

Congresbury *Life*

Issue 14 December 25/January 26

News from the Parish Council

No weather or seasonal comment to start off this edition, no wise saws from my grandmother but some very good news. The Millennium Green flood mitigation project, that was so intrusive to start with, ended up being almost unnoticeable and saving the Environment Agency many thousands of pounds. Thanks to the work of the PC, Congresbury Youth Club and the many villagers who attended consultations and made their views known, common sense and local opinion triumphed.

Recently, the Institute of Civil Engineers has recognised the skill and understanding of Catherine Farrugia, the lead engineer,

by awarding the project the **South West Award for Collaboration**



Now to more mundane matters and I'm sorry to bring it up again - but parking! The Old School Rooms car park is for the use of people who are using guess what... The Old School Rooms. We had a situation recently where people using the Old School Rooms, including the staff, couldn't park there because the spaces were used by people attending a funeral. Sorry, but this cannot be.

Our merry band of Millennium Green tidy-up-ers and hack-backers are continuing to do a grand job, Things are really looking good and our new

tree surgeon is on the job now he's back from his holidays. We have seen unsung villagers out and about with litter pickers and black sacks as well, and the Parish Council is grateful to them all.

Sadly we on the PC have had to say goodbye to Wendy Holland who has moved out of the village. She has been an invaluable member of the PC especially with her persistence on the planning committee. This of course means we have a space on the council and only two women, so come on ladies your parish needs you. (The vacancy is of course open to both sexes)

Jane Clarke. Parish Council Chair



**Congresbury
Volunteers**

Clearing of brambles on paths, round the Ball Court and in the Millennium Green continues as a regular activity on the first Monday of the month. The orchard produced a bumper crop. The WASSAIL will be on 24th when we for equal year.



at 2pm in the Riverside Car Park to make a green headdress, ready to parade to the orchard at 2.30, and to sample our mulled apple juice with a slice of cake at Congresbury Youth Club afterwards.

To join the Volunteers, contact lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk

Congresbury Scouts and Guides Christmas Fair

Wednesday 3rd December from 6pm



Come and join the carols with Congresbury Brass and Congresbury Singers from just after 6pm, and enjoy Mendip Morris from 7pm.

Raffle draw at 8pm. Stalls and raffle will be raising money for Weston HospiceCare, the local Scouts and Guides and other village good causes. You can show your support in advance by buying some raffle tickets, available from the Weston HospiceCare shop or at the precinct on Saturdays 22nd and 29th Nov.

Information about helping Scouts:
Geoffreymbailey@btinternet.com

Urgent need for more adults to support enthusiastic girls and young women in Congresbury



Rainbows and Brownies are thriving with both sections full and more girls on the waiting list ready to start.

However there is no Guide section and it is proving difficult to move girls on. **We are looking for a group of people who can spare a few hours a month to join our leadership team, with support from current leaders, to help restart the Guide section, for girls aged 10 years plus.**

Please contact Sonya [07715876827](tel:07715876827).

Congresbury Community Library

Wednesday December 24 Xmas Story Time Session, just drop into the library between 10:00 and 12:00 and listen to some Christmas stories. A great way to entertain the children waiting for Xmas!

We hold Lego Sessions, every Saturday Morning from 10:00 to 11:30. Free for all.

In January we have an illustrated talk by Jonathan Holt all about "The Follies of North Somerset". It starts at 7:30 on Thursday 22 January in the Methodist Hall, High Street, Congresbury. Tickets cost £4, available from the library or at the door.

Our December Knit club is on 19th and the January date is 16th. Just come along and join us between 10 and 12 o'clock in the library.

Also remember our Honesty library and Jigsaw swap, available all year round.

On behalf of all the library volunteers I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and if you are looking for ways of saving money join the library and get all your family's reading material for FREE.



BLUEY

Weds 10th
Dec to BATH
XMAS MARKET

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

Pay on the bus £6.50

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

bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com

Congresbury Community Transport Directors wish all their users a "Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"

URGENT FOR 2026 - We need more Volunteer Drivers - can you help? Ring above number.



Congresbury Youth Partnership

Our regular term time 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

Volunteers need to help run all groups and keep them going.

We will be selling bottles of Apple Juice pressed by our young people from local apples at Broad Street Fair on Dec 3rd and St Andrew's PTA fair on Dec 12th. Come for a free sample, or a glass of mulled juice.



Congresbury Singers

Our busy year will culminate in our Christmas Extravaganza concert in St. Andrew's Church, Congresbury on Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm, where we will be joined by a choir of children from St. Andrew's School and a special carol themed performance from the Chalice Handbell Ringers. tickets £12 from PO, Re-Store, and on the door, to include wine and a mince pie. However, before that we will be appearing at the Congresbury Christmas Fair on Wednesday 3rd December, and the Wroughton Dickensian Fayre on Saturday 6th December. Please come and join in the well known repertoire of Christmas favourites.

New members are always welcome so if you'd like to give singing a try please come along to any of our weekly rehearsals on Tuesday nights, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start, at the Congresbury War Memorial Hall, where you will receive a warm welcome.

Congresbury WI

On December 10th we're going out for a festive lunch and we'll bring donations for a local food bank. **Our first meeting of the New Year** is on 21st January when Barrie Hamblin will be talking about Climate Change. Then on February 18th we'll be hearing from Nick Meyer about "A disreputable scandal".

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.

Congresbury Sports and Recreation Club

Available to hire Monday-Saturday until April 2026, email therecclubcongresbury@gmail.com to enquire!

Looking for a volunteer to help on negotiation of our utility bills! Contact above email!

Family and adult Christmas parties on 5th & 6th December! More details on our Facebook page

The Community Café in Broad Street

The community café volunteers continued their fundraising efforts to raise £1,050 for Macmillan Cancer Support during September and £830 for Weston Hospice Care in October. The café will be open during this year's Xmas Fair evening on Wednesday 3 December.

The last session in December will be Friday 12 December, and the café will re-open on Wednesday 7 January.

Congresbury Allotments Association

This is the time of year for tidying our plots. Many of us have a great store of fruit and vegetables at home as well as the winter crops still waiting to be harvested.

We were greatly saddened and shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mike Rendu. He was our longest allotment holder, and known to so many of us. Our thoughts are with Pam, who was so often with him on his plot.

The New Year will bring our AGM as well as rent renewal at the end of February. We hope the tenants who've neglected their plots all year will finally be given their marching orders. More important still we're keeping fingers crossed that QEH (who lease the land to the Parish Council) are happy to continue the arrangement as our five year lease runs out in 2026.

If you're interested in joining the waiting list for an allotment, please contact Catrin at the Parish Office, admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk

A full plot at present costs £45 a year and a half plot £23.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary,
Congresbury Allotments Association.



Volunteers Wanted: to join a newly formed Maintenance Group for Strawberry Line Path between Nye Lane and Congresbury Station

We're seeking additional regular volunteers to help maintain this scenic stretch of the path.

The Strawberry Line Society, a registered charity, works with landowners and councils to maintain the path through dedicated volunteer groups across North Somerset & Somerset.

The Nye Road to Congresbury Station section passes through the North Somerset Levels, featuring the restored station platform, the important Congresbury Station Reedbed wildlife habitat, and stunning countryside views.

Our maintenance group will handle vegetation clearing, litter picking, minor repairs, and habitat preservation. No experience is necessary—just enthusiasm and willingness to help! Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome, whether you can spare a few hours

monthly or want more regular involvement. To volunteer or for more information, visit

www.thestrawberryline.org.uk

A Plea from our Village School.

Do you have a spare hour or 2 each week to make a real difference? St Andrew's Primary School are always looking for volunteers to listen to children read. Being a confident reader has been identified as having the biggest impact on future success. We want all our children to be confident able readers. Reading with an adult supports children to develop their reading skills and builds confidence and fluency as well as a love for reading. If you are able to offer some time, on a day that suits you, we would love to hear from you. Please email

sarah.gilbert@standrewsprimary.org.uk for more information.

Carers in North Somerset:

Have Your Say in a Consultation on the Future of Support.

Are you an unpaid carer looking after a loved one in North Somerset? Your voice can help shape the future of support for carers where you live.

The consultation is being run by independent charity, The Carers' Centre for Bath and North East Somerset, commissioned by Voluntary Action North Somerset on behalf of North Somerset Council.

It is seeking to understand:

- What support unpaid carers in North Somerset need
- The barriers you face in getting the support you need
- How services can be improved to better support you.

The consultation includes drop-in sessions (with free tea and cake!) in a wide range of locations, as well as a questionnaire, that can be filled in online, or in print. When you take part, you can enter a prize draw to win vouchers of £250 and £75!

The Carers' Centre will produce a report on their findings, with recommendations for North Somerset council to consider, in March 2026.

All the information you need is here: www.banescarerscentre.org.uk/nscc

If you would like a paper copy of the questionnaire, please contact BANES carers centre on **0800 0388 885** If you have any questions, or require the questionnaire in an additional format, please contact:

marketing@banescarerscentre.org.uk

The closing date for completion of the questionnaire is 31 December 2025.

We know that not all carers recognise themselves as such, despite the challenges. If you know someone you think is caring for a loved one, possibly at a cost to their own wellbeing, or even if they're just helping someone do their shopping, please encourage them to take part. Every voice is important.

Congresbury History Society

Our upcoming talks at the Methodist Hall, starting at 7.30pm

21 Jan - **Joe Rogers** - Tithe Barns

18th Feb - **Philip Ashford**

Piracy war and plunder in the Bristol Channel 1400-1650

Congresbury Gardening Club

Dates for Congresbury gardeners new 2026 diaries! On the 8th January the talk is Adventures of a Seed Detective and on 5th February Lavender- A Forgotten Herb. These talks are held at the Methodist Hall, starting at 7.30. New members are always welcome but you may just like to give us a try as a guest (£4).

Friends of St Andrew's



Christmas Sale and Coffee morning on Saturday, November 29, 10 a.m. - noon, in Congresbury Methodist Hall. Crafts, plants, cards, cakes and jewellery for sale. Organised by the Friends of St. Andrew's, raising funds for church renovation and repairs. Entry £2 to include coffee/tea & biscuits. Come and enjoy!

If you are reading this too late for the sale, contact

marionjohnson.787@btinternet.com

For information on other ways to support the Friends of St Andrew's.



Is running some support groups, previously held at Congars Café, at Congresbury Youth Club on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The popular **Board Game afternoon** will take place on Tuesday 16th December. The last one for this year, it will be a special Christmas one, with mince pies and a hot drink, asking only for a donation towards the refreshments and upkeep of the youth club. We will restart on Tuesdays 6th and 20th January 2026. The sessions always start at 1pm till 3.30pm. All ages welcome. Come along and meet new people and have fun playing your favourite games or try a new one.

STAR bereavement support group will be on Monday 15th December and Monday 19th January 2026, starting at 2pm. Come and have a cuppa and chat about a loved one.

The women's well-being support group will restart in January, date TBC, look out for posters around the village and on the Facebook page.

We also hope to restart both a gentle walking group and repair cafe, but volunteers are much needed to run these groups. If you can help, or want further information or have ideas of other activities that Congars Hub could run, please contact Sonya on [07715876827](tel:07715876827) or congarscafe20@gmail.com.



Dreamshed is an inclusive theatre group in Congresbury that encourages children and teenagers of any passion and ability to take part in weekly workshops. We combine a mixture of drama, singing and stylised movement, along with other skills like Makaton signing to create unique and enjoyable performances. We also work with the young people to create their own pieces of drama, based on their own ideas, and work with them to turn these ideas into bigger performances. We meet on a Sunday evening, 5.30-

7 at The Refectory, Congresbury during term time

If you are interested, please email caz.carter@newcreationchurches.org.uk for more details.



At St Andrews Church this year, we are embracing the magical world of Narnia. The snowy landscapes, talking animals, and thrilling adventures capture our imaginations, but they also echo deep Christian truths. In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the return of Aslan brings hope, light, and new life, much like the birth of Jesus brings life and light into our world.

Want to help bring Narnia to life?

Email Caz, as above, to get involved in decorating or supporting the project. Everyone's welcome to lend a hand!

Congresbury Footpaths Group

Tuesday 2nd December, a local walk of about 3 miles, meet at the car park at the bottom of Kent Road at 9.30. The Sunday walk will be on 7th December followed by a Christmas Lunch at the Star at Star. phone Val on 838937 to book

The January Tuesday walk the 6th will be led by Maggie, meet at the car park bottom of Kent Road at 9.30. Sunday 18th January led by Paul, meet at the car park at 10.00 and bring a picnic lunch.

New members always welcome, just come along to the car park with your walking boots or shoes to join the walk.

LITTLE RASCALS BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP

is at the Old School Rooms every Tuesday 9 -11am during term time only. Admission £3 includes a snack

for children and tea or coffee for adults

A talk by Patrick Vincent of Green Mantle (Ecosophy)

Thursday, 15th January - 7.30-9pm (7.15 for refreshments, at Horsecastle Chapel, 18, Horsecastle Farm Road, Yatton. BS49 4QQ



Patrick has been managing land for wildlife for more than 20 years and knows YACWAG's reserves well. His experience, enthusiasm and professional knowledge resulted in Green Mantle (Ecosophy) winning the "Best Habitat Management and Conservation Services 2024 SW England" award in the SME Southern Enterprise Award

Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Congresbury

When we did a count, I discovered I'd held well over 100 'surgeries' across the constituency since the election. I love using your Community Café, and it matters to me to hear what matters to you. If you've a concern or question, please get in touch.

My next local 'surgeries' at the café: Monday 8th December, and Monday 19th Jan from 09:30 to 10:30. No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you. To follow my work as your MP, I'm on Facebook and Instagram.

May I wish you a merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year!

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

congresburylife@gmail.com

This edition is sponsored by Congresbury Parish Council