

Congresbury Life

Issue 13 October/November

News from the Parish Council

"Horses sweat, gentlemen perspire, and Ladies gently glow" to quote my grandmother, (with whom you must be coming increasingly familiar). In that case, over the last three months I should definitely be put out to grass. I do hope you all got through this most un-English of summers with no mishaps.

We had a meeting on the Millenium Green with the Institute of Civil Engineers for the 'South West Project of the Year' award. Catherine Faruggia, the engineer in charge of the flood defence changes to the Millenium Green was instrumental in changing the original plans which would have meant a very changed Green and the loss of numerous trees including in the copse that has memorial trees in it.

Such an impassioned argument was put forward by local people and the PC that she suggested she go away and have another look at it. And she did! Her brilliant work has preserved the whole Green by taking some height from the top of a bank so that, should the water over-top, it will just spill into the fields and soak away naturally

As a result, The Gooseham Reservoir has been nominated for a national award and we are delighted for her and, of course, for us.

In other news, parking. (Sorry, didn't mean to upset you) We are in on-going talks with the landlord of the Congresbury Arms, and with

Tinknell's concerning their car parks, I'll keep you posted. Other than conjuring up a brown-field site out of mid-air I don't know what else we can do. Finally, in welcoming back Richard Cove to the council we are now full and firing on all cylinders.

Jane Clarke. Parish Council



Congresbury Volunteers

Clearing of brambles on paths, round the Ball Court and in the Millennium Green Copses has improved access. There are apples, pears, and medlars in the orchard for you to help yourself to. The planters throughout the village have looked good this year, although one or two were allowed to die of drought. You don't need to be an official volunteer to put a bit of water on thirsty plants as you are passing!

Our numbers are increasing slowly, but there is always so much more we could do. To join us, contact lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk



Congresbury Carers

I would like to thank all our drivers so much for volunteering for Congresbury Carers, some of you for many years.

The number of visits to the surgery and or hospital has increased so

much that at times we have been unable to help. Patients in need of regular dressings or tests who could easily take themselves to Congresbury Surgery are now in need of transport to Clevedon, Yatton or Langford, none of which are easily accessed by public transport. Mendip Vale Practice has been holding a consultation about the future of our village surgery.

The final session is on Sept 29th 10 am to 12 noon, in the Old School Rooms. If you read this in time, please go and have your say.

Four Carers members are over the age of 80, myself included, and due to ill health I am finding it difficult to act as the co-ordinator and it is now the time to think of the future of our service. **We need to find a new co-ordinator to take requests and link to drivers, or the Carers service will stop. Please come forward; support and training will be available to anyone taking this vital task on.**

margaretleimdorfer@gmail.com
01934 834663

Congresbury Gardening Club

Our village Gardening Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7.15 during the winter at the Methodist Hall. Our October speaker is Making the Most of your Greenhouse by Nick Morgan, and for the November meeting we have Greg Mortimer giving us a short history of food growing. New members and visitors are always welcome



Congresbury currently has a Rainbow unit, for girls aged 4-7 years and a Brownie unit

for girls aged 7-10.

Unfortunately, there is currently no Guide unit. Both Rainbows and Brownies are oversubscribed and have waiting lists. **Leaders are desperately needed to join both of these units and help restart the Guide section.** Full training is provided by Girlguiding UK; we know that this is an undertaking, however, our hope would be that if a few people come forward, a team could be built that means the leadership could be shared.

Experienced leaders are already running these units, and you would be well supported. If you have previously been a leader, or think that you might like to help with this worthwhile volunteering, then please contact me for further details.

We are quite concerned that if more leaders are not found then Girlguiding in Congresbury may not be here for much longer.

Look forward to hearing from you.
sonya.stocker@sky.com
07715876827

Congresbury Community Library

Congratulations to all those children who regularly used the library during the summer holidays and completed the Summer Reading Challenge!

Our next talk is on **Thursday October 23** pm in the Methodist Hall, High Street starting at 7:30 pm. Our speaker is the wonderful **Jo Edwards** who will be talking about **Mussolini and Fascist Propaganda**. A topic that is very relevant with present day politics. Tickets cost £4, available on the night or from the library

Saturday 25 October Coffee Morning in aid of **MacMillan Cancer Support**. Come along for homemade cakes, tea and coffee between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm.

In November **David Parker** is showing a **film he made for television about Laurie Lee**. The

author talks about growing up in Slad and visits many of the places he described in his books. The talk is on **Thursday 27 November** in the Methodist Hall starting at 7:30

Weekly Lego Sessions for the Children. Every Saturday morning we will be holding Lego sessions in the library between 10:00 and 11:30 am. Free to all, no need to book.

In October libraries are encouraged to focus on Poetry. We would like to **celebrate our** trees which have really suffered during our very dry summer and would like to put up a display in the library. Do you have a favourite poem celebrating trees that you would like to send in to us? Perhaps you have written a poem that you would be happy to share, or a photo of your favourite tree/s in the village? We would welcome all contributions, just drop into the library in an envelope with your contact details.

Photos, paintings and poems needed by 24th October for an Autumn display.

Reminder that the North Somerset Library Service is running a public consultation about the future of the library service and what changes residents would like to see. You have until the 24 October to complete a form available from the library.

Congresbury Footpaths Group

We're coming to the end of a long hot summer, and our walks have been shorter due to the heat, but we have managed to do them all and enjoy a coffee or drink at the end.

We are off on our footpaths holiday at the start of October, to Paignton for 3 nights at a hotel, with various walks on offer.

Our next walks, all starting from the Riverside Car Park are as follows:
Tuesday 7th October, a village walk starting at 9.30
Sunday 19th October a longer walk starting at 10am, bring a picnic lunch
Tuesday 4th November, a shorter walk starting at 9.30 with coffee stop at the end.

Sunday 11th November, a longer walk starting at 10am, bring a picnic lunch.

If you would like to join any of the walks just turn up at the stated time, you will be most welcome. If you need any more information contact Marilyn Talbot on 01934 832657



BLUEY

Forthcoming trips:
Weds 15th Oct to

SWINDON OUTLET

Weds 19th Nov to STREET

Weds 10th Dec to BATH XMAS

MARKET (parking at Lansdown Car Park - to get bus into Bath)

Pay on the bus, £5 Street, all other trips £6.50

We still run regular FREE Tuesday shopping trips to Weston-super-Mare

To Book a seat, or for more info, please ring: 01934 257247 or email:

bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com

PLEASE HELP - WE URGENTLY NEED MORE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS TO KEEP BLUEY RUNNING

All training is provided, you do as little or as much as you can. Please call the above number or email for more information. Bluey is also looking for a new **BOOKINGS MANAGER**.

Congresbury History Society

In an IT disaster, our website has been temporarily lost. **We are in great need of one or more volunteers who are able to help us.** Email chriscongar@hotmail.com Or Chris Short on 01934 833764.

Autumn meetings

7.30pm at the Methodist Hall
New members (£15 per annum) and visitors (£4 per meeting) welcome,
15th Oct AGM and Janine Marriot, The History of Arno's Vale Cemetery
19th Nov High and Dry Mendip Shanty Group Shanties and their History with maybe a bit of Singing.
10th Dec Annual meal at Mendip Spring Golf Club



Congresbury Youth Partnership

As the sun sets on another unforgettable summer, it's clear that our Summer Activities programme has delivered a whirlwind of excitement, laughter, and new experiences. From treetops to paddleboards, city trails to wildlife encounters, each day has been a fresh opportunity for adventure and creativity. See the full story on our noticeboard at the Precinct (Fish and Chip shop wall)

Watch out there and on Facebook for dates for our October half term activities!

Our regular term times clubs are:

For ages 8 -11 Weds 3.30 to 5pm

For ages 11-16 Weds 6.30.8.30pm

Code Club is on Mondays: drop in as soon as you can after school, until 5.30pm, to experiment with SCRATCH, PYTHON and basic electronics/robotics.

congresburycodeclub@gmail.com

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

CAMEO

Come and meet each other

will be opening its doors again for new talks and events, held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Methodist Hall. Talk begins at 7.30pm with doors open prior to this for refreshments, £2 entry.

Congresbury Singers

has been together now for almost 50 years and we hold rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in The War Memorial Hall (WMH). We hold four concerts a year plus a Christmas concert, all are held either in the WMH or St. Andrews Church.

We try to cover the full range of musical tastes so there is something for everybody in our body of work. We are always looking for new people to join us, particularly men. Rehearsals for our Autumn concert, Saturday 8th November at the WMH, began in early September but there

is still the opportunity to come along and try us out, without any pressure to participate in this, but maybe prepare for the Christmas concert instead. Come along just to see any Tuesday evening rehearsal at the WMH where you can be guaranteed a warm welcome and be provided with any information you may need. NO audition - for info 07803040175



Did you know it costs only £10 a month to join Yatton and District Rotary 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 mrsjonquillb@gmail.com

Broad Street Christmas Fair

Now summer is behind us the Scouts and Guides are starting to think about Christmas! The street fair is planned for Wednesday 3rd December. The Congresbury Brass will play; Mendip Morris will dance. Put it in your diary!



"Nature is Your Neighbour"

. YACWAG encourages people of all ages to enjoy *Nature as your Neighbour* through walks, talks, events, surveys and work parties. The charity owns 12 fields and a small wood which are managed as nature reserves and works with our local primary schools and youth groups.

Interested? Why not come along to one of our Social Evenings? See our website www.yacwag.org for details of these and other events.

Membership from only £5 a year.

Sunday, 12th October - 7.30pm (for 8pm start) Friendly, fund-raising Pub Quiz at The Plough Inn, Congresbury, BS49 5JA
Led by Graham Lovesey, this is a popular event so come early to get a seat.

Thursday, 13th November - 7.30-9pm (7.15 for refreshments)

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

Winter Birds of the North Somerset Level

A presentation based on the species recorded on the long running NS Levels Winter Bird Survey, illustrated with photographs provided by YACWAG members.



Vine Counselling Services, based in Congresbury, now sees over 75 clients each week, offering face to face low-cost (donation based) professional counselling for issues such as anxiety, depression, stress, loneliness, low self-esteem, abuse, trauma, family issues. Our waiting list is currently short, especially for daytime appointments, therefore please contact us if you need help.

We remain committed to supporting as many people from the community as we can, subsidising the cost of sessions through fundraising and grant applications. 'Friends of Vine' donate an amount each month towards our work by standing order. If interested in becoming a Friend of Vine, please contact us.

Please also support our Christmas Fair at Wrington Memorial Hall, Silver Street, on Saturday 15th November 2-4pm.

info@vinecounselling.org or call 01934 876377

May we also take this opportunity say thank you to all our local volunteers who contribute to the efficient running of the service, and our amazing supporters.

Congresbury Sports and Recreation Club

Events – more details on our Facebook page or contact thereclubcongresbury@gmail.com

Friday 24th October – Kid's Halloween Party plus foam machine/Disco

Friday 5th December – Family Christmas Disco with photo booth snow dome!



Congresbury FC

Football –

LINESPERSON WANTED! £20 per game plus food.

Saturday 2pm or 3pm KO! Contact congresburyfc1906@gmail.com



The following support groups are continuing to gather momentum, having transferred from Broad Street to CYP youth club.

Board Game Afternoon, starting at 1pm. Come along and meet new people and challenge each other to a selection of games.

Tuesdays 7th and 24th October
Tuesdays 4th and 18th November

STAR bereavement support group, starting at 2pm. Come and share memories of a loved one
Mondays 20th Oct and 17th Nov

Repair Cafe, starting at 10am. Bring along clothing that needs new zips or a hem taken up. **Also looking for volunteers with other skills who enjoy mending various household items.**
Saturday 25th October
Saturday 22nd November

There are also other drop-ins arranged such as coffee mornings with the local police and a bi-monthly ladies' group. Look out for further information about a book club, a mental health support group, a menopause café. **Can you volunteer to help run some of these as well?**

All groups are free, but they ask for a contribution towards refreshments. For further information please contact Sonya 07715876827 or congarscafe20@gmail.com

and on posters or social media.

The Community Café in Broad Street was fundraising during July for the Great Western Air Ambulance. Thanks to volunteers and customers £1500 was raised. September's charity is Macmillan Cancer Support, and later in the year will be Comic Relief.

Café is open Wed, Thurs and Friday mornings.

Congresbury WI

In August Congresbury WI members went out for their traditional Cream Tea to Cuppa café at Middlecombe Nurseries. We were joined by fellow WI member, Tessa Munt - our MP. We very much enjoyed the delicious scones and good company.

On 17th October we'll have our AGM, a Bring and Buy sale and a short talk from our WERN (West of England Rural Network) village agent.

On 19th November Lottie Dale will be telling us about "Falling with Style" which is nothing to do with keeping upright.

We meet in the Methodist Hall at 2.15 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and welcome new members and, of course, visitors - at a charge of £4.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary (01934 833544)

Congresbury Allotments Association

This summer has brought challenging growing conditions, but the rain eventually arrived; plants (and weeds) have a new lease of life. Although success has varied slightly, many plot holders report excellent potatoes, sweet corn, courgettes, squash and fruit. Outdoor tomatoes have never been so good and runner beans were (thankfully) slowed down a bit by the lack of rain. Sunflowers have been cheering us for many weeks.

Now we can start to tidy up plots and sow seeds to see us through the winter and pour over seed catalogues, planning for next year. A few plots are sadly still blighted by long term neglect. We hope those tenancies will soon be terminated, freeing up the plots for more enthusiastic gardeners. If you're interested in having an allotment,

please contact Catrin at the Parish Office, admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk
Susan Hibberd, Secretary of Congresbury Allotments Association



Good Neighbour Scheme

Can you help support someone by sharing skills you've built up over the years? Skills like cutting the grass, walking a dog, reading a book, putting up pictures, painting a skirting board ... you choose!

If this has caught your interest, call me on 07458073262 or email me: tracy.edwardsbrown@vansmail.org.uk



Update from Tessa Munt MP for Congresbury

I hope you've had a wonderful summer. My thanks to Congresbury

WI for inviting me for a delicious cream tea at Middlecombe Nursery. I really enjoyed meeting so many of you!

I'll be holding 'surgeries' on: Friday 10th October & Friday 14th November from 10:00 to 11:00 at Congresbury Community Café. No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (no stamp needed!)

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.

**Big Teams of People,
Each Doing a Little**

congresburylife@gmail.com

This edition is sponsored by Congresbury Parish Council