

Congresbury Chronicle

News and views from
around the village

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Snippets from your Ward Councillor

The recent rise in **Council Tax** will have been an unpleasant surprise to residents struggling with rising costs.

The poorest experienced the largest percentage increase, widening inequality in our district. At the same time, the Council's overall funding is reducing, resulting in **cuts in services for both vulnerable adults and children**. Cross-party representations by the Local Government Association have been ignored by government. Cash-strapped councils are looking at all means of generating income, including rent from property deals. There is more and more reliance on what **local communities can do for themselves**. Congresbury stands out as a place where we give time and resources for things we value like our environment, public open spaces, our library, community meeting places, youth organisations, clubs and support for elderly citizens. All of these rely on local funds and volunteers.

We are considering plans for the next 15-20 years for the West of England region, for the district and for our village. The Joint Spatial Plan, the North Somerset Local Plan and the Congresbury Neighbourhood Plan are all interlinked, together with plans for new infrastructure and airport expansion. Health and social care provision is also changing, including plans for Weston Hospital and our local medical practice. Providing affordable homes for the next generation remains a major challenge. All of us need to be involved in being vocal about what we value, what we wish to preserve and what changes we wish to see.

I have had the privilege of representing Congresbury on the council for the past 15 years. The next local elections are in a year's time and I feel it will then be time for a younger person to help us shape our future. The Green Party has been a great resource for Congresbury councillors of the past 32 years, but do feel free to get in touch with me if you are interested in representing our village and Puxton, irrespective of party politics.

Cllr Tom Leimdorfer
01934 830435; leimdorfer@care4free.net

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th May at 7:30pm in the Old School Rooms.

The aims of the Meeting are to debate current concerns, celebrate local activities and provide an opportunity for the village to come together and take part in a dialogue with the Council in an informal setting. It is **not** a meeting of the Parish Council.

Traditionally the agenda is set and chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council. This year we have representatives from Bristol Airport who will present details of the airport's proposed expansion and to answer any questions people may have. The agenda will also include an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Library.

Members of the public can submit items for discussion but please note that these need to be with the Parish Clerk nine days before the date of the meeting.

The final agenda will be available on the Parish Council website and the notice boards.

Di Hassan - Chair of Parish Council

Ashley Brooke

Ashley has lived in the village for many years and has been a volunteer with Congresbury Youth Partnership for the past 10 years. Since October 2017 he has been doing voluntary work for the Parish Council twice a week. Ashley has carried out regular litter collections around the Old School Rooms and Broad Street as well as on the Millennium Green. For the past month he has been busy clearing weeds from the hedgerow in the Council burial ground, which was planted about 2 years ago.



The Parish Council would like to thank Ashley for the sterling work that he is doing on everyone's behalf.

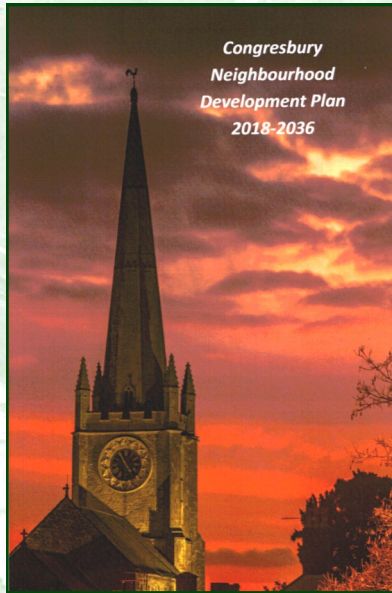
Diana Hassan - Chair of Parish Council

Congresbury Neighbourhood Plan

You will have read in the local press about the decision by Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State, to refuse the building of 220 houses on the Farleigh Fields site in Backwell. This site had not been identified in the Backwell Neighbourhood Plan for development. Mr. Javid decided to give 'significant weight' to the Neighbourhood Plan despite the fact that North Somerset could not demonstrate that it had a 5 year housing supply. The High Court has also recently given Neighbourhood Plans weight over housing supply.

This demonstrates just how important it is for Congresbury to continue with its own Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that we get the new houses that we want rather than housing estates foisted on us by building companies who are only interested in making a profit.

A copy of our draft Neighbourhood Plan had been sent to North Somerset to ensure that our recommendations comply with all national and local planning legislation. The next stage involves carrying out consultations with residents over the coming months and if all goes to plan we should be able to hold a referendum in the autumn.



It is very important that as many people as possible are engaged in the consultation. Ongoing information will be provided on the Parish Council website, in the Community Library and in the local press as part of the process and we encourage everyone to actively engage in this consultation.

The vision for Congresbury is:

- that it continues to be a safe and pleasant place to live, and will aspire to achieve a sustainable infrastructure that minimises its carbon footprint.
- any future developments should be appropriate to the existing character and needs of the village.
- the village will remain a place where small businesses can thrive and the residents will continue to benefit from a full range of quality services, amenities and facilities
- Congresbury will continue to be a welcoming, vibrant, independent village surrounded by green fields with a conservation area at its heart.

Diana Hassan
Chair Neighbourhood Development Plan


Congresbury Community Library

As a result of the successful jigsaw swap shops held in December and January, it has been decided to make this a regular monthly event. From April onwards there will be a jigsaw swap shop and book sale on the last Saturday morning of every month between 10.30 & 12.30 - April 28 will kick this off. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

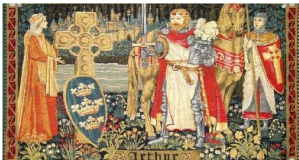
evening between 6.30 and 9.30pm in the Old School Rooms. We hope this three-hour period will be convenient for both children and adults, beginners, novices and experts alike. If you would like to join the Chess Club and haven't yet enrolled please contact the library (01934 426200 or congresburylibrary@gmail.com).

Further to Professor Steve Sparks talk 'Enormous Volcanic Eruptions' we have arranged for another excellent speaker, Professor Ronald Hutton, to give his talk titled 'The Quest for the Historical Arthur'. This will take place on Thursday 31 May in the Old School Rooms. Tickets are £3 and available from the library or can be reserved by phone or email. Numbers are limited so to avoid disappointment book early. We are hoping to make these talks a regular occurrence. If you have any suggestions for speakers please let us know.

The long-awaited chess club will commence on Wednesday 16 May. The club will meet on a Wednesday




The Quest for the Historical King Arthur



an illustrated talk by
Professor Ronald Hutton
Thursday 31 May 7:30 pm
Old School Rooms

Tickets £3 from Congresbury Community Library
Tel: 01934 426 200
Email: CongresburyLibrary@gmail.com

Congresbury Parish Council Managed by Volunteers and Congresbury Parish Council
Station Road, Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5DX



We are going through our book stock removing older and less popular books. The library will soon be receiving new books which together with the ongoing stock rotation will provide new reading material for all.

If you haven't visited the library recently, then please drop in to see your newly decorated facility – we're very pleased with the new look. Our aim is to continue to improve the library as and when funds are available – new external signs will appear shortly!

Gail Lee – Chair of Library
Management Committee

Congresbury - Together We'll Make it Happen



The plans for our new village hall and community centre have now been signed off, and can be viewed on the project website.

The project is entering a critical

phase over the next few months. Firstly architects Stride Treglown are producing a design package to discharge conditions in the Community Right to Build order, and be sent to local contractors to obtain indicative costings, around June time.

Secondly an invitation will be issued to pledge money towards the build cost. A pledge is a non-binding promise to buy community shares at some point in the future. A full Community share prospectus will be issued later this year. Tax payers buying shares will be eligible for tax incentives, subject to HMRC approval of the scheme.

In the meantime we need to show potential grant funders that the village can raise a significant sum. The target is to receive pledges totalling an optimum of £400,000 with an absolute minimum of £250,000. The invitation will be issued during May and sessions will be arranged for villagers to see the plans and talk to members of the project team.

We have been selected to be one of three projects to receive a grant from the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme. Voting in the Tesco Express (if you use the self-service tills you will have to ask for tokens) and Clevedon stores will take place during May and June. The grant will be used towards setting up regular community café sessions as part of our fundraising activities.

Other fundraising events coming up include:

- **Saturday 12th May 2018 - Sponsored Abseil at Sandford Quarry.** We have arranged a sponsored abseiling event with Mendip Outdoor Pursuits from 10am-12.30pm and all you need to do is pay a £12 registration fee (refundable when you raise at least £50 in sponsorship).
- **Saturday 30th June 2018 - 'The Do After the Show'** Dance the night away to fantastic live band 'The Stereo Jacks' after the Congresbury Summer Fete. Tickets £12. Hearing Solutions UK. <https://www.hearingsolutionsuk.com> - is sponsoring the event.

For registration and tickets for the above events visit our website or contact Rose Osborne on 01934 838800 or roseosborne294@gmail.com.

Website www.congresburyvillagehall.co.uk
Facebook www.facebook.com/congresburyvillagehall
Twitter @congresburynvh

Ian Sheppard - Chair of Development Group

National Grid - New Pylons

National Grid and Western Power Distribution are due to start work soon within our area.

National Grid is building a new high voltage electricity connection between Bridgwater and Seabank which will enable it to link new sources of power in the area, including Hinkley Point. This will involve replacing the present pylons to the west of the village with new T-pylons.

Western Power is going to make modifications to the substation at Churchill. This involves expanding the present site and connecting it to an existing 132,000 volt overhead cable to the east of the site. The work on the new substation is due to start in June and is expected to take 20 months to complete. The timescale for upgrading the substation is:

- Excavation and foundation work - June to August
- Installation of electrical equipment - Autumn/Winter 2018
- Landscaping and Planting - Autumn/Winter 2018

The work on connecting the Overhead Cable starts in Spring 2019 and is expected to be completed later that year.

The Parish Council has been assured by Western Power that the impact on the village will be minimal. All the lorries removing excess soil and bringing in equipment will be accessing the site via the A38 at Churchill/Langford. Also Iwood Lane will be closed to traffic for a short period of time.



National Grid is carrying out extensive tree planting schemes. One scheme involves replacing trees and hedgerows that have been removed during the work. In addition, National Grid would like to hear from landowners with land within 3 km of the pylon route who would be interested in having trees planted on their land to landscape the area along the electricity route.

For more information on the project please go to the National Grid website www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk.

Diana Hassan - Chair Parish Council

Congresbury Community Pre-School

Congresbury preschool is an integral part of the community that has been running for over 25 years. The preschool's 25 year foundations are a testament to the commitment of the staff, parents, committee and the amazing community spirit. The recent roof crisis is proof of how a village can pull together. We now have a new roof and windows thanks to the Congresbury community – from the children and staff thank you.

You may be asking why the preschool needs two settings (St Andrews hall and the Portakabin). The individual settings allow staff to deliver age appropriate learning through play. The Portakabin is focused on 2 year olds and St Andrews hall focuses on 3 years and preparing them for the exciting journey of starting school.

Having 2 settings allows us to be more flexible and we offer extended opening hours which start at 8am and finishes at 6pm. This offers an invaluable role in helping parents who are working longer hours and the children feel safe in an environment that they trust.

Preschool creates a caring and happy atmosphere where each child is valued, their needs recognised and their confidence and independence allowed to develop. We want to continue to have these amazing facilities in our community for years to come so we would love your support in the many fundraising activities that are organised across the year.



We still have places available at both settings. If you would like to enrol your child in either setting then please email: Congresburypreschool@aol.co.uk or call 01934 707 262.

Eva Huxtable
Chair Pre-School

Love Congresbury 2018



After a very successful weekend last year when Love Congresbury joined up with the National Great Get-Together weekend, being part of the Cricket Club's T20 BBQ night, performing Acts of Random Kindness and holding a Party on the Paddock, the team are planning a day of activities on Saturday 9th June 2018, including a Picnic, Silent Disco and BBQ. Watch out for more details soon.



If you would like to become involved in helping with the planning and running of our events, please contact the Church Office.
Rosemary West - New Creation Churches Congresbury



AppleShed's First Show

AppleShed, which is based in Congresbury, offers a unique theatre experience for children and young people. Weekly sessions are fun and exciting and its inclusive nature means that all are welcome regardless of ability and need.

On 13 & 14 July AppleShed is proud to present its inaugural production "Lucy and the Minotaur" at Kingshill Church School, Nailsea. The production, which has been devised by the whole group, is a modern fable about how we can all stand up to bullies.

Tickets will soon be available. Please email love@appleshed.org.uk for more information.

Esther Jones

Bluey free shopping trips



2nd Tuesday in the month 9:30am to 2:30pm.
Pick up points: The Precinct & Riverside Car Park, Millennium Green.

Destinations will vary throughout the year.
To book a seat or for information 01934 257247 or bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com

Congresbury Community Transport – here for you

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