

Congresbury *Life*

ISSUE 18 | AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026



Photo: Rachael Edge

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hello all, I do hope you're managing in this heat, it's really not what we Brits are used to! (By the time you get this we may be having a first frost, who knows!)

Firstly, may I apologize for the omission of my name from the last edition. And to the gentleman who wrote to me as "Dear You", may I apologize again. I'm not suggesting you all pop round for tea and biscuits but I'm happy to talk to anyone who has a query or a problem. If I can help I will and if I can't I'll try to find out who can. *Continues on page 2*

COMMUNITY

Following the success of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, we're looking for new members to join our friendly community pantomime group taking place in March 2027.

Whether you'd like to act, sing, help backstage or support the production in any other way, we'd love to hear from you.

No previous experience is necessary.

If you're enthusiastic and enjoy being part of a team, come along and have fun!

Rehearsals begin:

Sunday 20th September

5.30pm – 7.00pm at The Rectory, St Andrew's Church, Congresbury.

For more information, or if you'd like to get involved, please contact:

caz.carter@newcreationchurches.org.uk

YCCART

Ever wondered about the history lying beneath your feet? Why not join our local community archaeology group? Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeology Research Team meets every Thursday morning, weather permitting, to carry out Geophysical surveying work in our local area.

Find us at www.YCCART.co.uk or contact Janet Dickson, Secretary, on j.dickson7@sky.com

CONGRESBURY FC



Could your business support Congresbury FC? The club is seeking local businesses to sponsor the team.

A range of sponsorship packages are available to suit different budgets, offering a great way to support local football while promoting your business. For more information cfc1904committee@gmail.com or [Facebook](#)

WHAT'S ON!



DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 29 JULY** LIBRARY ART SESSION
- 03 AUG** NATIONAL BAT MONITORING
- 04 AUG** CLEVEDON WALK
- 09 AUG** CADBURY HILL WALK
- 11 AUG** CONGARS HUB COFFEE MORNING
- 11 AUG** BOOGIEBEAT MUSIC SESSION
- 12 AUG** ST FAGANS MUSEUM TRIP
- 16 AUG** DEER LEAP WALK
- 17 AUG** NATIONAL BAT MONITORING
- 22 AUG** LIBRARY ART SESSION
- 25 AUG** CONGARS HUB COFFEE MORNING
- 01 SEP** SEPTEMBER WALK
- 03 SEP** GARDENING IN SMALL PLACES TALK, METHODIST HALL 7.15PM
- 08 SEP** CONGARS HUB COFFEE MORNING
- 08 SEP** SINGERS REHEARSALS START
- 15 SEP** WESTON HOSPICE TALK
- 16 SEP** VIKING ATTIRE TALK
- 20 SEP** PANTOMIME REHEARSAL
- 20 SEP** RIVER FROME WALK
- 22 SEP** CONGARS HUB COFFEE MORNING
- 24 SEP** CULT AWARENESS TALK
- 18 OCT** CHARITY ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR
- 20 NOV** WORLD WAR I TALK
- 17 NOV** HISTORY OF DRAGONS TALK

LOOK OUT FOR OTHER REGULAR EVENTS INSIDE

Continued from page 1

We'd all, I'm sure, like to congratulate Matthew Thomson on 25 years as Parish priest here at St Andrews as well as working at other churches in the Diocese. A good stint by any measure. I think particularly of his enthusiastic Carol Singing tromps round the village including the local "watering holes" and his wonderful smile. Thank you Matthew.

Now a little bit of bad news.

The PC planted a small oak tree on the Millennium green, about 4foot tall with a couple of stakes to help support it, as an acknowledgement of Ken Hill's long service to the Parish Council and his 90th birthday. That's the good part, the bad part is that some mindless souls thought fit to hack it down within 48 hours of it being there. I'm bewildered. Where's the pleasure in destroying something? If anybody has any information the council and I would be very pleased to hear it.

Talking of the Millennium Green, I've picked up four of those one-use barbecues so far this summer and I don't go there very often. Please please, use the bins and if they're full, please take your litter home. I'm not going to quote my Grandma again, apply to me, Jane Clarke, if you want the poem!

Remember Congresbury Volunteers continue their work parties on the green. Interested in joining them contact lizzie.burd@congresbury-pc.gov.

CONGRESBURY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Wandering around the allotments you get the general impression of excellent gardening.

New tenants have taken over several badly overgrown plots and are working miracles in getting them under control. But we are frustrated by existing tenants who have paid rent but then done nothing or very little on their plots.

We often discuss how to improve the allotments and still feel poorly served by the ground maintenance firm under contract to 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.) Only the efforts of our volunteers has kept the main paths safe. As it will be very costly for the Parish Council to remedy the recent neglect of the boundary hedge one of our tireless team is investigating where and how to apply for grants which would improve security and facilities at the allotments.

So there's lots going on! There are only a few overgrown but previously productive plots available to rent now. An excellent chance to get fit! The demand for smaller plots from tenants needing to downsize (age/health/energy levels) is obvious and we hope the plot survey conducted by the Parish Council working group may offer some solutions. 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.

CONGARS HUB

Congars Hub, operating out of the CYP youth club has now started a coffee morning/get together. A chance to meet up with friends or meet new people and have a natter, maybe play a game or pop into one of our advice sessions that will be taking place, such as computer problems, energy bills and aging well/good neighbours.

These take place every other Tuesday on the following dates

11th and 25th August and 8th and 22nd September

We start at 1030am and are free but we ask for voluntary donations towards refreshments and the upkeep of the building.

Starting in the Autumn will also be a ladies wellbeing support group "I'm Fine". Further details to follow.

For more information you can contact us on 07715876827



THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREWS CHURCH

We urgently need your help to raise money for our latest project, the repairs and external decoration of The Refectory. The Refectory is a Grade1 listed building and as such requires specialist repairs and decoration, which can only be carried out at certain times of the year The estimate for the Refectory Project is some £10K.

The Objective of the Friends is to raise money to assist the Church Council towards the cost of maintenance and repair of the Church and the Refectory (not the Vicarage). In the last two years we have spent some £15K on repairs to the Church Clock, lighting and to one of the stained glass windows.

The Church and Refectory are two of the oldest historic buildings in the village and I am sure no one wants to see them become derelict, you have a chance to support these amazing buildings by making a one off donation or a monthly standing order and help preserve these buildings for future generations.

To donate by BACS or Standing Order

Name of Account – "The Friends of St Andrews Church Congresbury"

Sort Code 60-23-32 Account No 43783392 for one off donations please put Ref as "Refectory Project". for standing order please put your name.

For a Gift Aid Form or for other means of donating please contact The Treasurer on 07777 651 797

We're always looking for new members to join our friendly committee or join our group of helpers.

Many Thanks for your Help

Jenny Lang, Secretary

CONGRESBURY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

This year's **Summer Reading Challenge** continues until September 19 so there is still plenty of time for your child to take part. During the summer holidays we also have a number of **FREE** activities for children. Two Art Sessions: **Wednesday 29th July** between 10am and 12pm **Saturday 22nd August**, 10am – 12pm and a music session with BoogieBeat on **Tuesday 11th August** from 11:30am to Midday.

Remember our weekly Saturday Lego sessions continue throughout the summer. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult, and even though school is closed your child can still access quality books and imaginative literature by joining the library and borrowing books for free.

Our next season of talks start on **September 24th**. We have a range of speakers during the coming months starting with Sue Winter with her talk entitled How to Recognize and Then Remove the Stigma From the C-Word – Cults! We Are All Vulnerable. No one is immune to cult recruitment. Coercive controllers target our natural human desires for belonging, purpose, and community. The talk is designed to strip away the shame, remove the stigma surrounding the "C-word", and show you exactly how these deceptive systems operate. A thought-provoking talk for everyone. **The talk is in the Methodist Hall, High Street, starting at 7.30. Tickets cost £4 from the library or on the door.**

CONGRESBURY WI

In August we'll be treating ourselves to a cream tea at our favourite local venue - Cuppa café at Middlecombe Nurseries. Then on **Wednesday September 15th** Maisy Bartlett will be talking to us about Weston Hospice Care. We were so happy that the Hospice has accepted 60 of our lovely WI tea sets to use in fundraising events.

The new WI bench for the Millennium Green has arrived at last and we hope it will be in place before the summer is out. It's amazing that our small group has managed to raise enough to pay for it in just a few years.

Sadly our president of over 30 years, Valerie Harding, has decided not to stand for re-election in the autumn. We want to thank her for her tremendous energy and commitment in all that time.

We meet at 2.15 pm on the **3rd Wednesday of each month** in the Methodist Hall, except in August and December. We always welcome new members as well as visitors. The charge for non-members (which includes tea and biscuits) is £4.
Susan Hibberd, Secretary.

SCOUTS

The Cubs and Scouts are already planning an exciting programme for the autumn term from our HQ in Mill Leg.

The Beavers however are sadly still waiting for a new leadership team to form. **All scouting adults are volunteers; there are ten of us at the moment. Anyone willing to join us will have training and support, as well as the satisfaction of joining a thriving team of people offering challenging and varied activities to our young members.**

The Cardinals Explorer Group also runs from our headquarters in Mill Leg.

Information on everything we offer is available from our lead volunteer geoffreymbailey@btinternet.com



YACWAG

Two opportunities to observe Daubentons bats as they emerge at twilight and swoop low over the River Yeo hunting for insects!

National Bat Monitoring Programme Waterways Survey: 9.20pm on **Monday 3rd August** and 8.50pm on **Monday 17th August**

Meet at the Millennium Green for a 2km walk along the Congresbury Yeo lasting approximately 90 minutes. Bat detectors will be available.

Stout footwear recommended for uneven ground. Suitable clothing and be tick aware. **Assistance dogs only.**

Neither walk will take place in rainy conditions. For further details please email contact@yacwag.org.uk



COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Congresbury Community Preschool is now accepting registrations for children aged 2–4 years old starting in September 2026.

Rated Good by OFSTED, we provide a warm, nurturing environment where children can learn, play, and thrive. Our experienced team supports children to develop confidence, independence, friendships, and a love of learning through a wide range of engaging indoor and outdoor activities.

We accept Government-funded childcare hours and are committed to providing high-quality, affordable childcare for local families.

If you're looking for friendly, local childcare where your child will be encouraged to reach their full potential, we'd love to welcome you for a visit and show you around.

Contact us today to arrange a visit
Tel: 01934 707262

WhatsApp/Text: 07828 715368
congresburypreschool.org.uk

CONGRESBURY SINGERS

Rehearsals for our November and Christmas concerts start on **Tuesday 8th September**, 7.30pm at the Congresbury War Memorial Hall.

We are a 4 part (SATB) choir with a repertoire that extends from classics, through spirituals and onto modern day music. We always welcome new members, particularly at the moment Tenor & Bass voices, and you can attend two rehearsal sessions free to get a feel for the music and see what a fun and friendly group we are.

Please check out [Facebook page](#), Congresbury Singers, for more information

BLUEY

Wednesday 12th August

St Fagans National Museum of History, Wales

Wednesday 9th September

Sidmouth

Drivers of Congresbury

Can you spare some time to drive our community bus? We welcome both male and female drivers under 75.

For more info please call: 01934 257247 or Email: bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com



CONGRESBURY HISTORY GROUP

Autumn Programme 2026

16th September – Katharine Bell: Talk on Viking Attire

20th October – Steve Ryan: World War I

17th November – Prof Hutton: History of Dragons

15th December – Christmas Meal (venue to be confirmed)

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Methodist Hall unless otherwise stated.

New members and visitors welcome – Annual membership £15 or £4 per meeting.

Contacts:

Chair: Chris Short – 01934 833764

Secretary: Ann Gunner – 01934 352140

YATTON ROTARY

Yatton Rotary is a local 'branch' of Rotary International, a well-known humanitarian organisation seeking to serve the community.

We invite you to our third annual Charity Arts and Crafts Fair at Cleeve Village Hall on **Sunday 18th October** from 10am to 4.30pm – proceeds to local charities.

We are a very informal group that meets the fourth Tuesday evening of the month at The Bridge Inn Yatton, all are welcome to come along and experience Rotary.



CYP

Find us on [Facebook](#), or email sarah@congsyp.org.uk

Our summer holiday programme runs until **Sept 2nd**.

It's worth checking to see if any of the trips still have spaces. Trips cost £35 and you can ask in confidence for financial support if you need this.

Our regular Junior (3.20pm - 5pm) and Senior (6.30pm - 8.30pm) Clubs will recommence at the beginning of the September term.

Code Club drop in (Mondays 3.20 onwards until 5.30) is planning a new robot car project for September, using Python coding, and we will have spaces for new beginners in both Python and Scratch. Come for a taster session, which is **FREE**. Subsequent sessions £2.00

For more information contact alex@congsyp.org.uk

We would also welcome new adult volunteers to support all our sessions.

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.

Congresburylife@gmail.com

This edition and all back issues are available on

Congresbury.net

BIG TEAMS OF PEOPLE EACH DOING A LITTLE

THIS EDITION IS FUNDED BY CONGRESBURY PARISH COUNCIL

CONGRESBURY FOOTPATHS



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. **Dogs on Leads welcomed.**

Tuesday 4th August a flat walk of a little over four and a half miles around Clevedon, no stiles and very flat. **Meet Riverside Car Park at 9:30 am.**

Sunday 9th August a 4 mile walk from Kent Road over Cadbury Hill to Cleeve. **Start at 10:00 am from Riverside Car Park.**

Sunday 16th August A circular 4 -5 mile walk from Deer Leap to Ebbor Gorge. **Meet at Riverside Car Park at 10:00 am. Bring a packed lunch.**

Tuesday 1st September. Meet at Riverside Car Park at 9:30 am. For further details look out for our posters or **phone Keith on 07929710459.**

Sunday 13th September a 3-4 mile walk from Cleeve Hill Road, through Goblin Coombe, **Start at 10:00 am from car park on Cleeve Hill Road, what 3 words ///level.obey.unlocking**

Sunday 20th September a 6.6 mile walk from Snuff Mills along the River Frome to Frenchay, **Meet at Riverside Car Park at 10:00 am. Bring a packed lunch.**

CONGRESBURY CARERS.



I am pleased to say that Denise Johnston has agreed to become the new co-ordinator for Congresbury Carers from the 1st July 2026. Her telephone number is **01934 838 243** and there is an email for the Carers - congresburycarers@gmail.com.

The majority of volunteer drivers are continuing and Denny has already recruited two new volunteers. While there will still be times when the pressure on the service means we cannot satisfy every request, we will continue to do all that we can.

And if more drivers could come forward, we will be able to do even more.

I would like to thank everyone that has supported me over the last thirty or more years that I have been coordinator and volunteer driver. I have enjoyed being able to organise help for those that have needed it and know that it has been appreciated.

Margaret Leimdorfer

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Can you spare an hour or two to lend a helping hand?

If you have a little time to spare you could be helping older people (65+) remain independent in their own homes.

Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS) are preparing to roll out the Good Neighbour Scheme, a community led initiative designed to support older residents in rural villages across North Somerset.

The scheme connects local volunteers with residents who need the occasional helping hand with small everyday jobs in and around their home. This could range from changing a light bulb to packing away their shopping.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering with the scheme, **please contact Tracy on 07458073262 or**

email info@vansmail.org.uk