

Wembdon Parish Paper

Edition 19



Connecting with our community



Wembdon Village 2017 viewed from Downhall Drive.

News update:

WPC are delighted to welcome our two new Councillors – Jodene Hall & Tom Travis.

Farewell and grateful thanks to Brian Webb and Terry Thake for their hard work and enthusiasm working with the council.

The missing binoculars in the under 6's play area have been found and will be repaired.

WPC have informed Highways that the road surface on Wembdon Rise is breaking up in places. One section has been repaired. A second section has had an emergency repair but will require road closure to complete.

The visibility of the school warning lights obscured by hedges, is being addressed.

We are reviewing the website with a view to upgrading it to make it more accessible.

WPC hosted residents for a very enjoyable evening at the Annual Parish Meeting. For those unable to attend, the Chairman's report is enclosed within this edition of the Parish Paper.

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Village Hall from June 2017 onwards.

The excellent photographs contained within this edition are by kind permission of Graham Shaw – thank you 😊

A note from WCA:

Wembdon Community Association committee members are currently busying themselves in preparation for the Annual Wembdon Village Day on Monday 28th August 2017. With the extra space and new facilities available to us this year we are hoping to make it the biggest yet with more fun activities and attractions for all of the family. The brochure is currently with the printers and will be available to drop through your doorway very soon. If you are able and willing to help with this event in any way and raise funds towards our local organisations and future activities please do not hesitate to contact us. You will be most welcome.

WEMBDON VILLAGE DAY



**NOW BIGGER &
BETTER**

INCORPORATING

**THE ANNUAL
FLOWER, FRUIT, VEGETABLE
AND CRAFT SHOW**

FEATURING

BURTLE SILVER BAND

BOUNCY CASTLES

CRAFT FAYRE

ANNUAL CAR BOOT SALE

CHILDREN'S RACES & ACTIVITIES

LOCAL SCARECROW COMPETITION

**AND MUCH, MUCH
MORE!**

On Bank Holiday

MONDAY 28TH AUGUST 2017

To Be Held At

**St. George's Parish Centre / Church
Wembdon Common / Playing Field &
Village Hall**

*Lots of New
Attractions*

*Fun For
All The
Family*

*Tombola
And
Raffle*

*Flower Show
Opens at
1 pm*

*Free
Parking*

*Fun Starts
At
12 Noon*

*Bar & Soft
Drinks*

*Ice Cream &
Refreshments*



ENTRANCE

Adults 50p

Children 20p

OAP 20p



Chairman's report.

Wembdon Annual Parish Meeting April 2017.

Good evening and welcome to this evening's Annual Meeting of the Parish, I am Mike Solomon and I Chair Wembdon Parish Council.

This is my annual opportunity to review with everyone in the village the work of the Parish Council and what has been achieved. As always, I start by thanking each of your Parish Councillors for the amount of work that they freely give to our community to make Wembdon a better place to live. None of what has been achieved could have been done without their time and effort.

In most years I just run through the achievements of the past year but just a few days ago we were asked by SDC to report on what we had done to support the Health and Wellbeing agenda. This gave me an opportunity to look back a little further, to the time that many of your Councillors were first elected.

Improving the Playing Fields equipment was one of the first tasks that we took on, and just about 10 years ago, after fundraising £50,000, we replaced almost all of the swings and slide and added a new climbing frames for the toddlers to enjoy in their area as well as a new larger climbing frame. As well as maintaining a monthly inspection on all of the playing field we have also just revamped that area with new steel railings around the toddler's area.

Our next task was to raise funding to construct a drainage system for the playing field and this was completed about 8 years ago, as prior to this, half of the field was unusable for 4 months of the year and the footpath was regularly flooded – now a thing of the past.

The bridge into the playing field was our next task and we replaced the narrow concrete planks with a new wide bridge, capable of carrying a pram or wheelchair.

Some five years ago, we risked losing our allotments as the land owner had died and the land was being sold. The Parish Council arranged a loan and bought the land to ensure that the benefits of allotment owning, and the magnificent views

out over the Bristol Channel would continue to be available to the residents of our Parish. We also re-surfaced the access track and added benches to try to make this an amenity area for a wider group of residents to enjoy.

Four years ago we started the negotiations with the builders Persimmon to acquire the land adjacent to the Great Oaks Estate that remained after their housing development. We finally agreed a free of cost transfer to the Council and a team of willing volunteers from our community cut back the bramble and cleared the copse areas to start to bring the land into community use, retaining a significant section of wild hedge to provide a nesting area for our wild birds. This area connected directly with land on long term lease so that we now have an 11 acre area of rough parkland for all to enjoy.

Lastly of course, as a village we have taken on the project of organising land and building a new Village Green and an iconic new Village Hall. 11 acres of tended grass, marked out for cricket in the summer and football in the winter, encircled by English Oaks, with over 200 native trees and bushes planted, your Council hopes that this will be a legacy for generations of Wembdon residents. A Village Hall that includes: facilities for our young children, a large hall, a community lounge, plus kitchens, changing rooms and a bar. We hope that this will be a building that our whole community will take pride in that will become the heart of our expanding village.

So again I note my massive thanks to all of the Councillors, for volunteering many hundreds of hours in improving this village and carrying on, often as unsung heroes, tackling these major projects whilst ensuring that the day to day business of the Council: the planning applications, the clearing of the drains and rhynes, the production and distribution of the Parish Paper, the cutting back of the footpaths etc. continues. I really enjoy living in Wembdon and I hope you all do as well.

The Parish Council wish to warmly thank all who attended the Annual Parish Meeting; our speakers for entertaining and informing us so eloquently and humorously, the team providing refreshments, and all who attended and listened so attentively. A thoroughly enjoyable evening – thank you all. 😊

Wembdon Village Hall

What's happening at The
Green?



The
Green
Wembdon

“ A Village Hall, Sports Ground and Open Space ”

Now fully open - for bookings please contact us on
wembdonvillagehall.co.uk

Official Opening on Friday July 21st invitation only,
by Dame Elizabeth Periam Gass, Lady Gass DCVO JP
Lord Lieutenant of Somerset 1998-2015

Community opening July 22nd from 2 pm

Afternoon tea and early evening BBQ with music

ALL WELCOME

- Visit our **Early Bird Café - Tuesday and Thursday from 8.30am-10:30am** on the Terrace
- tea, coffee, water bowls and biscuits for all – 2 and 4 legged friends!
 - take away coffees for busy parents and carers dropping off at Sunshiner's.
 - Watch out for our afternoon pop-up cafes- ice creams & refreshments on the terrace.

Current classes: Zumba, Insanity, Cardiac Rehab

Coming soon: Baby Sing & Sign, monthly dances with Rivierale Roc, Motion dance.

We have bookings for weddings, private parties and birthdays, anniversaries, christening and naming parties. Please enquire via the web site.

A local firm recently held a successful training day at the hall.

The sports fields are in constant use, and the Somerset Association of Primary schools SASP have been visiting once a week for multi sports during school hours.

Our partner groups – Sunshiner's Pre School, Wembdon CC and Wembdon Junior FC - are settling in well and enjoying the amazing facilities.

Come along, have a look and join us for a drink in the bar. Thank you.



The newly opened **Early Bird Café** proves popular with our responsible dog walkers for a chat, and refreshments all round – everyone is welcome.



A cheerful greeting and choice of refreshments has been well received by all customers....drink in or take out. Why not pop along, we look forward to seeing you.



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

- **Local house and dog-sitter available - either at my house or yours.**
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www.dogbuddy.com/JXQTK
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- **First Class Service Guaranteed**



Allotments Crime Report.

Allotment Thefts – Allotment holders in Wembdon turned up for 'work' on Sunday morning only to find that spades, forks and other garden tools had been stolen sometime during the night 10th June. The thieves possibly exited towards Blakes Lane.

What can we do? – Allotment holders must make individual reports to the Police on 101 (takes a couple of minutes). This actually creates a 'crime' hotspot resulting in more Police patrols in the area. If you happen to see anyone acting suspiciously, dial 999. If safe to do so use your mobile to take pictures, video or log details. Do not approach them, observe and wait for the police.

How can we deter them? - Mark all tools by stamping, engraving, marking or even using a solder iron to burn your house number and postcode onto tools. If you have room you might add 'Stolen from Wembdon Allotments Plot X'. This is a powerful deterrent as it renders many low cost garden tools worthless.

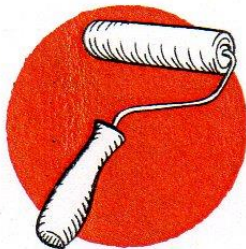
Allotment holders along the boundaries might consider planting prickly hedges, (Blackthorn or Holly). Ensure no high value tools and machinery are left in sheds. Some might consider using battery operated shed alarms.

What next? – WPC are working with Avon & Somerset Police to provide a property marking day as well as looking into procuring a property marking kit that may be signed out from WPC.



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Give-an-hour (or two!)

The great work to improve and develop the facilities and amenities in our village continues with the fabulous community spirit that is Give-an-hour.

Meeting on the first Saturday of the month, at 10:00a.m. at the bridge on the NDR, crossing the rhyne into the Parkland, and finishing around 2pm.

Contact Neil 457549

brunelcare 

Making the most of life

In Somerset we offer a variety of services to meet the individual needs of those who require care and support:

- **Home care services** provided by a large Community team based in Bridgwater, providing home visits within the Sedgemoor area
- **Carer support services**

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www.brunelcare.org.uk/care

How it started – overgrown, brambled, nettled, narrow paths for only the brave....



Then local volunteers with a vision– and occasional light machinery – got stuck in...



The latest phase – to establish a path. A truly amazing transformation.



Wembdon Village Hall

As we have now started to use the new Wembdon Village Hall and we look forward to the Community Opening on 22nd July it is perhaps opportune to just review a little background and the direction that we now plan to take the overall project, especially as there are quite a few people who have moved into the parish since it all started.

The project that resulted in the Village Green and Wembdon Village Hall began just over 10 years ago, when a group of Councillors and local residents agreed, over a cup of tea, that Wembdon, as a large and growing village, deserved better recreational facilities. The Parish Council encouraged the group to establish a team and work on the preparation of a Parish Plan and the final version of the plan was published in 2008 as The Vision for Wembdon. The plan included a survey of every household in Wembdon and it demonstrated that there was significant support for our own village hall.

The Wembdon Recreational Development Group were formed in 2009 specifically to establish the feasibility of such a venture and worked closely with Wembdon Cricket Club and Wembdon Junior Football Club in defining the spaces and facilities needed to meet everyone's requirements. They also carried out a number of public consultations once it became clear that the only suitable land in the village was the farmland between The Church and the NDR, which was owned by S Notaro. There were a variety of opinions on proceeding with the project and in the end a poll of all of the voters in the parish showed overwhelming support to go ahead.

Following some lengthy negotiations, the land now called The Green was donated to the project by S Notaro and offered to the Parish Council. This offer was rejected and eventually it was found necessary to establish a separate Charitable Trust, specifically to own the assets and develop the project from concept to completion, including fundraising £2.6 million, and then run the facilities. The Trust worked with The Parish Council in developing a Masterplan for the whole of the green area, including Wembdon Parkland, the meadows and the playing field as well as The Green to try to provide an integrated range of recreational facilities for all

residents of the parish bringing in many of the ideas and comments from the consultations. The Trust then set about the fund raising and implementation phases.

Following detailed submissions and evaluations, The Trust were successful in winning a Celebration Award of £1 million from Viridor Credits, and then major grants were provided by Sport England, the English Cricket Board, the Football Foundation, the EDF/CIM fund plus innumerable smaller grants and local donations. The target funding hurdle was £2 million and once that was reached the ground-breaking was celebrated at the end of September 2014. Construction works, with deep foundations, started shortly after. The main contractor unfortunately ran into financial trouble on one of their other projects and this eventually resulted in their entering liquidation. This put the Village Hall project on hold for over a year as the legal implications of bankruptcy were resolved but eventually work was able to start again at the beginning of 2016. One significant cost to the project of this delay was the loss of £190,000 grant funding specifically ring fenced for the NDR access, which had time expired. The Parish Council resolved that this access was needed to avoid any Village Hall traffic using our narrow village roads and thankfully, with that funding, this work is now complete.

Looking forward, the Charitable Trust are now the owners of The Green and the whole of the Village Hall building and they maintain the whole area. The Parish Council has worked closely with The Trust in establishing guidelines for the exercising of dogs in this area and has resolved that dogs should be on a lead at all times, exactly as is and has been the policy for the parish playing field. This resolution happens to have coincided with a change in legislation and will be covered by the new public space protection orders replacing the previous dog control orders.

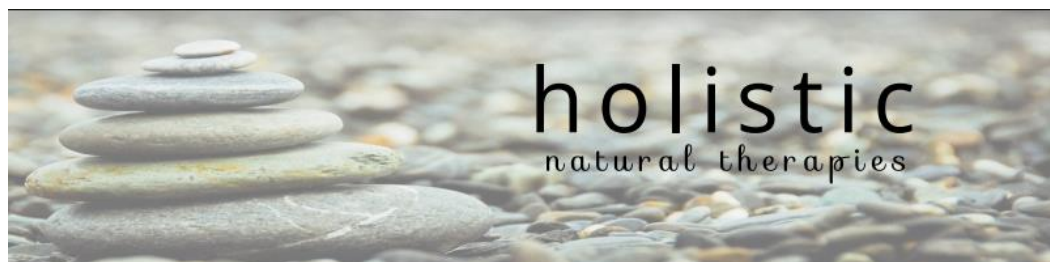
To consider the other areas of the green space, the meadows next to the playing field and village hall car park have been on long term lease to the Parish Council for a number of years and these meadows will now be steadily improved with shorter grass cuts, levelling of the holes and improvement of the drainage ditches. The wildflower meadow and Wembdon parkland are also new and large areas of land that will be improved as funding is raised. The Masterplan has long been drawn up

but there will be ongoing consultations to try to meet the evolving needs of as many in our village as we can.

So over the past 10 years our usable green space has grown 20 fold, from a little over an acre to 22 acres. We already see many hundreds of our village youngsters either in cricket whites, rounders skorts, football shirts or just their casual wear, joining in organized and disorganized games on our Village Green. I think they have been provided with some of the best facilities in the county. Hopefully they will be proud of them and we can now introduce a sense of belonging to the village of Wembdon to both our youngsters and older folks alike.

Mike Solomon

June 2017



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Model Farm gardens open for the Somerset Wildlife Trust on Sunday 9th July, with vintage engines, cider tent, hog roast, garden games, plant sales, tea and cakes. Adults £4, accompanied children and parking free.

Many thanks to all who visited or helped at the **NGS Charity** garden open day last Sunday.

www.modelfarm.com



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Wembdon St George's Primary School.

I am extremely pleased to inform you that Wembdon St. George's Primary School will be joining the Bath and Wells Multi Academy trust from 1st September 2017. This decision was made by the Regional School's Commissioner and we have already started to work with the BWMAT to address the issues highlighted in our Ofsted report. We will be known as Wembdon St George's Church School, a Bath and Wells Academy School. The BWMAT was established in 2012 and consists of 18 primary schools. At present it covers the Diocese region of North Somerset, BANES and Somerset. Groups of schools which are geographically close will become Hubs and there will be excellent opportunities to work closely together. Slight changes will be made to our school logo, funding will come directly from the BWMAT and some systems and software will change. More importantly, things that will stay the same include our Christian ethos and values, school uniform, curriculum, staffing and the day to day running of the school. I believe that this is a positive step forwards in ensuring that the education we provide is broad, balanced and the best it can be.

This is always an extremely busy term and the children have had an exciting science week and this week is Healthy Eating Week. Hinkley Point have provided some invaluable road safety talks to our Key Stage 2 children and we even managed to fit a very large Hanson aggregate lorry on the top playground; the best bit was sitting in the driver's cab! Weighing the same as 18 elephants the children learnt about speed, stopping distances and blind spots.

Our Year 6 pupils are rehearsing for the school production of 'Annie' and we are pleased this year to be hosting the inter-school's area sports. The school choir are taking part in the Bridgwater Big Sing and children are already practising for our annual music concert. Our new intake of 60 reception children are visiting for story times and our Year 6 are preparing for transition to their new schools – an exciting time for everyone.

I am very conscious of working together as a community to foster positive relationships and I am always grateful when residents are able to share their thoughts and concerns with me. I hope that we can continue to work closely together for the benefit of all. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful summer holiday – let's hope we have a decent spell of good weather to enjoy.

Judith Heale. Headteacher

FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT: Sometimes life dishes up an elephant!

Picture the scene ... there you are, knife and fork in hand, feeling rather peckish ...and the waiter places the elephant on the table in front of you ... quite large, isn't it? In fact, it's ENORMOUS! How on earth are you going to eat THAT?

Sometimes, when you are faced with a dilemma, it can feel as difficult to solve as eating that elephant. The sheer size of it can make it hard to even think about how to start. But there is a way. The answer is one bite at a time. As your **Village Agent** I can help you determine where you need to take the first bite, the second, the third ... and once you've made a start that elephant won't seem quite so enormous anymore.

Laura's elephant was a very painful postpartum condition that meant she was unable to walk, even in the house, without two sticks. An unemployed, single mother of two preschool children, she couldn't even carry her baby up or downstairs safely because of her condition. Laura didn't qualify for financial assistance from Social Services to install a stair-lift, but we managed to find a company that would lend one to her and I successfully applied to two local charities on her behalf to pay for its installation and hire cost.

Dot's elephant was her bereavement. Her husband had died a few months before I met her and Dot, in her 80s, was struggling to cope with loneliness and the isolation of being a widow in a village without any friends. Her husband had always been her main source of companionship. Her son and daughter and her sister, none of whom could drive, lived in town several miles away and the lack of bus services made it almost impossible for her to visit them. I got her registered with the village voluntary community car scheme, so she could travel door to door when it suited her at an affordable price. I arranged for her to have a volunteer phone her once a week for a friendly chat. I took her to the village lunch club and introduced her to some of her neighbours and I liaised with Sedgemoor Housing to facilitate a move closer to her family.

Bob's wife has a degenerative disease. He had been sole carer for his wife at home for many years, but was finding it increasingly difficult as her needs increased and age crept up on him. Bob and his wife had enough money to pay for some extra help but they didn't know where to turn for it. I provided them with a list of independent carers, from which we shortlisted some local, fully qualified and accredited, self-employed care providers. Knowing where to take that first bite enabled Bob to contact the carers and make his own arrangements. Now he has more time for himself and less anxiety for his wife. Another elephant was despatched!

If you've got an elephant bothering you, I may be able to help you tackle it, please call or email me. **Alison Hoare 07798 70 33 21** (leave your name and number and I'll get back to you) or email alison@somersetccc.org.uk

Contact your Parish Council

website: www.wembdon.org email: 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.

Community Give-An-Hour (or Two) – first Saturday of the month, from 10.00 a.m.

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

Model Farm Open Gardens – Sunday 9th July.

Official Opening Wembdon Village Hall - Friday 21st July.

Community Opening Wembdon Village Hall - Saturday 22nd July from 2p.m.

Wembdon Village Day - Monday 28th August.

With effect from September 2017 Wembdon Parish Council meet on the 2nd Monday of the month. This may be subject to change, notification will be via the website & notice boards whenever possible

Wembdon Parish Council Parish Paper is printed by Parish Magazine Printing; printers of community magazines.

Tel: 01288 341617

Advertise here. To advertise here or for more information please contact 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
email wembdon.community@btinternet.com

Wembdon Village Hall: website wembdonvillagehall.co.uk

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: Dan Bingham tel: 07841 013 128 wembdoncricket@gmail.com

Football club: Caroline Fretwell englandbirdie@aol.com tel:07736045967

Wembdon Ladies: Chris Pashley tel: 01278 451133

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

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

Ladies keep Fit: Mon 9.45am-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