



The Wembdon Community Association Firework Display was a great success, which was enjoyed by all who attended.



Parish Clerk's notes

This year has flown by for me. Perhaps it is the same for you. It doesn't seem almost a year ago when I was putting up my Christmas Tree. They say that time passes more quickly the older you get. No comments please!

The Parish Council recently asked the Wembdon schoolchildren to design some posters for our campaign to stop irresponsible dog owners leaving their dog mess on pavements and public areas. Unfortunately someone takes delight in ripping them down. I sometimes wonder what possesses people to do this. The same applies to those selfish people who remove plants from the Parklands. These plants are paid for by the PACT charity and planted by volunteers. Shame on those who dig them up.

There is currently a vacancy for a councillor. If anyone would like more information about this voluntary role, then please contact me.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th December, starting at 7.30pm. Following the meeting free mince pies will be served, along with mulled wine and soft drinks. Why not join us to find out more about the work of the Parish Council.

The work on the new major housing developments on both sides of the A39 will be commencing shortly. The first phases of housing will be built on land in the Bridgwater Town Council area, so they will benefit from the large amounts of Community

Infrastructure Levy money paid by the developers long before we benefit from CIL relating to dwellings built on Wembdon land.

Somerset Playing Fields Association has announced the



results of its annual competition for the best playing fields in Somerset. Wembdon Playing Fields received the award of second prize in the Large Fields section. Councillor Mark Phillips (left) was presented with a

certificate and a cheque for £50 for the Parish Council by Chris Davies CBE, Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset.

The Parish Council uses the services of local professional tree surgeons to advise us regarding the maintenance work required to all the trees on its land. A recent inspection has shown that coppicing work will be required on some of the trees in the Parklands. You will see this work taking place over the next few weeks. No-one likes to see trees being cut however this is sometimes necessary. The [Woodlands Trust website](#) contains lots of useful information about the management of trees.

The Parish Council wishes all parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Speed Indicators and Speedwatch

20's Plenty



Where people are

20's Plenty for Us campaigns for 20mph as the default speed limit for urban and village streets where people live, work, shop, play and learn.

www.20splenty.org

So here we are 9 months into the introduction of the 20-mph speed limit through the village. This was introduced after campaigning by your councillors, in anticipation of work starting on the A39 Quantock Road.

The developers of Cokerhurst Farm spoke to the Parish Councillors and a large number of parishioners prior to the October Parish Council meeting. The following matters were highlighted:

- A39 junction roadworks are expected to start mid-November taking 50 weeks, with a 20-mph limit in place & narrow lanes.
- Junction work will NOT be light controlled (except for some night-time works) to ensure traffic flow and limit traffic cutting through Wembdon. Advance warning signage will be in place and letter drops to affected properties.
- Cavanna homes expect to start building in week 30 (June '24) with first sales March 2025 on the Cokerhurst site. Homes are expected to be built at a rate of 5 per month with 7% (16) of the first phase of 238 homes being classed as “affordable.”
- A website will be set up shortly giving full details and Somerset Council will also have full details on their website.

The most beneficial aspect of the 20-mph 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. Latest data:

Average Speeds:

Wembdon Rise from NDR – 20.68 mph (23.6 mph in Dec)
Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane) – 20.54 mph (23.09 mph in Dec)
Sandford Hill – 25.28 mph (34 mph in Dec '22)

Traffic Volumes:

From the NDR - 1,497 vehicles per day, down from 1,735
From Sandford Hill – 520 per day down from 717
Wembdon Rise (Wares Lane) – 971 per day down from 1,284

The Speed Watch team were active on October 30th after an enforced lay-off. In total **11 drivers** were reported to the police for driving above 25 mph. This was approximately 20% of vehicles. However, the top recorded speed was 32 mph which under the old 30 mph limit would not have been reported. We are, of course, 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.

Wembdon Fireworks Display – 28th October 2023

The Grand Fireworks Display staged by the WCA certainly went with a bang in the early evening of Saturday 28th October 2023. In stormy weather conditions the WCA Committee members worked all afternoon with “Skyburst The Fireworks Company” to prepare the field for the professionally fired display.

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 hard at the far edge of the field preparing the £2500 display. The rain was not kind to us and persisted on and off until just one hour before the display when it finally cleared. Unfortunately the earlier rain put a lot of people off, opting to stay at home in the warm and dry. Many though braved the elements and what a display we had in store for them. By the light of a full moon and with the rain clouds clearing the display proved even more spectacular and lasted longer than in previous years. As promised the display started relatively promptly which unfortunately caused a few latecomers to miss it and the earlier rain meant that the WCA incurred a financial loss on the event but after such a successful Village Day we were able to absorb the losses. Thanks must go to those with pets and livestock who heeded our many warnings of the event and to Asda and Morrison’s Supermarkets for the kind sponsorships, along with all who helped in any way on the day or in the clearing of the field and cleaning up afterwards. The 2024 event will take place on the evening of Saturday 26th October. *Photographs: Thanks to Terence Peppin.*





Christmas

AT ST GEORGE'S WEMBDON

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Wed 13 December 11.30 for 11.45am
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Please book your place

Sun 17 December 6.30pm
Carol Service in Church

Sun 24 December
Christmas Eve
4pm Family Carols
11pm Christmas Eve Late Holy Communion

Mon 25 December
Christmas Day 10am
All Age Christmas Celebration



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New Parish Councillor

Hello, my name is Jenny Hayden-Briffett and as the newest member of the Parish Council I would like to introduce myself and let you know a little about my background. I am not a real 'local' to Somerset, having been born in Hertfordshire.

Over the years I have lived in most corners of England and even had a stint in Northern Ireland. However, I have lived in Bridgwater for the last 31 years and, more specifically, Wembdon since 1996. I moved to the area initially to become the South West Regional Gymnastics Development Officer, a job that involved travelling all around the South West and working with voluntary organisations, schools and local authorities. I then moved on to become a teacher at King's Hall School in Taunton, where I have taught a range of subjects and age groups, and I am still teaching there now.

I am married to Rob, and we have twin boys who both graduated this summer. They are currently back at home but are on the cusp of starting their own careers, so I am enjoying the time we have together before they 'fledge' more permanently! I have also taken a step back at school, working part-time which gives me more time to pursue other interests and the opportunity to give back some time to this pleasant village which has been my home for approaching 30 years. There is a rural feel to Wembdon that I like, and I enjoy using the footpaths to explore the surrounding areas, seeing how the environment changes with the seasons.

The Parish Council has made real improvements in recent years, with the development of the Village Hall and the surrounding parklands, playing fields and accessible playground equipment. Although I know I have a lot to learn, I hope to contribute to the continued development of the village for the benefit of the residents. If you see me around, please do stop me and say hello.

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE GREEN



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Allotment News

The allotments are prepared for their winter rest. Here are some reflections of the Allotment Year.



Wembdon Parklands and Community Together



Another year has passed already, and we have had another busy year in the Parklands. This has been the year of The Stumpery and we have made great improvements to it with the help from our friends at Roberts Waste Ltd.

January - February. We had a meeting to plan the new projects including the stumpery and arranged a visit to Roberts Waste, to choose the tree trunks we would need. The team prepared the ground around the stumpery clearing the weeds in preparation. We asked Harris Brothers & Collard Ltd for some safety fencing, which they kindly loaned us. We erected them around the site, to protect the public.

March - May, The stumps and tree trunks arrived, and the project began in earnest. We laid topsoil to level the ground to the same height as the pathway, positioned the logs and root balls and began putting landscaping bark down as a mulch to prevent weeds and retain moisture.

June - August. Further deliveries of bark were made to the stumpery and the project was taking shape. We also had a compound erected to store our equipment in.

September - December. The stumpery is finally complete, and we continued to carry out our normal tasks of weeding the borders. The year is ending with us planting heathers and bulbs along the Sensory Borders and the Stumpery.



The PACT team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

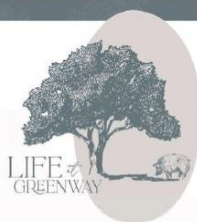
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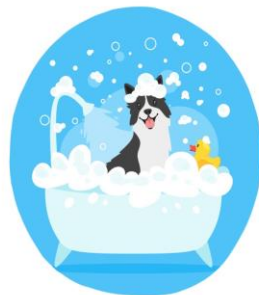
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Parish Councillor Contacts

Councillors

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Mark Phillips <i>Vice Chairman</i>	07941 983311	Dave Gliddon	07828 210076
Peter Major <i>Planning Chairman</i>	01278 421448	Bridget Hedaux	01278 424842
Dianne Claydon	01278 456052	Paul King	07564 955964
Jenny Hayden- Briffett	01278 450701	Vacancy	

Parish Clerk Tony Jay Tel: 07859 911204

5 Maple View, Kewstoke, Weston super Mare BS22 9XQ

Email: clerk@wembdon.org

Wembdon Parish Paper Editor: Tony Jay

The 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 11th December, 8th January and 12th February.

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
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