



The Café at the Green is now open in the Village Hall. Manager Steve Bradley writes inside the Parish paper

## Parish Clerk's notes



At this time every year the Parish Council has to consider its budget for the following financial year, and the amount of precept that it charges the parishioners of Wembdon. This year has been very different to previous years. The dire financial problems being experienced by the newly formed Somerset Council have been well publicised. They are facing a deficit of £100 million in the next financial year just to make their budget balance. They say that

this means that they will have to consider reducing, or cutting out completely, a whole range of services that they currently provide. The list of services being considered includes playground maintenance, hedge and verge cutting at the side of the highway, public right of way maintenance, pavement and street sign maintenance, street and gully cleaning, drain jetting, road sweeping, Community Safety (which includes CCTV in public areas and street & dog wardens) and fly tipping clearance.

The upshot of this is that if Town and Parish Councils across the whole of Somerset do not agree to take over the provision of these services then they will be reduced, or simply end. The Wembdon Parish Councillors met on 29<sup>th</sup> January to discuss how they were going to deal with this situation. Members of the public who attended the meeting asked questions and gave their views before the Councillors set their budget and precept demand. As it was not known exactly which services would be cut, and the cost of the Parish Council providing them instead was unknown, the Councillors were forced to make decisions without the full information. They agreed that they did not want any services to be cut, and so included a contingency figure of £20,000 in the budget to cover the costs associated with the devolution of services.

This will mean that a Band D Council Tax payer will pay an extra £1.26 a month to the Parish Council in 2024-25 compared to the current year. This is a wholly unsatisfactory situation, but the Councillors decided that their priority was for the current level of services to be maintained.

## **Wembdon Parklands & Community Together**

The team are ready to spring forwards into Spring! We are working on ideas of how we can further improve the Parklands. Our plan is to start working on the Sensory borders and the walled oak during March and move onto the Prairie Orchard in April. If you would like to get involved and volunteer with the team, we would be grateful for your help. Please phone Lorna Edwards on 07917101990.



# Community Speedwatch

**20's Plenty**



**Where people  
are**

It's now almost A YEAR since the introduction of the 20-mph speed limit through the village. YES - it's not, and never was, going to stop those people who insist on speeding, sometimes as fast as 70mph! The only thing that will stop the habitual speeders is enforcement, and the certainty of being

caught, which we know is not realistic, or possible, especially in the current financial climate.

However, the most beneficial aspect of the 20-mph introduction so far is the decrease in traffic volume using Wembdon as a rat-run.

DOWN – the volume of traffic coming from Sandford roundabout through the village has fallen from an average of 717 vehicles per day to 426, a drop of almost 300 vehicles! From the NDR towards the village a drop from 1,735 vehicles per day to 1,444! Again almost 300 fewer movements – the school run partially accounts for the higher figures.

DOWN – the average speeds have fallen, in ALL locations we measure, by up to 5 mph which is considerable. The average on Sandford Hill is now 25.68 mph and on Wembdon Rise from the NDR is 20.74 mph.

Thank you to the SPEEDWATCH team who were active on February 2nd with a total of 14 drivers being reported to the police for driving above 25 mph including one with no tax. This was approximately 5% of vehicles recorded at that spot on Wembdon Rise by the Inwood Road junction. Those drivers will receive warning letters from Avon & Somerset Police. The SPEEDWATCH team are always on the lookout for new recruits who can spare an hour or two a month to help out with the monitoring. Please contact the clerk with your details if you're interested.

The impact of the Cokerhurst junction work on the A39, now due to have started on February 12th, will be closely monitored by councillors. We can expect vehicles to try to circumvent any delays by cutting through the village - so watch this space!

FINALLY-THANK YOU to all those residents who are acting responsibly and driving to the speed limit. Your actions will, hopefully, help to keep Wembdon as a safe place to walk, cycle and drive.

**The Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan is almost 5 years old. A review is currently under way, conducted by a steering group appointed by Wembdon Parish Council. There will be more information on this in the next Parish Paper.**

**If you would like to look at the existing Neighbourhood Plan it can be found here.**

**[wembdon.org/?page\\_id=1164](http://wembdon.org/?page_id=1164)**





We did it!

Congratulations to our Eco People for being awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award for 2023-34!

Earlier this week, past and present members of the 'Eco People' came together to proudly show off the highly coveted Green Flag. Guided by Mrs Knife, these children have worked incredibly hard the past 12 months to plan and implement activities designed to benefit the environment.



*The Eco-Schools Team said, "Congratulations to everyone for the great work you have managed to do, earning your Green Flag with style. You should all be very proud"*

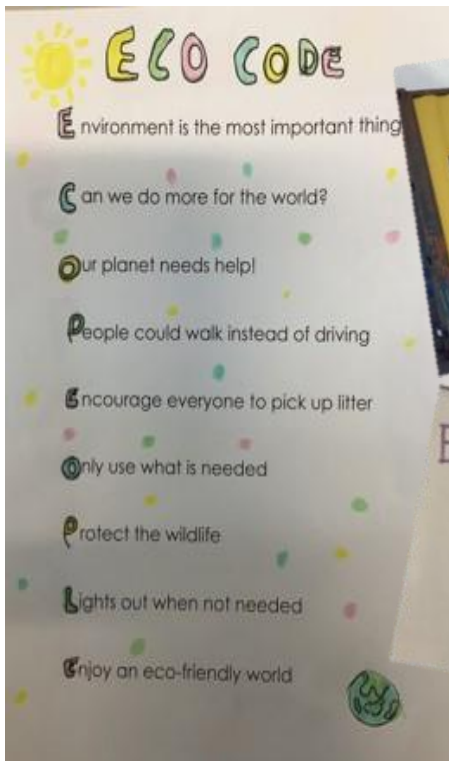
*"We love your democratic and fair approach to appointing Eco-Committee members. It's great to see that other pupils played a part in the process".*

*"We love the range of activities that you and your Eco-Committee planned for delivery. The fact that they cover both indoor (energy monitors and a 'switch-off' campaign, with energy saving and anti-*

*litter awareness posters) and outdoor (regular litter-picks and building bird boxes and bug hotels) activities is excellent. We're really impressed at how you've linked environmental issues to a variety of curriculum areas"*

**Together we:**

- ✓ Elected an Eco-Committee
- ✓ Completed an Environmental Review
  - ✓ Made bug hotels
  - ✓ Devised an Eco Code
- ✓ Visited the See Monster in Weston-super-Mare
  - ✓ Planted new fruit trees around school
- ✓ Took part in workshops led by Somerset Waste
  - ✓ Elected energy monitors in each class
  - ✓ Established a litter-picking group
  - ✓ Designed energy-saving posters
- ✓ Renamed the Forest School area and much more!



## New café in Wembdon



Monday the 8th January saw the opening of Coffee at The Green in the community lounge at Wembdon Village Hall on Homberg Way.

Since the building opened in 2017 the trustees, users of the hall and local residents have all suggested the need for a coffee shop in the village that is open daily, selling quality barista coffee.

With locally sourced products, quality beans and home-made cakes, Coffee at The Green provides a warm, relaxing, dog friendly space open to all. We have cakes that are vegan and both gluten and dairy free and can offer a takeaway service.

Ample free parking, high speed internet, full disabled facilities and staff trained by an award winning barista. With fabulous views across the cricket pitch why would you want to go elsewhere?

Coffee at The Green is now open Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm. We are also open on Saturday morning from 9am until lunch, when we also provide a takeaway service to cater for the many parents, grandparents and visitors who come along to encourage our Junior Sports Teams.







# COFFEE

## AT THE GREEN



FIND US AT THE COMMUNITY LOUNGE, WEMBDON VILLAGE HALL  
THE GREEN, HOMBERG WAY, WEMBDON, TA67BY



## Wembdon Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner



SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Many people say that thirteen is an unlucky number.

This may be so, but not for 64 senior citizens who were lucky enough to enjoy the Annual WCA Senior Citizens Christmas

Dinner on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Our lucky guests were invited to the Parish Centre for a delicious free of charge four course meal provided by the WCA and prepared and served by Vagabonds Outside Catering, a side line of the Vagabonds Carnival Club.



They were able to enjoy a starter of soup or melon, a full Christmas main course with turkey and beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, sprouts, broccoli and copious mixed vegetables followed by the choice of Christmas pudding or trifle for dessert, all freshly prepared on the premises. The meal was accompanied by water and the choice of soft drinks or red and white wine specially selected and transported from France and generously served by WCA Committee members. The Senior Citizens were able to enjoy an afternoon in the company of friends new and old within a jovial, party environment.



The really lucky ones even managed to win prizes on the raffle which included brandy, wine, chocolates, biscuits and lots of other goodies.

Entertainment was provided by The Vixens, a well-

established local harmony group whose beautiful tones prompted many to join in. This was a special treat made available due to a grant generously awarded by the Somerset Community Foundation Trust towards the event.



Our WCA Committee members and friends worked hard on this event

to keep our guests entertained and happy, as they do at events all year round. Wembdon is very lucky to have such a dedicated group who are prepared to give up their time and efforts for others and we appreciate the support given by our village community.

### **WCA Event Dates for Your Diary 2024:**

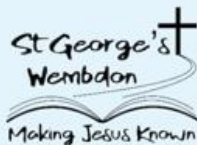
**Senior Citizens Bingo / Teas:** Saturday 2.00 p.m. 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct & 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at the Parish Centre.

**Wembdon Village Day:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Grand Firework Display:** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 7.00 p.m.

**WCA AGM:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Centre.

# EASTER STORY TRAIL



**FRIDAY 29TH MARCH**

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EASTER STORY**

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event**

**sgw.org.uk**

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responsible for  
their children at  
all times

# Wembdon Parish Defibrillators



There are three defibrillators accessible in the village.

1. On the outside wall of the Cottage Inn, Wembdon Hill.
2. On the outside wall of St George's Parish Centre. This has been recently relocated from within Wembdon Village Hall for faster accessibility.
3. On the outside of Wembdon Cricket Club's equipment store, to the right of the main building, Wembdon Village Hall, The Green, Homberg Way. This is owned by the sports clubs, but is available for use by anyone needing it.

## Procedure for how to access these devices.

This is a brief summary, as shown on the board next to the cabinets.

- Call 999 for help. If there is a device situated within a short distance of where the casualty is, you will be advised where it is. ***If there is someone else present, they could collect the defibrillator. If you are alone, follow the advice of the 999 call handler, leaving the line open and on speaker.***
- Start chest compressions.
- If advised, you can use the defibrillator. Do not be alarmed, it will only give a shock if it is needed, the device will talk you through all the steps needed. Keep the line open so the call handler can speak to you about what to do next.
- Don't forget, you could save a life!

This is not intended to be a full description of what to do in the case of sudden collapse. If you would like to have training, then we hope to make arrange a new session in the next few months, or you can check out <https://www.resus.org.uk>



# *John Hodge*

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# Parish Councillor Contacts

## Councillors

Anne Reed <i>Chairman</i>	01278 421420	Lorna Edwards	07917 101990
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	Chris Chalk	01278 459386

**Parish Clerk** Tony Jay Tel: 07859 911204  
5 Maple View, Kewstoke, Weston super Mare BS22 9XQ  
Email: [clerk@wembdon.org](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**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](mailto:wembdon.community@btinternet.com)

Wembdon Village Hall: - [info@wembdonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@wembdonvillagehall.co.uk)  
website [wembdonvillagehall.co.uk](http://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: Phil Curd tel:07795 251590 [bounceandturn@hotmail.com](mailto:bounceandturn@hotmail.com)

Wembdon FC: Phil Brunskill tel: 07742 429283 [football@wembdonjfc.co.uk](mailto:football@wembdonjfc.co.uk)

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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