

Congresbury

Life

Issue 8 | December/January 2024



Photo taken by Bob Rowles

News from the Parish Council

Well, "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" and where October was concerned, pouring rain and overflowing drains! I do hope your gardens haven't suffered as badly as mine, I swear my hens are developing webbed feet! The Millenium Green is very squelchy, and I advise wellington boots at least if you're dog walking!

The lights on the A370 out of Congresbury toward W-s-M that have caused so many problems will probably have gone by the time you get this. But don't hold your breath, they'll be back in the Spring! They've had to stop because the water couldn't be pumped out as fast as it was falling from the sky!

One of our members has had to resign due to ill health; we're sorry to see you go, Richard, and wish you well. This, of course, leaves us short on the council again, in fact I think there are two vacancies at the moment so if there's anyone out there with a desire to help out the village, sort out local problems and influence planning decisions, pop round to the Parish Office, behind the Old School rooms, and see Nicky who'll set you on the right path.

And finally, we are running out of space in the Parish burial ground and desperately need another site. You may think, as I did, that there's plenty of space still but there are very strict national rules about only digging graves a certain distance from the water table. In other words, we can't dig graves that get filled with water so if anyone knows of a plot of land that might be suitable, please let the Parish Office know and maybe it will be what we need.

Jane Clarke, Parish Council

3 Environment Agency projects affecting Congresbury

1 - Congresbury Weir repairs are now finished on site, but we may need to return in the spring to finish the reinstatement of the Millennium Green where our large plant and machinery has caused some rutting.

2- Gooseum Reservoir works. Works are complete and the areas affected re-seeded. The footpath on the top of the bank should remain closed until we get a good grass sward developed.

3 - The badger setts in the Millenium orchard. We anticipate about 3/4 weeks work this year installing a 50m section of piled defences. A 2nd phase will follow

next financial year. This will complete the "badger protection" along the whole bank to the Millennium bridge; the temporary sand bag wall will then be removed.

My thanks to the Parish Council for all their assistance over the last couple of years.

Ian Hayes, Environment Agency

Wrighton Lane Misery

Residents in the Wrighton Lane area have been suffering lately. Not just due to inconsiderate "rat runners" from Wrighton Road, trying to avoid traffic hold ups, but also from repeated flooding. Properties and gardens on the lane and in Weetwood have been badly damaged by muddy water racing through.

All the gully drains had been blocked for months as well as the main culvert channelling rain water from Wrighton Road. On 21st October a large team from North Somerset arrived with the latest version of a "Pumping Billy" and spent the day clearing the gully drains on both roads and especially the blocked culvert. Whew! Fingers crossed that future downpours won't cause more flooding.

Allotments

We've welcomed several new plot holders recently. The Parish Council has just tightened up regulations governing this and will be inspecting to make sure allotment rules on the upkeep of plots are followed.

Catrin at the Parish Office (admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk) looks forward to requests to join the waiting list as some plots will definitely become available in the New Year. Existing allotment holders are a friendly lot, happy to give advice to new members.

Senior Citizens Lunch Club

We have been serving lunches for the village elderly population for nearly 30 years. A group of volunteers cook and serve a two-course lunch every other Thursday at the Old School Rooms for up to 40 adults.

We are in desperate need of a new coordinator.

In the main, this involves taking phone calls from the diners, liaising with the Bluey Bus manager (for transport to the Old School Rooms), and being at the Old School Rooms for the lunch to ensure everything is running smoothly. No cooking is involved.

If you can help in any way, please contact

Marilyn Talbot 01934 832657
marilyntalbot16@gmail.com



Congresbury Carers

Congresbury Carers **need new volunteers** to be able to continue taking local people to the surgeries and hospitals. We are averaging 5/6 visits a week - Monday to Friday (we don't operate at weekends) and this is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

I am very grateful for our volunteers, and I know that they are

much appreciated, without them this service could not continue. If you feel you can give a few hours of your time, please contact: Margaret Leimdorfer, 01934 834663 or margaretleimdorfer@gmail.com

Millennium Green Volunteers



Look what we've been doing!

If you want to make a difference and keep our village beautiful, contact Lizzie Burd 07766836210. We need volunteers, so please don't be shy!!!



BLUEY - Congresbury Community Transport - Driving for the community!

New drivers are still desperately needed, only standard car licence required if you are under 70, and full training is given

Bluey trip to Cribbs Causeway
Wed Dec 11th

Pick up points: The Precinct 9.30am and the Riverside Car Park, 9.40am There will be a charge of £5.00 per person for this trip (payable on the bus) 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

Wishing all our users a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Bluey Trips will resume in Spring 2025

Improving Aging in North Somerset

(IANS) is a new lottery funded project established to promote positive views about ageing, consult older residents and value their knowledge. In this way they hope to offer support to those of us in need of it, including those with sight and hearing loss, LGBTQ+, ageing without children, or facing racial or ethnic inequality. The first drop-in information session on Oct 30th was informative and demonstrated the potential of the project to contribute to the community spirit we are trying to promote in Congresbury. **But only if we all get involved.** Whether you have needs you want to communicate or would be ready to join a Good Neighbour Scheme helping to meet needs, keep watching for developments from this project. You can contact tracy.edwardsbrown@vansmail.org.uk or phone/text 07458073262 to have your say or be added to her mailing list.



New service available for those of us that need support with Technology.

North Somerset's 'Tech Ready' is a free service that is aimed at supporting over 50s to increase their confidence with the use of technology. You or someone that you know may need some additional assistance with setting up a new mobile phone, applying online for a bus pass, or help with sending and receiving email. Recently, Tech Ready has helped people to apply for foreign visas, contact relatives abroad through video calling and to set up troublesome mobile phones, ensuring that contact with family, friends and essential services is maintained. The service has also produced a number of guidance documents to support people with staying safe online.

If you know someone who may appreciate some help with their 'tech', issues, or other issues such as support for carers, fire safety checks, help with claiming benefits, help with mobility issues and help finding social activity groups then please contact Maxine, our village agent, on 07967344766. The service is free and confidential.

Congresbury Library

November Talk Life on a Polaris Submarine

Mike Bravery will give a talk on his experiences serving on a nuclear deterrent submarine. Thursday 28 Nov in the Methodist Hall starting at 7:30 pm.

Monday 23 December 2:30 - 4:00 pm Xmas Storytime Session

This is a drop-in session - you and your children can listen to some stories and top up your books for the Xmas holiday!

Holiday closure: The library will be closed on **December 25** and **27** and **January 1**.

Holiday Lego Session Friday 3 January 2:00 to 4:00 pm

January Talk 'The Cruel Crossing - an escape to freedom across the Pyrenees'

Our January talk is on **Thursday 23rd** at 7:30 pm in the Methodist Hall. Our speaker Sue Walsh will talk about the walk from France into Spain and the historic significance of the trail. Tickets cost £4 and are available from the library or at the door.

Thermal Imaging Cameras Loan Service

This kit is available to hire through the library service for a week to use around your home to see where you have any heat loss, the kit also contains tips and advice about the best ways to keep heat in plus links to helpful websites and services. Call into the library to find out more.

Jigsaw Swap

Looking for a new jigsaw to complete over the winter months, please come in and see what is available.

Knitting Club

The December meeting will be held on Friday **21st** and the **January** meeting is on **17th** in the library from 10:00 to 12:00. Refreshments available.

Ladies Friendly Circle

This group started 50 years ago to encourage young mums to get an evening out, for sewing, knitting, cookery demonstrations and interesting speakers. Today our group still exists, and we would welcome new members. We meet on 4th Wednesday in the month from September to April 1930 to 2130 in the Methodist Hall. The charge is £3 a session or £18 for the year. We have various speakers and demonstrations. Why not come and join us.

War Memorial Panto

IT'S BACK...Oh yes it is! The War Memorial Hall and Chaplins Pantos present JACK AND THE BEANSTALK,, a traditional family pantomime. Saturday 21st December at 3.30pm Tickets are £10 for adults £5 for children, available from Congresbury Post Office, or the Hall (after 7.30pm Monday to Friday) David Bowman, Landlord

Congresbury Singers

CHRISTMAS COLLABORATION - Xmas music/Carols by Congresbury Singers & Congresbury Brass - Tues 17 Dec @ 7.30 - St Andrews Church Congresbury. Tickets £12 inc. mince pies/wine - tickets from PO & Re-Store from 1st Dec

Congresbury WI

On 4th December we'll be treating ourselves to a Christmas meal (so there's no meeting) and on 11th many members are going to Clevedon for the Avon Federation

Christmas Carol Service. Our speaker on 15th January will be another well-known face from the village, Hazel Ballentine, who will be talking about "Getting Nutrition Right". Visitors and new members are always welcome to our 2.15 pm meetings in the Methodist Hall.

For further information contact WI secretary on 01934 833544



Do you prefer to be indoors or outdoors? YACWAG offers both...

Christmas Fair: Wednesday, 4th December - 6-8.30pm. Broad Street, Congresbury. BS49 5DG

We'd love to meet you at our stall where there'll be a display showcasing 25 years of YACWAG and a Wildlife Lucky Dip for children.

'Connections in the Landscape:' Thursday, 23rd January - 7.30-9pm (7.15 for refreshments) Horsecastle Chapel, 18, Horsecastle Farm Road, Yatton. BS49 4QQ

An illustrated talk by Nathan Orr about the Mendip Hills natural landscape.

Tree planting

Saturday, 11th January -from 10am. Cobthorn Reserve, Furnace Way, Congresbury. BS49 5BJ This may be of special interest to members living near to the reserve, but by no means exclusively so! Please check our website early in the new year for further details.

Finally, on **Thursday, 13th February**, there's to be another illustrated talk, this time by Michelle Walker of the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust. More information in the next edition of "Congresbury Life" and on our website.

www.yacwag.org



Friends of St Andrews

CHRISTMAS SALE AND COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30th,
10 A.M.-NOON
CONGRESBURY METHODIST HALL
Local crafts, plants, preserves, cards, Christmas cakes and homemade cookies, raffle. Organised by the Friends of St. Andrew's, raising funds for church repairs.
Entrance £2 includes tea/coffee & biscuits.



Congresbury Community Preschool is a well-established, OFSTED registered

preschool.

Our premises are set within the grounds of St Andrew's Primary School. Children can join us from 2 years old and we offer places for those using government funding. We offer full and half day sessions and are open Monday-Friday, term time only. We currently have spaces for January 2025 enrolments.

To book a tour of our fantastic facility, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01934 707262
Email: office@congresburypreschool.onmicrosoft.com

Community Café



In April, St Andrews school was given £1,175 to help with the costs of this year's Year 6 camp. Volunteers and members of the estate agent's team were invited to

a delightful afternoon tea at the school. In September £1,000 was donated to the Great Western Air Ambulance charity and £500 to Congresbury Community Preschool.

We could only do this with the generous support of Debbie Fortune Estate Agents and our volunteers. We are currently looking for a few more volunteer bakers to help with the supply of homemade cakes and scones. If anyone is interested please call Kate on 07724197402 or email communitycoffee@btinternet.com with your contact details. The café will cover the cost of an online level 2 Hygiene course.

The café will be open for the Xmas fare on the evening of Wednesday 4th December and the Great Western Air Ambulance team will have a stall. As part of improving our facilities a pitched roof canopy has been built across part of the courtyard, by local family firm AT Carpentry & Building Services.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 in Congresbury

The purpose of Holocaust Memorial Day is to learn from the past and work towards a better future by promoting a society free from identity-based hostility and persecution, illustrated by the experience of people who were persecuted. The overall theme of HMD 2025 is '**For a better future**', which is so appropriate

The 2025 event will be held in Congresbury on **Saturday, 25th January at 7.30 pm in the Old School Rooms**. We will have the daughter of an Auschwitz survivor with us and will view a BBC feature describing her mother's return to Auschwitz on the 50th anniversary. We will see a short video about

Bosnia, in this, the 30th anniversary year of the Srebrenica massacre. The evening will also feature music and refreshments.

For further information, contact Tom Leimdorfer
tom.leimdorfer@outlook.com



Wreaths at Congresbury Youth Club

Make a Christmas wreath at Congresbury Youth Club, Saturday 7th December 10am to 12. £12 per wreath. All materials provided, booking is essential to make sure we have sufficient for you. Everyone welcome for this drop in session. Young people 8 to 14 years old can also book in to stay all day, with other activities provided in the afternoon. Enquiries and bookings to karen@congsyp.org.uk



Annual Wassail Sat Jan 18th

Make a headdress at 2pm in the Riverside Car Park, ready for the Green Man to lead the procession to the Millennium Orchard at 2.30pm. Mulled apple juice and cake at Congresbury Youth Club after. Everyone welcome.

If you are keen to volunteer, or have a piece that can be contributed, please get in touch.

Our motto is BIG TEAMS OF PEOPLE EACH DOING A LITTLE.
congresburylife@gmail.com

This edition of Congresbury Life is sponsored Congresbury Parish Council