

Congresbury Chronicle

News and views from
around the village

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Snippets from your Ward Councillor

After purdah imposed by the general election in November and December, it has been a busy couple of months at

North Somerset Council (NSC).

As many of you will be aware, the Planning and Regulatory Committee refused Bristol Airport's application to expand to 12 million passengers per year after a marathon four and a half hour session on 10 February 2020. I voted against the application. While it was legitimate for councillors to take global climate change into account, I believe that the negative impact to local residents of increased aircraft noise and congestion due to the poor public transport links to the airport were justification alone to vote against the application.

On 18 February 2020, NSC passed its annual budget. As a consequence of 10 years' of central government reducing funding to local authorities, it was necessary to increase council tax by 1.99% in April in addition to a 2% levy the government has allowed local authorities to raise specifically to help fund the increasing costs and demand for adult social care. The budget reflects the council's commitment to reducing the inequalities that exist in North Somerset including a reduction by 3% to the minimum contribution to council tax payable by residents on the lowest incomes and increased support to foster carers.

NSC has also approved the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 ("JLTP4"). Some concern has been expressed that JLTP4 was produced in anticipation of the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) inherited from the previous administration and withdrawn after heavy criticism by the Planning Inspectorate. However, the NSC Executive have undertaken not to pursue elements of JLTP4 which had been designed with the JSP in mind and to commence preparation of its replacement as soon as possible. JLTP4 replaces JLTP3 which came into force in 2011 and is woefully out of date and it will make it easier to obtain funds to improve public transport links in the West of England.

Cllr Stuart Treadaway

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Parish Council News

Following the news that the proposed new Medical Centre for Yatton and Congresbury to be built at Smallway will now not go ahead for the foreseeable future, Congresbury Parish Council has been working to ensure that the Congresbury Surgery remains open and provides a continuous service to residents of the village.

The Parish Council is supportive of the events planned for the village to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May, please join in the celebrations on this special day. Cllr Arthur Hacking—Chair of the Parish Council.



Love
Congresbury

Show your Love for Congresbury this MAY. On Friday 8 May join your fellow residents in a street party in Broad Street from 3:00 to 5:00pm. Just bring along a plate of food to share with others plus a chair. This will be followed by our Party in the Paddock from 5:30 until 9:00 pm. Relax with your friends and family, as you are entertained by an array of local musicians. Bring along your own food and drink, chairs, blankets etc.

Saturday 9 May, we are inviting you all to help your neighbours by carrying out acts of kindness around the village. If you have any small jobs that you would like help with or if you would like to help your neighbours by carrying out an act of kindness please contact Kirsty. We are also looking for volunteers to help Spring Clean the village and/or collect litter. The event runs from 9:00 until 12:00. Meet at Broad Street. We then move to the Millennium Green where we will be holding our Duck Race on the River Yeo, starting at 1:00 pm. Ducks, costing £1, will be on sale during April and on the 8 May. Proceeds will go towards supporting Love Congresbury and Congresbury Youth Partnership.

The "Do After the Show" takes place on June 27 on the Paddock after the village fete. This will be a joint event organised between Love Congresbury and the Congresbury Preschool. Details of the band to be announced nearer the day. Tickets will cost £5, family tickets (2 adults plus up to 3 children) cost £20. The bar will be run by the Preschool. For more information on any of the above contact Kirsty at; 833216 or kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk

Apple Day

Following on from the successful 'Wassall Day' held on 18th January 2020 an 'Apple Day' was held in the Millennium Green Orchard on 8th February 2020 when the apple trees were pruned by Les Davies MBE and 12 enthusiastic students.



Les who has a life times experience of pruning and caring for apple trees held a days training course arranged by the Millennium Green Trust. The day began in the Old School Rooms where we were learnt a little about the history of the 'apple tree' and how it was introduced to the UK by the Romans. But the purpose of the day was to understand the basic principles of 'pruning' and caring for the trees to ensure good crops of delicious fruit in future years.

Armed with this new found knowledge we were set loose on the 'Millennium Green Orchard'. Congresbury has its own named apple 'The Congresbury Beauty' and there are several trees in the orchard. Many years ago the late 'Tom Day' rescued a pip from an apple discarded outside of Rownton Cottage in Wrington Lane. He managed to grow it into an apple tree and get it officially registered. Rest assured the 'Congresbury Beauty' was professionally pruned by Les Davies.

After Lunch the group visited the 'Church Orchard' and Glebelands to learn more about good management and routine care of what is the heritage of 'Somerset'. Regretfully there was no 'Cider' available, but everyone had a most enjoyable day. As Les remarked what better way to spend a day than 'in an orchard in the sunshine surrounded by friends and laughter.

Following the Apple Day many members of this group have been to the orchard and carried on using their new skills to prune and work on the trees.



This has made a significant difference already. Many thanks to all those involved.

Cllr Michael Greaves

Cadbury Hill Update

In 2019 the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement between Natural England and Congresbury and Yatton Parish Councils reached its halfway stage. The management group took time to reflect upon the progress made with regard to the three key aims of the project;

- 1) to preserve Cadbury Hill, a nationally important archaeological site,
- 2) to improve and maintain the biodiversity of the site and;
- 3) to enhance community awareness of Cadbury Hill.

Huge improvements have been made regarding the preservation of the double ditches; scrub has been extensively cleared and kept under control by careful spot dressing. Rogue saplings have been removed with more being cut down later this year.

Natural England had set, as part of the HLS, specific performance indicators for the health of the limestone grassland.

The Management Group contacted the Somerset Botany Group who carried out a full botanical survey on the hill top in July. I'm pleased to report that even with four more years to go, many of these set targets have already been achieved. The group intend to return this year to check on the progress of spring flowering plants including the viola pictured above.



The interpretative boards have been well received by the public and the management group continues to balance the needs of visitors to the site with the objectives of the HLS agreement.

Janet Dickson
Cadbury Hill Management Group

Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the Congresbury area raised £9,003.20 with one couple collecting over 27% of the total. This was achieved despite having lost six of our most regular collectors during the past year and having been advised that we should not knock on doors displaying a 'no callers' sign which greatly reduced our house to house collection.



Grateful thanks are extended to all 107 collectors whose dedication to the cause was invaluable.

Irving Prowse Poppy Appeal Organiser

Millennium Green

Sue Grant and a few others on the Parish Council started to think about joining the north and south of the Village 10 years before it actually happened. The dream began when there were thoughts about building on the King George V playing fields and relocating it to what is now the Millennium Green.

Those plans were never carried out, but in 1998 with the new millennium 2000 looming the Government announced that there would be a Millennium Commission and money made available for 'Village Greens'. As Congresbury had a vision, and a site, we were the first to make an application and the first to be awarded.



Nothing happens without huge amounts of energy, passion and determination. Congresbury had all of those qualities in the then Parish Council Clerk 'Sue Grant'. Sue made it happen, there were tears, tribulations and aggravation but her little team never lost the vision. Together they made it happen. Sadly, Sue is no longer with us but the 5 stones at the entrance are a lasting memorial to her vision and determination.

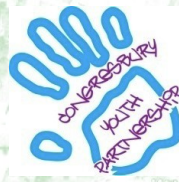


The Millennium Green has fulfilled all of its promises. It joins the two halves of our Village together, it's open space is a small oasis of calm, a little part of our Village where everyone can walk, sit and enjoy it's peace. You can play, walk or just sit and dream.

Happy 20th birthday 'Millie Green' and best wishes for the future.

Cllr Michael Greaves

Photographs —Stuart Watts



Youth Partnership

Congresbury Youth Partnership had another fun packed half term during February. Events included a fantastic archery session delivered by Matt of Durbin Archery at the Memorial Hall. Alex Ballard delivered outdoor cooking where the young people made fires and baked toasties and toasted marshmallows. Young people also found some time to make cards and pictures for Mothers Day.



There was also a trip to Mendip Outdoors for an axe throwing session as well as some scrummy pancake making and paper mache bowls.



As always thanks to our amazing volunteers who helped out over half term, Alex Ballard, Graham Lovesey and Cath Kemplay. We rely heavily on our wonderful volunteers but always need more, if you can spare an hour a month please do get in touch. Perhaps if you don't have time for volunteering you could join our 100 club (details on website).

Our next holiday activities take place over both weeks of Easter, Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th and Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th of April. Full details will be available soon on our website www.congsyp.org.uk. Places are limited and we operate on a first come first served basis.

A final note to say that after 15+ enjoyable years sadly I will be leaving as Youth Manager for CYP in April sometime. It's not totally goodbye as I am hoping to be involved with the CYP on a voluntary basis, so I am sure I will still see you around at our events. I will miss the young people and parents and volunteers but it is time for a fresh challenge.

Sarah Storey - CYP Youth Manager

Community Library

After a successful talk 'The Suspicious Death' by Dr Hugh White, with record numbers of attendees, we look forward to Mark Chichester's talk 'Life as a Submariner' on 16th April at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms. This will be the last talk until October so please get your tickets which are £4 and available from the library. You can phone or email to reserve tickets (01934 426200 or congresburylibrary@gmail.com).

The library will run a photo competition during May, please submit photos of the Millennium Green to celebrate its 20th birthday.

Know Your Place is an online mapping resource that allows you to search through historic maps, images and information in the west of England. There will be a drop-in session at the library on Friday 15th May 10 am – 1pm when you can have the opportunity to add your historic photo of a North Somerset location to the 'Know Your Place' website.

Calling all artists – Library Summer Art Exhibition 10th & 11th July. Please contact the library if you would like to exhibit a piece of your art work.

Children's Bingo! – Free for all children, enrol now - get a bingo card – read one of the books – get a prize every time you complete a line.

Summer Reading Challenge – this year's theme will be 'The Silly Squad'. Further details will be available in the library and on the website (www.congresbury-library.org.uk) shortly.

Gail Lee – Chair of Library Management Committee

Tennis Club

Congresbury Tennis Club was fortunate to receive a £7,000 s106 contribution from the Cobthorn Way Development and £3,000 from the King George V Trustees towards resurfacing 2 of their 3 courts. This was essential work as the courts had not been fully resurfaced for over 20 years and they had become virtually unplayable.



JL Hagger, Chair of the Tennis Club said that members are thrilled with the new playing surface. New classes include Cardio and Walking Tennis sessions on a Monday as well as adult and junior coaching during the week.

Social tennis is on a Sunday morning and the club has active men's and ladies league teams. Further details are available at <http://congresburylhc.net/> or by visiting the courts. The Club welcomes new members of all abilities so do please come and visit us to see what opportunities are available.

Liz Greaves

Folk Club

February saw the launch of Congresbury Folk Club, a monthly live music event that takes place at Congresbury War Memorial Hall on the first Thursday evening of each month.



On Thursday 5th March we were pleased to present the Steepholmers and Three Cane Whale as our live performers. Both were fantastic and once again we were delighted with the large numbers in the audience. The feedback of the evening was outstanding.

The format of the evening is two live performances on the stage of the main hall, an established performer headlining and support from an emerging artist. The hall also has a licensed bar. The doors open at 7:30pm. Performances generally take place between 8:00pm and 10:00pm.

These are the artists performing in the coming months

- Thursday 2nd April – Si Barron (headliner), Rainy Day Woman (support)
- Thursday 7th May – Edd Donovan & The Wandering Moles (headliner), Arquebus Trio (support)
- Thursday 4th June – The Lost Trades (headliner), Notabene (support)

It's wonderful to see the return of regular live music to Congresbury and how a cross-section of people from this and neighbouring villages are coming together to support it. See you at the Memorial Hall on the next first Thursday evening (entry fee payable on the door).

Ian Evans Folk Club Organiser

Bluey Trips



The next Bluey Trips are to **Gloucester Quays** on Tuesday 14th April and **Cardiff** on 12th May 2020.

Pick up points: The precinct at 9.30 am and Riverside carpark at 9.35am with the return times to be confirmed on the day. Charge is £2 per person. All other Tuesday trips are to the Sovereign Centre W-s-M.

To book a seat please call 01934 257247 or email: booking.managerbluey@gmail.com.

Pam Biffin—Congresbury Community Transport

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