Sunday 26th November from 4pm for our annual St. Congar's Day celebrations. This year we will be making a special Christmas Tree for display over the festive period as part of the 'Tree in the Window', but instead of a fir tree, we will be making a Yew tree, associated

with St. Congar himself! Make hand-made decorations and enjoy a hot chocolate before we toast marshmallows and join in with the traditional 'Congar' line!

The church will be open for you to view the 'Tree in the Window' decorations made by village organisations from Dec 14th.

Congresbury volunteers support our local hospice at Charlton Farm, Wraxall, which looks after patients and families, with extra attention for siblings and resilience for parents. Our hospices do not charge so we do a number of fund-raising events. Try one of our events such as a Midnight Sponsored Walk or Santa's on the Run - join 100 motor bikers dressed as Father Christmas at Charlton Farm, 3rd December.

Upcoming events in Congresbury:

Christmas Hamper raffle at Hilliers Garden Centre, Cheddar, 20% off Edinburgh Woollen Mill items on 29th November.

Soup & Puds lunch, Congresbury Methodist Hall, , 25th Jan 12 noon.



Congresbury Carers

DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS TO SPARE USING YOUR OWN CAR TO HELP FELLOW RESIDENTS?

Congresbury Carers is desperately appealing for more volunteers to continue this valued service. We only ask volunteers to make two or three trips a month.

If you are able to give a few hours please contact Margaret Leimdorfer on 01934 834663

This edition has been sponsored by CONGRESBURY SCOUT AND GUIDE EXECUTIVE. If you could sponsor a future edition please contact congresburylife@gmail.com



Geoffrey Peacock Memorial Garden

If you ask people where the Geoffrey Peacock Memorial Garden is in Congresbury you will probably be met with blank expressions but most people pass the garden every day either on foot or in their car. The garden is the triangular area of ground by the traffic lights where the A370 and the B3133 meet. It is named after Geoffrey Peacock, an ex chair of the Parish Council. The garden has had many transformations over the years but since 2016 it has been tended by a group of volunteers and financed by the Parish Council and it has literally blossomed.

These volunteers meet about once a month throughout the year. It is very a rewarding and sociable activity and every time we are working on site local residents comment on the pleasure that the garden brings them as they pass by.

We have transformed a similar site by the entrance to the precinct. The small garden there was treated as part of the pavement and since 2016 two of our volunteers have converted it into an oasis of colour.

Would you like to be a part of this? We are looking for volunteers to join us. Don't worry if you don't know a lot about plants and how to grow them, fortunately a number of our group are experts and know what to do. The commitment is about 2 hours a month and you would not be committed to a particular day.

Interested, contact Di Hassan 07460090500/diana@rookery-farm.com

A Word from Our Councillor Dan Thomas

I'd like to thank Congresbury & Puxton for returning a Green Party Councillor to represent our ward. North Somerset Council now has 7 Green Councillors as part of the progressive alliance running the council. It's been great to meet many of you in the last few months, and I look forward to working with more of you in the future.

Since the election in May I've been working hard on key local priorities including joining villagers to fight the unsustainable Mulberry Road housing development and working to reduce speeding through the village. Thank

you to residents for their continued commitment to these ongoing projects.

If you'd like to get in touch, please contact me on dan.thomas@n-somerset.gov.uk or 07727 075780.

Badminton Success

One of our villagers has achieved 2 silver medals in the World Veterans' Badminton, held this September in South Korea. Cathy Alexander came second in the world in Mixed and in the Ladies Double finals. She is also European Champion. Well done Cathy — an incredible achievement and an inspiration to all pensioners!



YACWAG would love to meet you at one (or more!) of their upcoming events:

Winter Bird Walk Saturday, 2nd December on Cadbury Hill, 9.30-11.30am.

TREES for CLIMATE on the Cobthorn Reserve

YACWAG would like to hear from anyone interested in supporting this project, which supports Greater Horseshoe bats and carbon capture to mitigate climate change. YACWAG would like to hear from anyone who could help by adopting a tree or volunteering to look after trees in any droughts next year, or by coming to help prepare for the planting. In particular, volunteers are needed on Friday 8th December from 10am.

For more information regarding YACWAG, please see our website: www.yacwag.org.uk, or text: 0744 384 3556



1st Congresbury Scout Group

We have a thriving Scout group in the village meeting at the Scout and Guide Hut at the end of Mill Leg. Our Scout section (10.5 years to 14 years) meets on a Monday and run an adventurous skills-based programme, getting out and about as much as possible. They have recently been on a night hike seeking out the Parish boundary stones and visited Weston to play minigolf followed by fish and chips.

Our Cub section (8 years to 10.5 years) meets on a Thursday and recently had a weekend away camping at Huish woods Scout campsite near Taunton. They all earned their Outdoor Challenge badge with campfires, orienteering, woodcraft and much more on the programme.

Beavers meet on a Friday (6 years to 8 years) and enjoy an hour-long activity session where they can enjoy each other's company while learning new skills.

Explorers usually plan their own programme and have a wide range of activities. This term they are off to the Christmas Markets in Bath and

ice skating at the Tropicana. Some of our Explorers are also young leaders with our other sections. This year we are running our first Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award group with expeditions planned for Easter and the summer holidays.

There are currently spaces available in the Explorer and Scout section while both Beavers and Cubs have a waiting list. Of course, this can only be achieved with the help of our volunteer Scouters. Both our Scout and Beaver sections are looking for more volunteers to join in the fun of working with our young people to deliver our skills-based programme. Would you like to Join us? Training is available and apart from some basic on-line introductory modules, mainly around safety and safeguarding, it is very much tailored to your needs.

For information on spaces for young people and adult volunteering please contact Geoff Bailey at: geoffreyimbailey@gmail.com.



Rainbows, Brownies, & Guides

Congresbury is also fortunate to have Rainbow, Brownie, and Guide Units. Rainbows meet every Tuesday in term time between 5.45 - 6.45, for girls aged 4 - 7 years and currently are at full capacity with a waiting list.

Brownies meet every Wednesday in term time between 6 - 7.30, for girls aged 7 - 10 years. Again, they are currently to capacity. Guides meet every Tuesday in term time, between 7 - 8.30 and is for girls aged 10 - 15 years. They currently have spaces.

All sections follow a varied programme, which promote social and independent skills, cooking, crafts, outdoor activities such as outdoor cooking, walks around the local area and canoeing. The updated programme now allows us to look at more relevant topics such as

environmental issues and politics!

As always anything like this requires volunteers as dedicated leaders to run the evenings for the girls and currently all sections would welcome anybody who feels that they could give up some of their time to help..

If interested or for more information on Guiding, please contact Sonya on 07715876827

The executive committee is a group of leaders and other volunteers whose main job is to maintain and improve the hut and raise the funds to do it. The trustee board works to support the management of the scout group, ensure the hut and activities are safe and the group is organised according to the rules and money is well spent. We are currently keen for someone to join us who can take minutes of minutes and keep records in order. We have about 4 meetings a year.

Please contact me if you think you could help - Andy Pring. 07929 420980

Broad Street Christmas Fair

Organised by the Scouts and Guides, fundraising for themselves and for Weston Hospice, will be on Wednesday 6th Dec from 6pm, with craft stalls, food, drink, and music from Congresbury Brass. Christmas draw tickets for prizes including hampers, and many vouchers from local businesses will be on sale at the event, or in advance from all Scout and Guide sections, and in the Precinct on 25th Nov and 2nd Dec 9am to 1pm.

Church Tower Lighting

Many of you have told us how much you miss seeing the church spire lit during the winter months. Soon the church spire will once again be lit up; this time replacing the old system with LED lighting thus halving the energy usage.

If you would like to donate towards this project either as a gift, to mark a special occasion, or in memory

of a loved one, please contact Rosemary Bailey (sac.finance@newcreationchurches.org.uk) or Ruth Wratten (rwratten@btinternet.com) or leave a donation at the office marked "church lighting". Online to Sort code 60-23-32. A/c number 72280484. Ref: Church Lighting. Cheques (made payable to St Andrew's Church PCC).

YCCART

Ever wondered about the history lying beneath your feet? Why not join our local community archaeology group?

YCCART (Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham & Cleve Archaeology Research Team) meets every Thursday morning, weather permitting, to carry out Geophysical surveying work in our local area.

Find us at www.YCCART.co.uk or for more information contact Janet Dickson, Secretary, on j.dickson7@sky.com

Gardening Club

Please join us for a talk on the Painswick Rocco Garden by Dominic Hamilton on 4th January for a 7.30 start in the Methodist Hall. New members and visitors are welcome. We love to see those who are new to gardening and who need a bit of inspiration!

Table Tennis

The table tennis club meets every Friday between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at the Scout Hut in Mill Leg.

We are a friendly mixed group and have the use of 3 tables to play on. The joining fee is £10 plus up to £2 a week to cover the cost of hiring the hall and tea and coffee.

If you would like to join us please contact Cathy Alexander on 01934 833051 for further information.

CAMEO is a friendly group with wide ranging interests which organises a talk once a month in the winter. You are welcome to join us for our next meeting:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th
"CLOWNING OUT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE" - Robert Dugdill

All meetings in Congresbury Methodist Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m. with tea/coffee, Entry £2.

information from marionjohnson.787@gmail.com

Congars Cafe

Congars Cafe in Broad Street has recently become a community enterprise and so much of the profits are going back into the cafe to continue to provide a hub for the village. We would like to be able to offer the cafe for more groups to use our space for such things as wellbeing sessions and community events such as craft events, talk and board games.

We offer a varied home cooked menu throughout the day, for different dietary requirements and sourcing local produce where possible.

If interested in using the cafe facilities, please contact the cafe on 07715876827



Congresbury Millennium Green Wassail

Come and join our Green Man on Saturday 27 January at 2:30 pm. (2pm for a green headdress making workshop) We meet in the Riverside Car Park and progress through the Millennium Green to the orchard in the Paddock, where we sing traditional songs and bang saucepans, drums etc., to drive away the evil spirits and ensure a bountiful apple harvest in 2024!

All are welcome at the Youth Club after, where you can warm up with a cup of warm mulled apple juice and a slice of apple cake. An event for the whole family!

Congresbury WI (est. 1921)

Congresbury WI meets at 2.15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Hall to enjoy a wide variety of talks from visiting speakers, as well as a chance to catch up with friends from all around the village. Newcomers are especially welcome. Come and introduce yourself at any meeting, or phone me.

It's definitely not all about "Jam and Jerusalem" though some members are keen jam makers and most are rather good at baking. Our interests include gardening, art, the environment, walking and exploring, dancing, bowls, skittles, knitting and volunteering for local charities and organisations.

Membership (£46 a year) provides a monthly magazine and access to a huge range of talks, excursions and holidays as well as our enjoyable monthly meetings.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary, Congresbury WI. 01934 833544 for further information

Senior Citizens Lunch Club (SCLC)

We provide a hot home cooked meal for Congresbury residents aged 70+, we meet fortnightly on alternate Thursdays from 12:45 — 2:15pm at The Old School Rooms, the cost is £5 for a main meal (meat or vegetarian alternative, vegetables and gravy, dessert, tea and coffee. We currently have 44 members — there are a few spaces available.

Transport is provided for those members who need it.

The Lunch Club is organised by a dedicated group of volunteers and is a great way to catch up with friends or to meet new people. It is a welcoming group in a warm and friendly environment; please call if you're interested in joining or would like more information. Our next lunches:

Thursday 23rd November and Thursday 7th December then resume in January 2024.