

The Timsbury Letter



Photo credit Yasmine Brine

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PARISH COUNCIL**

NO: 501 May 2021

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Welcome to the May Timsbury Letter

Features this Month

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June Letter Deadline: Thursday 13th May

Please send articles and adverts EARLY to:

Madeleine Potts, newsletter@timsbury.org.uk 07834 859291

47 Southlands Drive. Images & adverts in JPG format.

Village News

Vacancies on Timsbury Parish Council

Stan Martin has resigned from the Parish Council and as its Vice Chairman after three very positive years of supporting and making decisions for the community.

The Parish Council now has two vacancies and is recruiting replacements by co-option. If you are

interested in making an extra difference and helping the village with the many and diverse roles of the Parish Council see the website for how to apply

www.timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil

and phone the Clerk for more information, details below, and see page 7.

Walks Books Still Selling

We have so far sold nearly 2000 walking guide books around Timsbury – '20 Circular Walks In & Around' and 'Close To' and they are still selling well. Researched and produced by three residents they really encourage us to

explore our wonderful rolling countryside and its history, especially during the lockdown. See also page 16 about the Limestone walk along the Cam Valley and further.

Planning Applications

Comments by the Parish Council can be seen on the B&NES planning website, in the Parish Council Minutes at: timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil/meetings and on noticeboards in the Conygre Hall and outside Our Plaice chip shop.

Application decided by B&NES Council
None within the period.

Applications to be Considered by Timsbury Parish Council

21/01646/FUL 3 Barrow View, Timsbury Road, Farmborough BA2 0FB
Erection of first floor side extension.

21/01483/FUL Timsbury Bottom Farm, Timsbury Bottom, BA2 0EZ
Erection of a general purpose farm building.

21/01483/FUL Vines Farm, Parcel 1120, Bungays Hill, High Littleton
Erection of a general-purpose farm building

21/01308/FUL Unit A, 'Upper Conygre', North Road Timsbury
Erection of four dwellings in place of offices (Consultation closed)

DISCLAIMER:

Views and opinions expressed in the Timsbury Letter are those of each individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Meetings are held remotely on the internet until further notice and the public can still join in.

**The Next Meeting is Tuesday 4th
May at 7.30pm**

See timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil

Chris Gittins

Clerk to Timsbury Parish Council

01761 470 516

timsbury.parish.clerk@gmail.com

www.timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil



News from the Conygre Trust

From April 12th the Conygre Hall has been open for activities which are permitted from Step 2 of the Covid “roadmap”. These include children’s dance classes and support groups.

From May 17th most meetings and classes will be allowed, including adult dance and exercise, and we hope that many of our regular groups will start returning from then. Covid-secure measures, including social distancing and the requirement for face-coverings, will still apply.

The tennis court is available for tennis from 9.00am to 8.00pm every day and has already seen quite a lot of activity. To make a booking, go online and search for “Timsbury Tennis Court”.

Following advertisement and interviews, the Trust has appointed Jacqui Grainger as hall caretaker. Jacqui has been the hall’s cleaner and assistant caretaker since 2018, and, with the hall largely unoccupied, has been redecorating the main hall and kitchen.

As a tribute to Jeff Sluggett, who made such an enormous contribution to the hall over many years, the Trust has renamed the Tying Room as the Jeff Sluggett Room and has also placed a bench on the Rec in his memory.

There are currently two vacancies on the Trust, which manages the Conygre Hall and the Rec. Being a Trustee means

helping to manage some of Timsbury’s most valuable assets, but it doesn’t have to be a big commitment.

Trust meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month – for the last year we have been meeting remotely but we expect face-to-face meetings to resume before long. To find out more about being a Trustee, please contact Peter Buchanan.

To make a hall booking, please contact Malcolm Tucker on **01761 470261** or email **tucker.m3@sky.com**.

For general information about the Trust and its work, contact Peter Buchanan

01761 471818

peter49buchanan@btinternet.com

DEADLINE

June Issue Deadline:

Thursday 13th May

Please send articles and adverts **EARLY**
to:

Madeleine Potts

newsletter@timsbury.org.uk

07834859291

47 Southland Drive

Please send images and
adverts in JPG format.

Youth Work in Timsbury

By Jane Van-Haaps



Restarting In Person Youth Sessions After Easter

With the changing road map, and the easing of restrictions, we are looking forward to starting back on a Friday evening. Initially this will be 7.00-8.00pm by the tennis court at the Conygre Hall.

Aimed at 11-15 year olds, it will be a relaxed session with unihoc, football, basketball and tennis available as well as quieter activities. Masks can be taken off for team sports and if we maintain social distancing when outside; otherwise masks are required, and hand sanitiser.

We look forward to welcoming back old regulars as well as new members. If you sign in with your name, an emergency contact number as well as any details of important medical details, we can fill in the full consent form in due course.

In the mean time detached work

sessions on a Monday night have continued and become noticeably busier, so it's been great to meet some new young people as Tony and I walk round the village with our high-vis jackets starting 7.00pm at the Conygre Hall. Do say hello if you see us.

Our next step will be to restart indoor sessions at the YMCA and we will let you know about these in due course. In the past we did a Friday Night Youth Club as well as a smaller group on a Wednesday and an after-school club.

The Wednesday sessions are flexible and could encompass different activities: eg craft, eco-action, table tennis, video games. Ideally it would be 4-6 young people, in School Year 6-9 who want to help plan and organise the sessions for around 6 weeks before swapping over. So do let me know if you know of such a small group who would be interested in this, or indeed if you have a skill to share.

**Jane van Haaps 07483156995,
jane@bathyfc.co.uk**





Want to become a Parish Councillor?

Timsbury Parish Council represents the interests of the whole community and is responsible for a wide range of facilities and activities. Most Timsbury residents can become a Councillor. *Are you interested in things like:*

The Library and Hub

Planning applications and the B&NES Local Plan

Street safety and Transport

Supporting young people – we fund 2 projects

Plantings and open spaces

Social activities, health & wellbeing

Events and the Timsbury Letter

There are two Parish Councillor vacancies which can be filled by co-option on 4th May or later to join the other 12 councillors.

Meetings are usually held in the evening on the first Monday of the month – join in and have a look.

If you want to be involved, get things done and make a difference in the village, then become a parish councillor - it is a good practical opportunity. The PC is not linked with a church.

To find out more look at *timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil* or phone the Clerk for a chat on 01761 470 516

Village Church Services

St Mary's Church, Timsbury

Friday 2nd May 11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th May 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th May 11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd May 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th May 10.00am Benefice Service at St Peter's, Camerton.

During the continuing Covid 19 pandemic, the church is open for Sunday worship at the above times. Seating is socially distanced at 2 metres and hand sanitising is provided. There is no singing as part of the worship. All above dates and times are subject to possible change in the light of Government restrictions.

Every Wednesday, weekly 9.30 am Holy Communion Service.

The Church is available for funerals, under the above conditions and limited numbers All are welcome

Revd Martin Blewett

Benefice of Timsbury with Priston, Camerton & Dunkerton

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Tel: (01761) 472448. Mobile: 07854 273489

Email: martinblewett@gmail.com

Benefice Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Elaine Martin. (01761) 479506

Tabor Free Methodist Church

It is planned for Tabor to begin fortnightly services on April 25th which is the church's anniversary. Details have yet to be finalised. Notice of services will be published on the website and on the church noticeboard.

Pastoral Matters

Eric Barge 01761 420234

Secretary

Geoff Shute 01761 568524

www.taborfreemethodist.org

Methodist Church South Road

We are pleased to say we are now open for services. All Covid-19 practices have been put in place to ensure we worship in a safe and happy church.

All are welcome.

Friday 2nd May 10.30am Mr Mike Honey

Sunday 9th May 10.30am Mrs Kathy Dymond

Sunday 16th May 10.30am Rev David Winstanley Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd May 10.30am Rev Michael White

Sunday 30th May 10.30am Dr Edmund Marshall

Revd David Winstanley

40 North Medows, Peasedown St John, Bath, BA2 8PS

01761 439934

dwin64@hotmail.com

Secretary Frances Nicholson 01761 470841

Congregational Church North Road (with full wheelchair access)

Secretary: Maureen Cox 01761 479656

Planting and Public Spaces in Timsbury: update on recent work

By Mary- Anne Ansell



Over recent months there has been a lot of work carried out on the Miner's Garden, Triangle and Church Lane. I wanted to let villagers know about this and also to thank those who have given their time to make the public spaces more attractive.

Since late last year, Liz and Bill Pearce have done amazing work in restoring the Miner's Garden to looking good and have tirelessly tackled weeds, overgrown and untidy plants and even removed and replaced the plants in the

centre to get rid of couch grass.

Ben Bennetto was asked by the Parish Council to remove the old, diseased lilac and the additional self-sown oak trees in the Garden as well as cutting back other foliage. This has meant the Garden is now much more open and light which I am sure the people having takeaway drinks from The Connies have appreciated over the lockdown.

We have started to plant new shrubs and perennials to fill gaps and will continue to do this.

The Parish Council is also supporting two young people in the village in providing voluntary work towards the achievement of a Duke of Edinburgh Award. Daniel and Jack and their mothers, Charlotte and Anna have been working at the Triangle in recent weeks and have managed to remove the large area of couch grass at the bottom of the bed, which we hope will become a wild flower meadow. They will be doing more to clear the weeds and reduce overgrown shrubs and also doing some maintenance work.

I have heard some very positive comments about the way the Church Lane beds are looking recently, which I think reflects the fact that it is now a



much more mature area. There is always work to do in maintain these spaces so if you can help, please contact me. We would also be very happy to accept donations of unwanted plants as there is plenty of room to fill.

I also hope to make a start on updating planters round the village soon.

Mary-Anne Ansell

**Planting and Public Spaces Committee
of the Parish Council**

The Timsbury Letter needs help

The Timsbury Letter is delivered to households and Timsbury businesses during the last weekend of each month, excluding December, by a group of volunteers. Each of these volunteers is responsible for delivering to a certain area of Timsbury.

We are looking for somebody who would be interesting in helping to

deliver the Timsbury Letter to the Greenvale area. If you think you could help and would like more information please contact Clive Pearce at Bloomfield House, Bloomfield Road, Timsbury BA2 0LH or telephone on **01761 470604** .

Timsbury Gardening Club

By Graham Nichols



The Gardening Club met by Zoom to put on a Spring Show which normally would be at Conygre Hall. With around a dozen members showing their daffodils grown from bulbs supplied by the club, which is normally Class 1, it was a good show.

The particular cultivar was ITZIM and selected by the Chairman for that particular Class. There were two other plants on show both native to the east and both rarely seen in cultivation. *Arisaema sikkokianum* from Japan and *Arisaema amurense* from Korea.

Although it is still an unknown quantity when we will meet again as a face to face club there are plans in the pipeline to have talks by well known speakers using Zoom. The first of these will be Mary Payne MBE on 11th May. Mary Payne is a well known horticulturist and

speaker who will talking about a subject that will be dear to the hearts of many; 'Minimum Effort for the Maximum Effect.' This is a talk to help make gardening easier.

There is no requirement to be a club member to see this talk as we hope to encourage others to join us when we can meet face to face.

For information regarding the talk, link etc please contact our Chairman Keith Pursey on keithloraine1@gmail.com



Arisaema Amurense from Korea



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<https://www.facebook.com/timsburypreschool>

Alexandra Bowling Club

Alexandra Park, Bath

Monday 31st May 2021

10:00am until 4:00pm



Restrictions are being lifted so that we can get
out in the fresh air and play bowls!

Try something different and come along - bring
your friends. All are welcome but children
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By Amanda

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Timsbury Allotments

By Bob Clements

Timsbury Allotments Committee Member

As we hopefully look forward to warmer weather work can start in earnest on planting out this year's produce on the allotments.

We are all hoping for a good season and with this in mind we have agreed that from the end of May any allotment holder if they so wish can donate any surplus produce to the Timsbury Pantry. We will be looking to deliver fresh produce to Timsbury Pantry on a

weekly basis.

There is currently a waiting list for allotments. However, if you would be interested in becoming an allotment holder then please contact Sandra Heward on **01761 479844** for further details

Please look out on Facebook and The Timsbury Letter for future news on the allotments and the Timsbury Pantry .

Letter from the Brownies Leader

Dear Residents

It is with great sadness that I write this letter. I would like to let the residents of Timsbury know that I will no longer be running 1st Timsbury Brownies. Due to a change in circumstances beyond my control a new team has been put in place.

Over the years we have had stalls at village events, been on Pack Holidays, attended the Remembrance Service, kept the flower beds blooming around the Church and finally entertained the residents at Christmas.

I would like to thank you all for the

support you have given over the years, be it speaking to the girls when at an event or by donating equipment the girls can make use of to develop valuable life skills in a safe environment.

I wish the unit every success in the future and hope it continues to offer the girls all the opportunities girlguiding can provide.

It has been a privilege for me to run the unit in Timsbury and once again, thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Christine Saunders.

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Are you looking for a walking challenge?

By Larry Cunningham

Many times, during the recent lockdowns, walkers have been seen with a copy of *Twenty Circular Walks in and around Timsbury* and *Twenty Circular Walks Close to Timsbury* in their hands. These two books (as well as *Twenty circular walks in and around Radstock* and *Twenty circular walks not far from Timsbury*) continue to be very popular. Some have been heard saying “I’ve nearly completed all the walks in the books!” Some walkers have even combined walks from the two books to create longer walks!

It is possible then that a further challenge is needed and this could be the **Limestone Link**!



The logo, marking the route, is often to be seen on several of the walks in the two Timsbury walking books. The Link is a Long Distance Path (LDP) of 38 miles joining the Jurassic Limestone of the Cotswold Way at Cold Ashton to the Carboniferous Limestone of the West Mendip Way at Shipham.

The route passes Timsbury in the Cam Valley south of the village as seen on the map below.

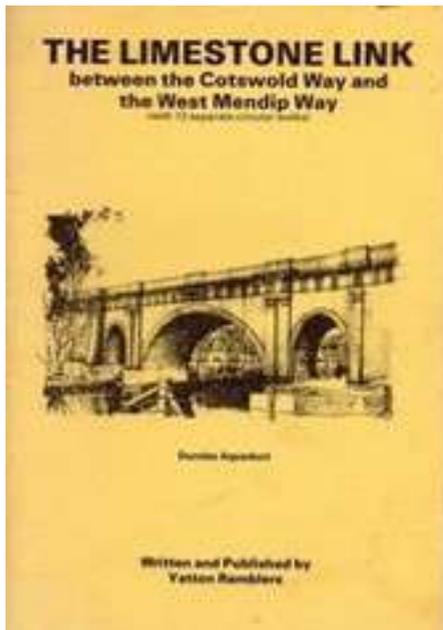


Cyril Trenfield, of the Avon Area Ramblers Association, was inspired in 1989 to devise the Link. Except for an ascent at each end, the walk is mostly flat and not strenuous.

There is much to see of historical interest such as the partly exposed Somersetshire Coal Canal. Expect to walk through farmland, river and canal sides, wooded areas, pretty villages and open access land.

The original booklet is still available, though last reprinted in 2007.

The booklet describes the route in six linear sections or as 12 circular walks. Places and features of interest are described towards the end of the booklet. Illustrations are by Raymond Jones RIBA and sketches of the route have been taken from out-of-copyright editions of 6" Ordnance Survey maps. This might discourage you, but fortunately, the Somer Valley Ramblers



has an up-to-date online version available at www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk/limestone-link/ with downloadable directions, up to date Ordnance Survey maps, colour photographs and historical information.

Christian Aid Week

10th – 16th May 2021

This year Christian Aid volunteers from Timsbury Combined Churches will be joining many other churches working together to raise money for the world's poorest people. Your gift will support communities tackling poverty worldwide.

Local Volunteers will be delivering an envelope through your door and you are asked to take donations to any of

the following Collection Points should you so wish:-

The Rectory, South Road, South Road Methodist Church (Geoff Smith), Health and More and Timsbury Cooperative Store.

Please contact Geoff Smith on **471063** or Rosemary Tranter on **471790** if you would like help in any way.

St Mary's Primary School

By Chris Daniels

It has been brilliant to see life at St Mary's getting back to normal again after a second lockdown of home learning. Our staff couldn't wait to return to teaching lessons in real-life classrooms instead of online.

We would like to send our huge thanks to those of you in our parent community who helped to keep the children's education ticking over during this very challenging time. We were hugely impressed by the effort and commitment shown by our pupils within the virtual Google Classrooms, as well as the standard of work produced.

The school continues to create a safe environment for learning and we would like to thank our local police who came to install barriers at the front of the school to widen the pavement and allow for social distancing measures to be adhered to. A big thank you also to our Lansdown View neighbours for your support and understanding whilst the road has been temporarily narrowed.



Staff and children at St Mary's were delighted to welcome Reverend Blewett, and puppet Burt, back for Collective Worship this term.

Whilst we all enjoyed Reverend Blewett's videos during lockdown, it was very special to be back together in the hall. We enjoyed helping Reverend Blewett and Burt tell the story of Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



We were proud to support Red Nose Day for Comic Relief on Friday 19th March. Our school raised £138.90 for the charity to support their work on improving mental health, securing a safe place for everyone, creating a world where children survive and thrive and ensuring freedom from fear, violence and discrimination.

We kept it simple this year with everyone just wearing red for the day but we appreciated joining the rest of the country in a much-needed day of fun and laughter.

Timsbury Women's Institute

By Phillida Russell

Well what a year this has been! But we've kept going helping each other and our community. We've Zoomed our way through regular monthly meetings and social 'get togethers', played Santa observing social distancing, delivered goodie bags to all our members at Christmas and took part in the village scarecrow and angel trails.

We have taken advantage of Alexander Graham Bell's invention to buddy up and keep in touch regularly with each other by telephone. Members have also taken availed themselves of the online courses, entertainment and speakers facilitated by Avon Federation and Denman College.

Our monthly meetings so far in 2021 have included a range of speakers:

- Mildred Freeman on the History of gin.
- Peta Allingham: A women's experience on scientific expeditions.
- Magician Wayne Trice: not only performed magic but taught us how to do a couple of tricks (Illusions) to astound our families.
- Chris Briggs: demonstrated and taught us how to do perform self

massage using a number of different moves.

For our June 3rd meeting we have booked Sam Durrani a TV and film stuntman who has a range of films to his credit. There are also plans afoot to have some outdoor meetings in July and August, more about these later.

Part of our educational remit is to publicly promote National issues and indeed campaigning to improve our world has always been central to WI. Past resolutions during the last 102 years have included the call for sufficient affordable and sanitary housing (1918), Women on jury service, an increase on the number of women police officers, equal pay for equal work, and Keep Britain Tidy.

We were raising awareness of plastic pollution (1971) AIDS and HIV (1988), Care not custody of people with mental illness (2008), the need for More Midwives (2012).

In 1992 the WI was one of several organisations who founded the Fairtrade Foundation after members had been campaigning throughout the 1970s and 1980s.



RIP Pudding 2019-2021

**Sadly found
deceased. SO loved
and so missed**

A big thank you to the village

I wanted to mark Pudding's passing by extending a huge thank you to the people of Timsbury and surrounding villages, who helped me in my search for her. Sadly after 4 weeks of looking, of posters, leaflets and social media, Pudding was found deceased by a dog walker off the beaten track. Only Pudding knows what happened, but it was possibly a road accident and then she was taken by foxes (I love foxes and all animals, so am glad nature reclaimed her).

Pudding's life, death and the search for her taught me so much: the beauty of this village as I walked miles of its paths, roadways and fields; the beauty of its people as I met so many of you and exchanged kind and hopeful words, the deep concern and compassion shown when you heard of her passing. Pudding has taught me how to live in the present moment as all I thought about was her as I took each step, one by one. Most of all, she has reminded me that the biggest gifts in life are the animals that bless us as our pets and in nature, and the people we meet and connect with along the way.

Thank you so much for being part of my journey.

Eliza (that's me with one of Ricky and Chris's lambs, helping it go back to Ricky's for bottle feeding)





Timsbury Theatre Group

Dates for your diaries!

By Peter Buchanan

Timsbury Theatre group has not met in person or put anything on stage for over a year now and despite the recent easing of restrictions we will not be able to stage a production until our pantomime in December.

This year's offering will be "Aladdin" (or "A Lad In Trouble") by Sam Allen, an excellent script with all the traditional panto situations and lots of jokes! Some scenery painting is already under way and it promises to be a very spectacular show, with lots of pyrotechnics and a magic carpet!

The timetable for "Aladdin" looks like this:

- Reading the script on 13th & 15th July.
- Auditions on the 20th and 22nd July, all at 7.45pm in the Conygre Hall.
- Rehearsals will start on 2nd September, and will continue every Tuesday and most Thursdays until production week.

Anyone who is interested in taking part is strongly advised to come to one, or both, of the readings to meet the group and get a feel for the piece – new blood of any age will be very welcome indeed!

Our much-delayed production of "The Vicar of Dibley" will now be staged in Spring 2022. All tickets sold for the planned 2020 performances will be valid for the same day of the week in 2022, but if any ticket holder would like a refund, they should email timsburytheatre@gmail.com

For more information about future productions, please contact our Chair Jo Whittock on **01761 472745**. Anyone who's interested in joining our backstage team (lighting, sound, costume, props etc) should contact Peter Crooke on **01761 434479**.

There's more information about the group on our website www.thettg.org and on Facebook and Twitter.

The Tennis Courts are open!

9.00am to 8.00pm every day

To make a booking go to

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/
TimsburyTennisCourt

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Print Name:.....

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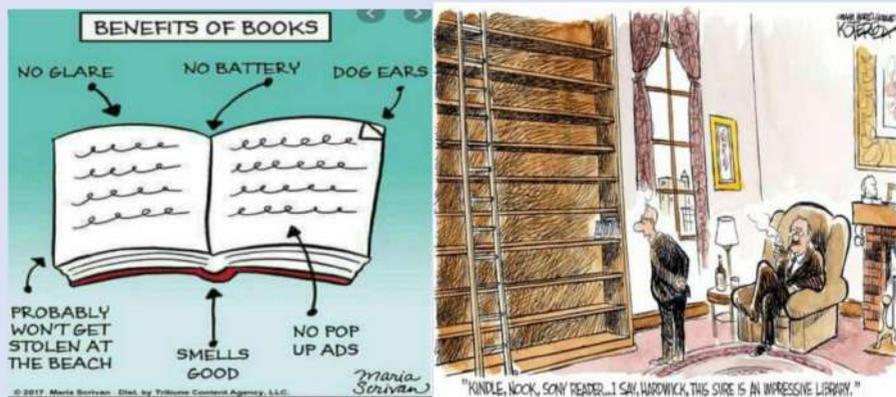


Free books? Would you like to join the Library?

Timsbury Community Library is part of the Libraries West consortium of Libraries. As a member, you have access to all the Libraries that are part of this (of which all Libraries in B&NES are) and to millions of books / audios and magazines that can be ordered in - then delivered to Timsbury Library for your collection.

Fill out the Joining Form opposite and return it to us at the Library in Timsbury (YMCA Building, North Road) to receive your membership card – We are Open on Mondays & Thursdays 2-4pm and Saturday morning's 10-12 noon.

If you cannot get to the Library but wish to join, please call Liz Casson on 01761 470295.



Fill those bookshelves up again!

Junior Easter Tennis Camps

By Mandy Stonier

Secretary of Somer Valley Tennis

Working in partnership with the Conygre Trust to bring tennis into the community



With a 'nip' in the air and the wind blowing it was a wonderful surprise that so many children from Timsbury and surrounding villages signed up and attended the inaugural junior tennis camps held on the Timsbury Tennis Court by the Conygre Hall.

With coaching being provided by Dragonfly Leisure (operators of

Writhlington Indoor Tennis Centre) and a willing volunteer in Olivia Nobbs, who lives in the village, a great time was had by all that attended. A HUGE thank you to the Conygre Trustees for contributing to the running costs of the camps, ensuring the cost to the families was kept as low as possible.

Look out for more junior camps in May half term but if your children are keen to play term time tennis please go to : <https://www.dragonflyleisure.co.uk/activities/tennis/>

The village court is open for Pay & Play seven days a week, the link to book is here : <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TimsburyTennisCourt> or go to the Conygre Trust website.



Croquet Drives Away the Covid Blues

The Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club



On March 29th the sun shone and everyone could take part in outdoor sports. Members of Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club rushed down to their four lawns to enjoy their favourite sport (under Covid rules of course).

The club has now secured planning permission to further enhance their facilities. These include a new 135m2 club house (actually recycling a mobile classroom), water treatment plant so we can have flushing loos, and the installation of an irrigation system to ensure the lawns remain in tip top condition. There is a wide range of other improvements so the club will be one of the best in the area.

Works will start just before Easter and

by May, when Covid rules change again, the club will be looking forward to welcoming visitors and new members

'As we are a part of our local community and once these works are complete; we will be able to welcome even more visitors to our club' said Club Chair Mo Boys. *'If you are looking for a sport with light exercise, opportunities to meet people (under Covid rules), if you want to improve your health and well being – then think Croquet – Sport, Tactics, Skill, Team, Friends and Fun'*

A date for your diary -the Club will be holding the first of a series of four introductory weekly sessions starting May 9th, then 16th, 23rd, and 30th all from 2.00pm to 4.30 pm

You will quickly get to grips with the basics - even on the first day you will be playing a competitive game with new friends. The club's experienced and qualified coaches will introduce you to this fascinating sport and, you'll cover all the key skills

The cost is only £25 and that is refunded when you join the club. All

equipment is provided free, just wear flat soled shoes

To keep within Covid rules, please first contact Mo Boys on **07929 733640** or email me at **moboys@talktalk.net** to book your own Croquet experience.

We all look forward to seeing you in the near future.

The Green Pages

By Bridget Newbery

We need to talk about Peat

Over three billion tonnes of carbon are stored in UK peatlands. That's equivalent to all the carbon stored in the forests of the UK, Germany and France put together.

Peat is partially decayed organic matter which comes from sphagnum moss growing in peatland bogs, built up over millennia. And it makes it a great growing medium.

But peatlands form some of the UK's biggest wild spaces, and provide habitats for rare and endangered species of birds and plants that are not found anywhere else in the world. They create natural flood defences (soaking up rainfall and releasing it slowly) and help to filter our drinking water (70% of the UK's fresh water is sourced from peatland).

Crucially, peat acts as a carbon sink, locking in large amounts of carbon. But



when it's harvested for compost, peat bogs are drained and cleared of all vegetation. Harvesting removes 100s of years worth of peat accumulation, wipes out the entire eco-system, and also releases massive amounts of stored carbon into the atmosphere. It's estimated that damaged peatland is the

source of 5% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.

The urgency of a move to peat-free composts is recognised, with legislation to ban new extraction licenses and targets set to phase out peat, but frustratingly we're still not meeting those targets.

The good news is that anyone who ever buys compost can help to address the problem really easily. There are more and more peat-free composts available to buy. For Peat's sake, make the switch.

Rhubarb and asparagus season



Rhubarb is at its best this month, and you might be lucky and get the first few

UK grown strawberries. There's not much other fruit yet, but here are the vegetables to go for if you want to buy food that's in season, tastier and cheaper!



Asparagus, baby broad beans, broccoli, baby carrots, cauliflower, garlic, lettuce (Lamb's and Curly), new potatoes, radishes, samphire, spinach, spring onions, watercress, baby turnips.



Cheeses in season in May include English soft cheeses, ewe's milk cheeses, fresh goat cheeses, and Stinking Bishop, as well as (imported) Coulommiers (lesser known cousin of Brie) and Camembert.

News from Greenhill House

By Tracey Herridge

Planting is well under way for this year's gardening display. Residents have planted seeds and in some cases potted on some of the seedlings already.

Gardening is still the busiest activity at Greenhill and residents have planted up their outdoor containers with early spring flowers.



We had a Wassail Ceremony, a traditional ceremony to bless the apple harvest, a little late this year. We spent the afternoon in the garden listening to

a folk tale, tasting cider and eating freshly made apple cake.



Easter was the most recent event that we celebrated with the residents.

We made cards and decorated the home and any excuse for chocolate always goes down well.



As restrictions start to ease residents are really looking forward to being able to go out and visit family and friends and enjoy some summer outings.

RNLI

By Adrian Dodd



It has been a tough last twelve months for the RNLI as with all charities. Most of the traditional ways of fundraising could not go ahead and yet the RNLI continued to operate 24/7, 365 days a year.

The RNLI has survived by dipping into its reserves, putting planned improvement projects on hold and generally making savings wherever possible. Any fundraising has been very limited and, for the most part, has been online.

In the Chew Valley Fund Raising Branch we are passionate about the RNLI and the life-saving services that it provides to everyone around the UK and in Ireland.

In 2019 the RNLI saved 374 lives and helped over 38,700 people. We anticipate that many in the UK will holiday in the UK this summer and so our coastal waters and beaches are going to be busier than ever. The services of the lifeboats and the lifeguards are really going to be needed!

Funds are needed to keep the service

going at the high standard that we know and appreciate. Maintaining the lifeboats, providing good kit for crew and lifeguards and essential training, all have to be paid for and in 2019 it took £181.5m to run the RNLI and as many people may be aware, 95% of the RNLI people are volunteers.

To get things back on the right track the RNLI has launched a Spring Appeal. We in the Chew Valley Branch cannot bring you a fundraising event for now, however you can make a donation to the Spring Appeal via the RNLI website www.rnli.org/ Equally cheques may be sent to:

RNLI HQ, W Quay Rd, Poole, BH15 1JH .

Talking of events, the committee is looking very tentatively at the possibility of an event in September and we have tentatively booked Ubley Parish Hall for our Curry Lunch on Friday 12th November. All subject to change, of course, and we will keep you posted.

It will be good to be able to get together again and celebrate the work of the RNLI, especially over a curry!

In the meantime we look forward to summer holidays with more freedom to enjoy our own coastal areas in safety, whether by, on, or in the sea. The RNLI will be there with you!



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Ruminations from Radford

By Richard Fox

Last month's Timsbury Letter carried several new and interesting articles, so I want to congratulate the editor, and of course the Parish Council who provide the funds.

I note that the Council precept will be going up for the coming year by a small amount; definitely worth it, but I did not see any mention of new funds towards subjects like the Climate Emergency and Sustainability.

One way we can help is to plant more trees. I've said it before, but acorns are the ideal seed for small fingers to find and grow. They are easily handled and hard to damage, they are very simple to sow and usually have a high germination rate. They can be inspected every month or two throughout the winter and one can see the roots begin to grow. They are not much bothered by being dug up, inspected, and re-planted, and by April or so a little stem pops up with a leaf that grows day by day.



With a small amount of care they all turn into oak trees and support hundreds of bugs, beetles and birds, and after about 20 years they produce more acorns.



Of course, we would have to organise where to plant out all those new oak trees, but we have a few years to meet that challenge. What's needed now is a team of acorn enthusiasts to spearhead the dream.

Ash trees are even easier to grow than oak trees, and this country has always produced hundreds of thousands of ash saplings every year, even now.

So why did we allow tens of thousands of ash saplings to be imported from countries known to have 80-90% infection rates of this pandemic-causing fungus? Surely I am not the only one to see some parallels between the Ash dieback story and the Covid-19 story? Why, in both cases, was the phrase "too little, too late" thrown at this island's government?

Gadget Busters

Phone and Online Sessions Available

By Sarah Diacono



Organised by Chew Valley Gadget Busters - we are looking for volunteers!

Do you have difficulty using your laptop, iPad, tablet, phone or digital camera? Do you want to communicate visually or play games on-line with your friends and family during the pandemic, but don't know how? Perhaps you're worried about how to order supermarket deliveries on-line?

Email **cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com** who are here to help. We will be holding phone sessions on the first and third Fridays of each month until it is safe to resume face to face sessions. We make no charge, but suggest you make a £3 donation to the charity of your choice.

To contact us, simply E-mail your query and your phone number by midday on Friday 7th May or Friday 21st May and one of our friendly volunteers will get back to you during the two hour on-line sessions. Even if you have no specific query, send us your email address and we will keep you up to date with what extra support we are offering during this period.

Online sessions 7th May and 21st May 1.30pm - 3.30 pm.

If you'd like to join the Gadget Busters team of volunteers, please do drop us an email.

Sarah Diacono **07769 725542**

sjldiacono@gmail.com



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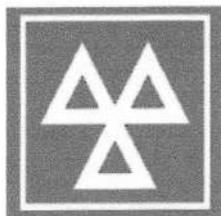
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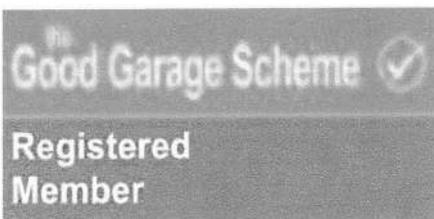


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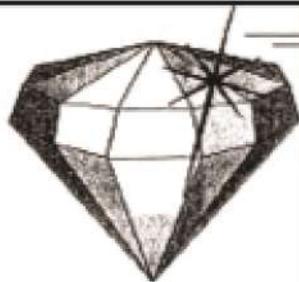


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