Wembdon Parish Paper Edition 35



On 4th November 2021 around one hundred people attended a 'public show of concern' event regarding the safety of the zebra crossing in Wembdon Rise. This number included Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors, Police Officers and most importantly children who attend Wembdon St. Georges School and their parents. A petition was signed by 382 people, asking that Somerset County Council install speed management measures on Wembdon Rise to ensure the safety of pedestrians using the zebra crossing. The Parish Council is currently in dialogue with Somerset County Council regarding what safety improvements can be made.

Parish Clerk's Notes



I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas, and I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Covid continues to play a massive part of our lives. The Parish Council will continue to follow the latest Government Guidelines regarding its meetings to ensure the safety of the Councillors and members of the public who attend the meetings.

As Parish Council Clerk I am often asked how the Parish Council gets its funding. Most of the Council's income comes from the Council Tax that parishioners pay. This is referred to as the Parish Precept. The remainder of the Council's income comes from rental paid by allotment holders, and advertisers in this newsletter.

Each December the Parish Council forecasts the amount of funding it will require for the following financial year and requests this funding from its Local Authority, which is currently Sedgemoor District Council, in the form of a precept that is included within the Council Tax that property owners pay.

About 62% of everyone's Council Tax bill currently goes to Somerset County Council; 25% to Adult Social Care, the Emergency Services other agencies; 9% to Sedgemoor District Council, and 4% to the Parish Council.

The owners of all the dwellings in the parish contribute to the cost of the precept. As this 'tax base' of properties changes each year then everyone's council tax demand changes at the same time. In short, the more people who pay the tax, the less tax everyone pays. In May the Somerset County Council and the District Councils in Somerset (including Sedgemoor) will be amalgamated to form one Unitary Council. Together, their responsibilities include social care; highways (including street lighting, pavements and public footpaths); housing; planning; and refuse collection amongst many others.

The Parish Council's share of the precept is spent on matters relating just to Wembdon. These include:

- the maintenance of the allotments, including the allotment track.
- litter and dog bin collections.
- grass cutting and maintenance of the playing fields, playground and parklands, and some of the verges.
- the Speed Indicator Devices in the parish
- the CCTV cameras which protect users of the Green and the parklands
- the inspection and management of all the trees on parish council land (and there are hundreds of them!)

along with numerous 'one off' expenditure projects such as the recent refurbishment of the parish fingerposts; the purchase of new benches in the parish and the Queen's Platinum Anniversary celebrations that will be taking place in June.

Everyone who lives in Wembdon will know that they have a very proactive Parish Council which provides many services for residents and visitors to enjoy. The cost of these Parish Council services for a Band D household in 2022-23 is anticipated to be £86 for the year.

WEMBDON FINGERPOST PROJECT

In 2019 the Parish Council took the decision to repair & refurbish the five historic fingerpost signs in the village.

In days gone by, prior to sat navs and road maps, fingerposts were very important to travellers especially those unfamiliar with the area. Sadly, many of these fingerposts have been neglected over the years and need a lot of specialist work to restore them to their former condition.

Somerset County Council no longer undertake such repairs, so it is left to local councils either to organise and pay for this work, or to let their fingerposts continue to rot away.

The Wembdon Parish Councillors felt that the condition of our fingerposts was a blot on the local landscape, and therefore agreed to secure the services of West Country Blacksmiths to carry out a survey and subsequent repairs. This wasn't simply a case of someone standing on a step ladder with a paint brush in their hand. Some of the posts had missing arms which needed to be replaced with new ones.

Then....along came Covid 19.... and the whole project was put on hold as delays and staff illness caused major delays. We all persevered, however, and in October 2021 the last of the fingerposts was finally installed!

What wonderful craftmanship to restore these to their original glory – we hope you enjoy finding your way around the parish to spot all five! These 'before and after' pictures will help you.



Moore's Lane



Perry Green



Moore's Lane junction with Perry Green



Sandford Hill



and lastly, the fingerpost at the Skimmerton Lane / Wembdon Hill junction before restoration

and after!



St George's Church and Parish Centre

Our coffee shop is now back open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10-12. We have expanded to the double room to allow for extra space and distancing; come along and enjoy a coffee and a biscuit.

Our tea-time group which meets on the first Tuesday of every month has started off the new year with much vigour. Welcoming anyone to come

along and join them, have a cuppa and listen to a

quest speaker or a quiz.



It is lovely to see our pond at the back of the church yard looking so lovely. You can see from the before and after pictures how much work



was involved. In the spring we should be able to see the dragonflies and newts enjoying the lilies and flowers on the pond.



Laura Churchyard and Emily Dowds are joining the staff as Development Youth & Community Workers, which means they will work alongside Emma McFaul to strengthen our

work among young people. Laura is pictured left and Emily right.

They will also receive training and mentoring (the 'development' part) to fully equip them. We are all really excited about this opportunity.

Church is open for in-person services (at the time of writing!) and that with two morning services and a live stream there should be ample space to worship in safety. The service times are 9.30 and 11.15 with coffee in the parish centre in between.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It has been officially announced that "An extended bank holiday from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on the Queen's 70 years of service."

Plans in Wembdon have started to celebrate Her Majesty's 70th year of reign. Representatives from the Parish Council, the Community Association, St George's Church and Parish Centre, The Village Hall, the Cottage Inn have already met to start the ball rolling. If other organisations within the village would like to join forces please contact Anne Reed (A.Reed@wembdon.org) or Dianne Claydon (D.Claydon@wembdon.org) Suggestions are welcome for activities for all to join in and celebrate such an historic occasion. The planning so far includes the following.

National celebrations begin on Thursday 2nd June with the Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour). Here the Cottage Inn will be holding an event with live music. Wembdon will join in with the National lighting of a Beacon in the evening along the track at the Allotments our highest point, with a view of the estuary to see other Beacons to the North.

Friday 3rd June - A National Service of Thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral. Here St. George's Church will be holding a Thanksgiving Service in the morning followed by meal at the Parish Centre.

Saturday 4th June - Platinum Party at the Palace – a time for community parties perhaps! No fixed plans made.

Sunday 5th June - The Big Jubilee Lunch and Pageant. Bridgwater Carnival are building a Jubilee Cart to take part in the pageant. A party in the Park with games and competitions for children. The Village Hall will be open offering some catering and opportunity to see the Pageant on the large screens.

It is hoped that residents of Wembdon will rise to the challenge of decorating the village and their gardens fit for a royal occasion.

The Queen has requested that people plant trees across the country. Wembdon Parish Council will be planting a copse of native trees to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Wembdon Bell Ringers

Calling all lapsed or new bell ringers

We would welcome any **lapsed ringers or new members** interested in learning the art of bellringing, to join our band of Church bellringers.

If you are a lapsed ringer of many years - ringing is like riding a bike - you never forget!

We ring on **Sunday mornings** from **9.00am to 9.30am** and have a regular practice on **Monday afternoons at 2 p.m.** during the week.

We have a lovely easy ring of 6 bells suitable for all.

Please contact Jackie on 07766738114 if you are interested or just call in and see us whilst we are ringing.

The use of CCTV in Wembdon

Many of you will be aware that particularly since the start of the Covid pandemic there has been a nationwide upsurge in vandalism and general anti-social behaviour. Wembdon has been no exception to the trend and The Green, the Village Hall and Parklands have suffered from problems particularly with under-age drinking, drug taking and criminal vandalism. These incidents are frequently commented on in the local social media and a regular comment is "what is the CCTV achieving?" The Parish Council, in combination with the Wembdon Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust operates a professional quality CCTV system which is formally registered and operates fully within the standards set out by the ICO who dictate how CCTV images can be captured and subsequently used. Images captured on public land cannot be published unless in the specific follow up of criminal activity.

The Parish Council procedure is to involve the Police in every reported incidence of vandalism and anti-social or criminal behaviour.

All CCTV images from multiple cameras are reviewed and assessed by the Police and when it is considered to be beneficial in the follow up of an offence, still images are captured and can be uploaded to social media for the identification of individuals. Actually, this rarely happens as most often the Police take the images to the local schools or colleges where the staff can usually identify those responsible.

Once identified the responsible individuals are processed by the Police through either the criminal justice system or, more frequently, a restorative justice approach where a suitable "community payback" is agreed between the Justice System and The Trust or Parish Council depending upon where the damage was done. This could involve grounds maintenance jobs such as litter picking, or

bulb planting and the perpetrator can be required to pay the cost for repairs for any damage done.

Needless to say, whilst the Council does not give publicity to individual events, the CCTV system provides high-definition images of all of the areas deemed likely hot spots by the Police, specifically those areas well known for drug dealing. The system has been set up by and is regularly maintained by Coomber Securities, to ensure compliance with the legislation and all possible images of private properties are blocked by the system to avoid any issues with privacy.

We hope that by installing the system we can enable residents to feel more secure when walking through the Park and Parklands and that we make every effort to reduce the levels of criminal damage, vandalism and anti-social behaviour in key recreation areas of Wembdon Parish.

Wembdon Parklands and Community Together

The PACT team are looking for volunteers to help with weeding and planting on Sunday mornings. Whilst there is always work to be done, this help is mainly needed during the growing season of April and September.

If you would like to join with some fellow minded people who care about this wonderful area and can help in any way then please call 07917101990 or visit the PACT Facebook page for regular updates.

REPORT FROM THE SID & SPEEDWATCH TEAM – JANUARY 2022

We remain very proactive and are striving for a number of things to get drivers to slow down and keep our residents safe.

SO WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- 1. Installed permanent Speed Indicator Devices on Sandford Hill coming into the village and on Wembdon Rise.
- 2. A new permanent SID is in place adjacent to Wares Lane towards the zebra crossing.



- 3. Moved our Speed Indicator Device around other locations in the village on a regular basis.
- 4. Monitored Speed Data to pass information to our District and County Councillors, as well as to the police speed enforcement unit. Here is the latest for these areas of Wembdon:

Wembdon Rise (inbound) 85th percentile average 26 mph; top 73 mph

Wembdon Rise (outbound) 85th percentile average 28 mph; top 65 mph

Wembdon Hill (up) average 25.3 mph; top 50 mph Wembdon Hill (down) average 23.5 mph; top 60 mph Wembdon Hill (top - inbound) average 25.3 mph; top 60 mph

Sandford Hill (inbound) 85th percentile average 33 mph; top 65 mph

Sandford Hill (outbound) 85th percentile average 38 mph; top 75 mph

(Most of these average speeds have fallen over the past 12 months)

The Speed Watch team will be in operation once again when the weather and light improve. We will be targeting the key times when drivers are known to be speeding through the village.

The Speed Watch team are always looking for new members to join them in their work. If you care about vehicle speeds in the Parish, and would like to do something about them then please contact Councillor Dave Gliddon on d.gliddon@wembdon.org or 07828 210076.

THANK YOU ALL FOR DRIVING
CAREFULLY AND WITHIN THE SAFE
SPEED LIMIT.

WEMBDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WEMBDON FIREWORKS DISPLAY

The Grand Fireworks Display staged by the WCA certainly went with a bang in the early evening of Saturday 30th October 2021. In dry but very muddy conditions the WCA Committee members worked all afternoon with "Skyburst" The Fireworks Company to prepare the field for the professionally fired display.



Despite the difficult working conditions caused by the mud which seemed particularly sticky, especially where vehicles were concerned, the fireworks were prepared, barriers measured, collected and erected, refreshment tent prepared, and generator and lighting installed in time for the early arrivals.

The Skyburst Team worked in the same conditions at the far edge of the field preparing the £1700 display, severely hampered as the ground conditions meant that they were unable to use their vehicles for transportation and shelter. As always, the display proved spectacular and was enjoyed by an estimated record crowd of 1400 spectators. The WCA would like to thank the spectators who arrived early and displayed patience in waiting a little beyond the advertised start time enabling us to usher the latecomers through the gates. The 2022 display will commence promptly at the advertised time. Thanks also to those with pets and livestock who heeded our many warnings of the event and to the kind sponsorships received from Morrison's and Asda Supermarket

along with all who helped in any way on the day or in cleaning the very muddy equipment throughout the next few days.

The 2022 event will take place on the evening of Saturday 29th October.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS DINNER

After careful consideration, in the light of the escalation of the Covid virus the WCA reached the difficult decision to postpone the Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Dinner scheduled for Saturday 8th January to early April 2022. This decision was in the interests of safety within our elderly community.

We are extremely sorry for any inconvenience or disappointment caused by this decision and will keep you informed of the rescheduled date of the "Spring / Pre Easter Dinner" once arrangements have been made.

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>

The Wembdon Community Association is a totally voluntary, nonprofit making organisation. We like to think that our events are appreciated across the community and all profits from any of our activities are directed back into the community.

If we are to continue our work, we desperately need new members and new ideas. It is becoming more and more difficult to continue events like Wembdon Village Day and our Grand Fireworks Display with our highly dedicated but limited membership. More members would mean that we could share the load more evenly resulting in a minimal workload on any one individual. We will be meeting in the Parish Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 27th January, 24th February and 24th March. Please come along if you would be interested in joining us or if you think you can help in any way. Alternatively drop an email to wembdon.community@btinternet.com or ring Graham on 01278 457973.

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Saturday 5.30-9.00pm

Our thin base pizzas are prepared and baked to order using the finest ingredients, topped with mozzarella, cheddar cheese and tomato herb sauce (unless stated otherwise)

9" pizzas £7 (unless priced differently) | 12" pizzas £10 (unless priced differently)

Spud you'll like

A homemade Alfredo sauce topped with homegrown potatoes and finished with mozzarella and cheddar cheese.

Definitely one to try! Available in 9" only.

Squeaky But Greeky

Halloumi cheese, caramelised onion and spiced tomato sauce, fresh Greek basil, red onions & cherry tomatoes

Veg Wedge

Sliced peppers, mushrooms, red onions, cherry tomatoes, Roquitos and finished with fresh herbs

Old Smokey

Oak smoked roasted salmon, red onions BeeTees Exmoor honey, fresh basil and cherry tomatoes (£2 extra)

Porky Please

Homemade caramelised onion marmalade with West Country mini sausage patties

Spice Of Life

Mexican chicken, chilli beef, Mexican cheese, jalapeños, Roquito peppers, sweet chilli sauce (£1 extra)

A Right Pair

Italian prosciutto ham, homegrown pears and Gorgonzola cheese

Completely Carnivore

Chilli beef, sliced ham, barbecue chicken, meat balls, pepperoni and smoked bacon (£2 extra)

Guy Fawkes Carnival Charity*

Barbecue chicken, smoked bacon, Roquito peppers, red onions and homemade sticky coke and barbecue sauce

Pizza Perfection - 9" £7 12" £10 Create Your Own Masterpiece

Includes tomato base with mozzarella and cheddar cheese, plus 2 toppings (additional topping £1, unless priced differently)

Meat:

barbecue chicken,

spicy beef, pepperoni,

shredded ham, duck,

smoked salmon

(£1 extra)

smoked bacon, sausage,

Cheese/Vegetables:

mozzarella, pineapple, cherry tomatoes. mushrooms, peppers, Roquito peppers. jalapeños, red onion, Mexican cheese,

goats cheese. halloumi (£1 extra)

Extras 9" Garlic bread pizza £3.50

Dough balls with roasted garlic dip £4.50 9" Cheesy garlic bread pizza £4.50 Homemade roasted garlic mayo dip £1

Desserts

Can only be ordered in conjunction with a savoury pizza order. They cannot be ordered on their own, sorry!

Homemade fresh dough cinnamon sticks coated with sugar and served with a homemade vanilla icing dip £4.50 Homemade mam cookie dough £7

(please note our desserts contain eggs and dairy) *50p from the sale of each pizza goes to the

Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival charities

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www.perrygreenpizza.co.uk



The Carpenters Experience Saturday 12 February 8pm



One Moment In Time: The Greatest Hits of **Whitney Houston** Saturday 5 March, 7.30pm



Wind in the Willows Sunday 6 March 12pm and 3.30pm



The Greatest Movies Show Friday 25 March 7.30pm

Celebrating Dame Shirley Bassey and Sir Tom Jones with the **Denmark Street Big Band** Sunday 27 March, 5pm

Solid Gold 70s Show Saturday 2 April 7.30pm



The Simon & **Garfunkel Story** Thursday 7 April, 7.30pm



Mark Thompson's Spectacular Science Show Sunday 17 April, 3pm



A Day To Remember: The Doris Day **Centenary Song Book** Sunday 24 April, 2.30pm



The Drifters Friday 6 May 7.30pm





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Parish Councillor Contacts

Councillors

Mike Solomon 01278 457026 Mark Phillips 07941 983311

Dave Gliddon 07828 210076 Anne Reed 01278 421420

Dianne Claydon 01278 210076 Richard Webber 01278429235

Lorna Edwards 07917 101990 Julian Wellings 01278 439554

Peter Major 01278 421448 Vacancy

<u>Parish Clerk</u> Tony Jay Tel: 07859 911204 11 Wyvern Mews, Weston super Mare BS23 3GZ

Email: clerk@wembdon.org

Wembdon Parish Paper Editors: Tony Jay and Anne Reed

Wembdon Parish Council holds its meetings in the Village Hall on the second Monday of each month, apart from August. The meeting agenda will be published on the Council's website and notice boards on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. All Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the meeting and learn all about the activities of the Council, and what is happening in Wembdon.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th February.

Please note that Wembdon Parish Council does not endorse any of the advertisers in the Parish Paper

Local contacts and information.

<u>Wembdon Community Association (WCA):</u> Graham Grief – 01278 457973 email wembdon.community@btinternet.com

<u>Wembdon Village Hall</u>: - Lyn Tyrrell 01278 458434 <u>Lyn@wembdonvillagehall.co.uk</u> website wembdonvillagehall.co.uk

Wembdon Stores: tel: 01278 434815

<u>The Cottage Inn:</u> Opening hours Mon-Thurs 4:00pm – Close, Fri 2:00pm- Close, Sat & Sun 12noon- Close. Bank Holiday Mondays Noon – to close. tel: 01278 423259

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

Parish Centre: Pat Bright tel: 01278 457760

Brownies: Leader Tamson Wetherall tel: 07975 866343

Cricket club: Dan Bingham tel: 07841 013128 email wembdoncricket@gmail.com

Wembdon FC: Phil Brunskill tel: 07742 429283 email football@wembdonjfc.co.uk

Coffee and Cake: Village Hall. First Tuesday of the month 10am to noon.

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

Music with Mummy: Tues 1.00pm-3.00pm Lisa Drew tel:07903 284835

Ladies keep Fit: Mon 9.45am-10.45am Viv Tolcher tel: 01278 424491

Art Group: Tues 9:30am-noon Kay Robins tel: 01278 423212

Ukulele Group: Thurs 10am-noon M Wheatley 01278 429 388

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

Sedgemoor Stitchers: - Vanessa Leighton tel: 01278 662977

<u>Wembdon Parklands and Community Together:</u> - wembdonpact@gmail.com Lorraine Owens-Cox tel: 07957 165777. email

www.wembdonparklandsandcommunitytogether.com

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