



*Blossom in the Millennium Orchard promises a good crop for all villagers to share.
To join the volunteers caring for the orchard, contact lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk*

News from the Parish Council

I hope you all had a good Mayday weekend and enjoyed the lighting of the beacon on the millennium green to commemorate 80 years since VE was declared. It's important we don't forget the sacrifices made at home and abroad to ensure peace. At the risk of repeating myself for those of you who attended the annual Parish meeting on the 1st of May, I'm sorry to say we lost the final appeal against the building off Mulberry Road. I'm so angry that it's thought permissible to ride rough shod over village feeling, PC advice, nature's interest and much professional opinion. The meeting also heard the concerns of residents about village parking. In this too we have little power where the changes have occurred on private land. We are still attempting negotiation with the owners of the Congresbury Arms.

Another concern is the burial ground which is running out of burial space! We cannot go much further back into the space we have because the water table is too high. Anyone who wants to hear the story of my Uncle Michael and the bobbing coffin, please contact me! If you know, of, or own a small paddock or piece of land for sale, please contact the Parish Office. Jane Clarke

A Parishioner's View A Parish Council is the lowest level of public

administration. It has very limited powers to project its views upwards, but it has the ability to raise whatever precept it chooses and spend it locally on things which improve residents' lives. A positive thinking Parish Council working well can set the tone of village life and enthuse its residents to help themselves. Congresbury PC is rightly frustrated after spending a lot of effort opposing proposals to find themselves ignored and overruled, as with recent planning decisions. However, the PC did succeed in getting the bizarre "Millennium Green is a reservoir" project abandoned, and has fought hard to get our voice heard in the design of the Smallway junction "improvements"

Fighting the big issues takes up a lot of time, and can distract Councillors from our local ones. To add to the malaise there are only eight Councillors, who are all volunteers, by the way, sharing the work which should be done by a full complement of twelve. There is a certain feeling in the village that our Parish Council "could do better". If you think that, please keep the feeling to yourself, if you are not willing to apply for one of the vacancies on the Parish Council and help to change things.

The Welcome Week is planned to run from Saturday June 21st to June 28th. Its purpose is to encourage

new, and old, villagers to get to know their neighbours and volunteer to join village clubs and societies.

The Village Summer Fete on June 21st will provide an opportunity for organisations to interact with villagers. During the week, we hope villagers and groups will have informal coffee mornings, or perhaps barbecues and invite their neighbours to join in.

On Saturday June 28th, the Old School Rooms will be open from 11am to 1 pm. Come and meet your Parish Councillors plus the people running the regular activities in the Old School Rooms plus other groups within the village. We hope that all the main venues - the Memorial Hall, Methodist Hall, Rec Club, Scout Hut, Tennis Club, Football Club, Youth Club, Community Café, Church and Refectory- will open from 11am -1pm on this Saturday. There will be refreshments at the Old School Rooms.

If you can get involved with this exciting village event, please email the Parish Clerk, Nicky Andrews [email clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk) .

Jane Clark, PC



YACWAG Several opportunities coming up, for you to meet us and us to meet you!

Sunday, 8th June: 12.00 - 17.00
"Know the Yeo"

Free community event on the Millennium Green in Congresbury, BS49 5AG

Part of the Bristol Festival of Nature. Suitable for all ages. Learn about the wildlife of the River Yeo, take part in a stick mini-raft race, make a woven willow bird feeder, go on a nature trail or a nature walk with experts. Dip in the ditches and see the wonders of watery wildlife. Mendip Activity Centre will be offering paddle-board taster sessions twice during the event - limited spaces, book at the YACWAG gazebo

Saturday, 21st June: 13.30 - 17.00
Congresbury Village Fete, St Andrew's Church Paddock, BS49 5DX

Part of the Congresbury Welcome Festival 2025
YACWAG will have an informative stall with themed activities.

Saturday, 5th July: 16.00 - 22.00
"Celebrating 25 Years of YACWAG" Claverham Village Hall, BS49 4GG

Family fun from 4pm; AGM 6.30pm; bar open 7pm.

Following on from the success of our first social evening in Yatton plans are afoot for a second, towards the end of June, in Congresbury. Details will appear on the website in due course

www.yacwag.org.uk

Congresbury Community Library

We look forward to seeing you at the Village Fete on the 21 June when we will be holding story telling sessions for children throughout the afternoon

On the 28 June, during Welcome Week, we will have a variety of children's games plus our Lego out

in the library for families to come along and play.

5 July is the start date for this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which is titled **Story Garden - Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors**. As well as engaging with the challenge we will have a number of free activities that children can do throughout the summer holiday, including the completion of a Summer Reading Challenge Nature Card.

Are you and your friends interested in forming your own Book Club?

All you have to do is apply for a reading group card and you can borrow up to 20 copies of a book title for just £6!

www.congresbury-library.org.uk



Congresbury Youth Partnership - Get Ready for an EPIC Summer!

Guess what?! Your summer holidays are about to get a whole lot more exciting thanks to the amazing Congresbury Youth Partnership! We're cooking up some super cool activities just for YOU, packed with fun, adventure, and chances to hang out with your friends (and maybe make some new ones!).

Get ready for some serious fun! (We're keeping the exact activities a little secret for now, but trust us, it's going to be awesome!)

Mark these dates in your calendars right now because you won't want to miss out:

Wed, 23rd July: Mon, 4th Aug: Wed, 6th Aug: Mon, 18th Aug: Thur, 21st Aug: Wed, 27th Aug: Let's end the summer with a BANG! Our final activity is going to be a fantastic way to say goodbye to the holidays.

What can you expect? Think awesome games, creative crafts, maybe even some outdoor adventures and sporty challenges! We're planning a summer filled with

laughter, new experiences, and memories that will last way beyond the holidays.

Don't let your summer be boring! Join the Congresbury Youth Partnership for some unforgettable fun. We can't wait to see you there! Stay tuned for more updates! Let the summer adventures begin! Check out our Facebook page where all will be revealed in due course! Contact: Congresbury Youth Partnership - sarah@congsyp.org.uk

Code Club

Our special weekly session on Mondays in term time will restart in September with spaces for new young coders starting out with SCRATCH as well as those with some previous experience wanting help with PYTHON and basic electronics projects. **We urgently need volunteers to help instruct.** These could be adults or peer educators, working towards DoE requirements or other volunteer accreditation. Contact alex@congsyp.org.uk

Congresbury WI

Our speaker on 18th June will be Ian Morton. He'll be giving us the latest information on the SS Great Britain. Plus, a £1 sale to help raise funds for a replacement WI bench on the Millennium Green. The competition is for an item beginning with "B". 16th July we'll have a talk from Graham Daynes on Hearing Dogs. The competition is for a dog in any shape or form - except a live one! We meet at 2.15 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Methodist Hall. We welcome new members as well as visitors. The charge for non-members (including tea and biscuits) is £3.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary.

Congresbury Allotments Association

There are just 3 people on the waiting list at present and all vacant plots have been taken. There may well be more plots available soon as letters are going out to remind holders that failure to cultivate plots means the tenancy is over!

We've been very happy to see so many tadpoles in the newly installed ponds and know that several more ponds are planned. We have Growmore available at £2 a kilo and share spare seedlings and surplus equipment on site. A planned summer social and our new WhatsApp group, run by Dawn, is very active and helpful.

Interested in joining the waiting list for an allotment? - contact Catrin at the Parish Office, admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk
A full plot costs £45 a year and a half £23
Susan Hibberd, Secretary,
Congresbury Allotments Association.



Congresbury Carers

For over thirty years Congresbury Carers as a voluntary organisation has been taking the elderly and those who are unable to use public transport to local surgeries and hospitals.

The organisation is becoming overwhelmed with requests for transport to the local surgeries. If you are over fifty years of age and able bodied and have your own transport, would you be willing to become a volunteer. It is necessary to have a DBS check (which we can facilitate) but if you are volunteering for another organisation you may already have one.
We only have **TEN** willing volunteers, so it is sometimes impossible to meet all the requests.

This is a PLEA FOR HELP because at the moment we are already finding it difficult to continue to provide the necessary help.

CAMEO (stands for Come and Meet Each Other) is a friendly group that meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Hall situated in the High Street, Congresbury. Doors open at 7pm with talks starting at 7.30pm. Talks are very varied; we sometimes have a meal out and much much more. Ideas are always welcome as are volunteer speakers. Entry is £2 to include refreshments. Everyone is welcome. This is not a

religious group. Talks run from September until June. There is no joining fee.

Madelein Cornelissen

Congresbury Singers

"Music Inspired by Folksong"
Concert June 28 @ 7.30
War Memorial Hall Congresbury.
£12 including refreshments- tickets from PO, Re-Store Congresbury or on the door



The Rec Club continues to support the local sporting clubs and also local people with music events, use of the facilities and screening of live sports. Please do come on down with family and friends and ask about joining as a member and benefiting from the low prices and low hire costs. We look forward to welcoming you! If you are interested in hiring out the venue contact Katie at manager@congresburyclub.co.uk.

Football: The Men's 1st Team have now been promoted to the highest-level Congresbury has ever played at! Come down and watch (free of charge) usually Saturday afternoons at 3pm or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest fixtures. If you want to join any of the Men's, Ladies', or Vets' (over 45s) please contact congresburyfc1906@gmail.com, Pre-season training will be here before we know it!

Cricket: Congresbury CC is proud of its history. We play cricket at a very high level and have vibrant women's

and junior sections too. Training has already started but we always welcome new people so if you would like to get involved as a player, helper, sponsor, Friend of Congresbury Cricket Club (FoCCC), get in touch at congresburyCCinfo@gmail.com.

Tennis: Summer is the perfect time to get playing tennis! If you want to look at joining then please reach out to congresburytlc@hotmail.com or go online and check out the website for more details clubspark.lta.org.uk/congresburytlc).

The Community Café is home to Congresbury Glut market. Local home-grown plants and produce are donated and available for a donation. The market helps reduce food waste and raises funds for local groups

If you have any spare produce please drop them off at the café which is open from 9 to 1 pm on Wednesdays Thursdays and Fridays except bank holidays.

Congresbury War Memorial Hall

Table Top Sale - 7th June 2025
9am to 3pm

A variety of items, a lot being brand new including Kitchenware, shoes size 7 and 8, fitness equipment.



Improving Ageing in North Somerset, Tracy, your village agent, will be at the village event on Saturday 28th June during the Village's Welcome Week. This will be a great opportunity to come and have a chat, to ask questions and find out what she's been up to. Tracy looks forward to meeting you.

Congars Café Community Engagement

As you all know Congars Cafe sadly had to close at the end of May due to

many factors not least rising overhead costs. However, we are pleased to announce that we are moving our community engagement wellbeing and support groups to the CYP youth club, by the ball court, Bristol Road, Congresbury.

The groups are as follows
Talk Club, STAR, I'm Fine, Board Game Afternoon, Better Health North Somerset walks and the Repair Cafe
As well as some private bookings such as the Emotional Freedom Technique and the seed planting.

At the time of going to print unfortunately not all the dates have been confirmed as to when each group/session will be running/starting and so please look out for posters around the village and neighbouring villages or contact us through our continuing email address of

congarscafe20@gmail.com, to find out more. New branding for social media and a new email and website will be coming soon.

Each group will run at the new location with teas/coffees and biscuits on offer for a suggested donation.

Sonya

"Use them or lose them".

The bakery is for sale, Congar's Cafe is closing, other village businesses are reporting a 30 to 40% drop in their turnover, and it appears to be all down to the recently introduced and proposed parking charges. To be clear, the Precinct shops have, rather unfairly, no control over the parking charges in Tincknells car park, even though they have to contribute to the cost of it. So, if we want our shops to survive, we must not vote with our feet and go elsewhere because of parking charges which are annoying, but in reality, not prohibitive. The rules state you can shop for 15 minutes free. If you think you may have overstayed the 15 minutes you can **retrospectively** put 50p in the machine and avoid a fine, as long as your stay hasn't exceeded an hour. It's not a huge ask that we keep a purse of small change in the car; Ash, our friendly and helpful

postmaster will be happy to give you change.

Arrangements at the Congresbury Arms are not yet known but will be of more concern than those at the Precinct if they do not allow free use of the public toilets, the Broad Street businesses and access for the vehicles working on the Millennium Bridge, Paddock and Orchard. It's never too late to impress on the decision makers the value of keeping a positive relationship with the village.

Did our parking problem start with improvements to the frequency, reliability and cost of the X1 and airport buses? These are welcome in many ways, but the impact on parking in the village can't be ignored. A suggestion to the District Council of the need for a park and ride by one of the A370 bus stops would not go amiss.



Bluey (Community Bus)

Wednesday 9 July to GLOUCESTER DOCKS

Cost £6.50

Wednesday 20 AUGUST to WELLS

Cost £5.00

Pick up points: The Precinct 9.30am and Riverside Car Park, Millennium Green, Congresbury 9.40am Return to be agreed on the day

To book a seat or for information please ring 01934 257247 or email: bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com (leave a message if no reply, we will get back to you)



Update from Tessa Munt MP.

It's been another busy month! In Parliament, I supported a Bill to

ensure MPs have a vote on the content of any UK / US trade deal before it takes effect, which is crucial to protect our farmers and their industry.

I have been active in House of Commons debates on many of the issues that affect our local communities, looking at crumbling hospitals and the sewage scandal, and Energy Security and Net Zero. Of particular interest is how we can improve energy efficiency for older homes and those in conservation areas, especially in relation to permitting double and triple-glazed windows, an issue affecting many residents here. The Secretary of State, Ed Miliband is on the look-out for small measures and large in the planning system that can obstruct sensible energy-efficient measures. So, I've made several suggestions which might improve our planning legislation. Also, on our environment and prioritising investment in the circular economy, I introduced a debate on recycling our 600,000 tonnes of UK end-of-life tyre waste each year.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or come to chat with me at one of my 'surgeries', which are:

My next surgery in Congresbury at the Community Café is on Friday 13th June from 10.00 to 11.00

No appointment is necessary.

You can get hold of me in these ways:

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)

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

We have a current opportunity for volunteers able to help us with formatting and editing, getting our text and pictures into shape.

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

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