

# Congresbury Chronicle

News and views from  
around the village

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## Snippets from your Ward Councillor

It has been a busy few months at North Somerset Council. A compromise has been achieved with the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to review the potential to re-open overnight Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) at Weston Hospital. Overnight A&E has been temporarily closed and the CCG has indicated that it might make this closure permanent. The review, scheduled for 21 April 2021, will look at the potential to re-open the A&E overnight following the completion of a planned merger between the Weston Area Health Trust and the Universities Bristol Health Trust. The new North Somerset Council executive has repeatedly made the case to the CCG for the need for overnight A&E and we hope that the review will result in its restoration.

After the preliminary hearing in August 2019, the Planning Inspectors have strongly indicated to NSC and the other participating local authorities that they will find the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) unsound. In particular, the inspectors raised concerns about the sustainability and transport links for the Strategic Development Sites identified by the local authorities. The local authorities have been reviewing the JSP, taking legal advice and consulting planning experts. A report is due to go to Council in November, so watch this space. This is of particular concern to Congresbury as the largest Strategic Development Site proposed by NSC (under the previous administration) was for 2800 houses at Churchill.

Lastly, in the interest of inclusivity and diversity, NSC has resolved to adopt a parental leave policy for councillors.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Stuart Treadaway

[Stuart.Treadaway@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Treadaway@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Parish Council News

Some years ago the village produced a Community Report with several key themes. Under that of governance, power and influence, it was felt 'the village requires a stronger ability to influence decision makers in external bodies, when their decisions affect what happens in Congresbury. In short we need to increase the leverage of Congresbury to the point where we are seen as a force to be reckoned with.'

This principle has been adopted by maintaining youth provision, establishing a Community Library, joint funding with Yatton for the maintenance of Cadbury Hill, maintaining the Millennium Green, to name a few. Through the Parish Council Planning Committee, planning application responses are sent to North Somerset Council, including for a development by Gladman Developments Ltd on Wrington Lane. The Planning application reference 16/P/1521/O granted outline consent for up to 50 dwellings on 24 March 2017, subject to 28 conditions. Only the access was established at that stage, with all other reserved for a subsequent application. Condition 6 is a 'Grampian' style condition that required the highway improvements along Wrington Lane to be implemented prior to the residential development proceeding. North Somerset Council refused permission to substitute the plan referred to in condition 6 with different plans in order to make changes to the proposed Wrington Lane improvement scheme. Gladman Developments Ltd appealed this decision. The appeal was dismissed on 8th October 2019 as the proposed revised footway scheme would not provide an appropriate level of mitigation to address the transportation impacts of the residential development in order to make it acceptable in planning terms. This was good news and thanks to many local residents and Congresbury Residents Action Group (CRAG) whose statements together with the Parish Council strengthened North Somerset Council's case.

Another major issue that the Parish Council is wrestling with is the impact on the parish of Bristol Airport's proposed expansion. In order to be more informed the PC has become a member of the Parish Councils Airport Association and the Airport Environmental Effects Working Party. The PC will continue to debate and provide updates on these issues.

Cllr Arthur Hacking—Chair of the Parish Council



# Short walks made easier

Last month Woodspring Ramblers maintenance volunteers installed 6 new gates along paths to the west of the Strawberry line. The gates, paid for in large part by our village footpath group, have replaced 4 styles and an awkward 5 bar gate. As well as putting in gates Woodspring also cut back and cleared the paths where they were obstructed by dense summer growth.



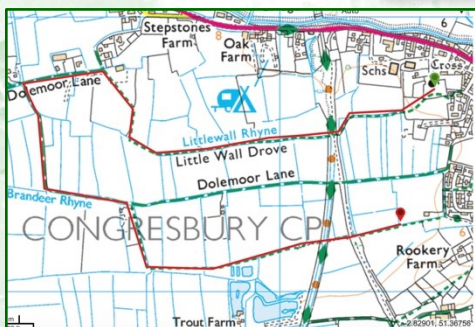
So if you're a dog walker or walking for health reasons or you just enjoy a short stroll along flat unobstructed paths why not start from the church. Go through the wooden gate at the South side of the grave yard and head for the Strawberry Line. Once across go through the kissing gate and keeping the rhyne on your right go through the next gate to follow the footpath markers toward Dolemoor Lane. (ignore the dogs they are safely behind the wire). Turn left along the lane. After 300 mts take the track to your left. Walk for 120 mts. Continue through the next gate and keeping the field boundary on your left proceed to Brandeer rhyne. Turn left following the track to the buildings where you make a right through a wooden kissing gate. Continue across the fields with the rhyne on your left until you reach a metal bridge with 2 gates. Once across turn left over a concrete bridge then right through a pedestrian gate. Now follow the rhyne across the field to a wooden gate leading on to a hedge lined path which you exit over another metal bridge, this time with only one gate.



Looking straight across the field you'll see the new Bristol gate onto the Strawberry line. Cross over the line and continue straight ahead until you reach the wooden bridge on your left leading to the

football field. You have walked about 2.5 miles.

I hope you enjoyed it. If you would like to walk with Congresbury footpath group on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday and or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month contact Julia on 838182 or Mary on 834207.



Paul Spears— Woodspring Volunteer

# The Old School Rooms

When I first started my job as Parish Clerk I was surprised at the variety of clubs and groups that meet weekly in the Old School Rooms and over the past few years this has steadily increased.



A normal week in the hall usually comprises of;

**Mondays** – Art group; karate, megafit, circuits followed by yoga in the main hall. While the St Andrew's room hosts a craft group and Parish Council meetings.

**Tuesdays** – Little Rascals baby and toddlers group meet in the mornings followed by a pilates session and Congresbury Singers in the evening. While the Patchwork group is also very creative in the smaller St Andrew's room.



**Wednesdays** – Art group followed by children's dance sessions.

**Thursdays** – Keep fit for the more mature and pilates. Also every fortnight the Senior Citizens Lunch Club provide a delicious 2 course homemade meal for minimal cost with a chance to socialise. The St Andrew's room is also host to a small art group.

**Fridays**—The hall host more keep fit classes and groups including Knitting Group, Bridge Club and the Book Club.

These are just the regular events. The building also hosting various meetings, barn dances, quizzes, parties for all ages, weddings, talks, horticultural and art shows and much more.

If you would like to know further details of any of the above clubs please contact the office on 838802 or email: [admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@congresbury-pc.gov.uk) and we will put you in touch with the right person. Please also get in touch if you would like to hire the hall. We do have some spaces in our weekly schedule and definitely for weekend events or parties. Hire costs are reasonable and we do offer discounted rates for community groups. We would also welcome any ideas on the types of events and activities that you would like to see in the hall. The Old School Rooms is the perfect venue for local interest events so please do get in touch.

Liz Greaves Clerk to the Parish Council



# Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Planning Steering group would like to thank residents for voting at the referendum on September 19th. The Old School Rooms was the venue for the vote on the question 'Do you want North Somerset Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Congresbury to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'



The result was that 86.5% of those who voted were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Several members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Councillors attended the count as observers including Di Hassan, Tom Leimdorfer, Liz Greaves, Dawn Harrison, Ray Clarke and Cllr Mike Greaves. Pictured below is also Unsal Hassan and Claire Courtois, Principal Planning Policy Officer for North Somerset Council who helped through the plan process.

Congresbury Neighbourhood Plan is very ambitious in its content and it was very important that the community responded and voted in favour of the plan which covers the period up to 2036. North Somerset Council and the Parish Council will now take the plan into consideration when making planning decisions and the Parish Council can start working towards the Community Actions outlined. Immediate projects currently being worked on include the provision of cycle racks in key locations, encouraging the installation of electric vehicle points within the parish and investigating how to designate disabled spaces. All of these actions require financial input from the Parish Council. The Neighbourhood Plan means that the Parish Council now receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) collected from developments in Congresbury. CIL is a new, fixed rate payment that councils can charge on new buildings in their area to offset the impacts of additional homes and businesses on facilities. The Parish Council can spend their proportion of CIL on things that address the impacts of development on Congresbury. The next stage will be to develop a CIL spending plan for Congresbury that is based on our infrastructure needs and the wider strategic needs within North Somerset.

Liz Greaves Clerk to the Parish Council



# Youth Partnership

Congresbury Youth Partnership have been busy pressing apples at Barleywood Orchard again. The juice, pressed, sterilised and bottled by young people themselves will be for sale at Broad Street Christmas Fair, perfect for taking to that Christmas event when a bottle of wine is not appropriate. All profits will support the activities provided at Congresbury Youth Club, which include:

Code Club on Mondays after school where our youngest members take their first steps in writing code with a programme called SCRATCH, and older ones can get help with programming with Python and Arduino under the guidance of our talented retired computer programmer volunteers.

Tuesday After School crafts and cooking session  
Youth Club on Thursdays which offers use of skateboard ramps on the ball court, a safe space to access internet, play pool or table tennis, and trips out to activities chosen by members.

Check out our programme at [www.congsyp.org.uk/](http://www.congsyp.org.uk/)

New members and new adult volunteers are always welcome.

Alex Ballard—CYP

# Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will be held in Broad Street on **Wednesday 4th December 6-8.30pm**. 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.



The event raises much needed funds local groups as well as for Weston Hospicecare and Congresbury Scout and Guide Groups.

Adam Preece — Congresbury Scouts and Guides



# Update

Currently the key stakeholders are exploring options on the way forward, so please bear with us.

We remain committed to the project's vision and to the long term future of the Community café:

To provide a new multi-use energy efficient community facility that will offer a broader range of recreational, leisure and sports activities, services and community events to all age groups which will meet the current and future needs of the village.'

The café has at the end of September generated a surplus of £5,350 towards the project, including £450 from the Glut Market (donated produce and plants) and £300 in donations. All monies raised must be used as set out in the Society's objectives — to establish or secure the establishment of a village hall/community centre.

Ian Sheppard - Congresbury Village Hall Limited



## Community Library

The season of talks was off to a good start with an excellent and entertaining talk on 17<sup>th</sup> October by Robert Foster about the life and music of Acker Bilk. This was followed by an informative and illustrative talk given by Michael Greaves on Thursday 21st November about the parish church towers of Somerset. This will be followed in February 2020 with a talk by Dr Hugh White titled 'The Suspicious Death' outlining some of his cases during his career as a Home Office Pathologist. The March talk will be about our local archaeologists and the research work they carry out in the area. All talks are held in the Old School Rooms starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £4 and available from the Library. The numbers are restricted to a maximum of 50, so don't delay in purchasing your tickets once 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](mailto:congresburylibrary@gmail.com))

The adult Christmas craft programme includes sessions on cake decorating, card making, table decorations and making felted robins. Please see the website and posters for details. All sessions will be held in the Library 10.30 am– 12.30pm. Places are limited so booking is advisable.

From 7<sup>th</sup> December Sue Lovesay, (on behalf of YACWAG), will be providing a display of tree dressing in the library.

The Jigsaw Swap Shop is held in the library on the last Saturday morning of each month between 10am – 12 midday.

The Library Charity Knitting Group continues to meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 10-12 midday each month. New members, whether you are beginners, intermediates or experts are all welcome. If you don't wish to join the group but have any spare wool which you are happy to donate, please take it along to the library – we can turn it into something useful and needed.

Christmas and New Year opening - The library will be open on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and then closed on 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December. We will be open on 30<sup>th</sup> December and then closed on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Normal opening times will be effective from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

Gail Lee – Chair of Library Management Committee

## Boxing Day Walk

Meet at the Old School Rooms at 10.15 am for the traditional Boxing Day walk around Congresbury. There will be two walks on offer; one short walk and the other slightly longer and a little more challenging. All welcome. Dogs are also welcome but should be kept on leads where livestock is present.

## Wellbeing Lifestyle Club

In May 2018 Sue Fursdon, lead nurse at Mendip Vale Medical Practice brought together a group of patients who volunteered to help her set up this club. The club is for ANYONE who is a patient of Mendip Vale although it was started by contacting those who have at least one long term health condition.

We have been meeting since January on the fourth Thursday of the month from 10 – 12 noon at Yatton Methodist Church Hall. We have a cup of tea/coffee to start and then the middle hour is spent learning/thinking about and discussing the topic of the day. Topics have included: Nutrition, exercise, living well with long-term conditions, psychology of weight, anxiety, strategies for mental health, mindfulness, self-care and the NHS. The atmosphere is informal and friendly. We encourage everyone to make suggestions, offer tips, and join in the discussion.

Our future programme contains Scamming, Fatigue, Arts for Wellbeing. Do come and join us. You will be most welcome. For further information please call Barbara on 835601. Barbara Hacking

## Bluey Trips



**Christmas Shopping Trips**  
Tuesday 10th December to BATH  
(Christmas Market)

Pick-up points: The Precinct 9.30am and Riverside Car Park, Millennium Green, Congresbury 9.40am - return tbc on the day. Please note we ask for a donation of £2 per person (payable on bus). To book a seat or for information please ring 01934 257247 or email: [bookings@congresburycommunitytransport.co.uk](mailto:bookings@congresburycommunitytransport.co.uk)  
All other Tuesday shopping trips to The Sovereign Shopping Centre, W-S-M.

Congresbury Community Transport Directors would like to thank all our users, helpers and drivers and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2020!

## Wassail



Come and help guarantee a good apple harvest by Wassailing on the **18th January 2020**. Meet at the Riverside car park at 2.30pm. Bring a saucepan, drum, anything that you can BANG to drive away the evil spirits!

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