



News from the Parish Council

"Phew, what a scorcher!" I can't remember which newspaper was famous for this headline, but I think we might be giving 1976 a run for its money!

Talking of scorchers, I've seen so many dogs being walked during the day, so I thought I'd pass on this veterinary advice. "Stand on the pavement in bare feet, where the sun is shining, for a few minutes. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dogs paws."

There are cracks like Cheddar Gorge in the allotments, especially the un-used ones. If you'd like an allotment and don't think you could manage a whole one, we have some half plots, or pal up with someone, she'll do the veg, you can do the fruit! (contact Cat at the Parish Office) Just a brief note about parking (Oh not again!) We've had no joy with either The Congresbury Arms (Ship and Castle) or Tinknells and short of magic-ing a 'park and ride' out of thin air, there is little or nothing we as a PC can do. However I'd like to urge private individuals to notify the police of any cars suspected of being 'airport parked'. We know there are rogue companies who take people's cars at the airport with the promise of safe and covered parking and then dump them at the roadside, on verges and, until recently, at The Congresbury Arms car park.

Finally, thanks to the garden club for hosting another splendid summer flower show and fete.

Congresbury Welcome Festival

The show marked the beginning of our Welcome Week which concluded the following Saturday with an open morning for voluntary organisations in the village to display their talents and be treated to a sandwich lunch.

Thanks go to Wendy and Lizzie for stalwart kitchen work and a gold star to Keith who's definitely got his washing up badge!

We haven't heard yet how the open venues did. Probably the Methodist Church was the most visited venue with forty visitors plus noted! Unless you know different.....

If you missed the opportunity to volunteer for a job with any of the organisations recruiting, it's not too late. Volunteer opportunities are highlighted in red throughout the magazine.

Congresbury Volunteers



We have been joined by a couple of new members, but would still like to hear from more.

There will be an induction meeting on Saturday August 2nd; a chance to look at the jobs we do and places we maintain. Meet in the Riverside Car Park at

10am, bringing gloves and secateurs if you have them.

For alternative dates, contact lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk

The Community Café also had a thank you event for its 43 volunteers, some of whom run sessions and some bake homemade cakes and scones. The generous support and working relationship with Lisa and Neil co-owners of Debbie Fortune Estate Agents in allowing the use of some of their premises is invaluable.

Recently the café donated £800 to the Children's Hospice South West and £1,050 to St Andrew's school. During July they have been fundraising for the Great Western Air Ambulance charity. After being approached by Weston college, Jamie a student is helping on our Thursday sessions to gain more work experience. He was previously with Congars Café. Some of the college's bakery students ran a trial café session, providing cream teas for invited guests. We are working with the college to look at further collaboration.

If you would like to know more about volunteering either helping on café sessions or baking for the café, please pop in and have a chat with one of the leaders



1st Congresbury Brownies **NEED YOUR HELP!**

We know you are busy but can you spare some time to join our leadership team and train to be a Brownie Leader? We do hope so! For more details please contact: TERESA ALDRIDGE aka "Tigger" 1st Congresbury Brownie Leader Mobile: **07739 178307**

Rainbows is currently running very successfully on a Tuesday evening with a full group with more girls on the waiting list. Brownies is also full but there is currently no Guide unit for them to move on to. Our problem is a shortage of leaders. Without more leaders coming forward for training, units will sadly have to close.

Please if you think you could spare some hours on one evening a week to help run any of the guiding sections or co run with the existing leaders then please contact Sonya sonya.stocker@sky.com or girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Congresbury Community Library

The summer holidays are here so that means the annual Summer Reading Challenge has started in your local library! This runs until the middle of September and the challenge, for any child between the ages of 0 and 11, is to visit the library on 4 occasions and read a minimum of 6 books. During the visits they collect stickers and receive a certificate and medal when they have completed the challenge. Research indicates that reading levels can decline during the summer holidays, a phenomenon often referred to as the "summer slide". This decline is more pronounced in children who do not engage in regular reading activities over the break. Some studies even suggest that students can lose up to two months of reading skills during the summer. Participating in the Challenge helps to ensure this does not happen to your child.

We have a number of activities for children throughout the holiday linked to the Reading Challenge theme of the Story Garden. On Wednesday 13 August from 10 am to 12 noon we are holding an art

session. Plus a range of activities that can be carried out at home in your garden or in the local environment. Details of these can be obtained from the library and they are all **FREE and require a minimum of materials.**

Our volunteers look forward to welcoming you and your child/ren into the library and helping them find great books to read.

There is no knit club in August but it will return on **Friday 19 September.**

Also in September we start our next series of evening events with an illustrated talk by Sir David Eastwood on **Edward Elgar: Explaining the Enigma of England's Greatest Composer.** This is on Thursday 25 September at 7:30 pm in the Methodist Hall, Congresbury, BS49 5JA. Tickets are still only £4, available from the library or on the night.

We also have our jigsaw swap and Honesty Library running throughout the year.

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIP OF THE LIBRARY IS FREE!

Congresbury Gardening Club

We start our new year in September with Sally Nex's talk on Growing Veg in Small Spaces. Meetings are held at the Methodist Hall on the first Thursday of each month starting at 7.30. We always welcome new members and guests to our thriving club.

We hope you enjoyed the Rose Show this year. Unfortunately it could be the last the club holds unless we have a new team to help organise it, either as part of the Gardening Club committee or in a separate Show Committee just set up to run the Rose Show. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Liz English on 01934 834333 and we would be delighted to hear from you. The Rose Show has been part of Congresbury's summer calendar for almost 90 years and it would be a huge loss to the Village if it folds so come on, you younger folk, Save The Rose Show!

Congresbury Flower Show

A wide variety of stalls, crowds of villagers eager to buy, outstanding entries of flowers, fruit and

vegetables will be remembered at this year's Congresbury fete and Flower Show, but above all those will be the Heat!

On one of the hottest days of the year, the shady areas under the trees in St. Andrew's Church paddock were sought after, while the volunteers sweltered in the sun. The Flower Show attracted 403 entries, with 87 classes covering fruit, vegetables, flowers, cooking, handicrafts, art and photography. Blackcurrants proved the most popular fruit, with Jane Hares top of the 11 entries but the rare fruit was apricots, grown by Marion Johnson. John Chaplin beat the competition with his flowers and pot plants. Jacqui Coulson, Treasurer of the Gardening Club, proved the Queen of the Show, taking home five trophies for her roses, sweet peas and horticultural entries. Other trophies were won by people too many to name here. Children's awards were given to Martha Edwards, Lucy Parry and Rachel Darvill.



BLUEY

Forthcoming trips:

Wed 17th Sept to TAUNTON
Wed 15th Oct to SWINDON OUTLET
Weds 19th Nov to STREET
Pickup points Riverside Car Park 9:30
Precinct 9:40
Pay on the bus £5 for Street, otherwise £6.50

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)

Driving for the community! We need more volunteer drivers - could you help? All training given, do as little or as much as you can. Please above number or email for more information.



Congresbury Youth Partnership held its annual Awards

Ceremony on July 4th for young people nominated for outstanding effort in various village youth organisations. Each received a medal, and a perpetual trophy which they will hold for a year. The award scheme, named after the late Tony Sullivan, has been running for 14 years, and the names engraved on the trophies are a wonderful record of some of our best young people.



During school holidays, CYP run a number of full day activities when our regular term time sessions are closed. There may still be spaces on some of them. Check them out on our Facebook page.

Code Club is on hold until September. We hope to reopen with spaces for new coders aged 8 to 18, but **urgently need new adult volunteers to make it work**. Contact us on

congresburycodeclub@gmail.com



Congars Hub is now established at CYP Youth Club and has already has a few of its groups running.

Our last **I'm Fine**, a group for ladies who have long term illnesses and hidden disabilities recently met, where half a dozen of us discussed how we are feeling and ways to combat how we feel. All whilst having a cup of coffee and a biscuit. Future sessions will include some mindful activities, breathing exercises. We are taking a break for August but our next session will be Monday 22nd September.

We have also been running our popular **board game afternoon**. Come along and play scrabble with cup of tea and a biscuit for £4. Joint initiative with the village agent. Next

sessions are 12th and 26th August and 9th and 23rd September, 1pm to 3pm

Our **walking group** run through Better Health North Somerset has walks on 5th August and 12th September. Starting at 11am and after a short walk, return for a coffee and biscuit.

STAR bereavement support group has a session meeting on Monday 18th August and Monday 22nd September, starting at 2pm. Finally the **Repair Cafe** will be on Saturday 23rd August and Saturday 20th September, starting at 10am.

All activities ask for a voluntary contribution towards the refreshments and to pay towards the upkeep of the youth club building.

We are also looking for volunteers with all the groups to help run them and keep them going.

Congresbury WI

Takings from the Fete and from our regular Bring and Buy sales at meetings have now raised £400 towards a replacement bench on the Millennium Green. We also took part in the Welcome Week at the Old School Rooms to offer information about the WI and our local activities. We won't be meeting in the Methodist Hall in August but will be heading to Cuppa at Middlecombe Nurseries for our traditional Cream Tea. Everything is booked for members who were keen to indulge. On 17th September we'll be hearing from Clive Nunn about living in Papua New Guinea. Something really different! The competition will be for a mask.

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. The charge for non-members (including tea and biscuits) is £4.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary.

CAMEO will be opening its doors again for new talks and events, starting Wednesday 10th September 2025 with two speakers showing their experiences through photography. All welcome at the Methodist Hall. Talk begins at 7.30pm with doors open prior to this for refreshments, £2 entry.

Congresbury Allotments Association

There is always great activity on the allotments in summer. Our summer social turned into a great get together with partners and children invited, too.

There were several entries of early crops for the village show. Congratulations to all involved. We had an impressive table at the Old School Rooms for the village Welcome Week.

The crops are doing well in spite of the lack of rain. The soft fruit has been great and so have the potatoes. Our WhatsApp group has photos of splendid produce as well as frogs and water lilies! And this year butterflies are back - not just cabbage whites! Excess courgettes and beans are usually delivered to neighbours round the village or donated to the Glut Market at the Community Café.

Less satisfying is the lack of grass cutting by the Parish contractors and the considerable delay in returning neglected plots to cultivation. It could be an advantage to future tenants if we had more half plots as it's difficult for new plot holders to cope with the heavy work of clearing a whole one.

If you're interested in getting an allotment or joining the waiting list, please contact Catrin at the Parish Office, admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk A full plot costs £45 a year and a half plot £23 - if any were to be available.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary
Congresbury Allotments Association



Did you know it costs £10 a month to join Yatton and District Rotary? That's less than having a coffee a week in a café! To become a member of Rotary you just need a desire to serve your community and you can give whatever time you can spare to supporting local good causes. Rotary is a service-based organisation consisting of a very friendly group of people who like to give something back to our community, helping others and having some fun too. The past year

we have organised events that have raised considerable amounts for local charities.

On the fourth Tuesday of the month we provide Free Talks on a wide range of topics, all are welcome to join us at The Bridge Inn Yatton from 6.45pm each fourth Tuesday.

Contact the Club Secretary for more information on

mrsjonquilb@gmail.com



"Nature is Your Neighbour"

Join us on our annual walks to monitor the Water Bat

YACWAG has been taking part in the National Bat Monitoring Programme Waterway Surveys on the River Yeo, here in Congresbury, for 20 years. We monitor the river for Daubenton's Bats which feed by skimming insects from the surface of the water. Once seen, never forgotten!

Monday, 4th August - 9.45 pm

Meet at Millennium Bridge to walk with stops along the river bank. If wet, the next night. and also:

Monday, 18th August - 9.40 pm

If wet, the next night.

"Story Garden: Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors"

is this year's Summer Reading Challenge to inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading and to explore the connection between storytelling and nature.

Pop into **Congresbury Library, look at the YACWAG display and take away lots of ideas for activities.**

Runs until Saturday, Sept 13th.

A third **Social Evening**, to meet, chat and welcome new faces is provisionally arranged for late September/early October.

Details will appear on the website in due course www.yacwag.org.uk

Sing and Smile sessions

are taking place every Monday from 11am -12pm at The Note Warehouse, 71, High Street, Yatton. Relaxed and Dementia Friendly £5 per session.

To book :

amycollins@rightathomens.co.uk
07708076566

Vine Counselling

Christmas Fair will be on November 15th. Applications for stallholders £20 per stall by Sept 30th.

Lift sharing?

If you are going to a cinema, concert or theatre would you be able to offer lifts to people wanting to attend the same event? Drivers for Congresbury Carers, hear people saying how they miss being able to get out to events when they have to stop driving.

How could we provide a forum where people could ask for and offer lift sharing to cultural events? Any thoughts? Contact

Congresburylife@gmail.com



Update from Tessa Munt MP for Congresbury

David and I had a lovely afternoon at the Village Fete and Summer Show.

What a fantastic event - we really enjoyed meeting so many of you! Thank you to all the organisers.

In Parliament, I've spoken in a debate on speeding and traffic. I know this affects many locals and I'll continue to work with you, the Police, North Somerset Council and press the Government to enable stronger preventative action. Thank you if you've contacted me about this.

I also pressed the Health Secretary to ensure the new Cancer Plan improves access to radiotherapy. NHS England hasn't improved the availability of radiotherapy over the last decade, meaning many local cancer patients have to travel well over an hour for treatment.

Thank you to everyone who has come to meet me - I'll be holding local 'surgeries' during the summer:
Friday 1st August and **Friday 5th September** from 10 to 11am at The Market Kitchen Café, Churchill
Friday 8th August and **Friday 26th September** from 10 to 11am at Congresbury Community Café
Friday 15th August and **Friday 19th September** from 9 to 10 am at That Coffee Place, Yatton

No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't

come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

During the school holidays, I'm running 'surgeries' exclusively for young people aged 11 to 18. Please call me for information.

Thank you. Tessa

You can contact me:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

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

A letter to the editor from

someone born in the village, regretting changes:

"I am lost for words over the loss of community in Congresbury. There's nowhere to park without the fear of charges. You have to order from the chip shop by phone so you can pick up without being charged, and no one stops to chat. I do hope village businesses will not be affected, but it seems impossible there will not be an impact."

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

This edition of Congresbury Life is sponsored Congresbury Parish Council