

# 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

**Mendip Vale Medical Practice** has been much on our minds. The temporary closure of the Congresbury surgery without consultation must ring alarm bells, especially as we know that the 'temporary' closure of Weston A&E at night started in July 2017. Plans for the new site at Smallway proved controversial in both Congresbury and Yatton. Both parish councils are rightly anxious to guard the 'strategic gap' between the villages. However, I believe it is the right location. The advantages of a modern primary care clinic serving Claverham, Cleeve, Congresbury and Yatton outweigh the harm. At the same time, it is absolutely essential that we must have a safe light controlled pedestrian crossing and improvement to pedestrian access to the proposed site. The final decision is due on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Cobthorn Way** development work started with undergrounding of power lines, following further archaeological surveys. Details of 'Reserved Matters', including the mix of housing, are yet to be approved before building can proceed. At **Mill Lane, St. Congar's Way**, seven new dwellings are being built as there was no interest in developing the site for work units.

**Local Plan 2036 'Issues & Options'** – the three months' consultation will end at midday on 10 December. There are choices for planning with major implications for our village. To respond, visit: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/localplan2036](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/localplan2036).

**Budget** considerations are well on the way. Looking back eight years, the Council's net budget was roughly the same as now (around £150m). Since then, we had to absorb 25% inflation costs and a drop in government support grant from £50m to around £5m. Cost of care for vulnerable adults and children took up 51% of the budget then, now it is 60%. This is why services are being cut despite rises in Council Tax.

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

## Neighbourhood Development Plan

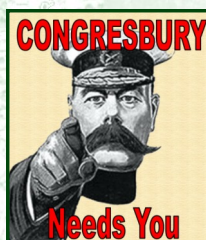
Firstly could I thank all the residents who either came to the Open Meetings and/or completed the feedback forms. The Neighbourhood Planning Group has read all your comments and amended the Plan accordingly. A table of the comments received and the Group's responses will appear as an appendix in the completed Plan.

The Neighbourhood Planning Group is preparing the Basic Conditions Statement which will demonstrate that the policies proposed are in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policies.

The Plan will be passed to North Somerset Council to undertake its own 6 week consultation. When the Council approves the Plan it will be sent to an independent Inspector. Once approved by the Inspector a referendum will be held when you will have the opportunity to vote on the Plan.

I would like to thank the residents who have helped prepare the Plan, especially Tom Leimdorfer, Ray Clarke, Dawn Harrison, Peter Hughes, Graham and Sue Lovesey, Stuart Sampson and Liz Greaves.

Diana Hassan - Neighbourhood Planning Group



## Congresbury Needs YOU!

**Local Elections, 2 May, vote for a  
new District Councillor and  
Councillors for your Parish Council.**

**Congresbury Parish Council can have up to 12  
councillors who are elected to serve for 4 years.**

Would you be interested in joining the Parish Council, helping to decide what happens in our community?

**To stand for election to become a parish councillor  
you must be:**

- at least 18 years old on the day of your nomination, and
- a British citizen or an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the EU.

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# Congresbury needs YOU!

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You must also meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

- You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
- You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
- Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish area.
- You have lived in the parish area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

If interested please contact the Parish Council on 01934 838802 or [clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@congresbury-pc.gov.uk).

Liz Greaves - Clerk to Parish Council

## New Parish Councillors



**Hazel Ballantine** I have been living in the village for 16 years. I joined the Parish Council because I value our village and want to have an influence in preserving its character. We live in a society where people do not always feel they have the confidence or skills to make a difference and that someone

else will do it better. I would encourage anyone to come forward to contribute towards the future of our community.



**Jane Clarke** I was born and brought up, in North Somerset and after a 24 year stay in West Wales, I decided to come home and have been back for four years now. I have always been interested in politics, with a small and large P, and served on parish councils here and

Community Councils in Wales. Every talent is useful and I am that annoying woman who says, "If you don't like it, do something about it!"



**Ally Jones** I was co-opted to the Parish Council a year ago as I was keen to find out what was going on in the village first hand, especially with regards to new housing developments and community buildings. In order to 'have a say' in what is happening in Congresbury, I felt I

had to get involved. Sometimes it's easy to take the facilities we have in the village for granted but many people give their time to make Congresbury a thriving community. Likewise, the Parish Council can only function properly for the benefit of all residents if it is supported by and reflects the wide range of people living here. There's only a minimum commitment of one meeting a month but Parish Councillors can have a significant impact on outcomes and decisions affecting the village for years to come.



## Congresbury Community Library

Once again we had a very successful Summer Reading Challenge with about 70% of the children who enrolled completing the target of reading 6 books over the summer holiday period.

We have purchased a large number of new books, for both adult and children. Also, we continue to provide our Honesty Library with its wide selection of both fiction and non-fiction books including a good selection of books for young adults. Our theme this winter is 'Curl up with a Classic' so come along and pick your book to cosy up with during the long evenings.

The jigsaw swap continues to be popular and are held on the last Saturday morning each month from 10 – 12.30. Come and swap a jigsaw or more to keep you busy during the winter months.

We are also running a knitting group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month from 10 – 11.30am in St Congar's Room. We have a good selection of knitting patterns for charitable causes and can provide you with the wool and needles to complete your project. If you can't join the group but have any spare wool you could donate, we would be very grateful to receive it.

Is bridge your thing?? We are considering starting a bridge club – there is an opportunity to run a 10-week tuition course for beginners and experienced players. If anyone is interested please contact the library so we can establish whether there is sufficient interest.

The monthly winter talks will recommence in February with a talk entitled '*Microscopes and Microbes - seeing a hidden world*' – look out for information on the village and library website and local publications, or why not drop into the library for your tickets.

Libraries West now provides 3 different sources for e-books:

- Cloud Library for e-books
- Borrow Books – app for Android and Apple which is a library on line
- E-magazines – for magazines on line

There is a good selection of reading material and its all free with your library membership. If your membership has lapsed or you wish to join the library please come along and we can enrol you.

Interested in becoming a library volunteer? Just talk to one of our volunteers and sign up for our training session in the new year.

The library website [www.congresbury-library.org.uk](http://www.congresbury-library.org.uk) provides up-to-date information on what's going on in the library.

Gail Lee - Library Management Group



## Bristol Airport

In August Tom Leimdorfer and I had a meeting with the Airport's Head of Sustainability and expressed our frustration over Congresbury's lack of direct representation on any of the airport committees. It was agreed that the village, although not directly on the boundary of the airport, was affected by the airport flight paths and the Parish Council can have a representative on the Environmental Effects Committee.

Thank you to all residents who have complained to Bristol Airport about aircraft noise during the year. As the airport expands the number of flights passing over the village will also increase. Report aircraft noise on 01275 473799 or [www.bristolairport.co.uk/aboutus/environment/noise management](http://www.bristolairport.co.uk/aboutus/environment/noise%20management). If you would like to have a mobile noise monitor placed on your premises to record the noise of aircraft flying over your property contact the Head of Sustainability at the Airport and book a slot for the equipment. The monitor is in situ for 2 weeks.

Diana Hassan - Chair Parish Council

## Getting your 5 A Day?

Congresbury Parish Council has several vacant allotments available for rent from January 2019.

If you are interested in taking on a plot please contact the Parish Clerk on 01934 838802 for more details.

Janet Dickson - Parish Councillor

## Millennium Green and Community Orchard

As 2018 draws to a close some significant changes will be taking place on the Millennium Green.

£106 money has been spent on new equipment for the children's playground whilst the active climbing equipment will be removed from its current position and re-sited nearby. Once removed, the trees, which this equipment is attached too, will have to be felled as a recent inspection found that the bolts and bands which hold everything in place have buried themselves into the tree trunks, compromising their safety.

You will no doubt have noticed that the tepee has lost its top; this was as a result of age and, sadly, vandalism.

In the Community Orchard three Congresbury Beauty apple trees have recently been planted. The Trustees would like to thank Chris Day, Ashley Brookes and Rod Stephens for all their help in clearing and preparing the site and I'm sure we will toast these new additions to our orchard at the Wassail on 12th January 2019.

Janet Dickson - Millennium Green Trustee



## CONGRESBURY VILLAGE HALL

### £10,000 Boost for New Village Hall Plans

Plans for the new village hall/community centre at the King George V Playing Fields have been boosted by a £10,000 grant.

The funding comes from Power to Change, an independent charitable trust endowed with £150 million from the Big Lottery Fund to support and develop community business for charitable purposes.

The money will allow the project team to develop the community share offer and the business plan for the proposed new building.

The fund-raising team is also negotiating to secure an equity investment from the Community Shares Booster Programme. Under this programme, up to £100,000 is available to match applications for shares from the public.

If successful, it would mean that for every pound invested by individuals up to £100,000, another pound will be invested in matched shares.

Additionally the pledge total has reached more than £137,000 from over 200 pledges. A couple have pledged £150,000, but they will only put their money in when the community raises £250,000 when the share offer opens.

Note that pledges can now be made online at [www.congresburyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.congresburyvillagehall.co.uk) or forms can be posted in a sealed envelope to the Parish Office, next to the library.

The project team will be working on the share offer over the next few months.

#### Community coffee@Bridge House

The project team is working to open a community café at Bridge House (at the back of Debbie Fortune Estate agent's office). The hope is that this could be operating by the end of the year opening on Wednesday and Friday mornings offering a range of coffees and teas and cakes once the necessary permissions have been granted. If you have time to spare and would like to help run the sessions please contact Ron Hall by email [roseosborne294@gmail.com](mailto:roseosborne294@gmail.com).

Ian Sheppard



## Village Fete

After organising the last 6 Village Fetes we decided that it was

time to pass the baton on to someone else who could take it forward with new ideas. We are pleased to report that Love Congresbury agreed to take on this role and we have every confidence that the future of the Fete is in very capable hands. We will provide support for a hand over during the year.

The next Fete will be on Saturday 29 June 2019 in the Church Paddock. There will be a planning meeting in March 2019 to discuss and agree plans for the Fete. The date and time for the meeting will be publicised on posters round the village and on the village website. All Congresbury clubs, associations, societies, etc are welcome to attend.

We would like to thank all organisations and individuals who have helped with the planning, organisation and running of the Fete over the years. Your help has been invaluable in making the Fete a real village event enjoyed by everyone.

Richard Jones & Unsal Hassan

## Cadbury Hill - Update

In 2017 the Cadbury Hill Management group had a halo of trees ring barked around the veteran oak in an attempt to give more light to this venerable tree. However, a summer storm later in the year felled the oak, leaving a decaying stump. Sadly once ring barked trees die away, so over the course of this winter these trees will be felled. Whilst this will do nothing for the oak, it's too far gone, it will create a more open glade for woodland plants to flourish. The stump and fallen trunk have become a habitat for all types of insect and invertebrates thus improving the biodiversity of the woodland.

Please note that a flock of sheep will once again be grazing on the Hill in the New Year. Notices warning dog walkers will be put up in advance.

Janet Dickson - Parish Councillor

## Christmas Fair



This ever popular event will be held in Broad Street on 5 December from 6:00 to 8:30pm. Come along and meet your neighbours and friends and get into the Christmas Spirit.

There will be carol singing accompanied by Congresbury Brass Band. The Mendip Morris Men will be dancing to entertain us and there will be food, mulled wine and craft stalls with everything from homemade jam and cakes to jewellery. Plus a Mini Ferris Wheel and other entertainment for young ones.

The event raises much needed funds for Weston Hospicecare and Congresbury Scout and Guide Executive (which supports all the Scouting and Guiding Groups in the village).

Paul Jarvis



## Youth Partnership

Young people from Congresbury Youth Partnership made good use of the apples from the Millennium Green Community

Orchard and the St Andrew's Prayer Garden when they went juice making at Barleywood Orchard during half term. They took part in all the processes, from picking, to washing, to crushing and pressing, then bottling and sterilising over 100 bottles of delicious fresh juice. All that remains is to make the labels, and we will be ready to sell them at the Christmas Fair in Broad Street. We hope to make this an annual event, so join us on 12<sup>th</sup> January to come a-wassailing in the Community Orchard to ensure a good crop in 2019. There will be mulled wine and apple cake in the Youth Club after the Wassail.



**Code Club** Congresbury Youth Partnership has started a Code Club in the Youth Club after school on Mondays. Our volunteers are

ready to help young people take the early steps in computer programming. There is a group of keen young people from years 5 and 6 getting to grips with a first coding language called Scratch, making games, and cartoons, and programming traffic lights and wheeled buggies. We would like to extend the session to include years 7 – 11, and can offer these young people help with Python as well as Scratch. Please come and see us in the Youth Club on Mondays between 3:30 and 5:15pm.

Alex Ballard - Chair of CYP



## Bluey - Update

It has been a successful year for "Bluey" and the arrival of our new bus Bluey V has proved very popular. We will be running our usual Tuesday shopping trips to Tesco's and the Sovereign Centre, Weston-super-Mare. Please see notices and advertising for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month shopping trips (various locations – starting again in the Spring 2019).

To book a seat or for information please ring: 01934 257247 or email: [bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com](mailto:bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com)

We would like to thank our users, clubs, societies and organisations for their patronage and wish you all a Very Happy & Prosperous New Year.



Directors – Congresbury Community Transport

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