

The Village Magazine

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January
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Backwell C of E Junior School	Secretary Tel 01275 462632	Brockley Parish Council (also contact for Cleeve Parish Council)	Parish Clerk Andy Warren Tel 07932 191964 brockley_pc@hotmail.co.uk www.brockleypc.org
West Leigh Infant School	Secretary Tel 01275 463274	Backwell Residents Association (BRA)	Hon Sec Mike Veal Tel 01275 461187 www.backwellresidents.org.uk
Fairfield School	Secretary Tel 01275 462743	Backwell Playing Field Charity	Fran Parry Tel 07949487457 backwellplayingfieldscharity@gmail.com
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Let's have a Pink January!

My five year old daughter, Sophie, heard me use the expression 'January blues' as I was talking with (aka...moaning to...) a friend over the phone about how sluggish the new year start can be, after what has been undoubtedly a busy end of year for most of us. After I explained what it means, she yelled: Let's have a pink January, mummy! Pink is a happy colour!

So, we decided to open up our 'happiness jar' to get us started. If you're looking for a great habit to start in the new year, I heartily recommend this: we have been writing down all year on pieces of paper the funny things that the children said, the prayers that have been answered and the great adventures we got to go on. As we read them, we remembered long woodland walks, trips to the cinema and slime baths! Let's not forget about the time mummy had to put herself in time-out for using a naughty word and of course, the unforgettable case of daddy snorting the marshmallows from the hot chocolate up his nose.

We then made a Pink List: a list of 'one fun thing' for us to do every week in January to help us stay 'pink'. Anyone fancy a swim at the leisure centre or making a new soup recipe? You are welcome to join us!

Goals don't have to be earth shattering. Instead of making resolutions to pick up three new hobbies you will stop before spring comes, why not try to let go of the things you no longer need? I bet we all have a few expectations, guilt or grudges we could stand to leave behind in 2023, and maybe a drawer or two full of things that could find a home in the charity shop?

I have come to realise that filling my calendar and asking God for energy and motivation to keep up with it is rarely the way to go. It's in the quiet moments that I hear his whispering direction. It is in letting go of my own plans and expectations that I find His purpose for me.

I encourage you to remember, that although Christmas might have passed, it was merely the beginning of the story. The promises of God still stand, and his arms are still open- whenever you are ready - waiting for you.

I don't think I can top the words of Apostle Paul, so I leave you with his message as you reflect and plan ahead:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Happy New Year!

Timi (St Andrew's Children's worker)



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Backwell Parish Council – December



Planning

Councillors heard that the 'Save our Village' campaign in response to the development proposal for 515 houses at Grove Farm is gathering momentum. Councillors heard that Villagers will soon be receiving a leaflet drawn up by Backwell Residents Association and endorsed by the Council. This will set out the challenges facing the village and how they can be opposed. Villagers are urged to search online for 'North Somerset Council consultation' and then choose 'Local Plan 2039'. Residents' views will be taken into account, so it is vital that villagers make their views heard in this way.

Councillors were pleased to hear that the proposed planning application to develop land to the north of Backwell Lake had been withdrawn.

Councillors discussed the Bus Service Improvement Plan. Currently the proposals are that Dark Lane would become one way, and that two 'Transport Hubs' would be established next to Spar in Rodney Road and also at the Leisure centre. Councillors at the meeting made it clear that the Parish Council would oppose these proposals. In particular, the effect on other roads in the village if the partial closure of Dark Lane goes ahead.

There were no updates on the Farleigh Fields or Rodney Road developments.

Planning Applications – Councillors unanimously voted to support North Somerset Council's refusal of planning permission to build a house next to 2 The Crescent.

Downside

Councillors heard from Cllr Martin that the many problems concerning Downside and the Airport were continuing, particularly with regard to pedestrians and inappropriate car parking. Cllr Martin and Cllr Taylor will continue to liaise with the Airport management with a view to dealing with the issues decisively.

Enhancement

The 'Over 60's' party had been a great success. Cllr Bowerman had received several messages thanking Councillors for their hard work in organising the event.

Work with the stained-glass window designed to commemorate the coronation of King Charles continues. It is hoped that it will soon be installed.

Cllr Bowerman told Councillors that a stone mason will shortly be assessing the Jubilee Stone for inclusion of recent royal events.

Footpaths

Councillor Power reported that improving the muddy footpaths from the Scout Hut to West Leigh Infants had not proved as easy as she had hoped. However,

a quantity of hardcore and chippings had been put in the gateways, and work is continuing to improve the state of the ground further.

Other business

Councillors were concerned to hear that the Parish Office remained very busy in the absence of full-time staff. Cllr Ould praised the hard work of the staff in keeping important matters up to date and answering villagers' queries as quickly as possible.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held **at a later date than usual** when the budget for 2024/25 will be set.

The date will be **Thursday, 18th January 2024** at 7.30pm.

All are very welcome to attend.



SCOUTS CHRISTMAS POST

*The Scouts have delivered the mail,
And the stamps are no longer on sale,
We've raised lots of cash,
To add to the stash
A new bus we will one day unveil.
We thank all those who assisted,
Including the businesses listed
They gave us some space,
So, our box had a place,
To collect all the post that was gifted.
We thank those who went out in the damp,
To purchase a little Scout stamp
Without customers buying
The Scouts would be crying:
"But now we can't all go on camps!"
Thanks also go to the team,
It really did work like a dream,
Each scouts did their round,
All the houses they found,
So, we'd like to continue this scheme.*

A big thank you to Parkers, Backwell Vets, Backwell Village Club, Backwell Barbers and Backwell Motors for their ongoing support and to Think for printing the leaflets again this year.

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Backwell School News

Happy New Year to everyone in the village of Backwell
Sixth Form production of Alice in Wonderland

Wednesday 10th January to Friday 12th January:

Rehearsals have been in full swing, and the show will bring much-needed post-Christmas cheer to this month.

Tickets cost £8.00 for adults and £6.00 for concessions (under 18s and senior citizens).

Proceeds from the show will go to support 1625 Independent People, a Bristol-based charity which works with young people who are either homeless, leaving care, or at risk of homelessness in Bristol and the South West. Tickets can be bought via Your Box Office.



Key Dates

Thursday 4th January – Start of Term 3

Friday 9th February – End of Term 3

Monday 19th February – Start of Term 4 (Inset Day)

Thursday 28th March – End of Term 4 (Inset Day)

Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School

Backwell Junior School

Tyntesfield

On Friday 10th November, we were invited to Tyntesfield to make Christmas decorations for the trees that have been displayed in the house over Christmas. All the materials we used had been collected from the grounds of the house, such as: teasels, fir cones, seeds and acorns. Our aim was to make woodland animals using the materials and glue guns. We had basic designs to follow for ideas, but we added our individual flare! The finished results were beautiful, and we looked forward to being able to see them on display in the house.



Poppy Appeal at West Leigh Infant School and Backwell Junior School

Thank you so much for your support of our 2023 Poppy Appeal. Generous donations amounted to a total of £194.41 for West Leigh and £443.93 for BJS. We were told that this was by far the largest school

donation across our area! So, thank you all! For your information, donations for Backwell and Flax Bourton totaled £6443.56. This was boosted by re-starting personal collections at Bristol Airport, Backwell Village Centre and Backwell Station and was also helped along by the use of digital contactless technology for donations. We would like to thank our wonderful House Captains at BJS who went to each classroom after lunch every day collecting for the appeal.



Backwell Junior School Pupil Chaplains trip to Taunton Minster

Before Christmas a group of our Year 6 children went to Taunton and had a wonderful day at Taunton Minster, we were very proud of the feedback from Timi, the Children, Families and School Worker from St Andrew's Church who organised this trip. Thank you Timi. She said "We had a lovely walk through Taunton and were treated with hot chocolate. We had collective worship with other schools, toured the building and learned about its history. We learned about the meaning of the "Body of Christ" and re-enacted the story of loaves and fishes (whereby Rory turned into the disciple John, and Willow into Matthew to tell the story and wowed everyone with their wit and humour). Our team amazed everyone with a confident and joyful rendition of Bread and Fishes, which is a credit to Mrs Mason. They knew all the words and sang it so well that even people visiting the minster were impressed! We made paper churches and pipe cleaner people to represent our unity. To finish our day, the children in different schools worked together to lead collective worship, prayers and songs. The children were fantastic!

Brilliant behaviour all day, great listening and teamwork. They really put themselves out of their comfort zones and talked to many other children from different schools. I had many compliments from other teachers about how well behaved and kind they all were, and I was beaming with pride." - Timi



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Backwell Scout News

Tuesday Beavers

Before Christmas, Tuesday Beavers were very busy and enjoyed learning about Fair Trade goods, where things come from and how they are made. The Beavers particularly enjoyed sampling some of the delicious Fair Trade chocolate.

We focused a lot on teamwork, in particular looking at what it means to be a good friend and also held some really fun game sessions. They were really interested in our endangered animal session, where we learned about different types of animals and created posters to raise awareness.

As we wound down for Christmas, we had a brilliant time creating our own Christmas decorations, which included reindeers out of chocolate mini rolls, beaded candy canes and decorative snowflakes.

If your child is interested in joining Tuesday Beavers, please email tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com to join the waiting list.

Sarah Tuesday Beavers Section Leader

On 2nd December the Scouts held the first day of the Annual Christmas Tree sale (along with Friday Scouts the following weekend). It was a great success with 190 trees manhandled, netted and sold raising around £3,800 for the Scout Group. Many thanks to all of our customers, old and new, and to the staff and management of The Rising Sun for their support in once again hosting our sale days.

Monday Cubs

The weeks before Christmas whizzed by!

The Cubs investigated the start of scouting. They painted poppy pebbles as part of Remembrance Season. These can be seen on the flower bed walls at the war memorial. UK Parliament Week focused on the history of the buildings at Westminster, especially the Elizabeth Tower. The usual debates were also held with the motion carried that the Pack will have a campfire once a month.

They learnt DIY skills by making bullroarers, using saws, drills and sand paper. As Christmas approached, we made preparations for entertainments for parents and the traditional party.

Helen

Thursday Cubs

We have been embracing their sense of adventure and exploring self-sufficiency this Winter! On our November camp we pitched and took down our own tents, cooked our own evening meal of a pizza-in-a-pan (with a little help from Jamie Oliver's fab recipe) followed by self-cooked pancakes with ice cream. We also did all our own washing up before a fun outdoor game of 'Elves, Giants and Wizards' and a movie in the Hut. We all settled down well in our tents under the crisp cool moonlight. And the morning was

spent cooking eggy bread for our breakfasts.

We have also done stargazing for the Astronomy badge and had our Christmas fancy dress party. We have chosen to hold a fund-raising event early in 2024 to raise funds jointly for 'Save Our Trees' and a new mini-bus for Backwell Scouts – look out for publicity and please support our event.

Imogen, Assistant Section Leader



Tuesday Scouts

November had a very Christmassy feel to it as the Troop was split into three activity groups over three weeks, mostly related to the annual Christmas Tree sale.

The Scouts decided on a little side hustle of selling home made reindeers to raise money for the Red Cross, so one group each week was armed with saws, drills and glue to make the reindeers from locally sourced wood whilst another group took up the challenge of crochet (amazingly well!) to make woollen scarves to adorn said reindeer. The third group lit fires and cooked which had the added benefit of somewhere to burn any reindeer offcuts.

The final week brought everything together as scarves were attached along with antlers, eyes, noses (red) and they were really brought to life ready for the sale.

And it was all rounded off with a trip to the bowling alley to take part in the annual national 'Jambowlree' - we're

not expecting to win any accolades, but everyone had a good time.

We hope everyone will have a great Christmas and New Year

Ian Asst Scout Leader

Explorers

It's been a busy term at Explorers with lots on. We've had a micro-navigation village hunt, the Great Biscuit debate, made paracord Xmas decorations and completed a cryptic treasure trail around Clifton. We also hosted a Musingo fundraising night and raised over £1,000 for the unit. Our thanks go to all those who came and supported what was a very fun night.

Our Ten Tors training is well underway with two successful hikes in the Mendip Hills and Forest of Dean completed. This month we give our trainees their first taste of Dartmoor, so hopefully it won't be too cold or wet.

Lastly, a very big thank you to all who were involved with Barracuda Explorers and Ten Tors in 2023. We hope everyone will have a very happy, and restful, Christmas and New Year.

Iain Explorers Leader and Ten Tors Trainer

Backwell Residents Association

wishes everyone in our village a very Happy New Year. Sadly, Backwell is facing some big challenges.

We already have two significant housing developments in the pipeline, which have been approved. Firstly, on Farleigh Fields, 96 houses (of which 30% are to be affordable) will be accessed by demolishing 54 and 56 Farleigh Rd to make a new junction on the A370. Secondly, Taylor Wimpey is taking steps to progress 65 houses with access near the Scout Hut, which will have a significant impact on Rodney Road.

Local plan 2039

Turning to proposals, yet to be approved, by far the biggest is the inclusion of 515 houses on Grove Farm within the draft Local Plan drawn up by North Somerset Council (NSC). The public consultation on this draft runs until **22nd January 2024**. The Local Plan proposal for Backwell is being opposed as explained in the leaflet delivered to all houses, and publicised by the "Save our Village" signs. We hope that many residents will make their views known to NSC.

Bus service improvement plan (BSIP)

Backwell would change significantly if the proposals in the package for Backwell within the "Bus Service Improvement Plan" were implemented. They have caused much concern by proposing to make Dark Lane one way up; creating a bus lane near the crossroads; and siting 3 new bus stops. NSC arranged a drop-in session on Wednesday 29th November at the WI Hall. Some 200 - 300 people passed through the door, with a significant number turning back rather than wait outside in the cold. It was disappointing that NSC staff concentrated on the benefits of the scheme for bus journey times along the A370, with no extra information on the detail of the proposals and with no mention of the negative impacts of the scheme for Backwell residents.

BRA and Backwell Parish Council (BPC) have combined to commission a transport consultant to assist with a response. In summary, it states that the current proposals are flawed, would create a series of damaging consequences, and that no decision should be made without further detailed analysis and local consultation. All of the above developments and proposals are covered in BRA bulletins, which can be seen on our website under "News and Hot Topics". BRA welcomes new members. Details of the £10 membership per household are on the website in the Membership tab, which provides regular email updates.

www.backwellresidents.org.uk
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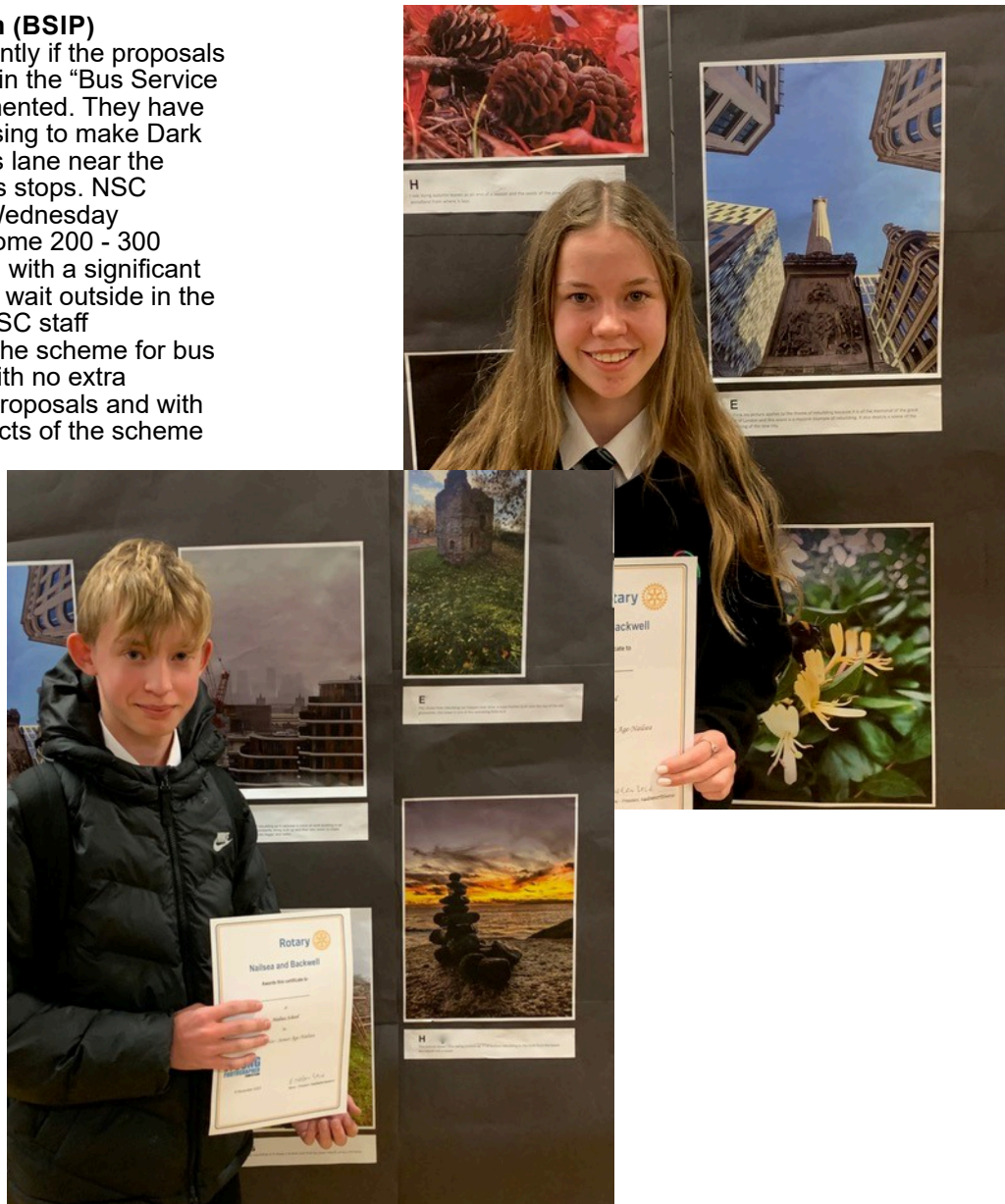
Rotary's Young Photographer Competition.

The Young Photographer Competition organised by Rotary, Nailsea and Backwell was recently held at Nailsea School. A large number of applicants took part and teacher Rachel Davies selected the best entries from Key Stage (KS) 3, 4 and 5 students. Those 20 entrants were then whittled down further by a small panel made up of Rotarians and a member of Backwell Camera Club. The standard was very high and eventually the KS 4/5 winner was declared to be Harrison aged 15 from Yatton and in K3, Erin aged 13, also from Yatton.

The winners (see photos) were presented with a Certificate of Achievement and an Amazon voucher by Andrew Bale, current President of the Rotary Club of Nailsea and Backwell

The two winners now go forward to the next stage of the competition, the district-wide heat where winners from up to 60 District clubs will also be submitting their local winners.

Our photos show Harrison with his winning picture to the right of his certificate and Erin with hers to the right of her head.



Backwell Allotments

People working our 90 plots in the field behind The George have another year to look back on, and in the gloom of winter look forward to the new growing season.

Extremes

If one was looking for a word to describe last year, “extremes” would be a good choice. We had some weather that was incredibly dry and hot, and also long periods recently when it has been too wet to go on the ground. This was reflected in the harvest which varied from poor to the best ever, no doubt dependent on timing in relation to the weather. Soft fruit benefitted from the sunny days of May and June, then rain in July and August produced bumper crops of beans and now brussels sprouts are looking promising for Christmas. Growers enjoy the health benefits of good food and fresh air and also the companionships (or peace and solitude if you prefer!) that having an allotment brings.



Village Show

Plotolders were well represented among the prize winners at the Village Show, last September, proving that Backwell plotolders can grow great fruit veg and flowers no matter what the weather throws at us.

Waiting List and Newcomers

Plots often become available at the end of the calendar year, which will enable us to reduce our waiting list. Having a plot is a major commitment of time thanks to the ability of our good soil to produce weeds at an alarming rate! Plots are allocated in strict chronological order, so do not delay if you are interested.

We wish all our tenants a Happy New Year and flourishing plots throughout 2024.
Lorna Sullivan Geoff Wells

Interested in having an Allotment?

There is currently only a small Waiting List; image fresh fruit and vegetables all the year round. Contact the Parish Office on 464653 or clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk to register your interest.

Have Your Say

We will soon be advertising for a new minister to fill the vacancy based at St Andrew's and St Bridget's. We want to hear a wide range of views from the community. Gathering perspectives from all corners of the parish will give us the richness we need, whether you are a regular at St Andrew's or St Bridget's, or have other commitments and interests. We are keen to hear from you.

An important first step in the process is to give you an opportunity to tell us your thoughts about what should be important in this process. So, we have put together a one page questionnaire which can be completed either online or as a hard copy. Information on how to get a copy or where to access the online version is below. We will want to use the views that you share with us shortly, so please note the closing date of **Friday 19th January** for returning/completing the survey.

We will then hold a consultation morning to develop a shared vision on **Saturday 27th January**. We will discuss the key issues to get us close to writing a *parish profile* which will in effect be the advert to attract a minister with the relevant experience, skills and qualities. This event will be at Backwell Parish Hall, with lunch provided.

Please feel free to express your point of view in the survey - any and all perspectives are very welcome. It will be helpful to follow up confidentially on any specific responses that may need clarification, so you are invited to provide your name (the process is GDPR compliant) but of course you may prefer to respond anonymously. Do let your friends and family know about the questionnaire so we can get as many responses as possible. Hard copies are available from St Andrew's and St Bridget's. The hyperlink below or the QR code takes you to the same questionnaire on the internet. Completion and return arrangements are on the questionnaire.

–Thank you in advance

Ian Bainbridge

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BM226CW>



Brand-new in Backwell - Age UK Somerset is launching a new exercise class

Local charity, Age UK Somerset, is bringing a new Movement to Music exercise class to Backwell. This fun and lively choreographed class is specially designed for people over 55. Starting **January 4th**, kick off your new year with this brand-new exercise class. Held in Backwell WI Hall, Station Road, BS48 3QW, on Thursdays at 10.00am, the class costs £5 per week. For more information or to sign up contact Age UK Somerset's Ageing Well service on: 01823 345624
email ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk
Website ageuksomerset.org.uk/ageingwell

The Meeting Point

As ever, a warm welcome awaits if you wish to drop in for some coffee or tea and home-made cake. If you have a question about your phone, tablet or laptop that we might be able to help you with, especially that Christmas present from the family, give us a try. We will make you welcome any time from 10.30am to 4.30pm (we'll close after lunch on 2nd January).



After a lovely Christmas Lunch, we will be reverting to our usual Scotty-style 2-course lunch on **16th January at 1.00pm** in the Parish Hall. We do ask for bookings for this one by 9th January please, to ensure we have catered for you. At the start of the month our lunch of home-made soup, bread and cheese with fruit is on **2nd January at 1.00pm**. If you missed Christmas lunch, don't worry, there's always next year.

The new season of Sitting Fit Yoga sessions begins on **9th January** – time to take up the stretches after Christmas relaxation. Before the class each week there are the usual refreshments from 10.30, with the session running from 11.00 to 12.00.

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

It's been great to welcome several new volunteers during the year. We do, however, need to keep up the flow as it makes it easier on us all. If you haven't yet paid your £5.00 annual membership, we'd be delighted to accept it as this gives you a voice as well as helping our funds.

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

Backwell's 2ND Saturday Fair Trade Café

**January 13th Backwell Parish Hall
10.00am-12.00 noon**

Come along to the first community café of 2024 and start the new year with excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea as well as 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 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 cleaning liquids stall (which also sells bars of shampoo).

Backwell Climate Group will be present to provide useful information on environmental topics and our District Councillor Bridget Petty intends to be there again to discuss local affairs with any concerned resident.

Repair Café: Saturday 10th February

It's better to repair than throw things out! Bring your broken things for us to try and repair. In the past we have repaired chairs, coats, shopping bags, a strimmer, table lamps, rucksacks, umbrellas, a food mixer, secateurs, bikes, cuddly toys ... and costume jewellery (a new volunteer who came for the first time in October is a specialist in this).



We can also sharpen garden tools, knives and scissors. Sustainable Backwell volunteers will be running their Repair Café alongside the Fairtrade Café on **Saturday 10th February, 10.00am-12.00noon, at the Parish Hall** ... which means you can enjoy a mug of Fairtrade tea or coffee while you wait. Oh, and please turn up early with your repairs - they take time to do.

Nailsea Shedders will be there with some surplus tools to give away to anyone who would find them useful.



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Starting Thurs 4th January '24



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Cost: £5

For more information or to sign up contact Age UK Somerset on

01823 345624

email: ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk
visit our website: www.ageuksomerset.org.uk

This class is held at:

Backwell WI Hall
Station Road
Backwell
BS48 3QW

Please check the class is running prior to attending

Updated on: 22/11/2023

Registered Charity No: 1015900

BACKWELL WI

AT BACKWELL WI HALL, STATION ROAD, BS48 3QW

- COME AND JOIN US!
- 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 7:30PM
- ALL WOMEN WELCOME! FREE FOR MEMBERS
- (FEE FOR VISITORS)
- FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY, LEARN NEW THINGS, MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ENJOY A CUPPA OR GLASS OF WINE



2024 PROGRAMME

JANUARY 17 2024
WOMEN'S WELLBEING

FEBRUARY 21 2024
TEAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

MARCH 20 2024
SADDLERY

APRIL 17 2024
GREAT WESTERN AIR AMBULANCE

MAY 15 2024
CLEVEDON COURT

JUNE 19 2024
BELLY DANCING



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Clevedon: 01275 850470

Nailsea District Leg Club

A New Year brings new beginnings and maybe a new challenge??? Would you like a new and rewarding challenge? Leg Club needs volunteers (**this includes gentlemen too**), willing to come a couple of times a month to assist in setting up/clearing away the necessary equipment (on trolleys, no heavy lifting involved) for our café and clinic, chat to members, make tea/coffee etc, and add to this happy, buzzy atmosphere. The morning can be split into two if preferred.



Volunteer drivers are also much needed for those without transport, but able to walk from their front door to a car, so nothing physical involved with this either.

Leg Club takes place at the historic Nailsea Tithe Barn on Wednesday mornings. Guaranteed there's plenty going on in many different ways, and it's a place to make new friends and reacquaint with others. Plus find out about other things taking place at the Tithe Barn, from film nights, concerts and gigs, to the memory café.

Think about taking up the challenge and we look forward to seeing new faces soon, either volunteers or members for advice/treatment, and wish everyone a happy 2024. Call either Carole Brooke 07954 302498 or Sandy Riley 01275 853547 for information.

Senior Club

Jean Routley entertained us in November with her recollections of growing up in Backwell, which gave an interesting picture of life in our village that was a

fraction of the size it is today and considerably smaller than it may become. Many of the names she mentioned related to when she was very young. She also brought postcards of old Backwell, which were fascinating. Jean went to school in Weston, so we were grateful to Margaret Best who added her nostalgic memories of life in school at Backwell, which she attended with her sister.

On **January 19th** we welcome the popular Mike Briton back, who will give us his talk entitled "On the Streets".
Nancy Lewis 01275 790555



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

St Andrew's MU

We had a very interesting talk about Ukraine and the help that was given, also the situation and help being given to the Ukrainians being hosted and living in this area.

MU members around the world held services and prayer vigils for our 1 in 3 campaign. One in three women will suffer some form of violence throughout their lifetime. The Souls of our Shoes display at Wells Cathedral had 500 visitors in the first week.

Dates for January

Tuesday 23rd 2.15pm AGM & Wave of Prayer service.



The Playhouse is going from strength to strength at the moment. Our last play "Wind in the Willows" under the capable direction of Jon Coupe was well received. Play readings are now underway for our next production in April. Several new recruits enjoy the readings on Wednesday nights, giving the director more choice in casting.

Comedy nights attract comedians from afar and good audiences. The next one is on **27th January**.

Our popular film club has a few vacancies if you fancy a night at the flicks each month. To join 'phone Tina on 01275 464259

Further details about the theatre on the web site - Google "backwellplayhouse"

If you are viewing the magazine online, click this link

<https://www.backwellplayhouse.co.uk/Upcoming.php?pageLoad=next>

Film Club

Empire of Light with Olivia Coleman, Colin Firth, Toby Jones and Michael Ward is showing on **January 4th** for three nights. A film that is modestly described on the DVD case as "an achingly lovely film - the best Sam Mendes has yet made" is described as 'a compelling and poignant drama about the power of human connection during turbulent times'... Make of that what you will.

February brings us **The Banshees of Inisherin**, with Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson and Kerry Condon in the leading roles. Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, the story follows lifelong friends Padraic and Colm, who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship.

Tim Lewis 01275 790555

Backwell Playhouse

EMPIRE of LIGHT



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Backwell Garden Club

The Garden Club's first meeting of the New Year is on **Wednesday 17th January** commencing at 1.45pm for 2.00pm. Grahame Dixie will be giving a talk entitled "Dorset Rewilding - Lessons 20 years on". The Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month and new Members or Visitors are always welcome. Further information about the Club can be obtained from Robin Langford, Chairman on 01275 855822 or email rclangford64@gmail.com

Rotary Whist Drives.

The popular Rotary Whist Drives are to continue through the Winter months to help lift the seasonal blues and to provide opportunities for friendship and fun plus a little healthy competition. The next Whist Drive will be on **Thursday 18th January 2024** at the Nailsea Tithe Barn as usual, at 2.00pm. The cost is £3 which includes tea/coffee and a delicious cake. Just turn up, bring some friends if you wish, and be assured of a warm and welcoming reception.

Body conditioning restarting in the WI Hall Start your new year fitness

Legs, Arms, Core- Tone Those Muscles
Friday **12th January** 9.15-10.05am - 5 weeks £28
Wednesday **24th January** 19.00 – 19.50 - 3 weeks £17
Both daytime and evenings £40 (8 sessions) or £7 per week pay as you go.
For further details contact Caroline Knight, 07825794553 Dizzyme@outlook.com

Backwell Bridge Club

The Bridge Club meets every Wednesday evening at 6.45pm for 7.00pm in St Andrew's Church House (the modern extension at the back of the church building), Church Lane, Backwell. The Club would welcome new members who may be new or experienced Bridge players looking for a friendly competitive game. For further Information please contact Robin Langford, Chairman on 01275 855822 or email rclangford64@gmail.com

Backwell & Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on **Wednesday 10th January** at the WI Hall, Backwell crossroads, Backwell from 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Speaker: Ms Grete Howard (Backwell Camera Club)
Subject: "Svalbard, in the realm of the Ice Bear"
Come and join us for support, friendship, entertainment and a short respite from your caring role.
New carers, any age or gender, always welcome.
For more information: Tel: 01275 463215 after 6.00pm
Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris, Chris and Mel (volunteers)

Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

Low vision aids will be demonstrated at our meeting on **31st January 2024**, in Backwell W.I. Hall at 1.30pm. Anyone with an eye problem will be most welcome to take advantage of hands-on, up-to-date equipment. No obligation to join the Group.
Looking forward to seeing you all again.
Sheila 01275 462107

Congresbury Singers - new term starts
Tuesday 9th January @ 7.30pm Congresbury War Memorial - new singers welcome - no audition - for info congresburysingers@gmail.com or 07717887897

Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 17th January** from 7:30pm in the WI Hall.

Winter Well-being with Speaker Gemma Miller from Selah Naturopathic Health & Beauty Nutrition & lifestyle tips to boost physical & mental well-being during these darker months.

We will also get hands on with a little hand treat to boost our happy hormones

New members welcome

Email BackwellWI@gmail.com for more information or find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

North Somerset Quilters will be holding their first meeting of 2024 on **Friday January 19th** at 7.30pm at the W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell BS48 3QW
Our speaker will be Ginny Buckley with her talk "Sew Powerful Purse Project". Our trader for the evening will be Louise Horler with her shop 'Sew Scrumptious'. Visitors welcome at a cost of £6
For more information Tel Karen 01275 463119

Nailsea & District Local History Society

Monday 8th January at 7.45pm in The Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School; Roy Ackrill speaking on "From Brunel to HST and Beyond". Visitors welcome £3.

News from St Francis

The Parishioners of St Francis wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2024.
January is a month of new starts with new year resolutions which we all try to keep. We remember the Magi or Wise Men visiting baby Jesus on the Feast of Epiphany on **6th January**. This year we will be celebrating the Feast in our Sunday Masses. The young people of our parishes are beginning to prepare for Confirmation in July. They start the preparation course with an information evening in mid-January. Please see the website for all Mass times and date for the Confirmation information evening. www.josephfrancis.org. Masses are all livestreamed through the website.



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Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am

Services start - 10:30am

7th January

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Sarah Crossley

Passage: Ezra 1- 4

Theme: New Beginnings

14th January

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Sheila Whiting

Passage: Matthew 6:5-8 and Philippians 4:6

Theme: Why Pray?

21st January

Preacher: Gary Woodall

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Passage: Luke 5:15-16 and 6:12-13

Theme: Prioritising Prayer in the Busyness

28th January

Preacher: Peter Burns

Service Leader: Ruth Ham

Passages: Luke 18:1- 8

Theme: Persistence in Prayer

St Bridget's

The main item of interest this month is to mention the Patronal Service for St Bridget on Sunday, **4th February** at 3.00pm with tea being served after the Service.

This year is quite special as we shall also be unveiling a plaque to commemorate the restoration of our Church and the enhancement of the facilities carried out between 2007 and 2020. It resulted in our Church needing to raise just over £250,000 : the list of work carried out in this time includes the following :

- Restoration of the Tower
- Replacement of the Tower Roof
- Re-leading of the Windows
- Installation of an Electronic Organ
- New heating, lighting and sound systems throughout the Church
- Replacement of the lighting Hoop over the Church Gate
- Solar Panels on the roof of the Nave
- An Tigh Beag building in churchyard containing kitchen, toilet and storage area
- Laying of Churchyard Paths and Lawn
- Re-ordering of the Tynte Chapel

There will also be a plaque unveiled on the oak surround to our famous knight in memory of Michael Dorey, our churchwarden and organist for many years
Tony Stirratt.

West Town Methodist Church

January Sunday Services, at 10.30am

7th M Andersen

14th Revd Deborah Mallett **Covenant Service**

21st Alan Emery

28th Revd Peter Mortlock

Ready Teddy Sing – will resume on Tuesday **16th January**, 10.00 – 12.00 noon, and every Tuesday during term time. This toddlers and babies group is led by Patty Lou, our Families Worker, with May Vivian and a team of volunteers.

Fellowship Group 10.30am for 11.00, on Wednesday **17th January** at 53 Oakleigh Close.

The Welcome Hub will continue on Monday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00, starting **8th January**, where a warm welcome awaits you. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. We're here for you for a cuppa and a chat. Additionally, you are invited to bring along your knitting, crocheting, puzzles, craft project etc., or simply some quiet time. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. Any queries, in the first instance, please contact Shirley Edwards on email: tsmce12@gmail.com

Bristol Methodist Centre for the Homeless, Lincoln Street

Thank you to those who donated Christmas gifts and money. It is good news that the centre has received grants et al, and is now able to stay open.

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 recently installed a large wall-mounted TV screen for audio visual presentations by agreement.

Contact Julie Ratcliffe

on email: ratcliffedj@btinternet.com or 01275 463123

Christians Together In & Around Backwell Backwell Christian Fellowship @ Lawnside

This friendly group has been meeting on a Wednesday afternoon for many years, and has provided a marvellous Christian presence in the Village. Sadly, it is now no longer viable to continue. In December they held a Christmas Party, as a final celebration. We are so grateful to Pam Marchant, Vicky Dunscombe and Chris Ogborne for all they have done for so long, and remember those who are no longer with us who also played an important part. The Fellowship meetings at Lawnside will be much missed.

Prayer Watch

On Monday **22nd January**, Prayer Watch will join other Christians in a service at West Town, as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Open the Book

Wednesday mornings at West Leigh Infants School. Dates: **17th and 31st January**

We wish everyone a peaceful New Year

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

Following all the excitement of Christmas and our welcoming of Jesus into the world once again, we begin the new secular year with the feast of the Epiphany. This is the celebration of the visit by the wise men (Magi) to the infant Jesus. It's the presentation of gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which gives rise to the view that there were three wise men.

The other wise man will be visiting the benefice on **14th January** - The Ven. Adrian Youings, Archdeacon of Bath. 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 and as we work through the process of finding a new Rector. Do please respond to the questionnaire as we would love to hear your views (see page 13).

Appropriately, on the day when we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on **28th January**, we will also be celebrating the addition of a new member to God's church through Baptism. The health and wellbeing of all God's children are of enormous importance and feature heavily in the work of USPG, our supported charity this quarter (see below).

*With warm greetings,
Martin Canning*

Sundays in January

St Andrew's Church

7th Epiphany

9.00am Little Lambs
10.45am Informal Worship and Word

14th Epiphany 2

10.45am Sung Eucharist

21st Epiphany 3

10.45am Informal Worship with Communion.
5.30pm Evensong

28th Presentation of Christ

9.15am Sung Eucharist
10.45am Informal Worship with Baptism

St Bridget's Church

7th Epiphany

9.15am Holy Communion

14th Epiphany 2

9.15am Morning Worship

21st Epiphany 3

9.00pm Morning Prayer

Benefice Register of Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals in November

Burial of Ashes

3rd Theresa Parkes

24th Debra Archer

24th Josephine White

Funeral and burial

16th Sandra Forsyth

Memorial Service

23rd Gillian Long

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 January we shall be praying for
Cadogan Grove
Farleigh Road
Farleigh Way**

St Andrew's Charity for January, February & March - USPG

Vision

For the churches of the Anglican Communion to experience a deeper fellowship together in Christ and be sources of transformation within their communities and beyond.

Mission

To partner churches across the Anglican Communion in rethinking mission, energising church and community and championing justice.

Aims

USPG has three strategic aims: Rethinking Mission, Energising Church and Championing Justice.

We bring people together from different parts of the global Church in mutually enriching conversation and profound encounters, to deepen faith in Jesus Christ. We strive to make connections between the churches of the Anglican Communion to deepen bonds of affection and learn from each other in rich exchange. We promote education and leadership and strengthen the unity and capacity of the Anglican Church. We also accompany Anglican churches across the world as they form communities of hope and resistance in the struggles associated with climate change, migration, gender, the human rights of indigenous people and inter-religious living.

The Christmas Appeal 2023 centred on malaria treatment in a programme run by the Anglican Council of Malawi.



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 admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk
Church Wardens	Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075 leakefamily1@hotmail.com Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158
Bell Ringers	Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416
Organist and Choir Master	Andrew Colley music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk
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 Shena Jones Tel 01275 852427
St Andrew's Art Group	Chair - Jenny Alsop Tel 01275 791113
Sunday Club and Little Lambs	Timi Booy childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

St Bridget's

Church Wardens	Roger Watson and Sue Bougourd
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

Woodies Local at Backwell Fairfield School, Backwell BS48 3PD

Rural Minister Zoe Germain
zoe.germain@woodlandchurch.net



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