

# Congresbury

## Life

Issue 7 | September 2024



Congresbury Youth Partnership visiting the Bowls Club this summer – the club welcomes new members of all ages!

### News from the Parish Council

Do you sometimes look around you in the village and wonder why things aren't being done? Perhaps there is a lot of litter about in a car park, or the planters are looking very dry, or there are weeds in front of the library?

The Parish Council is responsible for many aspects of maintenance in the village; but, as is so often the case nowadays, the budget doesn't always stretch to cover all of the tasks. Local government is facing some very difficult decisions about how to prioritise spending from a diminishing pot of money.

You probably know residents who care about the community who are "doing their bit" to help behind the scenes. But more help is needed! If all of us do a little, we can make a difference.

Congresbury has a Congresbury Volunteers WhatsApp group. If you would like to find out more about how to volunteer, whether you would be happy to have a regular commitment, or would just like to help when you can, please contact Lizzie Burd (lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk)

Some of our older residents may remember a time when Congresbury had an annual Welcome Week, when all the village organisations held open sessions to let new villagers see what

is available to join in with. The plan is to reinstate this in the week ending with the village fete on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The parish clerk, Nicky Andrews, will be contacting clubs and societies soon, so please watch this space. At the time of going to print, we are anxiously awaiting the result of the planning appeal regarding the development of land off Mulberry Road. CRAG and the Parish Council have been working, in consultation with North Somerset Council, to present strong arguments against this development, as the field was not identified for potential development in the Congresbury's Neighbourhood Plan. We hope that good sense will prevail.

Finally, if you have something you would like to say about what is happening in the village, please let the Parish Council know via the Parish Clerk by emailing [clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk) or come to the Parish Council meetings (dates are posted on the Parish noticeboards and the website). We look forward to hearing from you.



**Congresbury Youth Partnership**

Regular term time sessions at youth club on Wednesdays are After School (8 to 11s) until 5pm, and Seniors (11 to 16) 6.30 – 8.30pm. Code Club on Mondays from 3.30 to 5.30 has room for a few new young coders who want to play with Scratch or Python, or help to maintain the CYP website. To find out about half term activity days, follow us on Facebook [@Congresbury Youth Partnership](https://www.facebook.com/CongresburyYouthPartnership) or contact [karen@congsyp.org.uk](mailto:karen@congsyp.org.uk). CYP also works with the Lions Young Leader in Service in Congresbury. Any young person who is interested in validating volunteer work in this way, contact [alex@congsyp.org.uk](mailto:alex@congsyp.org.uk) It might prove useful on your CV one day!



**Yeo Valley and Rural Outreach Children's Centre**

Congresbury, Bristol, BS49 5DX  
Every Tuesday: 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
(term time only)

### Let's play

For children aged up to five  
Join us for a range of fun indoor and outdoor activities.

Meet other families, play with your child and have fun!

Only £2 per family, drop-in group, no booking needed

## Nature is your Neighbour



25 years of YACWAG

Firstly, help celebrate YACWAG's 25th anniversary by reflecting on the positive changes made for nature and our community. Your responses to a very short survey will shape an exciting oral history project which will culminate in a public film showcasing memories, attitudes and personal feelings about nature. Your responses will remain anonymous and personal information will not be stored.

Help create something memorable <https://forms.gle/UKTrEVT4xepFxNaD8>

Another light-hearted, fund-raising quiz is arranged for 7.45pm on Sunday, 20th October in the Plough Inn, Congresbury. Join a team on the night or bring your own. £1 per person + raffle.

Finally, Trevor Riddle, YACWAG's birding expert, has been studying our local bird species for many years. He will share the knowledge gained in an illustrated presentation at Horsecastle Chapel, Yatton on Thursday, 21st November at 7.30pm - this date may change so please check our website:

[www.yacwag.org.uk](http://www.yacwag.org.uk)

## Congresbury Community Library

### Dates for October and November

**Monthly Knitting Group** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 10:00 – 12:00 in the library, open to all!

**Library Talk** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct: A talk by Anthony Coverdale on the Early Avon Valley Copper and Brass Industry, Methodist Hall at 7:30 pm. Tickets £4 from the library or on the door.

**Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 10:00 – 12:00 in the St Congar's Room. Delicious cakes and tea and coffee.

**Lego Session** Friday 1 Nov 2:00 – 4:30 in the library.

**Monthly Knitting Group** Friday 15 Nov 10:00 – 12:00 in the library.

**Xmas Craft Activity** Thursday 21 Nov 9:30 to 12:00 in the library. Come and make some festive paper decorations with Ann Kelly

Saturday 23 Nov 10:00 – 12:00 make some festive felt and paper decorations, with Ann Kelly. Children and adults welcome.

Friday 29 Nov 9:30 to 12:00. Come and make amazing Xmas cake decorations with Pam Stewart.

**ALL THESE ACTIVITIES ARE FREE AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME - LEARN NEW SKILLS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**

**Library Talk** Thursday 28 Nov a talk by the Environment Agency, 7:30 pm in the Methodist Hall. Tickets £4 from the library or at the door.

It is easy to join the library, your account can be accessed online via the LibrariesWest app and you can borrow a range of eBooks, newspapers as well as books, all for free!

We also have our own Honesty Library of donated books which you can borrow at any time or for any length of time, as well as Jigsaws to borrow. Just call in and see what we have

Contact details website [www.congresbury-library.org.uk](http://www.congresbury-library.org.uk), email [congresburylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:congresburylibrary@gmail.com) Facebook: Congresbury Community Library or phone 01934 426200



## BLUEY

Forthcoming BLUEY trips:

Weds 16th October to Street

Weds 20th November to

Cribbs Causeway

Pick up points: Riverside Car Park,

Millennium Green,

Congresbury 9.30am and The Precinct 9.40am

There will be a charge of £5.00 per person for these trips (payable on the bus).

To book a seat or for information please ring 01934 257247 or

email:

[bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com](mailto:bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com) (leave a message if no reply, we will get back to you).

## 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.

## Congresbury WI

October 16<sup>th</sup> - AGM (always very short!) and Bring and Buy sale.

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Old Bristol on Film with Clive Burlton.

Visitors are always welcome - 2.15 in the Methodist Hall (£2 charge).

Annual subscriptions are reduced now for late joiners.

Contact Susan Hibberd (Secretary) on 01934 833544

## Voluntary Action North Somerset

VANS were successful in Big Lottery Bid, providing investment for 5 years in Improving Ageing in North Somerset Project.

Launch events will take place across North Somerset, targeting the towns and villages during October and November. Join us at The Old School Rooms on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October between 11am – 1pm to find out more about the project, how you and your village or town can get involved. The Old School Rooms are accessible, refreshments and information will be available on the day.

Watch out for events in other areas. Want to know more? Contact VANS Office number: 01934 416486



## Congresbury Scouts

By the time you are reading this, Congresbury Scouts and Cubs will have been on their 60th Anniversary Family Camp; adults and young people alike will have had a great time, whatever the weather brought them. Congresbury Scout Group has a strong and committed leadership team, who are providing great skills development and learning through outdoor activities, and a dedicated committee maintaining a permanent HQ with lots of equipment. Sadly though, the Beaver section has not been able to start up this year, for lack of a couple of people who can commit to supporting a weekly session for these 6- to 8-year-olds. If you think you could help, please discuss with the Group Scout Leader Geoffrey Bailey. It's a regular, but not huge, commitment, with lots of support and training provided.  
[geoffreymbailey@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffreymbailey@btinternet.com)  
01934 833662

## Congresbury Footpaths Group

The walks in the summer months have been very popular and enjoyable for the walking group. Our July walk was in Dunster with a cream tea at Dunster Water Mill, it was a beautiful sunny day, and perfect for walking. October starts with our annual holiday, to Tintagel which means that the Tuesday walk on the first of October will not take place. The walk on Sunday 20th October will be from the Riverside Car Park at the bottom of Kent Road, leaving at 10am. The walks on Sunday are normally about 6 miles, with a picnic stop, and a pub or cafe stop at the end. The Tuesday walk on the 5th November will meet at 9.30 at the Riverside Car Park, and are normally about 3 to 4 miles. If you

would like to join any of the walks, just turn up at the car park, don't worry if you haven't got transport as car share will be arranged.

## Congars Café Health Walk

A gentle walk every month on Tuesdays at 10am – No need to book, just turn up!  
8<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
See you outside the café on Broad Street, Congresbury.



## Congresbury Village Fete

This year's fete was another wonderful example of community spirit, with over £1,000 being raised by the fete committee for the future running of this much-loved event. There were 20 village clubs and organisations represented from Congresbury, all of whom were able to raise awareness and much needed funds for their respective charities. Although the fete takes place on the church premises, it is a separate and self-funding entity, run entirely by volunteers, acting as the fete committee. The fete runs in conjunction with the Gardening Club Summer Flower Show, symbiotic, but separate. The church generously donates the use of the paddock and electrical power at no cost to the fete committee so that all proceeds can be used to fund future community events and keep the fete running for years to come. The fete committee is always looking for volunteers to help plan the event throughout the year and run on the day – it's a great way to learn more about village organisations and get to know what goes on in your community. For more details, or to get involved in community volunteering, please

contact Kirsty at St. Andrew's Church office or email  
[kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk)

Next year's fete will be Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025 – **save the date!**

## Gardening Club

As we near the end of this year's growing season, with all the late-summer flowers holding on until the frost arrives and the trees changing colour as the days shorten, the Gardening Club starts off their new year with their programme of talks for the winter.

For those who haven't found us yet, the meetings are held at the Methodist Hall on the first Thursday of each month starting at 7.30. (7.15 to get a seat!) The October meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a talk by Greg Morter – From Seed to Fork and on 7<sup>th</sup> November Chris Sperring will be talking about Rewilding. New members and guests are always welcome. It's a very friendly club so come along and give us a try.

**Congresbury Singers** – We meet every Tuesday in the War Memorial Hall Congresbury @ 7.30- all welcome - no audition required.  
Contact Carol Bacon  
[smokeybacon12@googlemail.com](mailto:smokeybacon12@googlemail.com)



Congresbury FC

## Congresbury Football Club

**OVER 45?**  
Like Football? Want to keep fit? Congresbury over 45's are looking for local players. We play once a month on a Sunday morning so plenty of time to recover. A great mix of blokes that still enjoy the kick around and a few beers afterwards. Come along a be part of a great social scene.  
Contact  
[congresburyfc1906@gmail.com](mailto:congresburyfc1906@gmail.com) for more information.

## Beginners Morris dancing

Come and learn how to Morris dance in a friendly and fun environment with Mendip Morris.

Free beginner sessions run on Wednesday 9th October and Wednesday 13 November from 8 - 9.30pm at the War Memorial Hall, High Street Congresbury. Adults only (sorry!). For more information contact [mendipmorris@gmail.com](mailto:mendipmorris@gmail.com)

## Blooming Congresbury

The summer weather has certainly made all our shrubs and plants grow. The plants in the Geoffrey Peacock Memorial Garden have certainly blossomed and are in need of serious pruning during the coming months! If you would like to join our small team of gardeners tackling this work, or helping to look after the plants in the precinct and the flower boxes please get in touch. Don't worry if you feel you lack the necessary horticultural knowledge we have a number of experienced gardeners who know what they are doing. Contact Di Hassan by text to 07460090500.

## Congresbury Allotments

There are still plots available. Contact the Parish Office for details on [admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Council has agreed to offer up to 10% of plots to neighbouring villages if there isn't enough interest from residents here.

Plot holders have saved over £500 in discount on Kings Seeds this year by ordering through the Allotment Association scheme. Definitely worth the £1 membership fee!

**Our neighbours in Churchill** have offered us this opportunity to celebrate Bonfire Night. Scan the QR code or contact [lizzie.burd@icloud.com](mailto:lizzie.burd@icloud.com)



## St Andrew's Church

You can't really miss the church.

It's in the middle of the village, has been standing there for 800+ years and, thanks to generous donations, is illuminated beautifully at night again. However, contrary to many people's belief, the church does not receive any external funding – any government support. We are self-supported financially and mainly staffed by volunteers. Whether you have faith or no faith, the church offers itself for all and is open daily as much as possible for quiet or for prayer and many seek solace there at times of trouble. Next time you are passing, pop in for a moment and acknowledge how lucky we are to have this beautiful and ancient building in our midst.

We work jointly with St Andrew's in Banwell - one church across 2 villages - and share our vicar, musicians and congregation. EVERYONE is welcome whether as a regular or as a one-off. Worship pattern as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 10.30am – Congresbury - Holy Communion, 1st Sunday at 9.15am – Caz runs Muddy Boots Church with activities for families with children based outdoors followed by breakfast. Wednesday weekly at 9.30am – Midweek Communion following the Book of Common Prayer (nb 1<sup>st</sup> one of the month is at 10am) Fridays in term time 8.15 – 8.45am Take 5 Coffee drop-in

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 10.30am – Banwell - Holy Communion If you are interested in learning more or would just like to speak to someone about what goes on within the church, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda Fell [lynda.fell@live.co.uk](mailto:lynda.fell@live.co.uk), or Ruth Wratten [rwratten@btinternet.com](mailto:rwratten@btinternet.com)

## Yatton and District Rotary

is Congresbury's local club. We welcome new members and our aim is to serve our local village communities and support local charities.

Our next fund-raiser is an Arts and Crafts Fair at Cleeve village hall on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4.30pm. Sixteen local artists and craft makers will be selling their beautiful products, the works on display will feature five Congresbury artists, plus 11 others based within other local villages. The Friends of St Andrews Catering Team will be providing refreshments at this event and there will be a tombola. Entry is £1.00 for adults; entry free for children under 12.

We hold a monthly Free Talks Open Meetings at the Bridge in Yatton on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7pm, all are welcome. We are delighted that Alex Ballard of Congresbury Youth Partnership will be our next speaker on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

If you would like to give something back to your community or want to know more about Rotary in general, please contact our Club Secretary Jonquil Brooks on [mrsjonquilb@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjonquilb@gmail.com).

**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.**

**If you would like to see previous editions, we can send these by email.**  
[congresburylife@gmail.com](mailto:congresburylife@gmail.com)