

The winning entry in the Parish Council sponsored dog poster competition, submitted by Wembdon School pupil Bella Howard

Parish Clerk's Notes



I hope that you all enjoyed the summer. What a strange one it was weather wise! We experienced both heavy rain and heatwaves. What a nightmare for gardeners and allotment holders!

The annual Village Day was again a great success. You can read more about this later in this edition.

Planning permission has finally been granted for the first phase of the Cokerhurst Farm housing development. By the time you read this work should have started to create new junctions on the A39 to give access to the developments on both sides of the road. This will inevitably cause more traffic through the village as people try to avoid the hold ups caused by traffic lights on the A39 and the temporary 20 mph speed limit. There is more about this in the Speedwatch article. One of the consequences of a major development such as this will be traffic disruption for many years, but at least it will provide affordable housing for people trying to get their foot on the property ladder.

Many people from the Parish and further afield visit the Parklands on a regular basis to enjoy the wonderful surroundings. All the work carried out to make this area so impressive is carried out by volunteers, which makes it all the more disappointing that vandalism regularly takes place and plants are being stolen or simply ripped up and discarded. The Parish Council is considering installing more CCTV cameras so that all areas are covered. What a sad situation this is. If anyone has any information regarding these crimes then please contact me, or the Police on 101 who are investigating.

Dog Fouling Poster Competition

The Parish Council has received complaints from members of the public for many years regarding dog fouling on pavements and in public areas. There continues to be a number of selfish dog owners in the parish who refuse to clean up after their dog has 'done its business'. The Parish Council has launched a campaign to tackle dog fouling. This included 'Scoop the Poop' on social media consisting of images with slogans to clean up after your dog.



Working with St George's School the Council invited the pupils to enter a competition to design a poster illustrating the problem. A large number of excellent entries were received, all of which were of

a very high standard, and the Councillors had the difficult task of deciding on the winners. The 1st Prize was won by Bella Howard, with the entries by Evie Macriner and Angel Filian-Vorly being judged second and third. The winners are pictured with Councillor Chris Chalk who organised the competition.

Parental permission has been given for this photograph to be used.

Speed Indicators and Speedwatch

So here we are almost 6 months into the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit through the village. This was introduced after campaigning by your councillors, partially in anticipation of work starting on the A39 Quantock Road. This work is due to start on September 10th with a temporary 20 mph limit during working hours.

Somerset Council has recently offered ALL parishes the opportunity to apply for a 20 mph limit. This would have to be paid for by the parishes themselves at an estimated cost of £15,000. We managed to get ours through at NO COST to the parish, hence not increasing your Council Tax. The most beneficial aspect of the introduction so far is the decrease in traffic volume using Wembdon as a rat-run. Also, average speeds have decreased as you will see below.

The Police Speed Enforcement team have recently risk assessed the areas that can be operated in, and you will soon see both the Speedwatch Team and police officers in action.

We are aware that a number of drivers are still ignoring the limit, but with your continued support and by keeping to the 20 mph ourselves, we can reduce these speeds even further.

Average Speeds: Wembdon Rise from NDR – 21.03 mph (23.6 mph in Dec '22)

Wembdon Rise towards NDR (by Wares Lane) – 20.80 mph (23.09 mph in Dec '22)

Sandford Hill – 26.05 mph (85th % was 34 mph in Dec '22)

Traffic Volumes: From the NDR - 1,530 vehicles per day, down from 1,735 per day.

From Sandford Hill – 570 per day down from 717 per day.

Wares Lane – 1,005 per day down from 1,284 per day.

St George's Church & Parish Centre News

Alpha course

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone is welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back. The venue is the St George's Church Parish Centre, Church Road, Wembdon, TA6 7RR. The start date will be Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 6.30pm (each session begins with a meal)

Friday lunchtimes

We are still running a meal on a Friday lunchtime. I am partnered with Greenway Farm who kindly cater for some of the meals offered. Come along have a coffee and then some lunch. Good company and a lovely atmosphere.

Pat Bright retirement

St George's parish centre are very grateful to Pat Bright for all her many years of service looking after the parish centre. She has decided now to hang up her books and enjoy some free time.

The contact now for bookings is Liz Birch – parishcentre@sgw.org.uk.
07970119525,





Wembdon Village Day 2023 Report

After the popularity of last year's Village Day the members of the Wembdon Community Association (WCA) were praying for sunshine yet again and after a dull start it arrived.

SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

With plenty of car-booters and a record number of stalls from local charities and organisations lining the Playing Fields and Wembdon Common, many waiting patiently for the gates to open when the committee members arrived at 7:30AM. Visitors also enjoyed the Classic Car Display for the 3rd year running, and a grand marching display from the Bridgwater Sea Cadet Corp. Children joined the fun on the many games and inflatables around the field which this year included some new challenges from the Wembdon Junior Football Teams. The BBQ and the Bar at The Green were busy throughout the day, with the BBQ once more providing the option of Welsh Cakes in the afternoon as well as the scrumptious Burgers and Hot Dogs.

On the Common there were various traditional fete stalls to be enjoyed by visitors, including Smash the Crockery, Hook-a-Duck and the Coconut Shy. Once again the visitors were entertained throughout the afternoon by Burtle Silver Band, while able to enjoy scrumptious cakes made by WCA volunteers and friends served from the Parish Centre Café. We must express our thanks to all who gave their time to make cakes for the stall.

The annual Fruit, Vegetable, Flower and Craft Show enjoyed an increased entry on last year, with several new exhibitors as well as many returning exhibitors, some of which have supported the show for many years. This year the best exhibit in show was awarded to Sally Rudge for her beautiful Sunflower Blanket, while Matilda Porter won the children's best exhibit in show for her magnificent Flower Arrangement in a Jam Jar. The "Sedgepaw" Dog Show also returned this year, with the "Best In Show" this year being awarded to Stanley,

owned by Tom Samotji, the cup now being proudly displayed in the Cottage Inn. The Children's Races were a success and entertainment on the village playing field was provided by Sedgemoor FM. As in previous years, the Village Hall hosted a Craft Fair, which was enjoyed by many looking to support small local businesses.

This year, for the very first time, the event broke the £7000 profit barrier, all of which will be ploughed back into the community or used to stage further events. Well Done All! Mark the date in your calendar for next years' event, Monday 26th August 2024.

The WCA is always very grateful for all the support we receive on Village Day from members of the community, enabling us to run this huge event year after year, and therefore allowing us to continue our support for other local groups and provide events throughout the year.

Graham Grief (WCA Chairman).

Important Notes:

Village Day and other events such as the Annual Firework Display are in great danger of not happening next year!

Village Day is getting bigger and the WCA Committee is getting smaller, meaning that we just can't handle the organisational workload without new working members. If you really want these events to continue in the future come forward and join us, a few more of you could save the day.

Our AGM is on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre, if you are unable to attend contact a member of the committee, by Emailing wembdon.community@btinternet.com or by ringing Graham on 01278 457973.

Wembdon Parklands & Community Together

We have had a busy couple of months working in the Parklands area of the village. Unfortunately, the weather has not helped us this summer and weeding has been a bit sporadic.

We have started to make a dent in the Prairie border, clearing the weeds and should be back on track to complete this by the end of the autumn.



Our old storage area behind the water butts has suffered reoccurring vandalism which included breaking up pallets which caused an unsightly mess. We cleared it all up and to prevent this problem, we now have a new area, pictured here, to store our wheelbarrows and other-items, so this should discourage further problems.

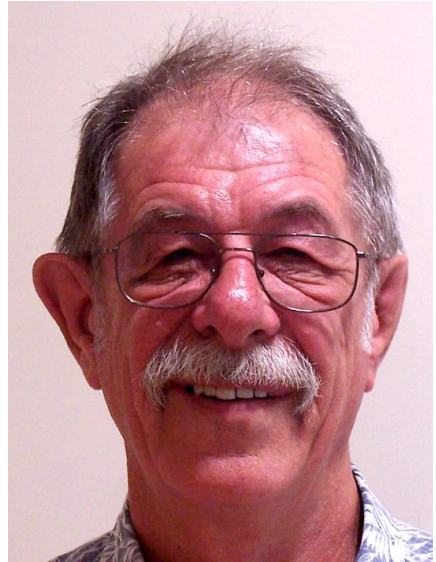
The Stumpery is another important aspect of the parklands helping to encourage protected species and providing a haven to live and thrive in, so please **don't climb** on this area. We would like to give a big thank you to the team at Roberts Waste Ltd, who donated and installed the large new tree stumps. Without the support from local businesses such as Roberts and Harris Brothers & Collard Ltd, who provided the security fencing, we would not have been able to create this spectacular biodiverse habitat.

Let's all give wildlife a chance and be proud of the unique place we have in Wembdon.

Finally, at the annual Village Day our charity raised £95 so a big thank you to everyone who played our games which will help PACT maintain the area you all love.

New Parish Councillor

My name is Paul King, and I am the newest member of the Wembdon Parish Council. I have lived in Somerset for nearly thirty years: seventeen of which have been in Perry Green. Originally from West London, we followed my in-laws to this green and pleasant land.



I retired from The Alzheimer's Society last November after thirteen years as a Dementia Support Worker. Prior to this I was a Project Manager for BT plc. Two completely different jobs I am sure you will agree. My time in the Alzheimer's Society taught me how to listen to people, empathise and act on their behalf. As a project manager I enjoy new challenges and look forward to dealing with issues and problems that I initially know nothing about.

Having horses, dogs, and cats I am passionate about all animals and the environment in which they live. I am a good communicator both verbally and by social media, so I am particularly concerned about the extremely poor broadband service that we have in Perry Green. I will be putting this high on my list of things I want to rectify.

Allotment News

The season of mist and mellow fruitfulness is upon us. Allotment holders are now enjoying the products of their hard labours. The months of July and August have been challenging battling the weeds, grass, slugs and snails to keep things under control and get the courgettes before being eaten. The cool rainy weather has had its benefits the beans and other crops have been abundant.

More allotments have become vacant. New tenants are taking over the plots quickly from the waiting list. New faces will become part of the allotment community.

Our congratulations go to Dawn Petteford for winning the trophy for Best Allotment, and to Mel Marshman for the Most Improved allotment. They received their trophies at the Flower and Produce show at the Village Day. Well-deserved winners.



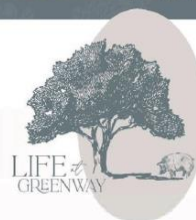
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Parish Councillor Contacts

Councillors

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Mark Phillips <i>Vice Chairman</i>	07941 983311	Dave Gliddon	07828 210076
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Email: clerk@wembdon.org

Wembdon Parish Paper Editor: Tony Jay

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 meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Mondays 9th October and 13th November.

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

Local contacts and information.

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

Wembdon Village Hall: - info@wembdonvillagehall.co.uk
website wembdonvillagehall.co.uk

The Cottage Inn: Opening hours Mon-Thurs 4:00pm – Close, Fri 2:00pm- Close,
Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays 12noon- Close. tel: 01278 423259

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

Parish Centre: Liz Birch tel: 07970119525

Brownies: Leader Tamson Wetherall tel: 07975 866343

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

Wembdon FC: Phil Brunskill tel: 07742 429283 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

Wembdon Parklands and Community Together: Lorna Edwards tel: 07917101990
email wembdonpact@gmail.com website:
www.wembdonparklandsandcommunitytogether.com

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