

Congresbury Chronicle

News and views from
around the village

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Snippets from your Ward Councillor

It was an incredible honour and privilege to be elected councillor for Congresbury and Puxton on 2nd May. Now that the hard work has started.

Immediately after the election, as no one party had a majority, the political groups discussed how to form an administration to ensure that the Council continued to function. As the Conservatives declared on 3rd May that they would go into opposition in view of the election result, the other political groups have formed a “rainbow administration” sharing executive posts proportionately. Since 14th May councillors have been familiarising themselves with their briefs and putting together policies.

Perhaps the two most significant/contentious issues at the moment are the Joint Spatial Plan (in which the Churchill garden village is proposed) and the Airport expansion. The Joint Spatial Plan was submitted to the planning inspectorate in April 2018. Hearings by the planning inspector commence on 2nd July. I attended a very helpful meeting with the Churchill and Langford Residents Action Group. Business West also attended and expressed their concerns that the transportation rationale and sustainability of the garden villages were not adequately supported by the evidence presented. Accordingly, there may be a more than negligible chance that the planning inspector will find the Joint Spatial Plan to be unsound. The councillor for Blagdon and Churchill (Patrick Keating) and I have been urging other councillors to read into the Joint Spatial Plan with a view to exploring policy in this regard.

At a briefing on 4th June, council planning officers explained that they are still preparing their advice on the Bristol Airport expansion application. They expect to be able to provide this advice in time for the Planning and Regulatory committee to vote on the application in September.

I have been appointed to the Planning and Regulatory Committee and attended my first meeting on 19th June.

I very much look forward to working with Congresbury Parish Council over the next four years to achieve as much as possible for Congresbury and its residents.

Cllr Stuart Treadaway
Stuart.Treadaway@n-somerset.gov.uk

Our Vision

The elections for both the District Council and the Parish Council gives us a good opportunity to take stock and plan for the next 4 years.

The Parish Council have for the first time in many years, a full compliment of Councillors. We have a good balance of experienced as well as new Councillors and we all look forward to serving the parish with care and commitment. Regrettably, the reductions in Government funding is having an impact on what the District Council can undertake. This might mean that some of the services they carried out in the past may be reduced or that they will be passed to the Parish Council.

Congresbury is a very special place to live and the Parish Council will ensure that it supports and respects everyone who lives here, visits and works in our parish. We maybe unable to achieve all we would like, but we look forward to everyone's support as we begin our next four years of service.

Cllr Arthur Hacking—Chair of the Parish Council

New Village Hall—Public Works Loan Survey Result

One of the ways that money can be raised for Local Projects is for the Parish Council to take out a ‘Public Works Loan’. Money to repay the loan would be raised as an additional precept and added to the Council Tax paid by each house in the Parish.

The recent poll initiated by the Congresbury Village Hall Limited in conjunction with the Parish Council only received a response from approximately 28% of households. Of those 64% (266) did not support the Parish Council taking out a loan. With the majority who took part in the poll rejecting the proposal, the Parish Council has accepted that a Public Works Loan is currently not an option to partly fund a new community building.

The New Village Hall Development Committee have restated their commitment to continue to work to make the new building happen. Further details are available at <http://www.congresburyvillagehall.co.uk/>

Cllr Arthur Hacking—Chair of the Parish Council

Celebration for Tom Leimdorfer and Di Hassan

A tea party was held in the Old School Rooms on 2nd June as a 'thank you' to Cllr Di Hassan and Cllr Tom Leimdorfer who both retired on 2nd May 2019. Cllr Di Hassan having been a Parish Councillor for 10 years and the last 8 as Chair of the Council. Cllr Tom Leimdorfer having been our North Somerset Ward Councillor for 16 years.

Over 100 people attended the party where they were both thanked for their services and the huge contribution they have made to the well being of the Village. Di Hassan having been closely involved with the 'Blooming Congresbury' initiative, Congresbury Neighbourhood Development Plan and she was instrumental in the setting up of Congresbury Community Library following the North Somerset Council service review. Di continues to be involved with the library and Congresbury Youth Partnership. She spoke of her pride in the Village and thanked everyone for their help and support particularly during the time she was Chairman.

Tom Leimdorfer has represented the 'Green Party' on North Somerset District Council and served as Leader of the Independent Group. Tom said how proud he was to have represented 'Congresbury' and more recently 'Puxton'. It was a daunting task dealing with so many issues and trying to make sure that the Parish received its fair share of the available funds. He gave a very brief summary of where he had been able to 'get things done'. But above all the Village will remember his total commitment, energy and determination. A true leader with vision and ability he will be a very hard act to follow.

As a mark of appreciation two trees were planted in the 'Orchard' and 'Paddock' on the Millennium Green. The



trees will flourish and grow as a permanent reminder of the service they have given our Village Community.

Cllr Michael Greaves

Consecration of the Burial Ground

Having been present when the upper section of the Parish Council Burial Ground was 'Consecrated' in 1982, I well remember it was raining. The late Derrick Holmes a former Chairman of the Parish Council and I were sheltering in the shed! It was raining on Thursday 25th April 2019 when the lower section of the Burial Ground was consecrated and the Bishop had to be protected with an umbrella.



In an ancient ceremony conducted by one of the Assistant Bishops of Bath and Wells, the remaining section of the Burial Ground was duly consecrated. A small section being left for Villagers who don't wish to be buried in consecrated ground.

The ceremony began with Cllr Diana Hassan the Chairman of Congresbury Parish Council, reading a petition on behalf of the Parish Council to the Rt Revd George Cassidy asking him to consecrate the land. The Bishop duly responds and conducts the service and leads the gathering in prayer assisted by Revd Matt Thomson. Janet Saxon the Deputy Registrar of Bath and Wells, in 'Wig and Gown' reads the official authorisation and the ceremony ends with the land being blessed.



There were a number of Parish Councillors and members of St Andrews Church in attendance to witness this historic and unique ceremony. Pity about the rain.

Cllr Michael Greaves



Community Café

The Community Café at Bridge House on Broad Street is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 – 1pm. It is home to the new innovative 'Glut Market' where as a way of helping reduce food waste and supplying fresh fruit and vegetables to the local community, residents are being asked to bring any surplus home-grown produce, flowers or plants to the community cafe on Wednesdays from 9am. All items can be purchased for a reasonable donation and the money received will go to help the new village hall fund. Customers are asked to please bring their own bags.

The café will also be open on Saturdays 20 July and 17 August. Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CongresburyCafe>

Ian Sheppard—Chair of the Development Group

Howzat! Cricket Book Captures 175 Years of Village Life

A new book celebrating 175 years of village cricket opens up a window on life in North Somerset through the Victorian and Edwardian eras to the present day. The book, published by the Cricket Club in association with the History Group, tells much more than the story of cricket in the village over the generations.



175 years of village cricket

The more research I did, the more people I spoke to, the more I realised how the fabric of village life and the development of cricket were intertwined," said local historian and author Clive Burlton. The book, with 112 pages, 60,000 words and 250 images draws on the archives held by both the cricket club and the history group as well as

recounting the memories of villagers and players, past and present.

Clive, a club vice president, explained: "Among the many nuggets we've found is a photograph and an account of a 1907 men v women cricket match in the village with men batting left-handed with broomsticks! "We also found recipes for all sorts of cakes and pies written by village ladies with known links to cricketers of the time which sparked the idea for a cricket tea bake-off at the Congresbury Village Fete on June 29."

The oldest document uncovered is the scorebook from 1919. The first match after World War One was against Weston-super-Mare. The two clubs met again in April this year in a pre-season friendly almost 100 years later. The book tells far more than the story of Congresbury CC and looks at the development of cricket in North Somerset from the middle of the 19th century with extensive use of newspaper archives since the 1840s.

175 Years of Village Cricket is available from Day Lewis Pharmacy, the Post Office and the Recreation Club.

The book was designed and produced by Bristol Books and can also be obtained online at www.bristolbooks.org.

Clive Burlton

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Congresbury Neighbourhood Plan has been through independent Examination and North Somerset Council have formally agreed that the Plan meets the necessary basic conditions and other provisions in order to go forward to referendum. The referendum date will take place on **19th September 2019** in the Old School Rooms, Congresbury.

The Examiner has concluded that a number of modifications were required and a number of these modifications were significant namely:

- Deleting the proposed limit of 150 dwellings during the plan period.
- Removing the policy that prevents new housing development coming forward adjacent to the settlement boundary.
- Deleting the proposed amended settlement boundary.
- Deleting the requirement for housing sites to be no more than 25 dwellings.
- Amending the affordable housing requirement to reflect the Core Strategy.
- Changing the Area of Separation to an Area of High Landscape Sensitivity and designating a smaller area on the plan.
- Repositioning a number of policies as Community Actions.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group urges all parishioners to vote for the Plan as it will have benefits to the parish. Further details will be available soon with regard to the revised plan.

Liz Greaves Clerk to the Parish Council

'Blooming' Thanks to Congresbury Volunteers

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have transformed the 'Geoffrey Peacock Memorial garden at the centre of the village. Their commitment and hours of hard work has been rewarded this year with a spectacular explosion of flowers and shrubs.

Thanks also to all those who have spent time planting and tendering the planters in the precinct and around the village. The hanging baskets also make the village a more welcoming place for those living in the village, visiting or just driving through.



Liz Greaves Clerk to the Parish Council

Community Library

The Summer Reading Challenge will run throughout the school Summer holidays, children who enrol will be challenged to read 6 books during July, August and early September. The theme this year is Space Adventure. Craft and activity sessions will be held on 29th July and 5th, 12th and 19th August with a different topic each week to complement the Reading Challenge. All activities are free but children must be accompanied by an adult and booking is advisable – details are on the library website (www.congresbury-library.org.uk).

The autumn talks will start again on 17th October and will be held in the Old School Rooms on the 3rd Thursday each month starting at 7.30pm. The illustrated talk with live performances on 17th October is by Robert Foster and called 'Stranger on the Shore' about the life and music of Acker Bilk. Tickets are £4 and available from the library. The numbers are restricted to a maximum of 50, so don't delay in purchasing yours once they become available. The programme of talks will be available on the website. You can phone or email to reserve them. (01934 426200 or congresburylibrary@gmail.com).

The Jigsaw Swap Shop will recommence in the library on the last Saturday morning each month starting the 28th September at 10am.

On 27th September we will be holding the MacMillan Coffee Morning to raise funds for this very worthwhile charity, please come along and give your support.

We are proposing to start a games afternoon when there will be the opportunity to play Scrabble, chess, backgammon, whist etc. with other interested parties one afternoon a week during the autumn and winter. If you are interested please contact the library.

After the success of the adult craft sessions held in May we are looking at providing some Christmas craft sessions in October – these could include card making, Christmas decorations, cake decorating etc. Again if you are interested or you have any suggestions for sessions please contact the library.

Gail Lee – Chair of Library Management Committee

Congresbury Carers

The Congresbury Carers are a group of volunteers who provide a vital service to our community. Have you got an odd hour or so that you could spare to volunteer as a driver taking local people to local hospitals and surgeries?

For further details please contact Margaret Leimdorfer on 01934 834663.

Old School Rooms News

With S106 money received from North Somerset Council towards the Community Library it has been possible to refurbish and improve the 'St Congar's Room'. A grant from Bristol Airport has also enabled new furniture to be purchased.



Thanks to a generous donation of the original 'Spotted Horse' pub sign it has been incorporated as part of the interior design. It has been

joined by a sign from the Ship and Castle following the pubs change of name to 'Congresbury Arms'. Both signs are complimented by a old poster advertising a day at the Seaside for 7 ½ p (1/6p).

The Community Library use the room as additional space from the library to run community events such as the knitting club, bridge club, children and adult craft sessions as well as the book club. This is in addition to other community bookings.

When funds permit the kitchen will be remodelled to install a new cooker and fittings.

Organisations wishing to rent any of the rooms should contact the Parish Office on 01934 838802.



Bluey Trips

Tuesday 13th August to CARDIFF

Pick up points: The Precinct 9.30am and Riverside Car Park, 9.40 am. Return to be confirmed on the day. Cost £2 per person (payable on the bus). To book a seat or for information. Please ring 01934 257247 or email bookingmanagerbluey@gmail.com (leave a message if no reply, we will get back to you). All other Tuesday shopping trips to the Sovereign Centre, Weston-super-Mare.

Strawberry Line Walk

Celebrating 150 years 1869 – 2019

Sunday 18th August there is a free historical walk and talk with Peter English along the Strawberry Line to celebrate 150 years since the opening of the Broad Gauge Line from Congresbury Station. Meet at the Old School Rooms, Station Road, Congresbury, BS49 5DX at **11am**. No need to book, just turn up on the day. Walk approx. 1 hour.