



Wembdon will be commemorating the  
80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
June 2024



## Parish Clerk's notes

The theme of this issue of the Parish Paper is the commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings, which I am sure you know took place on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. There will be a number of events taking place in the parish, which are detailed in the next few pages. The finale will be the lighting of the beacon at the allotments at 9.15pm on June 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a national event, and the vantage point enjoyed by the allotments should mean that many other beacons will be able to be seen.

The D-Day anniversary holds special significance for me, as both my father Robert and my Uncle Maurice were involved in the landings. Maurice was in the Royal Navy, and he served on one of the ships that patrolled the channel whilst my father was in the Gloucestershire regiment and landed on Sword beach, after crossing the channel in a landing craft. By the evening of June 6, the British had advanced about eight kilometres deep to the west of the Orne River. This was where my father was wounded.

There was a thick forest, with a clearing the size of a tennis court in the trees. The British troops had been advancing through the forest and they met a contingent of German soldiers on the other side of the clearing. Heavy fire was exchanged for a while, before my father's commander shouted, 'Advance' and his troops ran forward. My father was shot in the foot and fell. The British retreated, leaving Dad and other wounded men lying in agony in no man's land with bullets flying just above them. When darkness fell, an unknown hero broke from the British ranks, and pulled Dad back to safety. My father never discovered the identity of this man who saved his life. Like a lot of World War Two veterans my father never talked about the war.

I am sure that there are many Wembdon parishioners who also have stories to tell about their ancestors' involvement in the D-Day landings. I hope that you can join the Parish Councillors at the lighting of Wembdon Beacon.

# D-Day Anniversary

6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## THE LARGEST NAVAL, AIR AND LAND OPERATION IN HISTORY

Wembdon will be commemorating this incredible feat, which involved so much planning, and huge sacrifice, and which contributed so much to the ending of World War II.

St George's Wembdon bells will be ringing out at 6.30 pm.

### National Fish and Chip Day

The National Federation of Fish Fryers are hoping to sell as many as 156,000 portions of fish, chips (and mushy peas) and will donate £1 for every portion to be divided between four charities, supporting Navy, Merchant Navy, Army and Air Force veterans. Please take part if you wish and do feel free to bring your purchases before the beacon is lit, to the Cottage Inn, where you will be made welcome with seating, plates and cutlery.

The Wembdon Beacon will be lit at 9.15pm at the Allotments, Hollow Lane, Wembdon Hill (just before the Cottage Inn). This is something to mark this historic occasion, so please bring the family and watch the beacon being lit. Hopefully we will be able to see many other beacons, from the excellent viewpoint towards the Bristol Channel. You may park in the road, but not on the allotment path, to ensure the safety of everyone.

There will also be national events, which can be followed by watching or listening to your usual news channels.



## **Councillor Chris Chalk shares some of his family's experiences from World War 2**

I am originally from Chichester in West Sussex which is on the South Coast. Along with the East of England this part of the country was effectively the 'front line' during the summer of 1940 experiencing air assaults from the German Airforce for much of the war including of course the Battle of Britain.

This year's anniversary remembers a pivotable moment during World War 2. However, I would also like to include the efforts leading up to D Day from the home front in which my family took a role. My link to D Day is towards the end.

My family (on Mum's side) originated from Southsea in Portsmouth which, along with many other towns and cities in the United Kingdom, was targeted by the Luftwaffe during the Blitz. Three major raids took place on Portsmouth. One of these raids commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1941. This changed the life of Mum's family forever. During the raid Mum went 'missing' but fortunately a gallant Royal Marine spotted Mum and swept her up into his great coat and returned her to my Gran.

The family lost their home and moved some 20 miles eastward to a small village called Chidham. Here, Gran joined the Land Army looking after the cows along with many other duties. On one occasion during the early morning a German fighter plane attacked both Gran and the cows, a dairy herd. Gran, who was incensed at the affront of the enemy pilot shooting at her cows proceeded to chase after the plane shaking her fist and shouting "You stupid thing" at the aircraft.

Thankfully there were no casualties, and the plane was brought down by an anti-aircraft battery a couple of miles away.

Grandad Raymond stayed in Portsmouth serving with the Auxiliary Fire Service driving a Dennis engine. Grandad was presumed dead no less than six times, however he always returned home having survived another night of falling bombs and burning buildings.

Grandad survived the war and became a long-distance lorry driver. He was tragically killed on a road traffic accident, a head on collision by a driver who had fallen asleep at the wheel in 1963.

My second cousin on my dad's side, Sonner, was a 16-year-old lad at the time of the Normandy landings on 6th June 1944. He was an able seaman serving on the tugboats. He was part of the massive support & logistical



operation to maintain a never-ending supply of everything required to carry the war onto Berlin. This included the formation of the Mulberry Harbours which were massive temporary landing stages erected to supply the allied armies. This photo shows a section of Mulberry being towed by tugboats.

Sonner, along with his crew, transported a section of the harbours. Each section was enormous and made of concrete. The idea was to assemble the sections in Normandy, where each section would be sunk along with many other similar sections and connected to make the harbour. Parts of the British 'Mulberry' can still be seen at Arromanches to this day. Sonner's tug crossed the Channel, eventually completing its task and began to make its way home. This is where tragedy struck. The English Channel was not completely free of the German Navy raiding and harassing allied shipping. During the return journey Sonner's tug was attacked by a German torpedo. All of the tug's crew were killed except Sonner who miraculously survived.

I only met Sonner a couple of times before he died. He was a quiet and private man who was just one of thousands of men and women who sacrificed so much to enable us to have the life we have today.

I hope that you have found my family's wartime experiences interesting.

# Community Speedwatch

**20's Plenty**



**Where people  
are**

It's now more than a year since the introduction of the 20-mph speed limit through the village. Sadly, it's not, and never was, going to stop those people who insist on speeding, sometimes as fast as 70mph!

The most beneficial aspect of the 20-mph introduction so far is the decrease in

traffic volume using Wembdon as a rat-run. We have, as expected, seen an increase in traffic flow since work has started on the Cokerhurst development.

Vehicle movements per day have risen from an average of 481 per day in February to 561 in May coming from the Cannington roundabout through the village. This would be acceptable except for the fact that many of these drivers are racing through and exceeding the speed limit. We should, however, remember that prior to the introduction of the 20 mph limit we were getting an average of 717 per day on this route.

Thank you to the SPEEDWATCH team who were active on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with a total of 15 drivers being reported to the police for driving above 26 mph. This was approximately 11% of vehicles recorded at that spot on Wembdon Hill between 4.30 – 5.30 p.m. Those drivers will receive warning letters from A&S Police force. Two vehicles were recorded at 40+ mph which should mean the drivers will get a hand-delivered warning from a police officer.

We are also hoping that the police will start enforcing the dangerous parking that is evident around the village, especially where there are dropped kerbs and at junctions e.g. where Hollow Lane meets Wembdon Hill. Large vehicles, including delivery lorries and tractors, are finding it increasingly difficult to manoeuvre. Also, inconsiderate parking on the top of Wembdon Hill has, on occasion, caused the double-decker bus to be unable to get through on its way to Cannington.

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 able to help.

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.

## ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

There are designated areas of the park where dogs should be kept on a lead. These areas are clearly marked, so please observe them. The Somerset Council Dog Wardens patrol these areas and are empowered to issue fines to people ignoring the restriction. Don't let this be you!



# LASHINGS WORLD XI CRICKET MATCH IN WEMBDON on 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Wembdon Cricket Club will play a T20 cricket match against Lashings World XI on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> at The Green, Wembdon.

Lashings World XI began in 1984 as a pub team in Kent and has evolved into a phenomenal institution which takes international cricket stars around Britain to raise money for local cricket.

The Lashings squad for this match will be:

Chris Schofield - England (c)	Owais Shah - England
Mohammad Ashraful – Bangladesh	Yasir Arafat - Pakistan
Hugo Hammond - England (wk)	James Hildreth - England
Martin Bicknell - England	Charl Willoughby - South Africa
Saqlain Mushtaq – Pakistan	John Emburey - England
Andrew Caddick - England	Curtley Ambrose -West Indies
Courtney Walsh - West Indies	

David Smith (Team Manager)  
Ambassador)

Sir Gordon Greenidge (Team  
Henry Blofeld (commentator)

The Lashings stars will put on a coaching session for invited junior cricketers at 11.00. There will be a superb lunch at 12.30 for guests who have booked. Gates will open for public admission at 14.00. There will be an auction at 15.30. The T20 match will start at 16.00. Following the match there will be a party with live music and a hog roast.

There are still a few places available for a three-course lunch with wine in the company of the Lashings players in the marquee. You can either book a table for 9 or 10 people at a cost between £750 and £3000 (the more expensive tables for 9 people include a champagne reception and/or a Lashings player at your table) or individual tickets are available at £75 each. To book contact Harrison Young email: [wembdonlashings@gmail.com](mailto:wembdonlashings@gmail.com) or call 07802296379

If you just want to come to the match tickets for general admission cost £12. Under 16s are free. Tickets can be obtained via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wembdon-cc-vs-lashings-2024-tickets-829894184847>



## BE PREPARED FOR WEMBDON VILLAGE DAY

MONDAY 26TH AUGUST 2024



Due to the shortage of Scarecrows in 2023's competition, this year we are trying something new.

**Class 202** will give you the opportunity to compete by displaying a **Floral Display in a Wheel Barrow or Large Container.**



**Time to start Planning /  
Planting**  
**THERE'S A TROPHY TO BE  
WON!**



Entries must be visible from the road and judging will take place in the week before Village Day. This is for 'Local' entrants only so if you receive this newsletter you are eligible to enter. Look out for entry instructions in the Wembdon Village Day Brochure which will be dropping through your letterbox in July.

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## WCA EVENTS - 'CASH ONLY'!

Following discussions within the committee and with our bankers it has been decided that all WCA Stalls and Events will remain 'Cash Only'.

### **On Village Day:**

Entrance, Barbeque, Refreshments, Show Entries, Coconut Shy, Tin Can Alley & Raffle will only be able to accept cash payments.

It is very likely that other stalls at the event will also be unable to accept card payments, so **please bring cash.**

**Wembdon Fireworks Display** will also be 'Cash Only' for Entrance and Refreshments.



## Want to be part of an Outstanding volunteer service? Then Route1 is looking for you!

Route1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors service supports children and young people who are in care or have a social worker. They do this by matching volunteers with young people as either short term Advocates, or longer-term Independent

Visitors.

The service recently had an independent internal review and was graded as Outstanding; and was shortlisted to the final 3 in the Frontline National Award 2024 'Team of the Year'.

Route1 helps children have happy childhood memories, and ensures their views are listened to and acted upon.

- Independent Visitors: These volunteers make a long-term commitment to one child in care. They visit the child once or twice each month to build a trusting, supportive relationship and friendship that can sometimes last many years. This can bring life-changing experiences and opportunities to the child or young person – and their Independent Visitor!
- Advocates: volunteers work alongside individual children to ensure their voices are heard, and their wishes and feelings are taken into account when decisions are being made which affect them. Each child's support is usually short term and there is no expectation of a long term commitment to any child.



A recent trainee volunteer said, "I started out thinking 'what on earth can require 5 days of training?' I now know why and think you have it just right."

Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills. Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability.



For more information about Route 1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors, you can contact us by emailing: [route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk), calling 01749 822801

and our website is [www.route1advocacy.co.uk](http://www.route1advocacy.co.uk)



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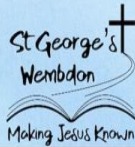
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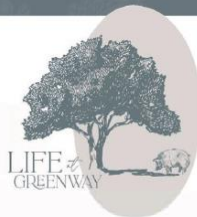
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## Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Parish Council has accepted the recommendation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that the review of our plan should be deferred until the Somerset Local Plan has been published.

The Somerset Plan is due to be made soon and if made after our Plan, it could override some of our policies. We think it is important that our policies take priority, hence the delay.

## Do You Need a Cleaner?

I have taken early retirement from my job as a Registered General Nurse (RGN) and I am now providing domestic cleaning services. I live close to Wembdon and aim to provide a friendly and reliable service.

*References available.*

Please TEXT Alison  
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# Parish Councillor Contacts

## Councillors

Anne Reed (Chairman)	01278 421429	Mark Phillips (Vice Chairman)	07941 983311
Chris Chalk	01278 459386	Bridget Hedaux	01278 424842
Dianne Claydon	01278 456052	Paul King	07564 955964
Lorna Edwards	07917 101990	Dave Gliddon	07828 210076
Jenny Hayden- Briffett	01278 450701	Vacancy	

## Parish Clerk and Parish Paper editor

Tony Jay Tel: 07859 911204

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

Email: [clerk@wembdon.org](mailto:clerk@wembdon.org)

Wembdon Parish Council holds its meetings in the Village Hall at 7pm 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 meetings 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 7pm on Mondays 10<sup>th</sup> June and 8<sup>th</sup> July.

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  
email [wembdonpact@gmail.com](mailto:wembdonpact@gmail.com) website:  
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