

Congresbury *Life*

ISSUE 19 | OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026



CELEBRATING 3 YEARS OF CONGRESBURY LIFE WITH A SPECIAL, ONE-OFF EXTRA-LONG EDITION!

PARISH COUNCIL

Well, here we are, on our way to autumn. We are so lucky to live in a mild climate. It may have felt overpoweringly hot throughout August but I am so grateful that we live in a climate that, despite the wildfires we've had this summer, is mostly benign. Many of those fires, as we know, were started on purpose. Words fail me here (I know, I know). Spare a thought if you will for the poor people in Nepal, completely washed away, no notice of the event, no one to blame but global warming.

Talking of blame, I found another 'disposable' barbecue left on the river bank on the Millennium Green, still glowing! Grrrr. It's as well for the people who left it there that they'd already fled the scene, I was furious.

Pleasant news now. I expect many of you have heard, but for those who haven't, the Strawberry line footpath has been voted "Footpath of the year", I believe by the Ramblers Association. My grand-daughter, newly moved here from America, quite recently asked me why it's called the Strawberry line, I enjoyed explaining it had been a rail connection between the strawberry fields of Somerset **Continued on Page 2**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Scout and Guide Group will again be coordinating the Christmas Fair on Broad Street on the evening of **Wednesday 2nd December**



It's a great opportunity to get the festive season off with a bang with Mendip Morris, carols with Congresbury Brass & Congresbury Singers with stalls lining the street. Last year the fair raised over £3,700 for the Scouts, Guides, Weston Hospice Care and other local community groups.

If you are a local group or charity, let us know if you too would like to run a stall and raise funds for yourselves. There's always room to squeeze in another one.

Could you help? More hands to set up gazebos from 5pm and to clear away afterward would be welcome, as would a whizz to help with advance publicity. If you're interested, please contact Andy Pring at congresburyfair@outlook.com

WHAT'S ON!

Details of all events inside



- 06 OCT** FOOTPATHS WINSCOMBE WALK
- 11 OCT** CHURCHILL MUSIC KOSMOS
- 12 OCT** 'I'M FINE' WELLBEING GROUP
- 14 OCT** BLUEY TRIP TO CRIBBS
- 14 OCT** CAMEO - TANZANIA
- 16 OCT** LIBRARY KNIT CLUB
- 18 OCT** FOOTPATHS COMPTON DANDO WALK
- 18 OCT** ROTARY CHARITY ARTS AND CRAFT FAIR
- 21 OCT** HISTORY GROUP - WWI TALK
- 22 OCT** LIBRARY TALK - RECORDERS OF THE AVALON MARSHES
- 24 OCT** LIBRARY COFFEE MORNING
- 03 NOV** FOOTPATHS GROUP WALK
- 04 NOV** BLUEY TRIP TO WELLS
- 11 NOV** CAMEO - UGANDAN SCHOOLS
- 14 NOV** CONGRESBURY SINGERS AUTUMN CONCERT
- 15 NOV** FOOTPATHS GROUP WALK
- 18 NOV** HISTORY OF DRAGONS TALK
- 18 NOV** WI TALK ON STORYTELLING
- 18 NOV** BLUEY TRIP TO STREET
- 20 NOV** LIBRARY KNIT CLUB
- 26 NOV** LIBRARY TALK - LIFE OF WILLIAM MORRIS

December events listed inside

Continued from Page 1

and the trains to London's fruit markets. It is a beautiful walk and though I can't do it now (old legs) I remember it well.

North Somerset Council have a new website for anyone wishing to contact or check up on planning applications, road closures, bus timetables/changes, wheelie bin dates etc. Look for the one with the griffin/dragon thing on it and go from there (There is a proper name for this creature but I'm blown if I can remember it!)

Quick housekeeping notice. Somebody in the village sees fit to dump their household rubbish in one of our litter bins which means everybody else's coffee cups, banana peel, chocolate wrappers etc.. has nowhere to go! I'd like to ask this person, nicely, to please use the normal County council service (like the rest of the village) and they will pick up your rubbish, from your gateway as they do for everyone else!

'P.S. The creature is a wyvern!

Jane Clarke, Chair of Congresbury PC



CONGRESBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

We would like to put out a big thank you to Congresbury Parish Council, The King George V trustees and Congresbury community cafe who have helped with donations for much needed repairs at the changing rooms, as well as the purchase of a new battery for the Club defibrillator. Without their help we would not have been able to use the changing facilities.

Also, a big thank you to North Somerset Council who are helping fund growth for ladies football in the village. If there are any ladies out there who fancy being part of a growing group of players please do get in touch, they play competitive games but in a casual league so more relaxed!

Email: Congresburyfc1906@gmail.com

CHURCHILL MUSIC

Upcoming Events at St John's Church, Churchill, 3pm.

11th Oct – Kosmos

6th Dec – CarmenCo: My My My Delilah

Tickets: tickets@churchillmusic.org.uk

Info: www.churchillmusic.org.uk

CONGRESBURY WI

Congresbury WI was founded in 1921 so the September meeting will have marked our 105th birthday. We have just one photo from the earliest years – the 2nd birthday meeting in 1922.



There have been many changes in Congresbury, once a mainly rural community now more of a dormitory village for Bristol and Weston. Social changes have influenced membership from highs of near 100 members in the fifties down to the mid 20s now. Afternoon branches like ours don't fit the current demands of employment or family life. We meet every month to enjoy a wide range of outside speakers and appreciate the friendship brought by our meetings. We have regular social events, like the fine cream tea at Cuppa café in August, on possibly the hottest day in the year we were glad to be offered cold drinks to go with our scones! We were joined again by our MP, Tessa Munt, who is a member of Wells WI.

Members have always been closely involved in village life. We've managed to raise over £1000 in a few years to replace the previous WI bench on the Millennium Green that had gradually fallen apart and we'll be celebrating on-site once it's installed!

On **Wednesday 14th October** we'll hold our AGM, followed by Bingo and a Bring and Buy sale. At our meeting on **Wednesday 18th November** we welcome the return of Mark Rutterford to talk about storytelling. Our December Christmas meal is already booked.

We meet at 2.15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month - in the Methodist Church.

We always welcome new members as well as visitors. The charge for non-members (which includes tea and biscuits) is £4.

Susan Hibberd, Secretary.



BLUEY

Wednesday 14 October Trip to The Mall, Cribbs Causeway

Wednesday 4 November Trip to Wells

Wednesday 18 November Trip to Street

Wednesday 9 December Trip to Exeter Christmas Market

Pick up for Cribbs, Street & Exeter trips - The Precinct 9.00am and then the Riverside Car Park, Millennium Green 9.05am,

For the Wells trip - Riverside Car Park, Millennium Green 9.00am then Precinct.

There will be a charge of £5.00pp for Cribbs, Street & Wells trips and £6.50 for Exeter trip, (payable on the bus)

Our Village Minibus Needs Drivers! For 27 years Bluey has been keeping Congresbury moving. From day trips, sports fixtures, school trips, youth group trips, shopping trips, wedding trips, family celebrations, our community mini-bus has served residents of all ages, and been hired by many! Without new volunteer drivers, we risk losing this vital asset for good.

Drive once a week, once a month, or whatever you can manage.

No minibus driving experience needed just a full driving licence and aged 17-70 years.

Don't let Bluey park-up for the last time. Get involved and help keep this essential service running!

To Book or offer support Phone: 01934 257247 bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com

CONGRESBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Ancient maps show the "Allotment gardens" on our site way back in the 19th century so the village allotments have a long history. The current Association was re-established in 2012 and has been active ever since to promote good cultivation, advice and friendship as well as cooperation with the Parish Council. QEH (the independent school in Bristol) used to own much of the village and still retains the allotment site which is leased to the Parish Council. They in turn rent it to us.

Like so much else in society the use of our plots has changed over the years. When Congresbury was a rural community the allotments were an essential part of feeding large families with basic veg and fruit. Now we cater for a range of gardeners. Some favour traditional methods, most want healthy, home grown food, some the challenge of unusual crops. New eco-friendly cultivation methods are definitely on the increase. And getting an allotment means joining a very friendly, sociable group of villagers.

It's been a stressful summer for all gardeners, with watering essential to keep crops alive, let alone thriving. Our usual glut of runner beans didn't happen so we weren't much help to the Community Café's "Glut Market". But sweet corn, tomatoes, courgettes



and squashes have been amazing. The hot summer favoured a very enjoyable evening social on-site. The discounted seed order to Kings Seeds will have saved tenants over £400! Our active WhatsApp group is thriving and provides great advice as well as brilliant photos of produce and of the thriving wildlife.

We continue to be frustrated by overgrown boundary hedges but are hopeful that the Parish Council Allotments Working Group will get to grips with this and also ensure the timely ending of tenancies to prevent neglected plots becoming badly overgrown.

Having an allotment is a great way to keep fit! At present there are several full and half plots available to rent, currently half price!

Please contact the Parish office admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk
Susan Hibberd, Secretary, Congresbury Allotments Association.

VILLAGE AGENT

My name is Maxine Gilman, my role is to link people in rural areas with advice and support services to maintain independent living. I offer a friendly free and confidential service to anyone over 50, I provide information, support and advice on many different subjects including: care support, social groups and activities, feeling socially isolated and lonely, financial concerns, attendance allowance forms, health and wellbeing and technology.

If you would like advice please contact me on 07967 344766, maxine@wern.org.uk or meet me in person at Congars Hub

CONGARS HUB

The Congresbury Games and Social Group meets **every other**

Tuesday, Oct 6th and 20th 10:30-12:00 at Congresbury Youth club (Riverside car park). We chat over refreshments, play a board game and offer monthly drop ins from the village Agent to offer support and advice.

The ladies wellbeing support group 'I'm Fine' will be restarting on Monday **12th October** from 11:00.

The session is for ladies who have chronic health conditions, illnesses and invisible disabilities. It's a chance to chat, connect and relax.



CONGRESBURY FOOTPATHS GROUP

Congresbury Footpaths Group was formed in 1993 under the chairmanship of Barry Blackwood and with the support of the Parish Council with the aim of maintaining the village footpaths. The initial walk was held on Sunday 21 March 1993 when 26 walkers went through the woods to Cleeve Hill, then into Wrington via Bullhouse Lane and back to Congresbury via the River Yeo. Various members of the group have been leading walks on the third Sunday of the month ever since.

We now go further afield but generally walks are a maximum of an hour travelling distance from Congresbury. There is an annual outing once a year and a 4-day group holiday which is generally at a coastal location or in an area of natural beauty.

Our Sunday walks tend to be about 5 to 7 miles but for those who prefer shorter distances we offer a short walk of about 4 miles on the first Tuesday of the month.

Walking is a good and relatively cheap way of keeping healthy but is also good for your general well-being as you are able to meet new people and have the opportunity to explore your local environment in a safe way. Annual membership is £2.50 per person per year and we charge walkers 50p for short walk and £1 for the longer walks. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

If you are new to the village this is a great way of meeting your neighbours and we welcome families looking for an affordable way to entertain the whole family throughout the year.

Our walks for the coming months are as follows

Tuesday 6th October a short walk around Winscombe and Winterhead, meeting at 9:30 am with a coffee stop after the walk.

Sunday 18th October a walk around Compton Dando, 5 miles, meeting at 10:00 am. Please bring a packed lunch.

Tuesday 3rd November meeting at 9:30 am, with a coffee stop after the walk.

Sunday 15th November meet at 10:00 am to share transport, bring a packed lunch.

All walkers meet at the Riverside Car Park, Kent Road so that we can share transport.

Full details will be available on the parish noticeboards and in the Precinct, or contact Di Hassan (07460 090500) or Keith (07929 710459)

RAMBLERS KEEPING OUR FOOTPATHS OPEN

We are lucky to have an extensive network of footpaths around our village. We can walk for miles in almost any direction, but like so many things if we don't use them we'll lose them.

The easiest, and healthiest, way to keep our paths open is just to walk them. Take a pair of secateurs with you, and maybe gloves as well, they can make the difference between an enjoyable walk or a painful battle with brambles. However if you find your way completely blocked you can report it to North Somerset Council streetsandopenspaces@n-somerset.gov.uk or, for a quicker response, to me Paul Spears, at: Woodspringpathsec@gmail.com. Woodspring Ramblers provide a volunteer work party for North Somerset every month to help maintain the rights of way. We put in gates and bridges as well as clearing vegetation; if you've walked from Venus St to The Yeo recently you will have used the new bridge spanning the Rhyne.

The Ramblers organisation is active throughout the country not only with walking groups and maintenance teams but also lobbying Government to keep our footpaths accessible. Joining will put you in touch with friendly groups all over the country. We often welcome members to our walks on holiday from other areas. Take a look at the Ramblers web page to see what they offer www.ramblers.org.uk



YACWAG

Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group has been working to protect, enhance and celebrate the wonderful natural environment on our doorstep for over 25 years. Reaching this milestone has given us the opportunity to look back with pride at what has been achieved by generations of local volunteers, while looking forward to the legacy we can create for those who come after us.

Over the past three years, we have continued to turn local enthusiasm for nature into practical action. One of our most significant achievements has been expanding the land we protect and manage for wildlife, we now have 19 fields and a small wood which are managed as nature reserves.

At Kenn Moor, we purchased two adjoining fields, more than doubling the size of our nature reserve. Plans included creating new hedgerows and a traditional orchard and converting an existing stable into a bat roost.

At Congresbury Moor, we have also expanded our landholding, purchasing five additional fields within the Biddle Street Site of Special Scientific Interest. This gives us an exciting opportunity to manage a much larger area for wildlife, improving habitats, water retention and biodiversity for years to come.

YACWAG is about much more than land. We bring people together through wildlife walks, talks with experts, surveys, practical conservation work and land management teams. Our new website has been developed with accessibility in mind, making information about our reserves, wildlife, events and activities easier to find and use.

As a volunteer-led organisation, everything we achieve is made possible by people who care about our local environment. There are plenty of ways to get involved – from joining a walk or work party to volunteering your time, skills or knowledge, or simply becoming a member.

Our focus is firmly on the future: protecting special places, encouraging the next generation to value nature and creating a lasting legacy for wildlife and our communities.

Find out more and join us at www.yacwag.org.uk

CONGRESBURY HISTORY GROUP

The Congresbury History Group is about to start its 44th year. Early meetings were held in the Refectory where we also had an annual barbecue. Later we moved to the Methodist Hall.

We have published a number of booklets and articles covering such topics as the railway and pubs. Included in there were photographs provided by village residents and copied initially by the late Mike Tutty, who started our photographic record, now a large archive thanks to the likes of Mike and later Mike Bedingfield, Rays Atwell's film shows from the 1960s were a regular feature. The history group inherited these and digitalised his films, Mike's wife Gill, sadly no longer with us, was the real historian within the group. She undertook some incredible research and was very much involved in our publications.

In the early days we were involved in archaeological research particularly regarding the Romano British kiln sites. When YCCART was formed, Congresbury Group members became important, Pete Wright is still the Treasurer and was instrumental in obtaining a Heritage Lottery Grant in 2009, which bought the current equipment. It was through YCCART that I became good friends with the late Vince Russet, North Somerset County Archaeologist, who undertook some excellent research into Congresbury history which resulted in reports on Congresbury Cross and Congresbury Bridge etc. which can be viewed on the web site, www.yccart.co.uk

The greatest success of the Congresbury History Group has been bringing together those new to the village and older residents and the formation of long-lasting friendships.

Chris Short

Upcoming Events

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

21st October, Steve Ryan World War I

18th November, Prof Hutton History of Dragons

15th December, Christmas meal Venue TBA

We are the local branch of Rotary International, the largest humanitarian and non-political organisation in the world with over 1.2 million members worldwide. The organisation is grass roots led with local Rotarians giving back to their communities by organising inclusive fun and fund-raising activities to support local good causes.

It does not cost a huge amount to join, it's currently £10.00 a month this gives members access to any club in the world as a visitor and our website offering support for small businesses, including courses on various aspects of project management, event planning and health and safety all completely free. Women comprise 40% of our branch, and there is no strict dress code, or formality at our meetings and activities.

As several members are skilled craft makers, we have attended Congresbury fete as well as other village events with our crafts stall to raise funds for our local charities for the last three years. We have organised a successful concert at St Andrews Church with Weston Light Orchestra and two Charity Arts and Crafts Fairs. The next event is our popular **Charity Arts and Crafts Fair at Cleeve Village Hall on Sunday 18th October from 10am to 4pm.**

Our activities have raised about £3,000 in the past three years and we supported the following local good causes, including Bristol Eye Hospital, Macmillan Nurses, Barton Camp, Ups and Downs and Weston Hospice Care. Looking to the future we plan to set up a monthly Business Networking group in the area called Rotary Connect, which aims to support solopreneurs, the self-employed, new start-ups and those working from home who feel isolated from their peers. Please contact the Secretary via email on mrsjonquilb@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this new business network.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at The Bridge Inn, Yatton at 6.40pm.

All are welcome to our monthly 'Free Talks' programme which features interesting people sharing their passions, projects and entertaining us with their exploits. Just get in touch via our website at www.yattonrotary.co.uk.

CONGRESBURY BOWLING CLUB

It has been another fantastic year for Congresbury Bowling Club, with plenty to celebrate both on and off the green.

Based at Mill Leg, the club continues to go from strength to strength, enjoying success at club, county and national level while remaining a friendly and welcoming part of village life.

The 2026 season has brought numerous successes, the Men's team reaching the semi-final of the Turnbull Cup and the Ladies reaching the semi-final of the Fear Plate. These achievements have made us incredibly proud and demonstrate that a village club like Congresbury can compete successfully at a very high level. However there is much more to Congresbury Bowling Club than results.

At the heart of the club is a great sense of friendship and community. Our members range from experienced competitive bowlers to people who simply enjoy a friendly game and the social side of club life. There really is something for everyone and we would love to welcome more people from Congresbury and the surrounding villages to join us.

You don't need to have played bowls before, you don't need your own equipment and you certainly don't need to know all the rules! Our members are always happy to help newcomers learn the game in a relaxed and friendly environment. Bowls is a fantastic way to get outdoors, enjoy some gentle exercise, meet new people and become part of a thriving local club.

So, whether you are looking for a new hobby, a little friendly competition or simply the opportunity to meet more people locally, why not come along and discover what Congresbury Bowling Club has to offer?

New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome – come along and give bowls a try!

CONGRESBURY SINGERS

Congresbury Singers embark on their Golden Jubilee Year when rehearsals for our Autumn and Christmas concerts began in September



Originally part of the Congresbury Theatre and Arts Group, ultimately evolving into the New Congresbury Singers in September 1976, and so for almost 50 years Congresbury Singers have been a part of the fabric of Congresbury village life by providing at least four concerts a year to entertain residents and visitors alike.

Our choir is a standard four voice group, i.e. Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass, and our Musical Director, Jonathan Palmer, ensures we have a wide repertoire of pieces ranging from Classical period music, through Spiritual, American Songbook Classics and modern day music. He writes, where necessary, musical scores that highlight the strengths and talents of the choir.

This jubilee year will culminate in our Golden Jubilee Concert on **Saturday 20th March 2027** when we will perform a score composed by our Musical Director that encompasses the life of St. Congar, our village founder. This will be a world premiere of a completely bespoke work created for Congresbury and sung by the Singers.

However that is to come and our Autumn concert, **Saturday 14th November**, will feature songs that the choir members have chosen themselves, and features a wide range of musical genres, from Classics to Music from the Musicals.

New members are always welcome and if you'd like to try us out merely pitch up at a Tuesday evening rehearsal in the Memorial Hall and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

For more information call 07818811803



CYP

WOW what a Summer of activities we had!! From paddle-boarding to high ropes in the trees; mountain biking in the woods to inflatable madness on a lake - we pretty much tried it all!



We are already thinking ahead to next Summer and planning our adventures. We will be consulting with families but are considering moving back to one full week of activities over the Summer rather than splitting the days across the six weeks - watch this space!

Now settling back for our Autumn term back at Youth Club with some changes to our session times to note:

Wednesday 3.30-5pm Junior youth club age 8-10 £2.50 (including tuck)

Wednesday 5.30-7pm Seniors - school years 7 & 8 £2.50 (including tuck)

Wednesday 7.30-9pm Seniors - school years 9-11 £2.50 (including tuck)

Please follow our [Facebook page \(congresbury youth partnership\)](#) for updates or contact Sarah@congsyp.org.uk

Remember we run a Code Club Drop In on Mondays from 3.30 until 5.30, a session specially for young people interested in making and programming simple robots. congresburycodeclub@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Our Community Café has been busier than ever this year, which is fantastic to see. It is great to know that the café continues to be such a popular meeting place for people in our village and surrounding area. However, with increased numbers come increased demands on our wonderful team of volunteers.

We currently have 44 volunteers who help in a variety of ways. Some help run the café sessions, some bake our cakes and scones, and some happily do both! You don't need to have previous café experience — just a little time, enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved. **Volunteering at the café is a great way to meet people, make new friends and play a part in something that has become an important part of village life.** If you think you might be able to help, please come into the café and have a chat with one of our volunteers, or email communitycoffee@btinternet.com.

We are also pleased to be able to support young people in our community. In May, we welcomed Ryan, a 14-year-old student from Churchill School, who joined us for some work experience. Ryan enjoyed his time at the café and, so much so, that he has returned this term to continue helping us. It has been great to see him getting involved and gaining valuable experience along the way.

The café is also proud to continue supporting other local organisations and charities. We recently donated £1,520 to the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity.

In the 7½ years since the café opened, we have donated just over £27,000 to local organisations, as well as local and national charities.

None of this would be possible without the support of Lisa and Neil, co-owners of Debbie Fortune Estate Agents, our customers, our fantastic volunteers and everyone who bakes, serves, washes up, buys a cake or simply comes along for a coffee and a chat.

Thank you for helping to make our Community Café such a success.

GARDENING CLUB

In the early days – 1936 – the idea at first was to hold a modest little show located at the Memorial Hall in the summer of that year, but such was the interest that it aroused in the village that it grew! Eventually other village organisations decided they wanted to join and it was decided to transfer the whole event to the fairground area beside the river, and to stage the Flower Show in a proper marquee with the local MP – Mr Ian Orr-Ewing opening the proceedings in a formal manner.

In 1937 there were over 600 entries for the Show! *[Taken from booklet produced in 1989 – Fifty Summer Flower Shows at Congresbury]* We were originally Congresbury Hewish and Puxton Horticultural Society. After the 2nd World War it was decided to hold meetings in the Memorial Hall. The event eventually became too large and it was transferred to the playing fields by the Rec Club when it expanded into the Village Fete and Rose Show. Later it moved to the school playing fields and is now on the church paddock and still going strong.

In 1989 the Horticultural Society staged their 50th show. It's grown from a Flower Show into what we know today and is still thriving. We have even been invited to Radio 4 for Gardener's Question Time. Over the years we have visited many gardens up and down the country and also been invited into gardens in our village. We changed our name to Congresbury Gardening Club in the hope it would sound more friendly and encourage new members! So please come and see us – we meet **first Thursday in the month** in the Methodist Church for talks on all aspects of gardening, starting from September through to April with an outing in May.

We have a Spring Show held in the Old School Rooms as well as the large Show in the Marquee. Also a Coffee morning and Plant Sale in May. One last quote! *"From the very start the Society's objectives were to show to the world what beautiful flowers, fruit and vegetables were produced every year in the gardens of this village"*

Keep it going Congresbury.

Ann Gunner for Congresbury Gardening Club

CONGRESBURY TENNIS CLUB

Whether you're picking up a racket for the very first time or you've been playing for years, Congresbury Tennis Club is a friendly and welcoming club with something for everyone. We cater for all ages and abilities, from juniors taking their first steps in tennis to experienced adults looking to enjoy competitive league matches. Whether you're interested in social tennis, casual games with friends, or representing the club in the North Somerset or Avon Leagues, you'll find a warm welcome at Congresbury.

Our qualified club coach, Tom Smith, offers a fantastic range of coaching sessions for both adults and children. These include:

- Tennis Xpress** – ideal for adults who are new to tennis or returning.
- Cardio Tennis** – a fun, energetic workout combining fitness and tennis.
- Doubles Troubles** – improve your doubles tactics and teamwork.
- Squad Coaching** – helping our league players develop their match play and skills.
- Junior coaching** and development programmes.

Our high-quality courts are also available for public hire, making it easy for anyone to enjoy a game with family or friends.

For more information www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/congresburylta

CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other, A group started by Stella Wilson over 13 years ago as a way of getting together when being alone can make it difficult to socialise.

This friendly group meets once a month between September to June, on the second Wednesday of the month at the Congresbury Methodist Hall, doors open at 7pm with refreshments available, £2 payable at the door. Everyone is welcome.

The group has grown in popularity with many interesting talks given, starting promptly at 7.30pm. Topics have been as diverse as, living in South Africa, 2 years in Papua New Guinea, Russian Art & Icons, Medical Detection Dogs, Weston Hospice care, Archery, WRVS, Land-girls, Cookery Demonstration, Pattern Designing & Textiles, Weston Birnbeck Pier, Pest Control, Photography and so much more.

The plan for this year is as follows:

October 14th Trip to Tanzania - Kay Friend

November 11th supporting Ugandan Schools - Kevin Riley

December 9th Carols & Mince pies

Madelein Cornelissen



CONGRESBURY VOLUNTEERS

Inspired by The Big Help Out national initiative in 2023, our main focus is maintenance of our public spaces, for which we have regular sessions on the Millennium Green, Orchard and Paddock. We also support and co-ordinate regular litter picking as well as the annual Village Spring Clean.

You can join our WhatsApp group to be notified of our meetings, contact us on our new email address to find out more lizzie.burd@icloud.com



POPPY APPEAL

Volunteers needed, The British Royal Legion is looking for volunteers to help with the Poppy Appeal 2026

Collections will be at Cadbury Garden Centre from **Thursday 22nd October to Sunday 8th November** with 3 shifts a day, 9am-12pm, 12pm-3pm & 3pm-4pm (Sundays 10am-1pm & 1pm-4pm)

If you, a family member or friend are able to help in any way please contact Martyn Howell, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Martyn.howell@hotmail.com



CONGRESBURY SCOUT GROUP.

Cubs and Scouts are popular with the young people of Congresbury and the good rates of retention show we are providing a meaningful skills-based programme. This year Cubs have enjoyed a weekend camp at Glenlyon woods and Scouts have had opportunities in the past to go gliding on the Mendips and Kayaking in Bristol amongst many other exciting activities.



The Cardinals Explorer unit provides an adventurous more self-led programme for those moving up from Scouts (14-18), allowing the young people to gain leadership skills, build confidence and make strong friendships. This year the Explorers went to Switzerland for a week to enjoy alpine walking, river rafting and a trip to Bern.

Our Beaver section has been a bit hit and miss over recent years and has not been up and running since Easter.



We need volunteers to come forward to once again offer

Scouting to our 6 to 8 year olds. It is an hour on a Friday 6 pm to 7 pm and any new volunteer will be well supported. The Scout Association has a wealth of information and programme ideas on their website so do take the opportunity to find out more. Being a leader and seeing young people develop is rewarding in itself and the hustle and bustle of a busy hut activity night takes your mind off anything else. Training is available but not onerous with modules mostly online. Please contact me if you are interested. Finally many thanks to all our leaders who volunteer and deliver an exciting skills based programme.

Geoffrey Bailey, Lead Volunteer, geoffreybailey@gmail.com



COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Congresbury Community Library opened on 1 July 2017. It is an independent library run entirely by volunteers, funded by Congresbury Parish Council and supported by North Somerset Library Service to provide a library service on behalf of the residents of the village and the wider community.

This means that books can be borrowed and reserved free of charge from the library or online using the Libraries-West app. We have one computer which is available for use free of charge, a printer for which a charge is made per copy printed as well as photocopying, scanning and laminating services. WiFi is available free of charge.

In addition to the North Somerset library books, we offer a number of books in our Honesty Library. These books are second-hand and donated by readers. These can be borrowed by anyone coming into the library and no library card is required. We just ask that when you have finished the book you return it to the library. We are extremely grateful to receive donations of clean, undamaged books for the Honesty Library. We also have a number of Jigsaw puzzles available to borrow or purchase for a small sum.

The library operates a very popular Book Club but if you and your friends would like to start their own group, we are happy to order multiple copies of books for them. Please come in and ask for details.

Throughout the year we put on a number of activities for children and adults and if you would be interested in starting a particular interest group in the library, please let us know.

We have a website www.congresbury-library.org.uk and a Facebook page so you can always find out what is happening in the library.

This is **YOUR** library, so if you are passing by just drop in and see what we have on our shelves! Opening times can be found on our website.

Plus on **Thursday 22nd October** we have a talk being given by Stephen Parker on the Records of the Avalon Marshes, a local group that undertakes recording and training for naturalists on the Levels and on **November 26th** we welcome Ruth Gofton who is talking about the Life of William Morris. **Both talks start at 7:30 pm in the Methodist Church, High Street, tickets cost £4 and are available from the library or on the door.**

Our annual coffee morning, with lots of delicious homemade cakes, to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support is on **Saturday 24th October from 10:00am to 12:00pm in the Old School Rooms**. Please come along and support this event.

We will be holding our monthly Knit Club meetings on **16th October and 20th November from 10:00am to 12:00pm**.



LOCAL BUSINESS NEWS

We would like to wish Rob and Paula a very happy retirement, as they step away from the butchers after many years serving our community. We're pleased to welcome Russell, who has been working with Hodders for many years, as he takes the business forward. We wish him and the team every success!



Please support all our local businesses.

Like many communities, our village businesses face challenges, and some have seen a significant reduction in footfall through no fault of their own in the last year. We can all do our bit to support them.

Whether you're grocery shopping, grabbing a coffee or dinner, or using a local service such as the Post Office, with its wide range of services, every visit helps keep our village thriving. Let's support the businesses that support our community.



CONGRESBURY CARERS

Congresbury Carers has been running for over 30 years. We are a small organisation of volunteers who give their time in driving elderly local people to medical appointments when they cannot access public transport. We ask clients to make a donation to the driver to cover costs. If you live in Congresbury and need our help you can contact us using the phone number or email below.

The demand for this service has increased since the closure of the surgery in Congresbury and **we are in need of more volunteer drivers**. This is an easy and rewarding way to serve the community. If you feel that you can spare some of your time to transport clients using your own car, please contact us.

Phone: 01934 838243 congresburycarers@gmail.com

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

Big teams of people each doing a little

This edition is funded by Congresbury Parish Council