

# Congresbury Chronicle

News and views from  
around the village

Send articles for future issues to [diana@rookery-farm.com](mailto:diana@rookery-farm.com)

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## Snippets from your Ward Councillor

While our thoughts may be on seasonal things, our views are being sought on very important plans for the future of our area. The **West of England Joint Spatial Plan** indicates large scale developments around Nailsea and Backwell and two totally new villages, one north of Banwell and one north-west of Churchill. The 'new Churchill' development envisages a 2,800 dwellings settlement (twice the size of Congresbury) stretching from the Mendip Springs Golf Course to Sandford with a new main road connecting the A371 and the A38. The North Somerset Executive decided to prefer this strategic development to building around the new South Bristol Ring Road. Although that site would be nearer employment and transport links to Bristol, it is designated as Green Belt. Other local authorities were prepared to 'redraw' their Green Belt, but not our Executive. We do need to build more houses, but it is important that we should all make our views known about what we consider to be the right sustainable locations. Representations can be made on the West of England website: [www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk](http://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk) before 10th January. At the same time North Somerset Council are consulting about their new **Local Plan (2018-2036)**, which will be based on the Joint Spatial Plan. Details are on the North Somerset website. Look for: My Council > Get Involved > Consultations > North Somerset Local Plan 2036.

We should also find time to look at the latest expansion plans of **Bristol Airport**, which envisages an increase in annual passenger numbers from 8m to 20m by 2040 with much more parking and possibly a second terminal building (all in the Green Belt). To view the various possible scenarios go to [www.bristolairportfuture.com](http://www.bristolairportfuture.com) and respond under 'Have your say'. This consultation runs to the 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Both these plans will eventually go to government Inspectors before they can be approved, so it is really important that public views are expressed.

Cllr Tom Leimdorfer  
01934 830435; [leimdorfer@care4free.net](mailto:leimdorfer@care4free.net)

## Bristol Airport Expansion

You will have seen in the local press that Bristol Airport is 60 years old and looking towards the future. This includes increasing its facilities to cope with 12 million passengers by 2025, rising to 19 million by 2045. To cope with the higher number of passengers the airport is looking at extending the terminal, possibly building another runway and improving the public transport access to the site.



This will have an impact on our community. There will be more takeoffs and landings with its resulting noise and visual pollution and the traffic accessing the airport via the A370 will increase.

The Airport is holding a number of drop-in sessions around the area where you can find out more about their plans and give your feedback.

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January Cleeve Village Hall, Cleeve 2 - 5pm
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January Hangstones Pavilion, Yatton 4 - 8pm
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January Backwell Village Hall, Backwell 12 - 3pm
- Saturday 20th January, Hampton by Hilton Hotel, Bristol Airport 1 - 4pm

Congresbury Parish Council is not a member of the Airport Consultative Committee as it is not seen as having a particular role and interest as the airport is not located in our parish. The fact that the flight path passes directly over part of the parish does not seem to count.

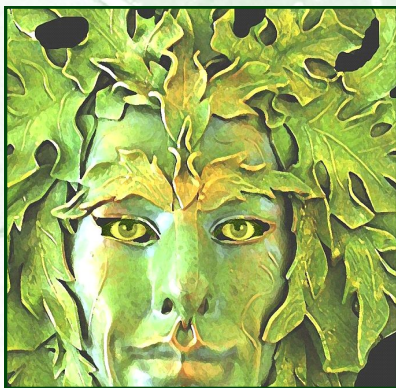
To counter this view the Parish Council would like to start logging resident's observations concerning aircraft noise and movements during the day and night. These should concentrate on specific increased noise and contain as much detail as possible including date, time and weather conditions. Please email the Parish Clerk at [clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk).

Di Hassan - Chair of Parish Council

# Millennium Green Wassail

Following the success of last year's celebration and a bumper crop of apples the Millennium Green Trustees will be holding another Wassail on

**Saturday 13th January 3pm  
Meet at the Riverside Car Park**



Come and join us and follow the Green Man to the Community Orchard to make some noise so that this year's apple crop is free from any malign influences!

Refreshments, including mulled apple juice made from apples from the Community Orchard,

will be available in the Youth Club afterwards.

**Bring a saucepan, drum, anything that you can BANG to drive away the evil spirits!**

Janet Dickson - Secretary Millennium Green Trust

## AppleShed Inclusive Theatre

This autumn, an exciting new theatre company was set up in Congresbury. AppleShed is running theatre workshops for young people aged 7 to 18 and planning to expand next year with a group for adults as well. Inclusive Theatre means bringing together people with and without disabilities, to work together in one theatre company that celebrates the value in everyone. Weekly workshops help us develop our teamwork and theatre skills, and together we design and create theatre performances. We are working closely with ChickenShed Theatre in London, who have been pioneering this approach for 40 years. There are several 'Shed inclusive theatres around Britain and beyond, but we are the first one in a rural area and the first one in the South West.

Chair of Trustees, Jan Thomson, says "I'm delighted to see AppleShed opening its doors – and looking forward to showcasing the diversity of local talent that we have. Our experienced dance, drama and music leaders have put together a programme of workshops that will bring out the performer in every one!"

We are looking forward to putting on our first public performances next summer. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining a weekly workshop group or helping put shows together (backstage or front of house), please contact [love.appleshed@yahoo.com](mailto:love.appleshed@yahoo.com) or find us on Facebook.

Jillian Hastings - AppleShed Committee

# Become a Friend of the Millennium Green

**The Millennium Green Trust is seeking volunteers to help maintain this much loved and much used village asset.**

Everyday villagers and visitors use the Green, taking a stroll by the river or exercising their dogs or maybe just using it as a short cut to the rest of the village.

Families bring their young children to the play area and in the evening teenagers meet and chill out on the tepee.



Most weekends the Green is a hive of activity, an open green space

appreciated by all who use it!

Did you know that the Millennium Green also extends into the Paddock and Orchard on the south side of the bridge?

Following years of close crop grazing the trustees are now hoping to re-establish the Paddock as a wildflower meadow.

**The Community Orchard**, in the far corner of the Paddock, contains a number of fruit trees, including the Congresbury Beauty. The ripe fruit is free to anyone who wishes to pick it.

### How can you help?

We are looking for people who can spare an hour or two each month to:

- help keep the paths free of brambles and nettles
- cut back overhanging branches and clear areas of weeds
- litter pick
- cut grass and cut back brambles in the paddock
- prune and control weeds in the orchard

### Who to contact if you would like to become a Friend of the Green:

Congresbury Parish Council 01934 838802  
Arthur Hacking 01934 835601  
Di Hassan 01934 876454  
Janet Dickson 01934 835055  
Margaret Leimdorfer 01934 834663

Millennium Green Trust



# Old School Rooms Improvements

After many months of deliberations and research the Parish Council is pleased to report that the improvements to the St Andrew's Room have been started and are expected to be completed before the end of January. The room has always been a popular venue for village meetings but was in need of modernisation.

New lights are being installed plus an overhead projector, a retractable screen, a hearing loop, plus additional sockets for plugging in computers etc. Also, the ventilation will be improved and room redecorated.

Chairs and tables which are currently situated around the building will be relocated to a new storage area in the lobby which will increase the usable space within the halls.



The main Jubilee Hall is also being improved with the introduction of a hearing loop and a PA system with speakers placed around the room.

The railings on the outside of the building have also had a facelift and been renovated and re painted.

The refurbished St Andrew's Room will be an ideal facility for meetings, training opportunities and workshops. If you are involved with any organisations, companies that are looking for suitable rooms to rent please contact the Tony Sawyer at the Parish Office on 01934 838 802 for details.



Di Hassan - Chair of Parish Council

## Village Fete - 2018

The first planning meeting to discuss and agree this year's Fete will be at 7pm on Wednesday 21st March at the Old School Rooms.

All Congresbury based clubs, associations, societies, etc are welcome.

# Community Library

It has been 6 months since Congresbury Parish Council and local volunteers took over running the village library. This hasn't been without a few hiccups along the way, but together with hard work and determination from the volunteers and support from the community we have made significant progress in establishing a facility the village can be proud of.

Congresbury Community Library now has its own website [Congresbury-Library.org.uk](http://Congresbury-Library.org.uk) where you will find information about opening times, forthcoming events and any developments planned for the library. We also have bookmarkers that provide all contact information - phone, email and website, so please pick one up when you're next in the library.

We have recently increased our book stock by establishing an 'Honesty Library' of about 500 books, mainly donated by local residents, which fill new bookcases as you enter the library. Anyone can borrow any number of books for any period of time. All we ask is that you return them so others may benefit from the expanded selection. We have a substantial number of additional books for the Honesty Library which will ensure the choice of books is refreshed regularly.

Due to interest shown we will be starting a chess club for both beginners and experienced players early in 2018 - details to follow. There are still some places available so please contact us if you would like to join.

The library will be redecorated this year. This will mean that the library will be closed for a week from the 18th of February to the 25th.

### CD/DVD/Jigsaw Swap on Saturday 27th January

We would like to support the Parish Council and North Somerset Council in their drive to reduce waste by organising a CD/DVD/Jigsaw Swap on January 27 from 10am to 12:30pm in the library. So bring along any of the above items which you would like to swap. Coffee and cakes will also be available. Money raised will go towards the *Book Trust*

*Charity* that provides book parcels for children in care. For many children, it may be the first time they have had a letter or parcel through the post - and for some, these may be the first books they've owned.



Please continue to support your local library, any suggestions for future events or improvements to our service are very welcome.

Gail Lee - Chair of Library Management Committee

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