

# The Village Magazine

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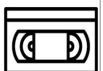
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<b>North Somerset District Councillors</b>	Cllr Bridget Petty, Backwell Tel 07881320224 <a href="mailto:bridget.petty@n-somerset.gov.uk">bridget.petty@n-somerset.gov.uk</a> Cllr Steve Hogg, Wrington Broadstone, Silver Street, Wrington, BS40 5QE Tel 01934 863283	<b>Backwell Village Club</b>	<a href="mailto:backwellvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk">backwellvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk</a>
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Prize winning cakes: fine out more on page 9

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*Submission deadline for next issue is the  
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# The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley



The logo for Heaven Coffee House features the word "Heaven" in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below it, the words "COFFEE HOUSE" are written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font.

## **A popular Backwell café celebrates its first birthday.**

Many will remember last Easter when Heaven Coffee House opened its doors for the first time and the queues stretched out of the door. The prominent corner location, with its expansive windows, has had many occupants over the years but now serves as a popular café delivering excellent coffee alongside other delights like bubble tea, smoothies and delicious cakes. Its proprietor, Ian Howlett (featured on the front cover), has experience of starting up coffee shops as well as other enterprises. He ran a “pop-up” coffee shop in a large venue in Taunton, filling it with comfy sofas, and has also been involved in a number of “tech start-ups”.

So, what drew him to opening a coffee shop in Backwell? Ian describes his passion for great coffee, alongside his experience with start-ups, as coming together in a perfect storm when the opportunity presented itself for a coffee business in Backwell. Having lived in the area for some time, Ian moved away, then on his return he was at first drawn to the old Mica site which is still waiting for some TLC. But when the building opposite – now his coffee house – became available he felt sure this was providence guiding him forward.

Setting up a new business is never easy and, as Ian says, “there is always so much more to do”, but Heaven has found success as a place to meet and it fills up regularly. Coffee shops are often rather dark, but the large windows give a bright, airy feel as the light pours in.

Highlights for Ian over the last year include introducing Bagel-inies to the village and the first open mic night, which are now continuing monthly, as well as the joy of working with excellent staff and making new friends who visit the shop. Ian acknowledges he has been very blessed with his staff and is delighted with the 5-star hygiene rating. He really values the quality of his coffee, roasted by “Extract” in Bristol and served, he says, with love.. and great latte art! Probably the biggest challenge is the lack of parking, an issue that will ring true with many businesses in Backwell.

Plans for the next year include revamping the menu to provide afternoon tea and encouraging more community groups like ‘Work from Heaven’, or the adopters’ group, to meet here regularly. This is something Ian is keen to support. Hopefully, the Art Wall may blossom too.

When asked if he was still happy that he had chosen to start a coffee shop in Backwell, Ian answered “Yes, I wouldn’t have it any other way”. His advice for any other entrepreneurs wanting to start their own business was “be prepared for struggles, but follow your passions”.

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## Parish Council Meeting – March 2024

### Planning

**Grove Farm.** 1280 comments from residents objecting to the proposal have been logged on the North Somerset Council (NSC) Planning page. Councillors hope that this exceptionally high number of objections from the resident population will be taken into consideration when the proposal is discussed.

Councillors thanked Backwell Residents' Association and Backwell Resistance for their hard work which was responsible for boosting the number of comments.

**Farleigh Fields.** Councillors were told that there is an update regarding the development. On the vacant piece of land not yet allocated, there are to be discussions regarding the positioning and upkeep of the proposed fence, and care of the local ecology there. Councillors were also made aware that Persimmon Homes are consulting with NSC to have the west field which they own included in the NSC Plan. This will be closely watched by the Parish Council.

**Rodney Road** The outline planning has been approved, but there are no details yet about site access.

**Gleeson Development south of Nailsea** This application is still live but has been delayed by six months.

**Draft Local Plan** The Parish Council are monitoring the progress of the draft and have made comments regarding issues relating to Backwell. This will be continued.

**Active Travel Strategy** There was no update regarding the bus lane plans along Farleigh Road.

**Planning Applications** There were six planning applications, five of which were supported. However, concerns were expressed about an extension plan in Westfield Drive due to 'overlooking' issues with another dwelling.

**Highways** Councillors continue to press for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Downside. The Airport have agreed to fund signage etc if it is approved by NSC.

There has been no decision about the proposal to introduce a 40mph speed limit in Backwell Common and Backwell Bow.

**Other matters** Councillors were pleased to hear that a new apple tree is to be planted on Council owned land by the Backwell Club. This will replace one which had suffered with mistletoe damage.

The clock in the Village Hall has been repaired with financial assistance from the Parish Council.

The work to place an inscription on the Jubilee Stone marking King Charles' Accession has been approved.

There is no update regarding the footpaths across and around the 'Jubilee' field. Cllr Power will make further enquiries with NSC and report at the next meeting.

**Vacancies** There are vacancies on the Parish Council for anyone wishing to take on the interesting and fulfilling role of Councillor. The role is suitable for both working and non-working people, with matters arising being shared subject to people's availability and/ or spare time. Please contact the Clerk ([clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk)) or any Councillor for more details.

The next meeting of the full Council will be held in Parish Hall on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm. All would be made welcome.

Date for your diary: Annual Electors' Meeting

**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April** 2024 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Your chance to meet with and question Councillors.



## Get Down And Dirty!

Troubleshooting Composting Issues with Backwell Climate Action Group.

Making your own compost is great for soil, great for the environment, and saves on money and waste. It is a closed loop system where you produce

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But some have issues, which cause them to give up, when they are usually easily solved.....

**Slow process** - this is often due to a low temperature in the heap. It could be that your 'heap' is too small, so heat is lost quickly to the environment. Getting close to one cubic meter will help. Smaller heaps will benefit from insulation (cardboard or straw down the sides of a bin, or even waste insulation sheets or polystyrene from building work (as long as they don't shed micro plastics). A slow process can also be due to a lack of oxygen. Turning or stirring your heap will often kick start the breakdown of the contents, but can be a major effort. Repeatedly spiking the heap with a broom handle or cane (from top to bottom) is nearly as good, as it provides channels for oxygen into the heap.

**Slimy/smelly compost heap** - Often too much high nitrogen 'green' material. Green material is often, but not always, green (!) Examples - soft prunings/non-woody, plant material, nettles (without roots), veg and fruit waste, grass mowings and hay, coffee grounds, annual weeds. Solution - mix in high carbon 'Browns'. Examples - woody pruning (chopped up), straw, shredded paper, egg boxes (don't crush) and packing cardboard, sawdust. Turn or otherwise aerate your heap after adding, to introduce oxygen.

**Dry/slow compost** - Often too much brown material. Add 'greens' and in particular compost accelerators such as grass cuttings, chopped comfrey leaves...or even a certain high nitrogen human waste product (if the compost is for your own use).

**Pests** - these range from small flies to rats. The key rule is to keep your heap free of meat, fish, dairy and cooked food. This will also help to limit flies. Disturb the pile often....kick the compost bin when you go down the garden, and rats will often move on. If you do add anything that might attract flies, then cover it, or bury it in the pile. Best to site your compost heap away from the house too. Never add dog or cat poo (there is a risk of toxocara infection - serious for humans).

We are planning to offer compost advice sessions later in the year, to assist beginners, encourage strugglers and provide experienced composters with food for thought. Watch this space.

*Marian Evans: Member of Backwell Climate Action Group and North Somerset Master Composter.*

**North Somerset Quilters** will be holding their April meeting at 7.30pm on **Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>** at the W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell BS48 3QW. Our speaker will be Denise Hagan with her talk "COVID Walks Along the Saxon Path". We will be having a Charity Trade Table for this meeting.

Visitors welcome at a cost of £7

For more information please Tel Karen [01275 463119](tel:01275463119)

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## Backwell School News

Term 4 has been very positive, with lots to celebrate. The school grounds are looking particularly lovely, with blossom on the trees, daffodils, crocuses, and other spring flowers in full bloom.

Our Year 9 students have selected their GCSE options. Year 10 students have been undergoing their first set of trial exams, to help support them towards their GCSE's next year. Students in Years 11 and 13 are working hard towards finishing their respective courses and revising for exams, starting in May.

### Clothes Swap

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February a very successful Clothes Swap event was held, organised by the student led Environmental Committee.

Following the encouraging turnout and enthusiasm, we look forward to holding other similar events in the future.

### Careers Fair

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Backwell School held a Careers Fair, to support, enthuse and advise our students. The event was very successful and well attended. Year 9 students all visited the fair during the school day. Many thanks to the organisations and companies for their continued support and to Mrs Ball, our Careers Advisor and Coordinator for organising it.

### Inter Sixth Form University Challenge

On Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March Backwell hosted the Lighthouse School Partnership Inter Sixth Form University Challenge against three other sixth form teams. We are elated to announce that the Backwell team triumphed and lifted the winner's trophy with a final score of 200-130.

Congratulations to team members: Jamie M, Theo P (Year 13), Lois R & Charlie C (Year 12).

### World Book Day

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March was another World Book Day. Our outstanding library team organised events to help celebrate the day. A very successful 'Bake a Book' competition was held for Year 7 students, with some truly incredible entries received. Judging was very tough, but overall, we had three winners. Congratulations to Oscar with his Diary of a Wimpy Kid cake, Jessie with her Snail & the Whale and team of Eva, Perran & Elliot with their Monster Book of Monsters (Harry Potter).

### Key dates

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**, End of Term 4 (inset day)

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**, Start of Term 5

*Happy Easter from all at Backwell School  
Clair Gardner- Headteacher's PA*

## Backwell Allotments

The AGM of the committee was attended by 30 ploholders on 7<sup>th</sup> March, in the Backwell Village Club who were thanked for donating their facility for the evening.

The field is owned by Backwell Parish Council which handles the official business of rents, water payments and path cutting etc. This leaves the operational side to our committee, which concentrates on the practical challenges, including changes of tenancy. The recent death of Ron Febrey is the loss of a friend to many, as well as the loss of a great worker in many aspects of our field which is divided into some 90 plots.

Derek Estcourt has been welcomed onto the committee and has agreed to organise the BBQ event later in the summer, which was created by Ron and has been a much-appreciated social event. Allotment holders have always been supporters of the Backwell Village Show in September, and we have now been given a tab on its website which we will make use of as one of our means of communication between allotment holders and to the public. This is a win-win arrangement as it saves us the effort of creating our own website and is an extra reason for people to use the site.

[backwellvillageshow.co.uk](http://backwellvillageshow.co.uk)

The wildlife area, near the entrance to the field, has matured into an attractive feature, and we are grateful to our volunteers who oversee it, coordinated by Lorna. We are poised to have a delivery of stone chippings from Stancombe Quarry, as part of their community fund, as soon as the weather allows. A small team will collect and spread them.

The field size has been well matched to the demand for most of its existence since 1977, with typically a waiting list of a few people hoping to have a plot.

This is in huge contrast to the position in many allotments in Bristol. At the time of writing there is the unusual situation of having two spare plots with just one person on the waiting list.

**We do need a few new people to come onto the waiting list for a plot. Please phone the Parish Council (01275 464653) to register your interest.**

Some people enjoy the solitude and tranquillity of their plot, whereas for others the friendships made at the allotment are much valued. We welcome visitors to the allotments using the footpaths to see what a productive and attractive field we have.

*Committee : Geoff Wells, Lorna O'Sullivan, Richard Anderton, Derek Estcourt.*

**Backwell village life is a little emptier without Terry Merrett-Smith.** We have lost a stalwart friend. Always a welcoming person Terry became part of the fabric of the village. Backwell Drama Club benefitted from his huge collection of 78's and vinyl, mostly from the big band era, supplying and playing the background music to plays in the Parish Hall and cabarets in the WI Hall. He also helped out at Backwell Playhouse. Those of us who listen to Radio Bristol will miss his contribution as music expert on Steve Yabsley's show, and if you were an in-patient at the BRI you may have heard his broadcasts on the hospital radio.

Local clubs & societies will no longer be able to call on Terry to entertain them with his low key style, reminiscences & recordings. He was a wonderful speaker and it was a joy to be in the audience. People like Terry are essential to maintain a vibrant community. He was on the Parish Hall committee and treasurer of the Camera Club and Backwell Residents Association.

In addition to his public persona Terry provided fun for his friends: weekend bus trips to France, the Netherlands & Germany and August BBQ's where he cooked a mean frite and gave his eclectic collection of spirits their annual outing. Best to avoid conversations about politics.

He did not want a funeral, so this brief note gives just a hint of a life well lived.

*John Upward*



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## Music Events a step outside of Backwell

### North Somerset Philharmonia concert:

The next concert of the North Somerset Philharmonia (formerly Nailsea Concert Orchestra) will be at 7:30pm on Saturday **13<sup>th</sup> April** at The Auditorium, Nailsea School. The orchestra will perform Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. The program also includes Bizet's Carmen Suite No. 1 and Danse Macabre by Saint-Saëns. Tickets available on the door, from [www.nsphilharmonia.org.uk](http://www.nsphilharmonia.org.uk), and from Nailsea Music Shop. There will be a retiring collection in support of Freewheelers.

### An Evening of Brass Band Music

**26<sup>th</sup> April** see the first ever joint concert between Filton Concert Brass and Lions Brass 4 Youth at Christchurch 7.00pm; an event not to be missed. Both bands play popular music that you are sure to recognise and leave the church humming along to your favourite. Filton concert Brass is a Bristol's championship Brass band and Lions Brass 4 Youth has an excellent reputation in the local area for quality fun music. Tickets are just £7.50 so please reserve yours at [snappytickets.co.uk](http://snappytickets.co.uk) and input Filton concert brass, or contact [dauwood@aol.com](mailto:dauwood@aol.com)

### Congresbury Singers

"A Celebration of Classical Music" concert, **Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>** @ 7.30pm @ St Andrews Church Congresbury - tickets £12 (including refreshments)  
Tickets available from PO, Re-Store or on the door.

### Organ concert by Richard Johnson at St Mary's, Yatton, 20<sup>th</sup> April.

The Yatton Music Society's April concert will be by organist Richard Johnson. Richard was an organ scholar at Oriel College and since 2004 he has been organist at Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church. He is a member of Exultate Singers, and Accompanist to the City of Bristol Choir. Richard's concert starts 7.30pm, tickets £10, students £5, children free. For details of the concert please see [www.yms.org.uk](http://www.yms.org.uk).



## Backwell Scout News

Backwell Scout Group is looking for volunteers to assist with the running of our Backwell Scout and Guide hut. Would you be able to help?

### Role: Quartermaster

The Group needs someone or a group of people who would look after the equipment which is stored in the scout hut and is used for outdoor activities.

This includes checking the kit is in good working order and arranging repairs as required.

If you feel you could help with this essential role, please get in touch with Katie Gore [katgore@googlemail.com](mailto:katgore@googlemail.com). We should be extremely grateful to hear from you.

### Tuesday Beavers.

We've had a great month continuing our fitness challenge. The Beavers created great sports posters promoting health and fitness, including a range of sports from football to ice hockey.

They celebrated the Chinese New Year by creating and racing dragons and continued an international theme, by learning about different foods from a variety of countries and eating some delicious French pastries.

They had great fun learning about animals and how to care for them and enjoyed dressing up as vets with full scrub outfits. They also made small treats to take home for Mother's Day.

If your child is interested in joining Tuesday Beavers, please email [tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com](mailto:tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com) to join the waiting list.

*Sarah*

### Tuesday Scouts

February/March is a strange time for Tuesday Scouts as we bid farewell to dark evenings and cold weather and look forward to the light and warmth of Summer and thoughts of camps, expeditions and hill walking begin to thrill us in anticipation. However, that's not quite yet, so we have been starting to venture out on Tuesday nights, taking advantage of the darkness to experiment with light painting by the Clifton Bridge using long exposures on digital cameras to bring the night to life with our own light show (previous work can be seen at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/backwellscouts/albums/>).

We went climbing indoors at the Redpoint Climbing Centre in Bristol and are preparing for our very own Pinewood Derby, designing the racing cars amid much sawing and sanding (see an example of a Pinewood Derby at <https://youtu.be/6hvJgfrWnxs>).

We also had an evening of introduction to the Expedition Challenge for the older Scouts, and map work challenges for the younger Scouts, as we prepare to head outside for more adventurous activities in the coming months.

*Ian (assistant scout leader)*

### Wednesday Explorers and Ten Tors training

32 of our Explorers met up at 5.30am on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March and travelled to London to take part in this year's Monopoly Run, an event that sees 8,000 Scouts and Guides race around London visiting the well-known board game locations. Each team earns money for owning properties (they have to get there first), earning rent and completing questions and challenges along the way. With 1,395 teams taking part we were very pleased to see all our five teams finishing in the top half of the leaderboard, with one team coming 38<sup>th</sup> overall!

At the start of February, we headed to the Brecon Beacons for our annual Winter Camp, staying at a bunkhouse in "Waterfall Country". A great weekend was had by all, except for our Welsh leader who

didn't enjoy seeing England win the rugby! We walked the 20km waterfall loop and took the opportunity to invest some of our members behind, on top of, and in the various waterfalls.

Ten Tors training has entered the proverbial home straight with all our participants completing their first weekend training hikes. Both 35 and 45/55 groups experienced snow on the Exmoor and Brecon Beacon hikes but did fantastically well in completing their respective distances and setting themselves up for the final two weekends on Dartmoor.

*Iain (Explorer and Tens Tors leader)*

### Thursday Cubs

Our older cubs were excellent in achieving their challenges on the weekend camp, including sleeping out in what turned out to be one of the frostiest nights for a while! On our Thursday sessions we made some far eastern pancake rolls and learned about the Chinese/Lunar New Year/Spring Festival, and also cooked (and flipped) English pancakes. The Cubs worked in groups to plan, design and produce their own videos, demonstrating their creative and performance skills. They cooked for their Chef badge, including on the campfire, and learned about food hygiene and healthy eating. For the Air Activities badge we had fun with paper aeroplanes. We continue our commitment to fund-raising for the much needed minibus - please look out for any publicity and help support the Backwell Scouting group.

*Imogen (Thursday Cubs assistant)*

## The Meeting Point

School holiday time means Tuesday Break, which this month will be on **9<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00 to 12.00** and will have an Easter theme. Look out for further details nearer the time. Younger siblings are always welcome and parents can relax with coffee and home-made cake before deciding whether to join in. Don't forget we also have a soup lunch on **2<sup>nd</sup> April at 1.00pm**. If you'd like to bring the kids (or a crowd) just let us know so we can expand the catering.

Otherwise, no need to book for this meal; just come and enjoy. As ever, a warm welcome awaits on Tuesdays between 10.30 and 4.30, especially if you wish to enjoy some of the other activities.

The amazingly popular Sitting Fit Yoga sessions are one of those other activities with each session running from **11.00 to 12.00** on a Tuesday, re-starting on 16<sup>th</sup> April (after the school holidays) in the Parish Hall. There are always refreshments from 10.30 with coffee and cake, making this a social time before the exercise begins. It's especially helpful exercise for the upper body, so give it a try.

Our full two-course lunch produced by Scotty will be served on **16<sup>th</sup> April at 1.00pm**. We do ask for bookings for this one by 9<sup>th</sup> April please, as this is always a popular meal, and we want to ensure we have catered for you. Our soup-makers are ready to deliver a warming bowl of something deliciously home-made, followed by bread and cheese with fruit etc on **2<sup>nd</sup> April at 1.00pm**.

This month our **Communion** service will be held on **2<sup>nd</sup> April at 12.15**, also in the **Parish Hall**. All are welcome as we break bread together before enjoying the soup lunch.

If you have comments or suggestions, or if you'd like to volunteer with us, please do get in touch.

**Contact:** e-mail or phone: [backwell.life@gmail.com](mailto:backwell.life@gmail.com) or call/text on 07851 438530. Or visit our website at [www.themeetingpointbackwell.co.uk](http://www.themeetingpointbackwell.co.uk)

## **Bridget for Backwell**

I have been impressed but not surprised by the fact that more than 1000 local residents objected to the Grove Farm Application. Below is what I wrote in response to the planning application.

As District Councillor for Backwell, I have taken a specific interest in this major development. To expand one village with a 25% increase in house numbers is not justified and would significantly impact the character of the existing community. I have a number of planning issues I wish to raise. I have followed closely the residents really significant number of objections. To have over 1000 residents' comment on one planning application is massive. It cannot and must not be dismissed lightly.

I object to this development of over 500 homes on land outside the village boundary for many planning reasons. A village must have an identified boundary and for Backwell they have also chosen to have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, the community have come together and identified the strategic growth, the sites for development and in addition there are other sites that have come forward that have permission. Backwell already has the housing growth allocated and to add this site would clearly be over development. The cumulative impact would be significant and the impact to existing residents would be negative. The Local Plan has not been to the inspector, and it has certainly not been adopted at this time of responding and reviewing the application. The site is on land that is currently good agricultural land, to plan for a sustainable future we need land to produce food not only housing and concrete over. I would seek to have brownfield sites developed and given permission first, I would ask the developer to evidence why this best and most versatile land is being pursued before other sites.

It is currently well used as a public amenity with many footpaths to open countryside. Introducing the new Biodiversity Net Gain law, we must see real evidence that the internationally important Greater Horseshoe Bats will not be negatively impacted by this proposed catastrophic change to landscape. This demonstrator species is well protected for a reason and the negative impacts of this development on wildlife and habitat is not justified (given the other developments already allocated in the village). A development of this scale would generate a significant increase in traffic on local roads including the A370, Station Road, Rodney Road, Chelvey Road. The junction of A370 and Station Road is already a major pinch point on the road networks of North Somerset, where Nailsea traffic (which continues to increase) meets A370 traffic from down in Weston direction mostly travelling to Bristol for a range of reasons. The impact of more road journeys is both to traffic levels (resulting in congestion) but also to air quality of the communities living on the A370. As far as I am aware North Somerset area does not yet have high levels, but I anticipate we will and the centre of the village is where children are walking to school, three junior/infant and one secondary all in close proximity to A370 or Station Road as their walking routes. This is a major health concern and is about the future wellbeing of current population and future generations.

The applicant suggested there might be a bus route through Moor Lane and Station Road I would seriously question the deliverability of this and ask that this is investigated further as empty promises do

more damage to this community. It would also be very impactful on those residents near and around in Long Thorn and Moor Lane to have this additional route created.

The Train Station has not seen investment and remains inaccessible to those with physical disabilities, it is also already overcrowded at peak times, this is not a station with capacity to take more residents if they choose to use it.

North Somerset Council and National Government have declared a Climate Emergency this development is yet to evidence how it supports this work and doesn't generate a high emissions housing development.

I have strong objection to the timing of the application; it has not waited for a Local Plan process which is not yet approved or adopted therefore it is premature as well as the issues I have raised above which are not exhaustive.

*Sincerely Councillor Bridget Petty*

## **Backwell Residents Association (BRA) Grove Farm**

The proposal for 515 houses at Grove Farm has featured in both the draft North Somerset Local Plan and the Outline Planning Application by Taylor Wimpey. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 1280 objections on the TW application, and to the 268 objections for the Local Plan, which was so much harder to complete.

### **Bus Service Improvement Plan**

At the time of writing, North Somerset Council has not announced its decision regarding the BSIP proposals for Backwell, which has caused much anguish in the village, particularly with the proposal to add a bus lane at the crossroads and to prevent vehicles from coming down Dark Lane to join the A370

### **BRA AGM**

Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm** in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre, Backwell School (entrance via Meadow Close off Station Road).

Members and non-members will be warmly welcomed. Our main speaker is Lucy White, our planning consultant and local resident who continues to give us invaluable support. Formal aspects of the AGM will be minimised, to allow time for open discussion on planning matters, including the Local Plan.

We are grateful to the many households who have already paid their £10 subscription for 2024. We would appreciate outstanding renewals, and payments from new members as soon as possible please, before or at the AGM. Forms are available on the website, or in the BRA Newsletter, currently being delivered to all households.

From the BRA Committee

Visit our website on [www.backwellresidents.org.uk](http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk)

Email us at [backwellresidents@btinternet.com](mailto:backwellresidents@btinternet.com)

### **Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support**

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April**, when we will hear about the services available from the RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind). We meet at the Backwell W.I. Hall in Station Road at 1.30pm and finish at 3.00pm. All are welcome. Further information from Sheila at 01275 462107.



## Backwell's 2ND Saturday Fair Trade Café April 13<sup>th</sup> Backwell Parish Hall 10.00am to 12.00

It's Spring the meteorologists say so why not come along to Backwell community café and enjoy the excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea and some delicious home baked pastries and biscuits. As usual this month the bulk-buy Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service. Here you can join and buy all kinds of food stuffs in bulk including many different types of flour, a wide range of cereals, nuts, seeds and spices as well as all kinds of tinned fruit and vegetables, various coffees, teas, beverages, chocolates, biscuits and much more. The range includes many fair trade and organic items. Come and peruse the catalogue or go to <http://www.essential-trading.co.uk>, join the Club and place an order.

You can also buy from the wide range of goods on display without joining or ordering. Move from recycling to re-using by bringing your own container to fill (or better refill) with all kinds of Bio D/Ecover detergents and cleaning fluids on our Bio-D/Ecover stall.

Marian Evans of Backwell's Climate action group will be there as usual. This month's theme is 'Grow It!', focusing on growing fruit and veg sustainably. Watch out for a seed/plant swop stall at a future Fair Trade café.

Our District Councillor Bridget Petty intends to be present again to discuss local affairs with any concerned resident.



## Nailsea & District Local History Society

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm in The Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School: Jim Pimpernell speaking on "The Agricultural Rev 1700-1850". Further info 01275 463479. Visitors welcome £3.

## Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School

### World Book Day

#### West Leigh Infant School

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, West Leigh celebrated World Book Day and the children looked fantastic in their costumes! Our focus for the day was poetry



and all year groups had a fun-filled day doing activities based on a poem. We also held a competition for children to decorate a potato as a book character, and we were amazed with the quality of the entries. Well done to all children who took part.

Rabbit Class and Owl Class were given the challenge of creating a poem inspired by On the Ning Nang Nong by Spike Milligan. We started by investigating a few rhyming words and onomatopoeia. We then created our own background illustrating what our nonsense world looked like and added colour using watercolours. Once it had dried, we wrote our own mini versions of the poem. Everyone worked incredibly hard, well done Year 1.

Author, Jack Challoner visited us on Wednesday and spoke to us about his passion for writing science-based books. Once a Science teacher, Jack has written over 55 books, mostly nonfiction books but more recently poetry books about different science topics. We loved listening to his poems about Water and Forces in our morning assembly and each year group was then treated to a workshop where Jack spoke to us about being an author as well as doing some mind-blowing science experiments. All of this wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the PTA so a huge thanks again to them for funding Jack's visit.

## West Backwell Bowling Club Thriving - Winning National Award

At a star studded gala National Awards dinner in Leicester that saw Bowls England recognise the tremendous efforts of our national teams and gold medallists, West Backwell Bowling Club walked away with the Inclusivity Award that recognised clubs who were working to change the image of bowls making the sport better complement modern lifestyles and make interventions to tackle deep-rooted inequality in sports activity. As part of the Fit for the Future strategy the aim is to make bowls truly accessible for all, embrace more people, irrespective of their background or circumstances. And Backwell have been working hard to do just that.

The club's dedication to breaking down entry barriers led to an impressive turnout of over 600 participants, spanning ages four to ninety-six, encompassing both able-bodied and disabled individuals. WBBC's strategic approach gathered positive publicity and secured support from Sport England and commercial sponsors.

Beyond increased participation, the club's success was measured by the positive stories that emerged, showcasing improved physical activity, mental health, and success stories.

Emma Price who attended the awards on behalf of WBBC said: "A healthy club culture and environment that enables people to thrive is what you'll find at West Backwell Bowling Club and that is why we are so proud to have been recognised for this National Award. Inclusivity is what it's all about. Bowls is a sport for everyone - age, gender, ability doesn't matter, whether you are just starting out or have international ambitions. We pride ourselves on the fantastic culture and we can't wait to welcome the community back to our wonderful village club. And for those yet to get the bowls bug - Try Bowls Tuesdays starts from April 16<sup>th</sup>. Just pop along anytime between 6.00-8.00pm and we'll get you bowling and having fun in no time."



## Backwell Garden Club April Meeting

The April meeting of the Club is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** starting at 1.45pm for 2.00pm in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. The Speaker is Joanna Bane and her topic is "The Flower Gift".

The Club meets every third Wednesday of the month and is always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

For further details contact Robin Langford, Chairman, on 01275 855822 or email [rclangford64@gmail.com](mailto:rclangford64@gmail.com)

## St Andrew's MU

We were very interested, at our branch meeting, in hearing about Rotary and all the charity work that the members are involved with both locally and worldwide. A number of members helped make posies for Mothering Sunday. These were distributed at the service on the Sunday and were very gratefully received. Our April meeting is a lunchtime one where we invite members from the other branches in the Deanery.

Date

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>** 12.00 noon Buffet lunch  
Lucie Perryman, subject, Children's Hospice South West

## West Town & Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** from 7.30pm in the WI Hall. We will hear from Great Western Air Ambulance and committee member Sarah Ould will give a demonstration of CPR. There will also be a plant/seed swap. While on **April 28<sup>th</sup>** the WI are organising a village fashion swap at the WI hall from 2.00pm - for the whole village.

New members welcome

Email [BackwellWI@gmail.com](mailto:BackwellWI@gmail.com) for more information or find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter



## Backwell Probus Club Report

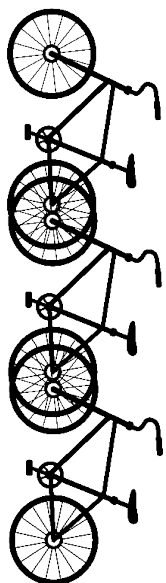
During late February we heard an entertaining talk by Yvonne Bell on "Edwardian Occasions", including Edward VII's Coronation, a funeral and many other unusual occurrences during that Edwardian period. At our second meeting, we heard a talk by David Young on "Battling the Bombers part 2", the Bombers being the IRA. It was an incredible brave story of him joining the Army and being trained for service in Northern Ireland. He went there in the late 1970's and the 1980's defusing many dangerous devices in many cases using a remote-controlled wheelbarrow. His last slide of the many soldiers, who lost their lives only showed how dangerous it was in the so-called "Troubles".

In April we will be hearing talks on "Roman Army in Somerset" and "Surgery in the 18th Century", so do come along on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10.00am for coffee followed by a 10.30am talk in the Bowls Pavilion. Any retired men are welcome to join us for convivial conversation before and after the talk.

*Peter Lamb Tel : 01275 463160*

## Love Your Bike

Do you need some help maintaining or repairing your bike? Bring it along to the drive of 25 Mulberry Close on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am-12noon**, where Sustainable Backwell volunteers will be on hand to help you. We can mend punctures, oil chains, tweak gears and tighten brakes. We can advise about bigger repairs but may not have the parts to do them. Repairs are free, but small donations welcome towards future projects.



## Litter Pickers Available to Borrow

Recently, Sustainable Backwell coordinated a litter pick from verges, hedges and alleyways around Backwell. Ten volunteers collected 26 sacks of litter! This was mostly sweet and crisp wrappers, drinks cans and drinks bottles. A small amount was packaging blown out of green boxes on windy Mondays.

Do you know of other places that need cleaning up? All Backwell residents are very welcome to borrow litter pickers from Sustainable Backwell. Litter pickers can be collected from Backwell's Fairtrade Cafe, on the second Saturday of every month from 10.00am-12.00noon, used for a month and returned at the next cafe

## Future Dates .....

### Backwell Walking Carnival

Backwell Climate Action Group and Sustainable Backwell are organising a walking carnival on **June 30<sup>th</sup>**. More details to follow

### Nailsea Carnival

Nailsea carnival will be on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July** this year. Individuals, clubs, groups, societies and businesses are now invited to take part in the carnival procession, or to have a stall on the carnival field.

For more information and entry forms please visit [www.nailseacarnival.org.uk](http://www.nailseacarnival.org.uk) or email [info@nailseacarnival.org.uk](mailto:info@nailseacarnival.org.uk)

### Nailsea Walks & Runs

The year 2024 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> annual charity Walks and Runs organised by the Rotary Club of Nailsea and Backwell. The popular event will take place on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. It's a way for local charities, schools, sports clubs and the like to raise money for themselves via a sponsored walk or run. There are three routes, all clearly marked, and no-one has yet got lost. The event is based at the Scotch Horn Centre in Nailsea where all routes start and finish. If the 9<sup>th</sup> June is not convenient for you, you can do your walk or run at any time until the end of July and maps etc will be available to you.

For full details, including how to register to take part, go to <https://bit.ly/NailseaWalks>. Any queries can be addressed to Bob Keightley at [RotaryNailseaWalks@outlook.com](mailto:RotaryNailseaWalks@outlook.com)

### Monday Monthly Tea Group Keep Thursday

**5<sup>th</sup> September** free if you wish to go to the West Somerset Railway – come with deposit money to our next meeting (June).  
*Elizabeth Reay 01275 408688, Pauline Smith 07884 292229*

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## Nailsea District Leg Club

Nailsea Leg Club drop-in clinic, open to anyone registered with Tyntesfield Medical Group, takes place every Wednesday morning 9.30 – 11.30 at Nailsea Tithe Barn, which is also the home of Nailsea Town Council. They have a Face Book page and their Communications & Media Officer, Cathy East, will be posting on this on our behalf, so watch out for photos and snippets.

Wednesday mornings are always busy, Pat and Malcolm Hunt from Nailsea Community Christmas Float recently came to present £200.00, which was gratefully received for our funds. Sally Kingston from Age UK also visited on the same day. She provides invaluable advice on fitness which she can give to our members on a one-to-one basis as she talks around the refreshment tables. Chris Coppin often comes to play the piano, and it's nice to listen to his accomplished playing in the background, sometimes undertaking requests.

Saturday morning **18<sup>th</sup> May** is the date of the handbag stall to be held outside Waitrose. Lots of bargains to be had from bags and purses to suitcases. Donations welcome in good clean condition can be taken to 65 High Street.

Any questions about any of the above please call Carole Brooke on 07954 302498.

## The Patient Participation Group

(representing medical practices in Nailsea, Backwell and Long Ashton) is organising our first Health Event of 2024 which will be:

“Living Well: Preventing & Managing Diabetes”.

It will be on **9<sup>th</sup> April**, 7.00 -9.00pm at Nailsea Baptist Church, 79 Silver Street, BS48 2DS.

The focus is on helping people to understand the basics of Type 2 Diabetes, helping to prevent developing the condition; or to manage the condition if they have it, and to bust some myths around diabetes. People with Type 1 are also welcome as much of the advice and resources are equally applicable.

We will have a range of speakers: a diabetes nurse and the dietician from Tyntesfield Medical Group, plus others to give essential knowledge, advice, plus information about local support and resources. It's also an opportunity for people in our community to ask questions and make suggestions about the care they receive.

Diabetes UK statistics show that 4.3 million people in the UK, around 6% of the total population, have diabetes; 90% of these have type 2, and an estimated further 850,000 have it but not been diagnosed. The number of younger people being diagnosed is increasing and Type 2 Diabetes, if unrecognised or unmanaged, can lead to complications and other health conditions.

An estimated 50% of Type 2 diabetes is preventable so this is an important subject, and all are welcome. The event is free but please register via Eventbrite or email [tmgppg@gmail.com](mailto:tmgppg@gmail.com), to help us be prepared on the evening.

There is plenty of parking in the carpark by Towerhouse Medical Centre (Crown Glass Shopping Centre), or in the Clevedon Road Carpark. Doors will open at 6.45 and tea and coffee will be available. We look forward to welcoming you.

## Big Nath's BBQ

We are Big Nath's BBQ, a small business specialising in Texan style BBQ food. We've been tucked away in Church Town for two years now. You might well have smelt the waft of smoked briskets! This was our lockdown project – as Nathan, aka Big Nath – was made redundant from site management in construction at the beginning of the pandemic. So he spent the long summer of 2020 concocting his signature BBQ sauce and researching exactly where and how to start with a street food business. Meanwhile, Kinsey, his partner was still working as a psychiatric nurse. A few BBQs, in friend's backyards, later and we secured a shipping container kitchen in St Jude's, Bristol. From here we started takeaways and establishing ourselves in the Bristol hospitality scene. We soon outgrew that space and have happily been in the “quarry” for the past couple of years. We're now actually moving into a bigger premises here which will also be a BBQ school.

Our thing is smoking – we smoke our meats, classically brisket and pulled pork, using a mixture of hickory, maple and cherrywood, for at least 14 hours. We only ever use locally sourced and high welfare meat too – coming from Taunton/Glastonbury. Our typical week finds us at street food markets in Bristol (Tobacco Factory, Temple Quay etc) but we also cater for weddings and other private events. We've got a very busy summer coming up which is great.

During our three years of trade we've had some wonderful experiences, food is about people after all! We've fed the Bristol Bears Rugby Team, won a BBQ trophy for best BBQ wing at Wing Fest, hosted wonderful supper clubs - including an annual Thanksgiving. Running this business is a lot of hard work but it's the people that make it.

So, if you'd like to come and find us – you can track us down for street food in Bristol (we keep a calendar on our website) or we do the first Friday of the month takeaways from our unit in Backwell. We hope to do some evenings at Belmont Estate this year too. We hope to see and feed you soon

*Kins and Nath*

[www.bignathsbbq.co.uk](http://www.bignathsbbq.co.uk)

Follow us on Instagram or Facebook: [@bignathsbbq](https://www.instagram.com/bignathsbbq)  
Subscribe to our newsletter too.

## Welcome Back to Five Acre Farm

Produce, Cafe, Community + Events

Warmer days are coming... We have been busy sowing seeds, nourishing our soil and planning seasonal events and workshops ready to welcome you and your families back to our farm.

Visit our Flower Barn for organic veg, eggs, bread, honey and local gifts - or just a chat. Grab a hot drink, a delicious snack, and find out more about upcoming events.

Volunteer Fridays 9.00am-1.00pm  
Flower Barn, 5 Acre Farm 9.30am-3.30pm (to increase to Friday's and Sundays from **1<sup>st</sup> May**)

Find us at: Five Acre Farm, Pit Lane, West Town  
Follow us: [@fiveacrefarmer](https://www.instagram.com/fiveacrefarmer)



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**Backwell Playhouse** have an exciting line up for April and we hope you will join us for two very different, but equally entertaining events:

On **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**, we welcome Caroline Burrows for an evening of spoken word, storytelling and poems.

Join the cycling poet Caroline and her bike for an hour of spoken word and stories on themes ranging from adventures by bike, astronomy, heartbreak, social commentary, and trees. You can learn more about Caroline online by searching for @VerseCycle. Caroline Burrows' poetry has featured on BBC Radio 4, been printed in BBC Sky at Night Magazine, shown at the Sheffield Adventure and Kendal Mountain Film Festivals, and short-listed for the Sustainability First Art Prize. Her short stories have been published in The National Flash Fiction Anthology and The Charles Causley Trust. She has written articles for several publishers including Cycling UK & Adventure Cyclist magazines. She toured her own one-woman poetry show on by bike and was most recently Poet in Residence at Cromarty Arts Trust.

The evening starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £10 from John 0117 963 3586, Jon 0797 422 3081 or online at [www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk](http://www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk). At the end of April, the Playhouse Theatre Company will be performing *Spy Game*, by Bettine Manktelow. This Comedy-Thriller weaves a web of deceit, intrigue and secrets.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April - 7.45pm**

Tickets are £12 (£10 Members/Children) from John 0117 963 3586, Jon 0797 422 3081 or online at [www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk](http://www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk)

Five strangers are brought to an isolated house as the potential stars of a brand-new reality TV show "How to be...a Spy".

Where anyone could be anything...

When secrets are hidden around every corner...

With fame and fortune on the line...

Who has what it takes to win the SPYGAME?

This play is suitable for over 14s.

Also in the Playhouse.....

### **Film Club\***

From **April 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>** we are showing **Whats Love Got To Do With It**, a comedy/romance starring Lily James & Emma Thompson. It tells of an award-winning film-maker in London, who documents her best friend's journey into an assisted marriage in line with his family's Pakistani heritage. In the process, she challenges her own attitude towards relationships. We end our season with the prospect of some good musical nostalgia with **ELVIS**, showing from **May 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**. The film explores the life of the American music icon, played by Austin Butler, and his complex relationship with his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, characterised by Tom Hanks.

We have received plenty of suggestions for next season's selection of films and will be distributing voting papers as part of our unique style of membership involvement. Every member gets a fair say so make your opinion count.

*Tim Lewis 01275 790555*

### **Backwell & Nailsea Support Group for Carers**

Inviting all carers to join us on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** from 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm at the WI Hall, Backwell crossroads, Backwell

Speaker: Mr Ken Hunt (Backwell Camera Club)

Subject: "Wild Life in South Africa"

Come and join us for support, friendship, entertainment and a short respite from your caring role. The afternoon also includes a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and a warm welcome – all free of charge.

New carers, any age or gender, always welcome.

Look forward to seeing you.

*Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris, Chris and Mel (Volunteers)*

### **St Andrew's Ladies Group.**

Our speaker for our March meeting was Barbara Webber, who arrived with large cases and boxes containing all manner of quilts, cushions, throws and small samplers all created with Fun with Fabrics which was the very appropriate title of her talk. Barbara explained how she had first started patchwork and quilting in 1989 as a total novice, but since then her skill and enthusiasm has led her to quilting being a big part of her life ever since. She showed us some of the lovely items she had completed over the years and she explained that since the invention of the rotary cutter the measuring and cutting has made the preparation for every item so much easier and more accurate. We were all very impressed and Barbara stressed that it was never too late to learn.

Our meeting in April on the second Monday of the month will be a demonstration of flower arranging by Pat South and do keep a date in your diaries for our quiz night coming up on **May 13<sup>th</sup>** held in Church House and in aid of our charity Memory, tickets will be on sale shortly, members, friends, husbands, partners will all be most welcome. *Gillian Vasey.*

### **Senior Club**

Tim Hooper gave us a very good afternoon when he entertained us at our last meeting with his excellent talk entitled *Television Tales*, which highlighted some interesting and amusing moments arising from his work as a television 'extra'. A world apart from reality.

Diary Dates

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** : We welcome Higgy talking about *Wild Life in Somerset*


**May 19<sup>th</sup>** : Roy Ackrill with some more of his amusing Digital Miscellany.


On a personal note, I feel that, for various reasons, I must step down from my role with the club. I have enjoyed 25 years of leading it and really hope that someone will step forward to take it over, so that a valuable part of our village life may be preserved. Please contact me if you would like a bit more information. *Nancy Lewis 01275 790555*


\*If you are unaware of our Film Club it has been running for over 50 years, serving as a wonderful social group and a lovely way to see recent films in our unique theatre at the heart of Backwell. Films are shown on the first weekend of every month between October and May on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Each showing includes an interval where our bar will be open, and Film Club Membership also gives you full Playhouse Membership and a discount on our in-house productions.



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## Backwell Baptist Church

<https://backwellbaptist.co.uk/>

### Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am  
Services start - 10:30am

#### 7<sup>th</sup> April

Preacher: Alisdair Longwill  
Service Leader: Dawn Jefferies  
Passage: Genesis 1:1-2  
Theme: The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

#### 14<sup>th</sup> April (Communion)

Preacher: Tim Crossley  
Service Leader: Sarah Crossley  
Passage: Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 4:1-2 & 14-19  
Theme: The Holy Spirit in Jesus' life.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> April

Preacher: Crawford Telfor  
Service Leader: Tim Crossley  
Passage: John 20:19-22, Acts 1:7-8, Acts 2:1-13  
Theme: Receiving and Filling of the Holy Spirit

#### 28<sup>th</sup> April (Café-style)

Preacher: Tim Crossley  
Service Leader's: Alan and Ann Lewis  
Passages: Holy Spirit Produces Fruit  
Theme: Galatians 5:22-26

## News from St Francis

The season of Easter continues this month. The Solemnity of the Annunciation is usually celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> March but this year (owing to Holy Week) it has been transferred to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. We will remember the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary at Mass.

Our children, who are making their First Holy Communion in early June are continuing to follow their programme of preparation and are looking forward to the month of June.

Meanwhile, our young people are preparing to be Confirmed in July.

Towards the end of April, on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** the parishes of St Francis and St Joseph (Portishead) are having a musical evening at St Francis. More information will be in our weekly newsletter .

See [www.josephfrancis.org](http://www.josephfrancis.org) for Mass times and Livestreaming.

**Cafe Mamma** met at West Town Methodist Church for the last time on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. After Easter, from **15<sup>th</sup> April**, they will go to Nailsea & Backwell Children's Centre in Pound Lane, Nailsea.

West Town wish them all the best in their move.

## Nailsea & District Gardeners Association

The shed will open this year on the following dates. It's situated in Wareham Close, Nailsea. People are able to buy compost and other gardening items at reduced prices after a £1 annual membership. The shed opens on a Saturday from 10.00am - 12.00 on April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>; May 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>; June 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>; July 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>; August 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>; September 14<sup>th</sup>; October 26<sup>th</sup>; November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## West Town Methodist Church

April Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

7<sup>th</sup> Heather Bentley  
14<sup>th</sup> Mark Mallett  
21<sup>st</sup> Revd Deborah Mallett  
28<sup>th</sup> Margaret Andersen

**The Welcome Hub** - Monday mornings 10.00 to 12.00, where a warm welcome awaits you for a cuppa and a chat. Feel free to bring along knitting, crocheting, puzzles, craft project etc., or simply enjoy the conversation! Any queries, please contact Ann Pullan email: [nailseagirl@virginmedia.com](mailto:nailseagirl@virginmedia.com) or Shirley Edwards: [tsmce12@gmail.com](mailto:tsmce12@gmail.com)

**Ready Teddy Sing** - every Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00 noon, in term time. Play, story, songs, craft and café at our babies and toddlers group led by Patty Lou, our Families Worker, with May Vivian and a team of volunteers.

**Fellowship Group** 10.30am for 11.00, on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April** at 53 Oakleigh Close.

**Spring Cuppa & Cake; Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2.00 – 4.30pm.** You are all invited to West Town to enjoy cake, cuppa and a chat. Come! Bring your friends and neighbours. No charge

**Hire of building** West Town Methodist Church is in the centre of the village and provides ample comfortable space for small gatherings, meetings, rehearsals, children's parties, etc. Do look at the pictures on the Church website. We have a large wall-mounted TV screen for audio visual presentations by agreement.

Contact Julie Ratcliffe on email: \_\_\_ or 01275 463123



Flax Bourton Church  
**EARTH DAY**  
Saturday 20th April 10-4

Treecology -Art6Explore Exhibition  
My Favourite Tree-Community Arts Exhibition  
Free Community Eco-Art activities including pressed flowers, bat craft and clay pinch pots  
Refreshments at the Relax@Flax Cafe  
Bioblitz, make a pond, put up a bat box and planting in the Churchyard  
Natural History info stands  
Local Produce -Honey, Veg,  
Candles, Soaps, Upcycled bags and Crafts  
Eco printing and Spinning Threads demonstrations  
Book, Seed and Plant Exchange  
Home Energy Advice  
New stained glass window

The Barberettes - Acapella Group 3.45pm

Free event-  
come and join  
in the fun!

The poster features a colorful banner at the top with triangles in green, yellow, and red. Below the banner is a heart, a blue bat, and a globe with a smiling face and a small plant growing on it. The text is in various colors and fonts, with 'EARTH DAY' in large, bold, orange letters. There are several small icons of leaves, a tree, a globe, and a bat. At the bottom, there is a cartoon character holding a globe.



# The Benefice of Backwell with Chelvey and Brockley St Andrew's Backwell, St Bridget's Chelvey and St Nicholas, Brockley

After the wonderful celebration of Jesus' resurrection at Easter (and all the associated chocolate sharing) this month is a quieter one, although a time for reflection on what comes next for us as a Benefice and as the people of God. In this post-Easter period, we will hear that Jesus' followers had some remarkable experiences and how their way of living as a community changed radically.

On **21<sup>st</sup> April**, we welcome back our Archdeacon the Ven Adrian Youings. He will be leading worship and preaching at both St Andrew's and St Bridget's that day. It will be a pleasure to welcome him here during the vacancy in what we hope will be the final stages of appointing a new Rector. We have now progressed to advertising the post and will bring more news in due course.

Appropriately, on the day when we read of the Baptism of the Ethiopian court official on **28<sup>th</sup> April**, we will also be celebrating the addition of a new member to God's church through Baptism. We come together to welcome visitors from far and wide for such celebrations and affirm our support for the parents in their journey ahead together.

*With warm greetings, Martin Canning*

## Sundays in April

### St Andrew's Church

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Easter

9.00am Little Lambs  
10.45am Informal Worship and Word

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Easter

10.45am Sung Eucharist

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.45am Informal Worship with Communion  
5.00pm Evensong

#### 28<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.15am Sung Eucharist  
10.45am Informal Worship with Baptism

### St Bridget's Church

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Easter

9.15am Holy Communion

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Easter

9.15am Morning Worship

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.15am Morning Prayer

## Christians Together In & around Backwell

### Open the Book

Sharing a bible story in a fun and interactive way with the children of West Leigh Infants School on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** at 10.00 am.

### Prayer Watch

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April**, 7.45pm at West Town Methodist Church

**Lent Lunch** – belated thanks to all those who supported or helped in any way.

The sum of £140 was raised for the Wellspring Counselling Service.

Benefice Register of  
Baptisms, Marriages &  
Funerals in February

Burial of ashes:

12<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Jobling

28<sup>th</sup> Christine Sutton

29<sup>th</sup> Anne Jump

29<sup>th</sup> Mark Wilmot

As part of our church services and in private prayer, we remember people in our community. To help focus our thoughts and prayers, we identify people by the roads in our benefice where they live and work. Thus, the whole area is covered over the course of 18 months, a few roads at a time

**In April we shall be praying for**

**West Town Road including Beverley Court, The Green, Manor Court, Moody's Acre**

## St Andrew's Charity for April, May & June CONNECT

In the February edition of The Village Magazine, Peter Burns wrote

### “Celebrating 10 years of ‘CONNECT’ing

A hugely successful support project at work in Nailsea School is at risk of having to close due to lack of funding.

10 years ago, in a small church hall in Nailsea, a vision to offer pastoral care and support the community of Nailsea School was birthed, and local churches agreed to employ, and gift to the school, a part time youth professional as ‘an extra pair of hands’. Neil Wylie was given a limited term contract, a part time salary and a brief to get to know the needs of the school and support staff there to help young people.”

Knowing Neil, the great work he is doing and the role model he provides, St Andrew's Mission and Outreach Committee have chosen CONNECT as the local charity we are supporting during the second quarter of this year.





# Christians Together In & around Backwell

## Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

<https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.org.uk/>

### St Andrew's

Rector	Vacancy Any inquiries please contact the office
Readers	Martin Canning Tel 01275 790309 David George Tel 07532202786
Benefice Office	Tel 01275 463469 <a href="mailto:admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>
Church Wardens	Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075 <a href="mailto:leakefamily1@hotmail.com">leakefamily1@hotmail.com</a> Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158
Bell Ringers	Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416
Organist and Choir Master	Andrew Colley <a href="mailto:music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>
PCC Secretary	Jane Canning Tel 01275 790309
PCC Treasurer	Lesley Barratt Tel 01275 857899
Mothers' Union	Co-ordinator Marie Bale Tel 01275 269246
Ladies Group	Leader Elizabeth Webb
St Andrew's Art Group	Chair - Jenny Alsop Tel 01275 791113
Sunday Club and Little Lambs	Timi Booy <a href="mailto:childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>

### St Bridget's

Church Wardens	Roger Watson 01275 462821 Sue Bougourd 01275 853879
PCC Secretary	J Britton 01275 462007
PCC Treasurer	Marcus Merry

Diaries of Church Services and activities can be found on pages 20 and 21

### West Town Methodist Church

<https://sites.google.com/view/westtownmethodist/>

Minister	Rev'd Deborah Mallett Tel 01275 852473
Church Stewards	Mrs H Bentley, B Brice, Mrs S Edwards, B Kemmish, Mrs P Marchant, Mrs J Ratcliffe, Mrs V Sowerby, Mrs M Vivian
Treasurer	Mr Nigel Hardman 01275 851581
Organist	Mrs V Sowerby Tel 01275 462708

### Backwell Baptist Church, Chapel Hill

<https://backwellbaptist.co.uk/>

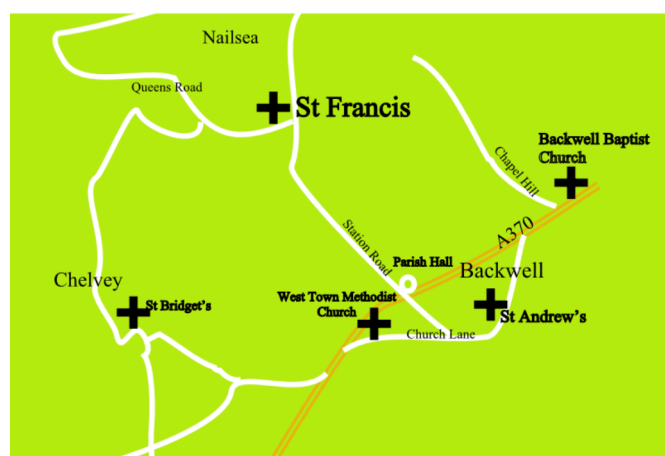
Pastor	Timothy Crossley	Tel 07521 787115
Secretary	David Nicklen	Tel 01934 876842
Treasurer	Ruth Ham	

### Roman Catholic Church of St Francis Ash Hayes Road, Nailsea

Parish Priest	Father Richard Elson Tel 01275 851530
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### Woodies Local at Backwell Fairfield School, Backwell BS48 3PD

Rural Minister	Zoe Germain <a href="mailto:zoe.germain@woodlandschurch.net">zoe.germain@woodlandschurch.net</a>
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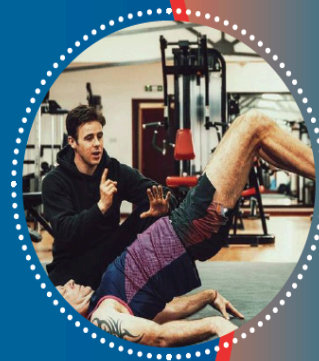
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