

# Wembdon Parish Paper

Edition 18



Connecting with our community



## **Latest News:**

**WPC have requested that the sequencing for the traffic lights at the junction of Wembdon Rise and Homberg Way be reviewed, following several recent accidents and near-misses. The safety railing damage at this junction is also to be inspected by Highways. The section of railings opposite Trinity Way however is not the responsibility of Highways.**

**Street hording in Wembdon have been removed to comply with planning regs.**

**WPC are reviewing the spacing of the pedestrian gate accessing the footpath, behind Blake's Farm, following reports that it is too narrow to pass through.**

**BT have notified us that the phone box on Wembdon Hill will be removed.**

**Safety concerns raised about the bus stops will be examined again.**

**WPC are hoping to add "No Smoking" signs to the children's play area, in line with other play facilities in the area. Please respect our children's play space.**

**Repairs to the Under 6's climbing apparatus has been actioned.**

**The railings alongside the Millennium Bridge are to be repainted.**

**An application for lottery funding is being submitted to purchase more defibrillators for additional locations in the village – locations to be confirmed.**

**ANOTHER dog waste bin is being sited on the maintenance track in the playing fields as a collaboration between WPC and WVHPFT. This is in response to concerns about the excessive quantity of dog fouling on the playing fields.**

**WPC are investigating tarmacking the footpath from Wares Lane to Homberg Way. In the meantime, we continue work to improve the drainage.**

**The footpath and cycle-way on Homberg Way near Churchfields is overgrown. This has been reported to Clean Surroundings who will action its clearance.**

**The contractors on site at the Parish Centre have responded to requests from WPC and cleaned Church Road.**

## **NEW HOUSES ON THE COKERHURST SITE.**

We have all (hopefully) seen the Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) draft document for future housing development in our Parish, and we hope that you have already made your responses to <http://sedgemoor-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/> . We are about to move into the next phase, with more detailed plans of what we can expect over the next few years.

SDC Chief Planning Officer, Nick Tait, will be speaking in Wembdon on February 13th to outline these plans. There are opportunities on that day for everyone to make a response.

The school is closed for half term so Nick Tait and his team will be at St Georges School from **2.30pm – 7.00pm** to display their future plans and consult with people on an individual basis.

From 7.00 – 8.00pm they will present their plans to the Parish Council and we would welcome anyone from the village to attend.

Don't forget, when the Cokerhurst plans were defeated last time, the District Council were against the proposal put forward by Cavannah Homes. It is up to us to show the Council just how strongly we feel about our village and its future so that we can hopefully maintain District Council support.

**PLEASE FIND TIME TO GET TO ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL  
ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY.**



The  
**Green**  
Wembdon

“ A Village Hall, Sports Ground and Open Space ”

## Wembdon Village Hall and Playing Field Trust

### Notice of AGM

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at 7pm  
Wembdon St George's Primary School.

### Village Hall update

The road entrance off the NDR is complete and the Church Road vehicle entrance is now locked. The Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents, Parish Centre and Church users, local businesses and The Parish Council for co-operating and negotiating with us during the protracted construction phase.

The building is due to be handed over in May 2017.

Bookings are being taken from June 1st 2017.

The official opening events will be on July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Further information will be published soon.

During May we will be contacting all those groups who have expressed an interest in using the hall and facilities.

New applicants wishing to book regular clubs, groups or classes are also welcome to attend. Dates and times will be published in mid-March on our website [www.wembdonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.wembdonvillagehall.co.uk)

Private functions already booked will receive booking forms in early March.

The hall, car park and playing fields will be used fully for the annual WCA Village Day in August; the Flower Show will remain at the Parish Centre in keeping with tradition.

The Trustees will continue to have legal responsibility for the building and land. A hall committee will be formed and will be responsible for the day to day running. All posts will be voluntary. If you are interested in joining the village hall committee to help in anyway, please contact us via the website or 07594299533.

The Trustees are in the process of applying for a premises licence to allow the sale of alcohol, playing of music, showing of films etc to take place at the premises.

The Trust will be the licence holders. Wembdon Cricket Club will staff the bar and The Trustees have appointed a legally qualified person as the Designated Person Responsible. The application for the Premises Licence will show a request for a broad scope of licensable hours for all licensable activities. We have been advised by the Sedgemoor Licensing Officer that it is practical and usual to apply in this manner to enable flexibility; if the application is too prescriptive we would need to apply for an event licence every time we varied the hours. Unless it is a private function (wedding, party) local residents will be welcome to use the bar and participate in the social activity.

Our application also includes the policies and preventions we will adopt to conform to the Crime Commissioner's goals to minimise crime and public disorder and protect all members of the public and property.

Lyn Tyrrell  
Trustee

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The corner of the Parklands cleared by Give-A-Day helpers last October – enjoyed by children then, and again now thanks to our fabulous volunteers. Photo from Sally, many thanks. 😊



## **GIVE - AN - HOUR (or TWO).**

Our work on the Parkland was never meant to be a one or two year project. It is very much a long term plan with continuous changes and developments. Our THIRD year is about to kick off after a winter break so we need to dust off the tools, buy some new protective gloves and get some dates into our diaries. With the Village Hall nearing completion and a handover date in May, there is some Spring Cleaning to be done to get the whole area as ready as possible. So, here are the next 3 dates for your diaries:

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10.00am start.**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am start.**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 10.00am start.**

I always put up a large poster reminder on the NDR crossing bridge over the rhyne about a week before each session so keep a lookout for that. We meet at that bridge and the session lasts for as long as you want, with a finish around 2.00pm ish. We would love to see you there on any of the dates above.

## **Allotments February 2017.**

We are generally full up on the allotment site and it remains a lovely area to walk and enjoy the beautiful views. However, there are two allotments currently available to rent. One is a full allotment with an annual rent of £40 per year and the other is a half – allotment with an annual rent of £22 per year. Rent is paid from April to April so the next two months will be rent free.

Contact Neil at 457549, or email [harrison.neil96@yahoo.com](mailto:harrison.neil96@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Wembdon Community Tree Planting Day.

“Come and plant 200 saplings” was the challenge given by The Trustees of Wembdon Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust when they invited members of the local community to join them on a Community Tree Planting Day, on Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> in the new sports fields at The Green, Wembdon, they did! A stream of people arrived during Saturday morning some with children in bright winter suits carrying their beach spades. They proudly planted saplings knowing they were leaving a legacy for future generations. Wembdon ‘Beavers’ the human kind not the tree nibbling version also helped. Local volunteers from the ‘Give an Hour’ group, who meet monthly to work on clearing parish land assisted. Pupil representatives from Wembdon St George’s primary school have also taken part. The trees all native species were granted free from the Woodland Trust, and included Field Maple, Silver Birch, Dogwood and Hazel. During the previous week, 20 mature Oaks purchased by the Parish Council were planted by the Chairman, encircling the Sports pitches and we see the project moving towards completion. Bridgwater Mercury.









## Meet Your Councillor – Dave Gliddon



When I first moved to Wembdon, as a 22 year old teacher, I never thought I'd end up taking photos of potholes! However, here I am 40 years later and that's one of the things I do! Since I'd lived here for so long, I felt it was important to be part of the process to maintain and improve the special area that we all live in. I'm prepared to find the time

to work together, with the community, to listen and to act on local issues that may not be enthralling, but which enhance where we all live. That's one reason I joined the Wembdon Community Association and was their Treasurer for 20 years. It's good to see the WCA thriving still and working well with the Parish Council, of which I'm now a member.

In 2014 I retired after a lifetime in education, the last 27 years as Headteacher of a local school. I now run a small dog boarding business from home and as such I'm always out and about walking dogs with my partner Rachel, and keeping an eye on the state of the paths, highways and traffic speed. As part of the Footpaths and Planning committee I'm well placed to see what's happening around our patch. Wembdon is a beautiful village, and I'm keen to do what I can to protect the green wedge, which has for so long helped maintain a rural feel to Wembdon, and which needs to be protected. I'm passionate about keeping EDF traffic out of the village and for slowing the speed of vehicles coming through, as we are increasingly becoming a rat-run between the A39 and Bridgwater.

Love it or loathe it, I'm also a bell-ringer! Part of village life is hearing the sound of church bells ringing out across the fields – a romantic view maybe but one that I think is part of our heritage. In my younger days I also played cricket for Wembdon when we were a nomadic team with no home ground.

Then in 1978, or thereabouts, we started playing at Chilton Trinity School. Now the Club has come into the heart of the village, along with our football teams, who will all be able to make use of the fabulous new Village Hall. Great credit goes to all those who have worked so hard to make this become a reality. Wembdon has long had a tradition of sporting excellence, particularly with the youth set-ups. Wembdon needs great facilities to support our sports teams, and other clubs and groups, and the new Village Hall will provide the perfect base for all of us.

Finally, I would say how delighted I am to see our village pub The Cottage thriving once again. Rachael and Clive have transformed it into a warm and welcoming place with new décor and furniture throughout. Well worth a visit if you've not been up recently.

By being on the Parish Council I hope to play some small part in ensuring that Wembdon remains a vibrant and desirable place for us all to live and work in. Feel free to make contact if you have constructive suggestions about things you feel your council could be doing: [davegliddon54@gmail.com](mailto:davegliddon54@gmail.com)



## WHY PUT YOUR DOG IN KENNELS.....?

- Local house and dog-sitter available - either at my house or yours.
- Visit: [www.dogbuddy.com/JXQTK](http://www.dogbuddy.com/JXQTK)
- Call Dave now for a no obligation quote on 07828 210 076 or 01278 424777
- First Class Service Guaranteed

## **DOGS ON THE NEW PLAYING FIELD.**

The new playing field has been in use for about 6 months and it is so good to see so many people enjoying this new space. However, whilst most users are very careful, there are a small number of dog owners who are not picking up dog deposits. This has caused problems with children playing football on the small ground and will get much worse when cricket returns in May and many more football matches in September on both pitches.

The Parish Council has worked closely with the Village Hall Trust to plan a way forward. By the end of February new signage will be in place and a new dog bin between the two new areas to keep them completely clean. The signs will forbid any walking of dogs on either field unless they are on a normal lead.

We have worked really hard to clear the Parkland area just over the bridge by the cricket nets and we always hoped that dog owners would use this area to walk dogs off the lead. We feel that this dual provision gives Wembdon a tremendous facility to support the whole community (see map on opposite page).

We would like to put in place a team of volunteers, working in pairs to monitor this new initiative. Each pair in high-vis jackets will walk the area (once a week each pair) to ensure that this new initiative is adhered to. We are prepared to pursue the matter further if problems persist.

We need volunteers to help patrol the area so please contact the Parish Council if you are prepared to help for an hour per week. We hope to operate this from March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**PLEASE HELP TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE!**



## THE BEEKEEPER'S WIFE

I have discovered over this past year that a great many books have been written about bees - the mysticism that surrounds them, their habits, how to keep bees, how to make honey, candles and all things beeswaxy, theories on disappearing bees – but I have not seen a book written by a beekeeper's wife. A beekeeper's wife is a kind of remote beekeeper, one who gets to know everything there is to know about bees without having to wear the protective clothing.....

As the kind of person who would prefer not to suffer stings and bites, being one of the more sensitive-skinned sufferers, my mantra with wasps is “the only good wasp is a dead wasp”. Mosquitoes, midges and hornets are more or less in the same category, although I don't go out of my way to shorten their lives so long as they leave me alone. Bees, I have always held in high regard, respecting their contribution to mankind and, until very recently, having absolutely no knowledge of their enthralling and complicated lives.

When husband Mike gently floated the idea of becoming a beekeeper I wasn't too sure, although I did keep my fears about killer bees, huge swarms, multiple bee stings and subsequent death to myself. Too many horror movies, perhaps, but you do read about such things and I had no desire to become a widow owning an unwanted beehive. When he said, however, that he wanted to read up and study the subject first I was quietly relieved, thinking that by the time he had waded through dry text books and wandered around the internet for a few weeks the urge would abate.

My own knowledge of bees at that time was basically that bees sting, they come in two sizes, bumble and worker, they are good for the garden flowers and honey tastes delicious. I also knew, from reading a book no doubt, that beekeepers always had to tell the bees their news, or the bees would leave. Yes, I had a long way to go...

We had already experienced, over the years, several close encounters with bee swarms, due to Lew, our lovely next-door neighbour-but-one. The first we knew of Lew's hives was a warning ‘not to use noisy garden machinery this weekend, the bees could be swarming’. To say we were somewhat alarmed was an understatement, as we crept around the garden talking in whispers and fearfully gazing into the sky expecting to

see a black cloud hovering over us any minute. However, if the bees did swarm they didn't do it in our garden that year and we returned to using the hedge trimmer and lawn mower with aplomb.

The following year we were quietly working in the garden, me in my bright yellow t-shirt, when Mike lifted his head. "Do you hear something" he said. I listened. There seemed to be a low hum that was louder than the usual garden background noise.

The low hum intensified and there seemed to be more bees around than usual, flying in an agitated fashion above our heads. "It's my t-shirt" I thought, "I'm attracting the bees." I whipped it over my head, dropped it in the wheelbarrow and picked up my fork to carry on working. "RUN" Mike was already sprinting up the path. I looked up and there, buzzing above my head, was the biggest cloud of bees you could ever imagine. I ran. I should mention here that our half acre piece of England has a fifty foot drop from top to bottom; it's made navigable with a series of steep paths and innumerable steps. To get to the house from where we had been working required taking a flight of steps and up a winding path to the next level, then up another set of steps to the veranda and into the house. Never before or since have had I made that particular journey so rapidly. And where we had had to follow a meandering path up the garden the bees took the shortcut, in a straight line towards the house.

As Mike struggled to pull open the sliding patio doors I watched the swarm advancing on us fast. "Do bees really chase humans" was the thought in my head as we struggled to close the doors. I guess they do, for even as we watched, from the safety of the tightly sealed doors, the bees seemed to almost blacken the room as they buzzed just yards from us.

As quickly as they had arrived, the swarm departed, over the roof of the house. Mike ran to see where they were heading but they had already disappeared, leaving behind just a few stragglers. Although all was quiet after our excitement, and my terror, we didn't venture back out into the garden that day, and I never wore that yellow t-shirt again.

Jackie Sealey.

# WEMBDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



First of all, a big "Thank You" to all who attended our Annual Fireworks Display in October, it was a great success and thankfully the weather stayed dry for us.

We are glad to be able to stage this annual spectacular for our community, just one of the many events organised by our dedicated team of volunteers.

At the start of the new year our Senior Citizens were treated to a delicious three course Christmas Meal, as always an enjoyable event for organisers and participants. The smiles on the faces say it all. Wembdon Senior Citizens have also enjoyed our Free Fun Tea & Bingo sessions. These are to be continued throughout 2017 at approximately two month intervals, the next being on Saturday 25th March.

Since our AGM in November we have also contributed over £1100 in donations to other local organisations on top of the above events.

**Looking to the future:** With more space available to us and help from other organisations we are thinking **big** this year for our **Annual Village Day on Monday 28th August** with more space for parking and lots more attractions for the whole family. Watch out for the posters and brochures later in the year.

This is my first year as Chairman of the WCA and I am working with a great and dedicated group of people on the committee but we need more members, with new ideas. If you think you can help, would like to get involved in any way, just want to learn more about how we function or learn where the money goes then please do not hesitate to contact me or pop along to one of our meetings, the dates of which will be advertised locally

Thank you all once more for your continued support,

Graham Grief - Chairman





## Quantock Walking Festival - Coleridge Country

### Sedgemoor Ramblers with Stowey Walking

## QUANTOCK WALKING FESTIVAL

ST MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE  
NETHER STOWEY

# 10 & 11 June 2017

Choice of 3 guided walks each day  
Tea & homemade cakes

**BOOK NOW!**

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tel: 01278 773730

**SEDGEMOOR RAMBLERS &  
STOWEY WALKING**

One of the short walks  
will be dog friendly.  
All other walks will be  
restricted to Registered  
Assistance dogs only



**ramblers**  
at the heart of walking



10 & 11 June 2017

Sedgemoor Ramblers will be holding their second Walking Festival on 10 & 11 June 2017, joined by Stowey Walking. Nether Stowey, now a Walkers are Welcome village, is again our base. Once home to the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the 51 mile Coleridge Way to Lynmouth starts here and with local shops, pubs and restaurants, hotels and guesthouses, this is a great place to visit. Details about the area and where to stay can be found on Stowey Walking's website [www.stoweywalking.co.uk](http://www.stoweywalking.co.uk)

There will be a choice of 3 guided walks each day in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, walking the hills and combes, open moorland, ancient woodland, cultivated forest trails and coast, offering stunning views with the very real possibility of sighting Quantock ponies and elusive red deer. With walk leaders keen to share their local knowledge of the area and tea and homemade cake available on your return, Sedgemoor Ramblers and Stowey Walking will do all they can to ensure an enjoyable walking week-end.

Limited numbers apply so booking is essential. For full information and booking details, see Sedgemoor Ramblers' website [www.sedgemoorramblers.co.uk](http://www.sedgemoorramblers.co.uk) or 'phone Alan or Sara on 01278 773730.

# WEMBDON CRICKET CLUB

## PRE-SEASON TRAINING DATES

**DAY:** SUNDAY  
**VENUE:** HAYGROVE SCHOOL  
**STARTS:** 5TH FEBRUARY 2017  
**FINAL SESSION:** 26TH MARCH 2017

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**UNDER 9 & 11 (YR-Y6):** 4pm - 5pm

**UNDER 13 (Y7-Y8):** 5pm - 6pm

**UNDER 15 (Y9-Y10):** 6pm - 7pm

**SENIOR MEN:** 7pm - 8pm

**LADIES:** TBC

New players very welcome

Contact us:

wembdoncricket@gmail.com

@wembdoncc

Or call 07841 013128



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## 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

### Dates for your diary.

Please refer to hosting organisation in case of change.

**Cokerhurst Housing Presentation** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017.

**Community Give-An-Hour (or Two)** – Saturday 1st April 2017,  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017.

**Annual Parish Meeting** – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 8pm.

**Pub Quiz at The Cottage Inn** – last Tuesday of each month.

**Wembdon Parish Council AGM** – to be confirmed.

**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 Stitchers:** - Vanessa Leighton tel: 01278 662977

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