

Congresbury *Life*

Issue 10 - April & May 2025

News from the Parish Council

Only a short one from me this month you may be glad to hear. Despite the cold, gardens and allotments are beginning to awaken and snowdrops, primroses and daffodils are all showing their colours and cheering us on. Work goes on at the community orchard and the paddock thanks to the stalwart group who turn up regularly to trim, slash back, prune and generally tame the area. The copse on the Millenium Green is also being tamed somewhat, just watch out for the snowdrops and bluebells planted there in the last few years.

The PC is once again short of members. Two councillors have had to leave due to ill health (nothing to do with me I promise) and another has heavy family commitments so if you think you'd like to be involved, just give Nicky, the Parish clerk, a call at the Parish Office, 01934 838802, and she'll give you more information. You're more than welcome to come along to a meeting and sit through it to see what goes on or give me a call. Nicky in the office will give you my number, and I'll give you any information you need.

Jane Clarke,
Chair of the Parish Council (P.C.).

Congresbury WI

The WI year starts in April so on Wednesday 16th April we'll be welcoming members, old and new, and our "subs" are due! Our speaker will be Keith Wilding with another fascinating challenge to identify mystery objects from his collection. The competition will be an item beginning with "A".

On 21st May we'll hold our Resolutions meeting to discuss the topic for this year's nationwide annual meeting, "Bystanders can be lifesavers". We can only support greater awareness and training in first aid and that will doubtless be the WI's campaigning focus for the next year. At that meeting we'll be having a fun quiz as well as a "Bring and Buy" event. We're aiming to replace the sadly defunct WI bench on the Millennium Green with a comfortable modern version - when funds permit.

We meet at 2:15 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Methodist Hall. We'll be hoping to welcome new members as well as visitors.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary, W.I.

Congresbury Allotments Association

There are no excuses for neglecting our plots at this time of year and already you can see signs of serious cultivation after the winter lull. To our delight the Parish Council has approved the inclusion of small wildlife ponds on plots. This has been reflected in updated rules for tenants and guidance (with an application form) on the Parish Council website. It's under Council Services, Allotments. Several valued members have relinquished their allotments, so plots are available to rent with just a few prospective tenants on the waiting list.

If you're interested, please contact Catrin at the Parish Office, admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk A full plot costs £45 a year and a half £23 (though there are only a few of these.)

In late Spring we'll be selling quality bamboo canes (at an excellent price!) and continue our usual seed sharing activities.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary,
Congresbury Allotments
Association.



Bluey Trips

Wednesday 19th March to WELLS
Wednesday 23rd April to CARDIFF
Wednesday 14th May to STREET

Pick up points: The Precinct
9.30am and Riverside Car Park,
Millennium Green. 9.40am
Return tbc on the day.
WELLS: £5 CARDIFF: £6.50
STREET: £6

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

*Interested in becoming a volunteer
driver? All training given, do as little
or as much as you can. Please ring
above number or email*

Congresbury Community Library

We are planning to hold a number
of activities for children over the
Easter school holidays.
Visit us between **Saturday 5 April
and Saturday 19 April** and see
how many Easter Chicks you can
find hiding in the library!
Friday 11 April we are holding a
Lego/Games session between 2:00
and 4:00 pm, free for all.
Saturday 12 April make an Easter
Egg basket, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
all materials will be provided.

Our monthly Knitting clubs will be
held on Friday 25 April and May 16,
between 10 am & 12 pm in the
Library.
Remember our Jigsaw Swap and
Honesty Library are available
throughout the year.

The Library will be closed on the
following Bank Holidays: April 18th
and 21st, and May 6th and 26th.



Congresbury Youth Partnership

Easter Holiday Activities:

Monday 7th April: 10 am - 4 pm -
Ashton Court Tree Tops Bristol
Adventure.

Wednesday 9th April - 10 am -
4pm Bristol Museum and Cabot
Tower Picnic.

Monday 14th April 10 am - 4pm -
Bristol Freedog Bounce and
MShed -

Wednesday 16th: 10 am - 4pm -
Youth Club Everything Chocolate
Day

Find more details on Facebook
and book with:

karen@congsyp.org.uk

New members welcome at our
term time sessions at Congresbury
Youth Club.

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 pm Youth
Club for school years 7 - 11.

Just drop in! The first attendance
at any session is free, thereafter a
charge between £1.50 and £2.20 is
made to cover basic running costs.

Congresbury Community Preschool



The children at Congresbury
Community Preschool have been
busy carrying out random acts of
kindness for 2025 World Kindness
Week. They all made a kindness
stone which was hand decorated,
and these stones were placed

around Congresbury for people to
find in the hopes that it brightened
someone's day. The children really
embraced the kindness theme with
some baking cakes for their
friends, and another who went litter
picking on the Strawberry Line with
his family.

We currently have places available
for children to join in April &
September 2025 offering term time
only childcare to children aged 2-4
years. We accept government
funded hours and can offer full and
half days. If you would like to
arrange a visit or request further
information, please contact the
office on:
office@congresburypreschool.onmicrosoft.com

Congresbury History Group

April 16th Simone Einfelt -
Collecting Stories from
Congresbury and the Strawberry
Line. A Multimedia Art Project.
7.30 pm in the Methodist Hall New
members/visitors welcome -
Annual Membership £15 or £4 per
meeting. Contact information:
Chair: Chris Short 01934 833764
Secretary: Ann Gunner 01934
852701, Treasurer: Geoff Pearson
01934 833485.
www.congresburyhistory.org.uk

Footpaths Group

Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud, nothing
quite like it, but Congresbury
walkers are made of sterner stuff
and regularly enjoy their winter
walks but are looking forward to
the warmer weather. Our Tuesday
walks are gentler and continue to
be held on the First Tuesday of
the month, and we have walks
planned for the **1st of April** and
6th May, both starting at the
Riverside Car Park at the bottom of
Kent Road at 9:30 am.
The Sunday walks are on the 3rd
Sunday of the month, (**13th April**
and **18th May**) starting at 10am at
the Riverside Car Park. If you would
like to join any of the walks just turn
up at the car park (if you don't have

transport don't worry as we can share or use "Bluey"). The walks end with a coffee stop, or pub stop, and you can look forward to a warm welcome.

Congars Café

As many people will be aware we have plans to change the layout of the cafe, but we will need your support in trying to help us achieve this. Not only will we continue to be a cafe, but we are putting on more and more community-based events. Some are free, others we ask for a donation to go towards running costs such as teas and coffees and others are put on by private organisations/people and so there is a charge - look out for ways to help us raise funds through Go Fund Me or join VANS Community Lottery that we are part of.

Coming up in April and May, we have the North Somerset Better Health Walks, these start at 10am, from the café, returning for a drink and cake maybe. This takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month. As does our new Scrabble Board Game afternoon which is going to be on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 2pm.

Right at Home North Somerset is a care agency holding coffee mornings on Thursday 3rd April and Thursday 1st May from 10am. At the second one the agency will be giving advice on its services and its recruitment officer will be present, and you can find out more about job opportunities with the agency.

Talk Club, mental health fitness club, runs every Monday evening from 5:30pm. STAR (Share, Talk, And Remember - bereavement group) will not take place in April as it is Easter Monday, but will be back on Monday 19th May 2 to 4pm. Repair Cafe is proving popular with sewing, and we can now offer IT fixes, general fixing and also cycle repairs. Saturday April 26th and Saturday 24th May from 10am.

Congresbury Carers

Congresbury Carers provide transport for the elderly and those unable to use public transport to access local surgeries, hospitals, opticians etc. It has been providing this vital service for a number of years.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Could you spare a few hours a couple of times a month to help? Please contact Margaret Leimdorfer on 01934 834663 for more details

Congresbury Singers

Congresbury Singers present "A Taste of the Baroque", Saturday 5th April at 7:30pm at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury. Tickets cost £12 including refreshments and are available from Post Office and Re-Store or at the door. Carol Bacon Congresbury Singers

Congresbury Spring Clean Day

Spring is on its way; everything is bursting into life again and the village could do with its annual Spring Clean! Paths and kerbs need sweeping and weeding, rubbish needs to be picked up, flower beds need sprucing up!

Come and join your fellow residents on **Saturday May 3** anytime between 9:00am and 1:00pm and work together to give the village a bit of a facelift. Bring along your litter pickers, brooms, secateurs, and any other tools and find out what you can do to help. There will also be litter bags, litter pickers and some gloves available at Congar's Café

Meet at Congar's Café in Broad Street between 9am and 1pm. An excellent opportunity to make a difference to the village and meet fellow residents. All ages are welcome. Any time you can spare will make a difference!

Games

Cracking the egg

Craft

HOLIDAY CLUB

St. Andrew's Church.

Congresbury

Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th April
10am to 1.30pm
Friday 18th 9.30-12.00

Find out about the

Easter Story

For more information or to book a place please contact
The church office on
01934 833126

or email
caz.carter@newcreationchurches.org.uk

Fun

Food

Update from Tessa Munt, MP

Since becoming your MP, I've highlighted some of Somerset's unique cultural contributions, including signing an 'Early Day Motion' celebrating our annual tradition of Wassailing. I believe it is crucial that the Government strengthens its support for cider producing orchards in Somerset to ensure fair prices throughout the supply chain. In Parliament, I've spoken in debates on a variety of matters concerning local residents - opposing EDF's proposed saltmarsh at Kingston Seymour (now paused, happily!) and supporting the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (now extended for one more year). I have pressed the Government on, for example, the need for broadband that works well for rural residents and businesses, the value of community energy projects, the madness of building on flood plains without proper mitigating measures, sewage pollution in our waterways, making developers put solar photovoltaic panels on every new roof possible (the so-called 'Sunshine Bill' introduced by Max Wilkinson) and Roz Savage's Climate and Nature Bill. If you have any thoughts or concerns on anything I've mentioned or you'd like any

information, please contact me and let me know.

My next 'drop-in surgeries' are:

Friday 4th April from 12 to 1 pm at That Coffee Place, Pages Court, Yatton

Friday 11th April from 10 to 11 pm at The Market Kitchen, Ladymead Lane, Churchill

Friday 2nd May from 12 to 1 pm at The Community Café, Bridge House, Broad Street, Congresbury No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

Thank you, Tessa.

Call: 01934 440639
(answerphone for out of office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

Text: 07714 599669

Post: Tessa Munt, Freepost (you won't need a stamp)



20 MPH for Congresbury

Many of you may be wondering 'What happened to that Petition I signed for a 20 MPH speed limit through Congresbury' a while back?

A concerned resident who lives in Brinsea Road started the petition and after gathering over 850 signatures out of a village of 3400 a small steering group was formed to take the idea forward.

The group then sought guidance from Dan Thomas, Ward Councillor for Congresbury, in the method needed to present any proposal to North Somerset Council.

Traffic volumes, speeds and vehicle types were recorded, and the group then made a presentation to the Parish Council asking for their support. The Parish Council already had a proposal which they had made to NSC in 2021, and the

steering group's data boosted that. Since then, NSC had prepared their Active Travel Plan 2023-30 and Congresbury were in that plan for 20 MPH.

The committee were encouraged by this and so with the help of Dan, pressure was maintained and NSC brought this proposal to the Consultation stage.

Now comes your bit... As Congresbury residents we urge you to support this proposal, to improve safety and quality of life whether you live in the Kent Road, High Street, Brinsea Road or any of the surrounding areas. Log on to <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/congresbury> before the 11 April to have your say and support this proposal.

Our understanding is that the 20MPH Zone will cover all roads within the village between the 30mph sign on the south side (Langford approach) up to the south A370 traffic lights and Kent Road and all roads leading into it on the north side. Associated speed restriction measures are proposed along Brinsea Road including raising the Zebra Crossing. It will not apply to the A370 main road.

Congresbury Gardening Club

Looking for plants for the garden?

Saturday 3 May between 10 am and 12 pm we are holding our small plants sale at the Methodist Hall, Entry cost £1.50 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.



Spring has sprung so time to stretch our legs outdoors!

Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th: 7-9 am Spring Birdsong Walk with Mark Savage and Trevor Riddle

Meet by the mosaic seat on the Strawberry Line, near the entrance from Chescombe Road, Yatton. A circular walk around our Congresbury Moor Reserve listening for warbler species and resident birds. Stout footwear recommended. Optional breakfast at the Strawberry Line Café on Yatton Station afterwards.

Note: The walk will be postponed if the weather is wet and/or windy.

Thursday, 15th May: 7.30-9pm (7.15 for refreshments)

Horsecastle Chapel, 18, Horsecastle Farm Road, Yatton. BS49 4QQ

"Dragonflies and Damselflies" an illustrated talk by Jon Van-Gowler

Saturday, 17th May: 11.00am-13.00pm a walk along the Yeo looking for dragonflies and damselflies.

Meet at Moorbridge Drove Bridge, Congresbury (off the A370 near the Esso garage - What3Words: apparatus.label.clown. Stout boots essential/cover up arms and legs in case of ticks. Arrive on foot or bike as there is no parking.

Spring Bank Holiday Monday, May 26th: 7 - 9am

Second Birdsong Walk

led by Mark Savage and Trevor Riddle. Meet at Congresbury old railway station site, where the Strawberry Line crosses the A370, for a 7am start.

Note: The walks will be postponed if it is wet and/or windy. Please check with Trevor at birds@yacwag.org.uk or on www.yacwag.org.uk if in doubt

If you are keen to volunteer for the village or have a piece that can be contributed to the magazine, 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