

# Congresbury Life

ISSUE 17 | JUNE/JULY 2026



## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Well, spring has truly sprung, the apple blossom has come and gone and the weeds are coming out of the ground like rockets!

The Parish Council has had a quiet couple of months, the usual round of planning approvals/refusals and debating the placement of litter bins and benches. Of course our main topic of concern has been the development at Mulberry Farm. We and some very local residents are keeping a close eye on work and reports have already been made to N.S. Planning of work threatening to flout the planning conditions. Funding has been secured to replace the top of the fencing on the ball court and the P.C. is procuring a new net to replace the broken one, so we're all systems go. *Continues on Page 2*

## CONGRESBURY SINGERS

### A CONCERT NOT TO BE MISSED!

A special programme of inspirational and uplifting music has been put together by our Musical Director for our Summer Concert on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**, at the Congresbury War Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm.

Well-known classical pieces, majestic spirituals and modern-day songs have been assembled, all of which are powerful and rousing to the ear and will surely have an uplifting effect on the audience.

Tickets, to include light refreshments after the concert, are £12 and are available from Congresbury Post Office and Re:Store, Broad Street, or on the door.

## VILLAGE FETE

Join us on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June** from 1.30pm–5pm at The Paddock by St Andrew's Church, Congresbury.

The fete will be preceded by a PTA Fun Run, with participants asked to meet at 12.30pm at the Glebe (Key Stage 1) Playground.

The afternoon will feature a range of community activities, including a tug of war competition, entertainment, stalls and refreshments celebrating village life.

Stalls are available for £17. If you would like to book a stall, contact [kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk)

On **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** at 3pm, everyone is warmly invited to a Pet Service in the marquee on The Paddock.

## WHAT'S ON!

DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 02 JUN** AXBIDGE RESERVOIR WALK
- 06 JUN** YACWAG WALK
- 15 JUN** MP SURGERIES
- 17 JUN** AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS TALK
- 20 JUN** VILLAGE FETE
- 21 JUN** CHEW VALLEY LAKE WALK
- 21 JUN** PET SERVICE IN THE PADDOCK
- 23 JUN** CONGRESBURY SINGERS SUMMER CONCERT
- 27 JUN** BAT WALK
- 27 JUN** LIBRARY COFFEE MORNING
- 28 JUN** BIOBLITZ
- 06 JUL** NATIONAL BAT MONITORING
- 06 JUL** MP SURGERIES
- 07 JUL** WOODSPRING PRIORY WALK
- 12 JUL** FAMILY WALK
- 15 JUL** BLUEY TRIP TO WELLS
- 15 JUL** HISTORICAL TEXTURES TALK
- 19 JUL** AVEBURY WALK
- 20 JUL** NATIONAL BAT MONITORING
- 12 AUG** BLUEY TRIP TO WALES

LOOK OUT FOR OTHER REGULAR EVENTS INSIDE

## Continued from page 1

We continue to have problems at the allotments. (That sounds as though the allotment holders are having mad raves up there in the evenings, they're not!) Allotment holders are justifiably unhappy that the contractors don't seem to be doing the job they're paid to do. We have formed a work party to try to sort out the problems though we are too late for remedying the hedge height now that birds are nesting. This will happen next year if I have to go up there and cut it myself with nail scissors!

When the A370 was closed a couple of weeks ago I had an appointment at the BRI and decided to go by bus. It was interesting to say the least, a double-decker navigating the B3133 through to the A38! However I think I should learn to take the bus in future, it was so much less stressful than driving, (and free for old ladies!)

Finally the annual Parish meeting was a flop this year. Not one member of the public showed up and I gave my prepared speech to an empty hall and the gathered PC members who, I'm quite sure, have had enough of my voice to last a lifetime. I'd very much like your feedback on why you didn't attend. We need to know why even our usual suspects didn't turn up. It's important that the village can talk to us and this was one opportunity to do so.

Please either contact me on 07826 411969 or leave a message at the office.

## CYP

Planning is underway for our Summer activity programme.

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

A fun and action-packed programme is guaranteed, including Paignton Zoo, Treetops Adventure, Water Park, Paddleboarding, Ten-pin bowling, Beach fun and much more.

Please follow our Facebook page for updates or contact our Youth Workers

For bookings: [Sarah@congsyp.org.uk](mailto:Sarah@congsyp.org.uk)

## CONGRESBURY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



The growing season is now well under way and the asparagus crop has been much appreciated by growers and their lucky neighbours, the broad beans are covered in blossom and the soft fruit is looking very promising. The first sowings of lettuce are showing and bamboo canes are for sale - at a great price.

Our big event was the Plant Sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, where a brilliant team of growers and sellers raised over £800 towards Allotment Association funds. Many thanks to Nicky and Dawn who planned the whole event, as well as our members who worked so hard. Our next event is to arrange our Summer Social event which will be in late June or early July.

We still feel poorly served by the ground maintenance firm appointed by the Parish Council. They never cut the main paths as promised in our tenancy agreement and we suspect their work is not up to standard in other areas in the village.

**Remember members now get 10% discounts from Cadbury Garden Centre as well as Garden Park in Hewish and the Congresbury and Banwell Garden Centre.** There are several plots available to rent. If you're interested in getting an allotment, a full plot this year costs £45 and a half plot costs £23 (*when available*) Contact the Parish Office, [admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk)



## GARDENING CLUB

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**, The Gardening Club is getting ready for our annual Rose Show at the Village Fete. It's a wonderful chance to show off your talents not only as a gardener but as an artist, flower arranger, cook, photographer and lots more. We particularly welcome children entering classes specifically for them. Keep this wonderful village event alive by entering. Pick up a schedule from the post office or visit our website

[www.congresburygardeningclub.com](http://www.congresburygardeningclub.com)

**Have a go. You never know, you might win!**

## BLUEY

Upcoming trips

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> July** to Wells

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August** to St Fagans National Museum of History, Wales

### Drivers of Congresbury

Can you spare some time to drive our community bus? Do as little or as much as you want to fit your lifestyle. We do short trips and long trips and we welcome both male and female drivers under 75.

**We need volunteer drivers now to keep the bus going - please consider helping our community.**

For more info on trips or volunteering please call: 01934 257247 or

Email: [bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com](mailto:bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com)



## CONGRESBURY SCOUTS

We are sad to report that again we are without an adult team to run the Beavers. There are 15 eager young people aged 6 to 8 years old whose Friday nights have been cancelled for lack of volunteers.

**Do you know someone who could help? We have a strong tradition of Scouting in the village, and a team of leaders in other sections who are ready to offer lots of support and training to a new team taking on Beavers.** The commitment is just an hour or so on Fridays between 5.30 and 7pm, and a bit of planning during the week - and maybe not even every week; responsibility can be shared within a large team.

Contact [geoffreybailey@gmail.com](mailto:geoffreybailey@gmail.com)



## CONGRESBURY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** we are holding a Coffee Morning offering cream teas and other tasty treats in the Old School Rooms from 10am to 12pm. We will be raising funds for Weston Hospicecare so please support us.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July** is the start date for this year's Summer Reading Challenge entitled *Read to the Beat*. It is based on music, rhythm, storytelling and following your dreams and is designed for children between the ages of 4 to 11. Children's reading skills tend to drop off during the summer holidays. The reading challenge is designed to encourage children to maintain their reading skills by regularly attending their local library during the summer holidays. We have a range of new colourful reference books as well as storybooks and a number of graphic novels to encourage the reluctant reader.

**REMEMBER IT IS FREE TO BORROW BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY!**

Our regular activities are **LEGO Club every Saturday morning** and **Knit club on the third Friday each month**. Jigsaws to swap plus books from the Honesty Library are available throughout the year.

## TESSA MUNT, MP FOR CONGRESBURY



I held my 200<sup>th</sup> surgery. I'm always happy to listen, wherever you catch me. I'm looking forward to the next 200!

Locally, I've met officials about informal 'festivals' on private land, parents and carers of adults with learning disabilities, Ofsted's Regional Director to discuss education and care, an officer from the Woodland Trust, and talked through sewage spills and water quality in my 'patch' with the Rivers Trust. In Westminster, I discussed provision of Basic Financial Advice for consumers with a Treasury Minister, met Health Department officials about ME, attended an Intergovernmental round table on Frozen Pensions, and helped constituents meet a Justice Minister to discuss victims' rights.

Many of you raised concerns about the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill which stalled on its passage through the House of Lords. It must be re-introduced to the House of Commons to progress further. I run 'surgeries' every month in many locations. Your most local ones are: Monday **15<sup>th</sup> June and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July** from 9.30am to 10.30am 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 (answer phone outside office hours)

Email: [tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk)

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (no stamp needed!)

## CONGRESBURY WI

We had very good attendance on April 15<sup>th</sup> to enjoy Lottie Dale's entertaining talk and visuals about her many years in skydiving.

On **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**, we'll meet for a talk by Tim Lewis called "Around the World in 80 Days" and on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July** to hear about "Historical Textures" from Katherine Bell.

At last we've raised enough money to buy a replacement WI bench for the Millennium Green and await instructions from the Millennium Green Trustees on purchase and installation.

**We meet at 2.15pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month** in the Methodist Hall. We always welcome new members as well as visitors. The charge for non-members (which includes tea and biscuits) is £4.

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The community café has been busy over the last few months, and thanks to our volunteers, customers and the support of Debbie Fortune Estate Agents we have made the following donations:

**St Andrews School** –£1,350 towards the transport costs for this year's Year 6 camp

**Congresbury Community Preschool**

–£250 for sand to refill their sandpits

**Congresbury Football Club** –£400 matched funding for repairs.

We currently have 43 volunteers who either help run the sessions, bake cakes and scones or do both! **We could do with a few more for some sessions, especially on Wednesdays and Thursdays, which are a lot busier. Even a couple of hours when needed to cover holidays etc. would help. If you are interested come in and have a chat with the volunteers.**

If you have surplus vegetables which might go to waste if not used, please consider donating these to the café so they are available for others.

## CONGARS HUB

As of June, we will be running a drop-in Natter and Coffee morning on the following **Tuesdays, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July**. The mornings start at 10.30am and will incorporate our existing board games that the hub has been running. The hope is that various community organisations such as the village agent will be available for advice.

At the drop-in on 14<sup>th</sup> July there will be a Tech Ready pop-up. So if you struggle with computers then pop along and see if they can help.

The mornings are free, but there is a contribution towards upkeep of the youth club and refreshments provided. Free parking in the car park by the Congresbury Youth Partnership/Bristol Road bus stop.

Other activities are planned, so if you want to meet new people and feel less isolated pop along and make new friends.



## BIG HELP OUT

A good turnout for the Annual Spring Clean collected a great haul of litter and bags of vegetation growing where it was damaging the ball court netting. **Thank you to the 30 people who came to the youth club, as well as the people working on their own initiative elsewhere;** the village looks better for your efforts. Spring Clean is just once a year, but everyone can help by keeping a regular eye out for litter and fly tipping near you, and better still, **if you can help out in community areas, join the Congresbury Volunteers WhatsApp group to find out what else we are doing during the year.**

Contact [lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.uk)



## CONGRESBURY FOOTPATHS GROUP

Looking for ways to keep fit and explore your local area in the company of locals who know the footpaths without spending a lot of money? Join us on our monthly walks.



**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**, a flat 5 mile walk from Axbridge Reservoir through fields along the Cheddar Yeo to Cheddar. Dogs welcome. Meet at the Riverside Car Park at 9.30am.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**, a 6 mile walk from Chew Valley Lake to Blagdon Lake and back via Nempnett Thrubwell and Ubley. Only 1 climb, no stiles and lovely views. Bring a packed lunch. Meet at Riverside car park at 10am.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July**, a 4 mile walk around Woodspring Priory and Sand Point. Meet at the Riverside Car Park at 9.30am.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**, a 7 mile walk from Avebury climbing up onto the downs to join the Ridgeway to East Kennett and back to Avebury via the Kennett Long Barrow and Silbury Hill.

### NEW FAMILY WALK

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**, we are offering a local family walk! The 3.5-mile walk will start at 11am from the Riverside car park passing the allotments and climbing the fields to Cadbury Hill, down the other side to Yatton and back through fields to Congresbury. Dogs are welcome. We will have a short stop on Cadbury Hill for refreshments.

Any questions, please contact Keith on 07929710459

## YACWAG

We're delighted to share details about several upcoming events which are wonderful opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, learn more about local conservation and connect with others.



**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June**, Congresbury Moor Reserve Walk: **Members-only event**, annual membership £5-£15, join beforehand online: [www.yacwag.org.uk](http://www.yacwag.org.uk) 10am for approx. 2 hours. This guided, circular walk explores YACWAG's oldest and newest fields and is a great opportunity to learn about a local wetland habitat rich in wildlife. Meet at the "wooden bridge" on the Strawberry Line. **what3words: etchings.limbs.tiptoes.** No dogs other than assistance dogs permitted.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**, Yatton Carnival: 3-6pm. Hangstones Playing Fields, Stowey Road, Yatton BS49 4HS. This year's theme is "Game On" so pop by our stall to enjoy our nature-themed games.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**, Bat Walk, to tie in with Bioblitz. Meet at 9.30pm at the Millennium Bridge on Congresbury Millennium Green. BS49 5AG.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**, Bioblitz on Cobthorn Reserve from 10am-5pm. Entrance at the junction of Cobthorn Way & Furnace Way. Explore nature and discover the wildlife that makes our reserves so special, a fun day for all ages; **moth trap examination, wildlife surveys led by experts, natural history displays, activities for youngsters, including our self-guided "super-size" nature trail**

Please note: no dogs other than assistance dogs.

**Mondays 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July** National bat monitoring programme in Claverham. Listen out for pipistrelle, noctule and serotine bats.



Please email [contact@yacwag.org.uk](mailto:contact@yacwag.org.uk) for further details.

Please be tick-aware, check out the QR code.

## IRVING PROWSE

The Chairman of Congresbury War Memorial Hall passed away on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 aged 88. Irving has lived in Congresbury for over 40 years and was a huge supporter of the Memorial Hall, Village Fete and Christmas Fair.

Irving has organised 100 collectors during the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the last 30 years, his work recently commended by them. They also acknowledged that he had been holding book sales at the hall for the last 25 years.

Irving will be missed by many, not just as a colleague but also a dear friend.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

If you'd like to support the village by volunteering or have a piece for the magazine, please get in touch.

## Big teams of people each doing a little

[Congresburylife@gmail.com](mailto:Congresburylife@gmail.com)

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