

Congresbury *Life*

Issue 16 April/May 2026

News from the Parish Council

I won't say anything, but I'm sure I saw some sunshine a couple of days ago. By the time you get this we'll probably be in flood defence again! My poor chickens are having a bit of a crisis, I'm sure I heard one quack yesterday.

But, despite the extra wet weather and floods all over Somerset and elsewhere, the Millenium Green is fine! I feel sorry for people who've been flooded but wish the planners and developers would pay attention to the name of the county. Somerset is somewhere you could leave, or set as in settle, your cattle during the summer. Because it's so low lying it regularly floods during the rainy season. Grrr.

We are still keeping a close eye on the Mulberry Road development with the very able assistance of a couple of residents; to make sure the developers keep to the agreed conditions for wildlife mitigation.

Whilst not in our parish, I nevertheless feel it's worth mentioning that the owners of Bristol airport are trying to get permission to build on Felton common, a rank of floodlights, the highest I believe will be 5 metres high, "with only a narrow little service road to them". This land is home to many rare species

including horseshoe bats and belongs jointly to the people of Felton and Winford. We have written to Winford PC in support of their protest. I know this is not strictly "Congresbury life" but I feel we all have an interest in the airport, night flights, frequency of flights, pollution and parking. The minibus parked in the OSR car park lately is not illegal, we know it's there. It's a temporary advice centre, for jobs, benefits or general advice.

The annual Parish meeting will be held in the Old School Rooms on the 23rd April, from 7.00. You are all welcome to come along and listen and/or question/comment. No bad language please, we don't have a paid bouncer!

And finally, a warm welcome to Nicholas Barber who has joined the P.C. We are now completely full, standing room only.



Congresbury
Volunteers

The Annual Village Clean Up will be on May 9th. If you are able to come out and help, you will be welcome at the Youth Club in Riverside Car Park between 9.00 and 12.30, where litter pickers and bags will be provided. If you can bring gloves, secateurs, light

gardening equipment etc, there will be weeding, hedge trimming and other jobs to do; refreshments provided to keep you going. **For this one off event, please just show up, no need to book in, but additionally, to join the regular Volunteers, contact lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk**



St Andrew's Church Grounds

Did you know that the flower beds and lawns

around our church are looked after by just a handful of volunteers? We meet every Tuesday morning from 10 -12 A warm welcome and tea & biscuits guaranteed.

The churchyard and burial grounds are maintained by our Parish Council. However over the past months we have organised a few Saturday morning working groups to tackle areas that have become overgrown.

Next one is 18th April.

If you have time to spare and would like to join us either on a Tuesday or the occasional Saturday, please leave a message at the church office or contact rosemarynbailey@gmail.com

St Andrew's Church Eco-Church

Watch this space! We are working towards accreditation under the ARocha scheme, showing how we care for God's environment.

Currently we re-cycle used candle wax; a large amount has been donated as part of aid to Ukraine whilst some has been used to make new tealights. We collect empty pill "blister" packs and used postage stamps for recycling and hope to do more. With the support of YACWAG we are hoping to install swift boxes in the church tower.

If you would like to know more about Eco Church call into the church office, leave a message for the Eco-Church team.

Join Us at Church This Easter

We would love to welcome you as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter together.

Palm Sunday - 29 March

10.30am Palm Sunday Service at St Andrew's Church.

Good Friday - 3 April

10am Service at Congresbury Methodist Church, followed by hot cross buns in the Refectory

Easter Sunday - 5 April

6.30am Dawn Service on Congresbury Millennium Green, followed by hot cross buns at the Methodist Hall

9.00am Easter Sunday Celebration at St Andrew's Church

Thank You from The Stewart Dewar Fund



A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored Rev. Matt Thomson for the Alicante Half Marathon. He successfully completed the

course and, thanks to your generosity, over £1,800 has been raised for the Fund, which continues to support young people in our local community with grants for trips, training, camps and other opportunities to flourish. Thank you for helping to make a real difference.

Congresbury Bowling Club

The lawn bowls club in Mill Leg starts its new season in mid-April and welcomes new members. Club night is on Mondays, starting on April 20th, from 6pm with the bar open from 7pm. Equipment and coaching is provided free of charge. We take juniors aged from eight upwards.

No matter what age you start, lawn bowls is one sport you can continue to improve at.

The club will also be hosting a Big Bowls Day, a Bowls England initiative, on Sunday May 31st when the club and green will be open all day for taster sessions.

For more information visit

www.congresburybowls.co.uk

or email

secretary@congresburybowls.co.uk



Congresbury Community Library

Over the Easter holidays we have some Easter chicks hiding in the library. Find the chicks and you will have a chocolate reward!

We are pleased to put on an exhibition of photographs taken by Congresbury resident, Bob Rowles. Bob always has his camera with him and has been taking pictures around the village for the last 20 years, including many of the cover photos for Congresbury Life. The exhibition is entitled **CONGRESBURY THROUGH THE LENS** and will run from April 1st to 18th.

We have Lego sessions, every Saturday morning 10.00 to 12:00. You can borrow books from our Honesty Library without being a library member, or use our Jigsaw Swap which operates throughout the year.

We have several children's graphic novels in the library at the moment, books designed to appeal to the novice reader!

If you can't find the book you are looking for, just ask one of our volunteers to reserve a copy for you

from the library west catalogue. This service is free.



YACWAG

Last time a new logo, this time a new website! It's

much improved and only a click away

www.yacwag.org.uk

In April we look forward to No Mow May, anticipating garden lawns flowering naturally. So why not leave the mower in the shed and let the daisies and clover bloom, so supporting pollinators like bees, butterflies and beetles?

You may be surprised by what else pops up too!

Early Morning Bird Song Walk:

Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May.

Meet at 7am by the small mosaic seat on the Strawberry Line, accessed from Chescombe Road in Yatton.

YACWAG volunteers will lead a walk along part of the Strawberry Line and by the Congresbury Moor Reserve to hear lots of bird song, hopefully from seven warbler and other species. Finishing around 9am but with the opportunity for breakfast in the Strawberry Line Cafe afterwards.

Spring Bank Holiday Bird Walk:

Monday, 25th May. Meet 7am at the old Congresbury Station site by the A370 for a walk along the Strawberry Line led by YACWAG volunteers. We will be listening for the songs of six or seven warbler species, as well as our resident birds. Finishing around 9am.

Both walks will be rescheduled in the event of rain or strong winds.

More details from

birds@yacwag.org.uk



BLUEY

We are urgently looking for new Volunteer Drivers and helpers for our Committee. All training given. Please consider giving a few hours

to your community and help "Bluey" to continue.

Forthcoming trips:

Weds 15th April to Street Cost: £5

Weds 20th May to Gloucester Quays Cost: £6.50 (pay on the bus)

To book a seat or for more info on pick-up times/places or volunteering please ring: 01934 257247 or email: bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com.

Congresbury Recreation Club

Please keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for general upcoming events. We are also very open to renting the space for private events, if interested please contact thereclubcongresbury@gmail.com



Congresbury FC

Football -

Congresbury FC are involved in the FA Groundhop Day when groups of

football fans follow a number of games across Somerset for the day, creating a great crowd atmosphere for watching local football. On Saturday 18th April come and support Congresbury vs Worle in the first game of the day kick off at 11.30am, refreshments will be available. We hope to see you there!



Cricket - Congresbury Cricket Club are looking forward to another great

summer, with the youth section starting outdoor training after Easter. The U9, U11, U13 and girls team all train Tuesday evenings, with U15 and U17 on Wednesday evenings. New players are always welcome, please get in touch at congresburyccinfo@gmail.com to start your child's cricket journey at our wonderful village club!

As a not for profit where excess funds go to support the local sporting community, we are always looking for volunteers! Whether it be IT skills, people to negotiate utility and insurance contracts,

general maintenance, we would love to hear from you if you can spare some time. Please reach out on thereclubcongresbury@gmail.com.

Congresbury Footpaths Group

Our next walks in the Spring are an ideal time for walking and seeing the wildflowers.

We walk on the first Tuesday and third Sunday of the month and meet at the Riverside Car Park at the bottom of Kent Road. 9.30 for the Tuesday walk and 10am for the Sunday walk. We enjoy a coffee together at the end of Tuesday walk, and bring a picnic lunch on the Sunday walk, or end the walk at a local pub.

The next dates for walks are Tuesday 7th April, Sunday 19th April, Tuesday 5th May and Sunday 17th May.

Contact the Secretary on 01934 838182 for more information if you would like to join a walk, it's a great way to stay active and connected.

Congresbury WI

The New Year for our WI members starts on April 15th when membership dues are payable. At that meeting Lottie Dale, will be telling us about "Falling with style" and in May, our Resolutions meeting; we'll be having one of our entertaining auctions after the usual Resolution discussions. We're continuing to raise funds to buy a replacement WI bench for the Millennium Green.

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 Allotments Association

There was a splendid turn out at our AGM at the end of January

when we were able to bring up our usual concerns but also discussed several positive suggestions to improve security and facilities. We were very relieved that QEH (the landowners) have agreed a new 5-year contract. Longer term planning and planting is now feasible for us all.

We'll be welcoming new gardeners in the coming months as several good plots have fallen vacant after rent renewal at the end of February. The weather has improved in time to get weeding again. Good news for those with membership cards includes 10% discounts from Garden Park in Hewish, the Congresbury and Banwell Garden Centre, and new this year, Cadbury Garden Centre as well as the 50% discount on the Kings Seed orders in the Autumn.

There is no waiting list at the time of writing so if you're interested in getting an allotment, please contact the Parish Office,

admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk A full plot this year costs £45 and a half plot £23.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary, Congresbury Allotments Association.



Congresbury Youth Partnership

CYP are proud to support Yeo Valley Lions who are hosting their 14th Strawberry Lion Walk on May 17th, 2026. Sponsorship would be split 50/50 with CYP for much needed project funds and Lions Brass 4 Youth, an organisation that now runs five bands in North Somerset.

The 3 walking routes start from Yatton station with a leisurely 5-mile return trip to Congresbury fishing lakes, a 13-mile return trip to Millenium Green at Winscombe and a 20-mile return trip to Axbridge. There are sponsorship forms available at Congresbury Youth Club - Weds 3.15-5pm and 6.30-8.30pm - please do come and support.

For full details please go to [Strawberry Lion 2026 | Yeovalleylions](#)

Easter holiday activities - dates confirmed - 10am - 4pm

Wednesday 8th April - Tree tops adventure/pizza and Ashton Court fun

Friday 10th April - Easter fun (did someone say chocolate) @ youth club base, Congresbury

Monday 13th April - Trip to Puzzlewood, Forest of Dean

Wednesday 15th April - Weston super Mare, Clip and Climb and beach day

Please follow Congresbury Youth Partnership Facebook page for further information or email sarah@congsyp.org.uk



Congresbury Carers

Our volunteer drivers are still taking patients to medical appointments. Unfortunately, there are times when we cannot respond to every request. We have just nine volunteers, some can only do certain days, and most have other commitments. **We are still looking for a co-ordinator to take over as well as more volunteers.**

Contact Margaret Leimdorfer margaretleimdorfer@gmail.com



Congars Hub continues to provide a bi-weekly afternoon board game, from the CYP

youth club. It is on the following dates, Tuesday 7th and 21st April and Tuesday 5th and 19th May. Sessions start at 1pm, with refreshments. Donations towards the running of the session.

Please look out for other future community coffee mornings that the hub is hoping to hold.

For further information contact Sonya on 07715876827 congarscafe20@gmail.com

Congresbury History Society

Our coming talks at the Methodist Hall, starting at 7.30pm
Cost £4 for non members

15th April - John Smith - Battle of Britain over Somerset.

20th May - visit to Helicopter Museum, Weston. 12 noon. Contact Ann Gunner if you would like to be included. 01934352140

The Community Café

Love Baking or Organising? Help keep our Community Café Supplied with Homemade Cakes and Scones. Our community café, which is open 3 mornings a week, is looking for a volunteer to help coordinate our wonderful supply of homemade cakes and scones. We're lucky to have 21 local bakers who provide cakes, scones, flapjacks and gluten-free treats.

We're hoping someone in the community might enjoy taking on this coordinating role. It's not a time-consuming role, and Ian and the café team will help with the handover. Interested or want to know more? Contact: Elaine 01934 832009 or 07827 342489 or Mel 07958 51633

Update from Tessa Munt, MP

Thank you: hundreds of you have written to me about President Trump's war in the Middle East, banning social media for the under 16s and Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's appointment as a UK Trade Envoy.

In Parliament, I've voiced my dismay at the Government's decision not to pay any compensation to WASPI women, expressed my frustration about building on flood plains and the risk to future insurance cover on homes, planned reductions in access to jury trials, freehold and leasehold changes for residents in care-led retirement living

apartments, and Bereavement Support Payments for widowed parents.

Here in Somerset, I joined the crew of a South West Ambulance Service on shift. It was humbling to spend time with this dedicated team, and I learned a lot about their roles. I was glad the Health Secretary praised our Ambulance Service for its improved response times in December.

If you've a concern or question, please contact me. I run many 'surgeries' every month; your most local ones are: **Friday 18th April and Monday 11th May from 09:30 to 10:30 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.

01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)
tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (no stamp needed!)

Sing and Smile details from amy.collins@RIGHTATHOMENS.CO.UK



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

As usual, your volunteering and participating opportunities are highlighted in red, including an urgent opportunity to join the editorial team.

*Big Teams of People,
Each Doing a Little*

congresburylife@gmail.com