

# Wembdon Parish Paper

Edition 16



Connecting with our community



## **Latest News:**

Acting on the concerns of the village, Wembdon Parish council are continuing to work with Somerset County Council to reduce the speed of vehicles through the village. We are now finalising the position of Speed Indicator Devices through the village.

WPC submitted a response to the Local Plan, reflecting views expressed by residents.

The fallen willow in the playing fields, and the two tree trunks in the rhyne have been cleared. The trees on The Common have been trimmed and the willows along the verge pollarded (required approximately every 10 years).

Skimmerton Lane has been inspected by Highways at SDC and repairs actioned. Fines were issued to drivers using the lane in the wrong direction during the latest road works. Defects along Moores Lane have been rectified.

Recommendations from the recent playground assessment are being actioned, to include: replacing the swing chains, repair to sections of the soft play surface, and fence post repairs. These were all rated as low risk but we have taken this opportunity to action them. Additionally, we have installed a new gate with slow closure action in response to residents' requests.

We have been advised by SDC that signage advertising trades and businesses may require planning permission and they are currently reviewing the presence of those in the village. You may receive notification to remove any boards displayed without planning permission. Please contact SDC for advice prior to displaying such boards.

Overgrown hedges and shrubbery continues to cause a hazard and annoyance to pedestrians and cyclists in the village, and at times a visual impediment to traffic. Highways view on this is clear – if you have a hedge bordering your property you own all sides of it and are responsible for trimming it to prevent obstruction to road users and pedestrians.

Sadly no food is currently available at The Cottage Inn and the present managers will be leaving in mid-March. It is hoped that new purchasers can be found & The Cottage will once again become a thriving local pub.

The Cottage remains an Asset of Community Value for the next 5 years as this was granted by SDC & protects the pub from development.

## Update from the Village Hall Trustees:



The  
**Green**  
Wembdon

“  
A Village Hall, Sports Ground and Open Space  
”

I am sure a mixture of local press, social media and the obvious absence of workmen on site has alerted local residents to the current issues related to completion of the hall and playing fields. At the outset The Trust would like to express our sadness that Woodlands find themselves in this difficult position, we had a good working relationship with them and the building you see, holds testament to their skills and workmanship, alongside other professionals and the team. The Trustees, project team and our project and employers agents are working hard to assess the remaining works and prepare to go out to tender, aiming to restart work as soon as possible. At present we are unable to give a completion date. We are in contact with people who had made provisional bookings and as soon as we can confirm opening dates, contact will be made with all those individuals, groups and associations who are planning to hold events or clubs. We are aware that Wembdon Sunshiner's staff, Wembdon junior Football Club and Wembdon Cricket Club are keeping parents and team members updated. No-one is in any doubt that with a project that is 70% complete, the absolute conviction and dedication of the team, the massive community support, concern and good wishes; and the support of our Parish Council, Councillors, SDC, and SCC, that anyone who wishes to will soon be using the facilities for fun, education, sport, creative and social activities, drawing many people together in community spirit. *The Trustees WVHPFT*



## WEMBDON VILLAGE HALL.

There has been no activity on the Village Hall site since the New Year and the Parish Council would like to explain to everyone the situation from our perspective.

The construction company has gone into liquidation and the Parish Council has been in regular contact with the Village Hall Trust and is totally supportive of their efforts to carry on. A way forward is being sought, by appointing a new contractor, and the opening date will need to be put back probably until the middle of the summer. The Parish Council have seen that the grants are in place to finish the Hall and that work will resume as soon as is possible.

The situation with access from the NDR is different. Viridor Credits gave a second grant (in addition to the £1,000,000 grant for the Hall) over a year ago specifically for access onto the NDR. The various approvals and documentation for this adoptable work became very prolonged despite all parties involved (the contractor, SCC, the Trust) trying everything to move matters quickly. Regrettably, as time lapsed, the unspent monies from the second Viridor Credits grant was lost and the funding for the access has gone. This has put an enormous strain on the Village Hall Trustees and the Parish Council has resolved to step in. The PC is totally behind this superb project but could not support regular vehicular access into the Hall from anywhere other than the NDR. At the start of this project the village voted its support but only if Church Road was not used as the main access. The PC has always supported that stance.

So, at its January meeting the Parish Council resolved to take over responsibility for providing the access onto the NDR, and allowing the Village Hall Trust to focus their funding, time and attention on completing the Hall and playing fields. The PC is looking at different ways of getting the access completed and a number of channels are being pursued. However, if it comes to it, we have taken the necessary steps to fund a loan to construct the access onto the NDR. This means that we have raised our parish precept funding by 8%. In effect, what does this mean? Our current precept is met by every adult tax payer in the Parish of Wembdon providing approximately £20 per head per year from your

Council Tax. As from April 1st, your new precept contribution will rise by around £2 per person, per year.

If we can get the access provided without having to use these funds then we could use the money for other projects in the village. We could pay off the loan for the allotments or we could begin to re-vamp the children's play equipment in the park. But we are determined that the Village Hall project will not fail and we hope that you will support us. There is a rather good feel to the idea that EVERYONE in Wembdon will have contributed to the new facilities. We are not always aware how our Council Tax contributions are spent by the District or the County Councils. In Wembdon, we are very transparent about how we spend your Precept, we hope everyone can see how active and positive your PC is.

### **Give-A-Day 2015 -2016**

Last year our focus for the 5 community Give-a -Days was our new area of land between Great Oaks and the new Village Hall. 50 villagers or more gave up their time on at least one occasion to help with the ground clearing and the transformation has been amazing. All the overgrown copses have been thinned out so that a great variety of trees can develop and mature. The new wildflower meadow will hopefully come to fruition this spring and the hedge around it now only needs tidying up. I can only say a huge 'thank you' to all concerned and look forward to getting back together to finish the job. A special thanks goes to the Environment Agency who allowed a dozen of its staff to don outdoor gear and spend a day in November working on the area assisting us with the project. They cleared a huge amount of land either side of the rhyne and created a lovely adventure area for children around the fallen willow tree. Massive thanks to Ken Moss and his team.

**2016** - So, what about this year?? We have a lot of trimmed branches to burn and the hedge around the wildflower meadow to carefully tidy up.

We need to be very cautious as the bird nesting season is due and we must be respectful of this. Can I ask you to put **SATURDAY 19th MARCH** into your diaries for our next 'Give-a-Day' meeting up at **10.00am** by the wild flower meadow. **MANY, MANY THANKS, Neil.**

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**Somerset**

**Village**

**Agents**

Hello, my name is Alison Hoare and in September this year Wembdon was added to the group of nine villages North West of Bridgwater that I serve as Village Agent. I have lived in Over Stowey since the beginning of time (almost!), I am employed by the Community Council for Somerset and work part time, based at home. My job is to provide people in local village communities with easier access to information and services. I offer free and confidential practical support to local people and community groups, in partnership with other local statutory and voluntary organisations. I can help with

Home Safety, Social Care, Health Issues and Wellbeing, Pensions and Benefits, Housing, Transport, Advocacy, Employment, Leisure, Volunteering, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Community Resilience Planning and a host of other things. This list is not exhaustive and I have access to an extensive range of resources. I hope to be visiting community groups over the coming months and if you would like to hear more about the work I do I would welcome an opportunity to come and talk to your group. I am also happy to visit individuals at home for a confidential exchange or you can simply phone, or email as a first point of contact if you have any issue in need of a solution.

Please contact me , Phone: 07798 70 33 21 Email: [Alison@somerset rcc.org.uk](mailto:Alison@somerset rcc.org.uk). For more information about the Community Council for Somerset visit the website at [www.somerset rcc.org.uk](http://www.somerset rcc.org.uk)



## **Parish Assembly.**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7pm.**

You are warmly invited to this years' Annual Parish Assembly, to be held at St George's School, Wembdon. This is not a normal Parish Council Meeting, and no business will be transacted. Instead it is your opportunity to find out what your Parish Council has been doing over the last year, and what it hopes to do in the future. We also want to hear what you may have to say about local issues. Please come along and ask questions, join in and enjoy some light refreshments. Local clubs, societies, voluntary and statutory organisations will be invited to speak about what they do, and showcase all the varied activities that go on in the village.

Last year was a very good evening, and this year we hope to welcome many more electors, and to hear your views about what we are doing.

## Notes from a Councillor - Cllr Richard Webber.



Born and bred on Exmoor I went to Porlock primary school and then onto Minehead Comprehensive until the tender age of 17 when my first job with the Somerset Rivers Authority brought me to Bridgwater training as a Junior Engineer, my first residence in the town were digs in Queenswood Road. So for the past 45 years I have lived in and around Bridgwater working for the Somerset Rivers Authority which then became part of Wessex Water Authority when that was formed.

Whilst working for Wessex Water Authority an opportunity presented itself to return to full time education and study for a BSc. degree in Civil Engineering at Plymouth college, after which I returned to Wessex Water working in various departments as an engineer and eventually ended up in Water Supply managing the Leakage Control unit in Somerset and the Water Supply Byelaws Inspectorate for the whole of Wessex.

In 1992 my wife Deb, and I started a business in property development and general building. This led to us moving to the outskirts of Wembdon in 1997 when we purchased the derelict Blakes Farmhouse and set about a total renovation of the old house whilst living in a static caravan on the site with our 2 1/2 year old daughter Rebecca. Many of you can probably remember the old caravan and Buster the dog barking at whoever went past on Blakes Lane. We always said it was temporary accommodation but lived in it for 7 years! Yes we are in the house now and yes, it's not finished yet.

Some years ago we purchased Jack Rugg's cider press and mill from Grabhams Farm and started making cider, generally for our own consumption and friends of course! It proved to be very popular so a few years later Uncle Dick's Somerset Cider was born and we are now Wembdon's very own commercial cider producer and can be seen at all the local festivals that will have us and we have a regular weekly stall in the Bridgwater Castle Market.

Getting involved with the Wembdon Parish Council last year has proved to be an opportunity to get to know the people of Wembdon better and bring whatever skills I have to the benefit of the village. I am looking forward to many years as a Parish Councillor as it enables me to give something back to village. Best wishes – Richard.



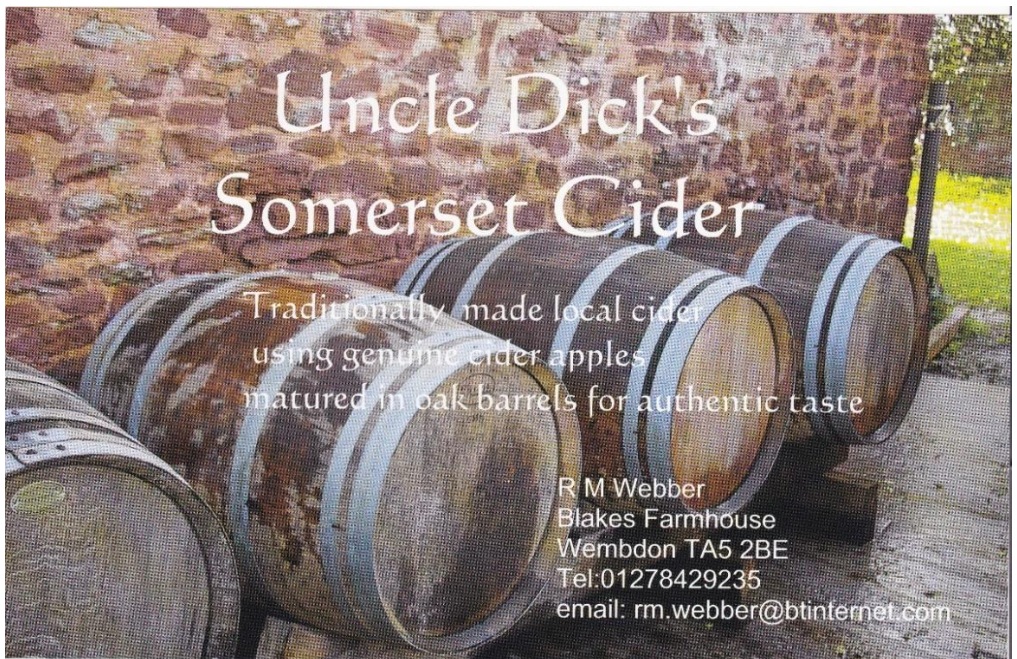
## Wembdon Street Scene.

WPC believes that Wembdon has a distinct character, of which we are very proud. This has been acknowledged and appreciated by older, established families, newer residents and visitors, making Wembdon unique from neighbouring villages. We are exploring the idea that this is worth preserving, and looking at ways to maintaining the welcoming atmosphere of the village and preserving the "Street Scene". The Wembdon stone and pollarded willow trees for example, contribute clearly to our village identity. In describing and evaluating Wembdon, as it is today, we may be able to make local character count in any new developments influencing our village and its immediate surroundings, highlight the qualities valued by local residents, focus on what makes Wembdon distinctive, and preserve its history.

With this in mind we would like to ask you to respond to the following questions:

- Do you wish to record and preserve our local street scene?
- What do you consider is iconic to Wembdon and contributes to our local street scene?

Please direct responses to WPC via the Clerk using the contact details towards the back of this booklet. Many thanks for your time and reflections on this.





Our speed watch team continue to be active in the village, monitoring traffic for our safety. Would you be surprised to know that in a 1 hour period, 9:00-10:00am on a Saturday, nearly 200 cars passed through the village? We are delighted to have had the police motorcycle speed unit active on Wembdon Rise recently and have put forward other locations of concern, as raised by residents, for monitoring - notably Wembdon Hill. A friendly team of local volunteers, Speed Watch are always keen for people to join them. If you feel you could offer a couple of hours a month, please get in touch via our clerk.

Thank you ☺



Model Farm gardens open for the **NGS charity** on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

This year 'Proportion Productions' made the feature film 'Foxtrap' in and around Model Farm, we wish them all the best for the film's release in May.

We offer quality accommodation and extensive gardens suitable for large groups. Ideal for that special birthday or anniversary.

[www.modelfarm.com](http://www.modelfarm.com)

**Model Farm**  
COUNTRY HOUSE

## Wembdon St. George's C of E VC Primary School. February 2016

Since last writing we have been extremely busy at school. The weeks leading up to Christmas saw some wonderful nativity plays and carol services (we really do have some very talented children from an exceptionally young age) and our Christmas parties and lunches which were enjoyed by staff and children alike. We said goodbye to Mrs White who had been teaching at Wembdon for 9 years and we have welcomed Miss Curtis as the year 3/4 teacher. We were also very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Upham who has retired after 24 years. Mrs Upham has seen many changes from typewriters to computers and Banda machines to colour photocopiers. She has been pivotal in helping our school run smoothly and efficiently and she always had a warm smile and cheery disposition for staff, children and visitors. We all wish her a very happy, long and healthy retirement and we welcome Mrs Maria Cassidy as our new school business manager.

It was lovely to see so many residents who came for a tour of our school last term and I was extremely proud to show what a wonderful school we are. Our Year 5 and 6 children worked with the Young Shakespeare Company on Romeo and Juliet which culminated in an exciting visit to Strode Theatre to see the play. They have also taken part in Safeguarding workshops delivered by the NSPCC. Our Robotics Club came 7th in the Robotics competition at Bristol and our Football and Netball Teams are busy taking part in league games. We have a team of children who are doing exceptionally well in their trampolining competitions and are now through to the national finals in Manchester. All our children have recently been involved in an anti-bullying week and have had a safer Internet day and our school council has been proactive at raising funds for Save the Children. Our choir is busy rehearsing for Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat which is being performed at the new Macmillan Theatre in March and we will be looking forward to Book Week at the beginning of March. The Foundation Stage have been celebrating Chinese New Year and have produced some wonderful work and they are still enjoying their Wellie Walks every Wednesday.

I am enquiring about making our school grounds even safer and have already had a new gate and railings fitted to part of the playground. Safety outside school is a high priority and we are waiting for the painting of yellow lines down Brantwood Road. If anyone has any time on their hands and is happy for a DBS check to be carried out, we would love to have you in school to hear readers, teach sewing and knitting or even run a gardening club. Please enquire at the school office if you are interested in volunteering.

Judith Heale. (Head Teacher)





## DOG POO!!!!!!

I hope the title isn't too alarming but this article needs to be written in the hope that all dog owner/walkers will try harder to make life better for all of us. The council regularly receives phone calls and e-mails from parishioners complaining about the state of footpaths, pavements, the Common and our

Park area because dog poo is being left on the ground. The issue is repeatedly discussed at Parish Council meetings and, I have to admit, the problem will not go away. Up at the allotments dog poo bags (full) are regularly dumped in the new litter bin which causes a disgusting smell when the bin is emptied. The nearest dog poo bin is only 25 metres away along the footpath!!! This issue is important not just because it looks and smells bad, but can contain a nasty bug which could cause significant harm to people, especially children, who might come into contact with it.

Can I call on everyone's support to deal with this once and for all? Let's encourage all dog owners to follow this **Code of Conduct**:

- 1) All dogs to be kept on a lead at ALL times in and around the village. EXCEPT, our newly cleared area between the new village hall and Great Oaks. The bridge close to the new cricket nets provides a natural boundary. This more natural area is ideal for dogs to be off-lead and to give the chance to run free.
- 2) Please make every effort to pick up dog mess anywhere in the village, and especially on pathways, before anyone, particularly young children, step in it.
- 3) Please place all dog poo bags only in a dog poo bin.

**DID YOU KNOW?** We have more dog poo bins in our Parish than litter bins. The Parish Council spends over £3,000 each year to have our dog bins emptied.

If members of the public have concerns about dog fouling – please contact Sedgemoor District Council's **dog warden on 0845-408-408 or 0300-303-7800**

Dog owners be aware – you could be fined if you fail to pick up the mess left behind by your pet. **The fixed penalty notice is £75** (reduced to £50 if paid within 7 days).



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Facebook Walkieswithleah Jones

### Dates for your diary.

Please refer to hosting organisation in case of change.

**Wembdon Parish Council Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month**

(may be subject to change of date and venue).

**Community Give-A-Day – Saturday 19th March 2016**

**Parish Assembly – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**St George's May Fair – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Parish Council Annual General Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

## **Somerset Choices – a short film to help you get started.**

An animated guide showing how the Somerset Choices website can help you access a world of local care and support is now available. Somerset Choices is a website that provides easy access to information and a directory of services, products, groups and events. These include care homes, help at home, mobility equipment, personal assistants, lunch clubs, exercise groups, breaks for carers and lots more. The animated film, found at [www.somersetchoices.org.uk/about-this-site/help](http://www.somersetchoices.org.uk/about-this-site/help) demonstrates how the self-help section on the website lets people tap into a wealth of information and advice and search for local services and events to find support that meets their needs. The animation is really helpful if people are not quite sure what they are looking for on the website or if they need a bit of help finding their way around. Four months on from the launch of the website and there have been over 120,000 page views and 1,000 services registered on the site. Somerset Choices allows people to make informed decisions about who supplies their care and aims to help people to help themselves stay independent, healthy and well. More local care and support providers are being encouraged to upload their details so that the site contains a really comprehensive directory of local services. Providers can register by going to: [www.somersetchoices.org.uk/marketplace/register/index](http://www.somersetchoices.org.uk/marketplace/register/index) The Somerset Choices website has been developed by Somerset County Council, in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) & District Councils.

**Saturday 7th May 2016 2pm**

**May Fair at St George's Parish Centre, Church Road, Wembdon.  
Craft stalls, games, entertainment, teas and much more.  
Look out for the posters.**

**Wembdon Parish Council Paper is printed by Parish Magazine Printing  
(01288 341617) printers of community magazines.**

## Contact your Parish Council

website: [www.wembdon.org](http://www.wembdon.org) email: [wembdonpc@gmail.com](mailto:wembdonpc@gmail.com)

Visit our Facebook page Wembdon parish council

Follow us on **twitter** @wembdonpc

**Post:** Tony Jay, Wembdon Parish Council Clerk, c/o Banwell Village Hall, Westfield Road, Banwell, North Somerset. BS29 6BS  
Tel No 07741 461982

### Know your Parish Councillors:

Mike Solomon, Neil Harrison, Julia Riddle, Anne Reed, Richard Webber, David Gliddon & Joanna Jackson represent Wembdon-Wembdon ward. Terry Thake, Dan Bingham & Jason Woods continue to represent Wembdon-Victoria ward.

**Wembdon Parish Council meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. This may be subject to change, notification will be via the website & notice boards whenever possible**



### Any Concerns?



What can your Parish Council do for you and your village? Does it need improving, installing, repairing, reviewing or removing? Please let us know about any issues or aspects of village life which we may be able to attend to. We welcome your positive feedback as well, so why not let us know if we did a good job too!

Advertise here. To advertise here or for more information please contact [wembdonpc@gmail.com](mailto:wembdonpc@gmail.com)

**A5: ½ page £20 ¼ page £10 mini £5 (b&w).** If you would like to submit an entry about your club or village event please contact the Communication Team via WPC, as above.

# Local contacts and information.

**Wembdon Community Association (WCA):** Graham Grief – 01278 457973

**Wembdon Stores:** tel: 01278 434815

**The Cottage Inn:** Opening hours Mon-Fri 6:00pm- 11:00pm  
Sat & Sun 12noon- 4:00pm; 6:00pm-11:00pm tel: 01278 423259

**St George's Church office:** tel: 01278 423468 / Ed Moll tel: 01278 423647

**Parish Centre:** Pat Bright tel: 01278 457760

**Beavers / Cubs / Scouts:** Group Leader John Ennals tel: 07703 033 947

**Brownies:** Leader Sue Sly tel: 01278 410911

**Cricket club:** All cricket, pavilion hire, sponsorship & enquiries - Dan Bingham tel: 07841 013 128. [wembdoncricket@gmail.com](mailto:wembdoncricket@gmail.com)

**Football club:** Caroline Fretwell [englandbirdie@aol.com](mailto:englandbirdie@aol.com) tel:07736045967

**Wembdon Ladies:** Lyn Poile tel: 01278 424431

**Wembdon Toddlers:** Thurs 10am-12noon Ceri Douglass tel: 01278 422702

**Wembdon Sunshiners Pre-school:** Jen Hillier tel: 01278 457100

**Ladies keep Fit:** Mon 945am-10:45am Viv Tolcher tel: 01278 424491

**Art Group:** Tues 10:00am-12:00pm Kay Robbins tel: 01278 423212

**Jay Singers:** Tues 7:30pm Tim Loveday tel: 01278 425422

**Wembdon Bridge:** Thurs 1:45pm Ernie Whitehead tel: 01278 424134

**Sedgemoor Camera Club:** Graham Shaw tel: 01278 422343

**Sedgemoor Stitches:** - Vanessa Leighton tel: 01278 662977

**Travel Line:** (local bus information) 0871 200 22 33