

The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley



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Vol 92 No 11 **Free** In print
On line November 2025

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*Submission deadline for next issue is the
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The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

Life is a transition. November sits at the halfway mark of autumn, as we move from the intense activity of summer's long days to the introspective silence of winter's short, cold ones. It is a season defined by change, and also a time for deep Remembrance of history and honouring All Saints in the Christian faith.

This dual focus on transition and memory is global. Before coming to Backwell, my family and I lived in Mexico, where All Saints is part of the world-famous "Day of the Dead" (Día de Muertos). It's a joyful commemoration of our loved ones who have passed but remain with us always. We connect with the dead to remember the joy of life, visiting their graves with flowers and preparing a small offering of their favourite food and drink, inviting them home for one night. It's a powerful way to bridge the past and the present.

As I read the submissions for this month's magazine, I see that same spirit of community connection and harvest reflection right here in Backwell. The content mirrors the season's transition: from celebrating the Backwell Village Show's annual harvest to the early preparations for Christmas through music, gift-giving, and the local bond of the Scouts Christmas Post. It's genuinely inspiring to read all the reports and announcements, which give a vibrant sense of the support, reflection, and sheer amount of community activity happening across our village. Backwell is constantly evolving, and it requires all of us, long-time residents and new arrivals alike, to express what we envisage its future should be.

While this space in the magazine is typically led by our local churches, the transition in editorship created an unintended opportunity this month. I've taken advantage of this gap to simply say thank you to everyone for your patience and support as we work to keep The Village Magazine a vibrant voice for Backwell.

Peace, Strength, and Joy,

The Editor

Paul and Renate invite you to a

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Parish Council Report – October 2025

Councillors were sorry to accept Cllr Barclay's resignation and expressed appreciation for her years of dedicated service.



Planning

Farleigh Fields West (Land off Dark Lane). Cllr Harland informed members that the grass had been cut; the contractor left the top area uncut for wildlife and avoided the two large trees.

Local Green Space. Cllr Harland reported that an offer is expected shortly.

Rodney Road. Cllr Harland reported that she, Cllr Power, and Dt Cllr Petty are closely monitoring the development and have visited the site. NSC Enforcement had visited the site for a spot check. A resident has reported dust issues. Cllr Harland advised the resident to report this to NSC Enforcement and stated she would also relay the concern to Taylor Wimpey (TW).

Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Harland informed members that the current Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed to bring it in line with the National Planning Framework, together with the adopted and emerging Local Plan. This will act as a term of reference for any speculative planning applications in the interim, thereby strengthening what we currently have.

Planning Applications Councillors unanimously objected to a proposal at Cherrywood, Backwell Hill Road as the site is within the Green Belt and situated on a narrow rural lane.

The Airport Councillors unanimously objected to an application to discharge a condition relating to the foul water drainage scheme. It was felt that some important requirements might not have been required regarding a contract with Wessex Water or similar authority to receive the waste, and that no comments had been sought from the Internal Drainage Board.

Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP)

Cllr Harland updated that she met D/Cllr Hannah Young. They thanked Cllr Young for reconsidering her decision and proceeding with the GPS bus priority lights only. Cllr Sharkey raised that there have been issues following the installation of the new bus stop by The George. This is being taken up with the contractors.

Safety at The Crescent Residents told the Council that they were very worried about the dangers to students at the junction with Station Road. There has been a meeting in The Crescent between the local PCSO and Backwell School's Headmaster to assess the situation. Cllr Taylor suggested allowing parents to drop-off in the school car park. The PCSO has been asked to visit the site more regularly.

Other Matters Cllrs Ould and Taylor had met with the NSC CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and had been given clearer guidance on eligible spending. Some may be used to replace the irreparable roundabout at Moor Lane with one that is accessible to all.

Cllr Ould further reported that CIL money could be used to fund a digital noticeboard in the village. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 6th November in Backwell Parish Hall at

7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Parish Council Christmas events!

The Over 60's Tea Party is on Thursday 27th November 2025 from 2-5pm and the Carols Around the Crib is to be held on Thursday 11th December from 6.30pm. Both at the Parish Hall. Both are free entry. Free tickets for the Over 60s Tea Party are available from the Parish Office, Rodney Road from 10am-12 Noon on the following Tuesday mornings - 4th, 11th and 18th November.

Bridget Petty for Backwell

An update from your District Councillor. While I write this in October I am anticipating that at a meeting on 15th October it is likely that the North Somerset Council Cabinet will have voted for the next stage of the Local Plan process to have taken place. It is expected that in November members of the public will be able to respond to a consultation on the latest version of the local plan for the period 2026-2041. The draft Local Plan has massive housing targets set by the national government, far stripping the local housing needs. I do hope you will take the time to comment. Backwell has already had large housing developments given approval at Grove Farm, Farleigh Fields, off Rodney Road and off Dark Lane. Additional sites in this draft include Green Belt sites East of Backwell, covering from near the Leisure Centre to Farleigh. There are also large sites allocated to Nailsea, which we know will have an impact on our village.

I have been challenging the council, that if this goes ahead the plan must deliver high quality housing, on Green Belt the Green Group of councillors have pushed for 50% affordable housing, an increased number with disabled access. We need developments that value green space, spaces for nature and green corridors for the protected species locally. The East of Backwell sites propose a road to link A370 to Station Road near Backwell Lake. This is a massive undertaking that would ease our congestion issues on Station Road and the crossroads. However, this has the potential to be very costly to deliver. I think an important point in the consultation will be how to deliver this and other infrastructure at a time when it is needed and not risk having a scheme that is undeliverable. There will be a link on the council website (n-somerset.gov.uk) to respond to this draft Local Plan.

I attended a Health meeting yesterday run by the Council's Public Health team and they raised two key messages. One to recommend that those able to get their winter vaccines do take them up whether this is due to age or preexisting conditions, it may be that if you are a carer you can also benefit from a flu jab. The other is that by being a good neighbour and checking in on each other we can keep isolation down, we know sooner if someone is struggling and we may be able to support them get shopping in a number of ways. I am aware that in the past we have had power cuts and harsh storms so have been thinking about how we as a community can support each other. I will continue to work with partners in the community to think about this.



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Backwell Scout News (Part 1)

Monday Cubs

We made a great start to the autumn term. With fine weather on our side, we met outside as much as possible. The Cubs made ropes using hand powered winding tools they made themselves. They've also learnt knots, hitches and lashings which will be put to use in pioneering challenges in the future. Everyone achieved their Level 2 Emergency Aid award which includes skills for clear communication with the emergency services, how to assess a casualty, what to do if someone is unconscious and first aid for cuts, burns and asthma. We were delighted to have an evening of fencing (foils not wooden panels) in which everyone participated with enthusiasm.

Helen

Tuesday Scouts

We have now returned to our usual evening sessions following the Summer Holidays. The first week was really just a 'settling-in' week to re-arrange the Patrols as some Scouts have left to join the Explorer Unit and we have welcomed in some new faces from our Cub Pack - they all seem to have settled in well. We followed this up with a mix of activities as half of the Troop made mini Christmas Cakes using empty (and clean!) food cans which surprisingly took up almost all of the evening. They will be decorated later in the year once they have matured, although the Scouts would have eaten them there and then if allowed. The other half went on a 'pub crawl' around Nailsea as we set them off on a route around (but not in) the pubs of Nailsea using the Goosechase app to provide challenges along the way. Although they didn't enter the pubs, the welcoming lights of Noggin's Old Fish Bar proved too much for some! We finished off the month looking at the Scientist Badge by making wind turbines out of bottles, straws and string, looking at the workings of electro-magnetism and making mini rockets using 35mm film canisters (remember them?) filled with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to investigate Newton's Laws of motion - such fun!

Ian

Thursday Beavers.

Last month we had close encounters with space, looking at what's in space, learning how rockets get into space and made some fantastic rockets, all of which took off and landed safely, and currently we are learning about maps and compasses for the navigation badge. The beavers all completed their Skills challenge badge, learning important life skills in HQ and at home.

Later we shall be doing some cooking and looking at the foods we eat and what we need to stay fit and healthy. We will then look at some winter themed activities next month, leading up to Christmas.

Gerry

Explorers

With the new term upon us, Barracuda Explorers dived head-first into a busy programme that not only challenged the unit both collectively and individually, but provided a lot of fun.

First meeting back involved a classic village wide game where the unit, in teams, had to solve clues and get back to the hut to win the spoils. Next week

was followed by a hilarious 'Spud Night' which involved a series of challenging but equally humorous tasks using a trusted potato.

Wide games up at Goblin Coombe with a warming fire followed the week later with Nathanael's Curry Night challenge following the week later with the unit creating and cooking their own take on fine Indian cuisine!

For a change of pace, a more chilled movie night with hotdogs and popcorn was arranged with everyone enjoying the chance to relax amongst friends.

The popular Musingo fundraising event will also be making a return on Friday 14 November so please watch out for details. As ever, with such a large unit, if anyone would like to help, please contact ian@backwellscouts.org.uk

Laurence



7 Steps to Supporting the Scout Christmas Post

1. Decide to send Christmas Cards to your friends and family in Backwell and Nailsea
2. Buy some Christmas Cards or find last years leftover cards in the Christmas cupboard
3. Write your Christmas Cards and clearly address the envelopes with addresses in Nailsea and Backwell (including The Elms but not Downside – sorry)
4. Pop down to one of our friendly partners and buy Scout Stamps for just 50p each. Our partners in Backwell are:
 1. Backwell Barbers
 2. Backwell Co-op
 3. Backwell Village Club
 4. Backwell Vets
 5. Parkers Estate Agents
5. Place the stamps on the cards
6. Return to one of our partners to post your cards before noon on Thursday 18th December
7. Go home and pop the kettle on and put your feet up, safe in the knowledge that our wonderful Scouts and Explorers will make sure your cards are delivered!

Thank you for supporting our Scout Christmas Post this year and a big thank you also to all the Scouts and Explorers who are going to be delivering the post.

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Backwell Scout News (Part 2)

1st Backwell Scouts AGM Report – 18-9-2025

1st Backwell Scout Group held its 2025 Annual General meeting on Thursday 18th September, where the Group Lead Volunteer gave an overview of Scouting in Backwell over the past year.

There are currently 200 young people taking part every week across the group, comprising 44 Beavers, 49 Cubs, 62 Scouts and 45 Explorers. We also have a substantial waiting list for each of the sections with a total of 104 young people waiting to join.

The sections have all been busy throughout the year providing fun and challenging activities to give our young people new skills and adventures.

The two scout sections ran summer camps, one at Lulworth Castle Estate, featuring activities like coasteering, paddle boarding and “Masterchef” cooking challenge and one at Cranham Scout Centre with a focus on fun, friendship, and outdoor challenges.

Scouts also participated in the Cotswold marathon night hike and successfully planned and completed a 2-day expedition in the Gower, Wales.

Both cub sections enjoyed camps at Glenny Wood and a joint summer camp at our Hut, featuring hikes, traditional camp pioneering and target air rifle shooting.

A small group of Cubs represented 1st Backwell on “The Repair Shop” on the television when two of the experts restored our Wolf’s Head during the summer.

Beavers’ activities included visits to the Scout site at Glenny Wood, den building, gardening, stargazing, campfire cooking, and seasonal celebrations, while the Explorers section enjoyed an exciting summer trip to Amsterdam during the summer holidays.

We are very lucky to have the use of the Scout & Guide HQ and the responsibility for this has now been transferred to the Scout Group Board of Trustees. We have also this year become a registered charity which will make grant applications and employee match funding much easier to administer.

The current Group Chair, Paul Morris, was voted in again as Group Chair for a period of three years. We’re still actively seeking someone to take over as Group Treasurer to replace Matt Dobbs who is stepping down after ten years’ service.

It was noted at the AGM that Backwell Scouts purchased a replacement minibus this year supported by grants from Stancombe quarry, Backwell Parish Council, Backwell Masonic Lodge and Nailsea Community Trust for which we are extremely grateful.

We’d like to thank our sponsors for their generosity which allows us to continue to offer our young people opportunities further afield as demonstrated by the many camps, hikes and other adventurous activities run throughout the year.

Katie Gore, 1st Backwell Scout Secretary contact@backwellscouts.org.uk

Backwell Residents Association

By the time this magazine is distributed at the end of October, the consultation document for the draft North Somerset Local Plan 2041 will have been published by North Somerset Council (NSC).

If this Plan is implemented, Backwell will almost double from its current size, of around 2,000, to not far short of 4,000 houses. National government has been the driving force for the additional housing needs in North Somerset, but Backwell Parish Council (BPC), Backwell Residents Association (BRA) and Backwell Resistance (BR) all consider that Backwell is being asked to contribute much more than its fair share of new housing.

The increase comes from 3 sources:

1. Housing under construction Farleigh Fields East; (Farleigh Road); and Rodney Road
2. Housing already approved by NSC Grove Farm; Farleigh Fields West (Dark Lane)
3. New housing sites proposed in the Draft North Somerset Local Plan 2041

There is nothing that residents can do to stop the houses from the first two categories. There is however an opportunity to object to the new allocations. These would put almost 1,000 houses on the Grade 1 Agricultural Greenbelt Land in the area between Backwell School playing fields, Farleigh Road and Chapel Hill. The implications of this change for highways, flooding, ecology, and the character of our village are huge, and are being evaluated by a number of professional experts.

In the first half of November, BPC, BRA and BR plan to deliver a leaflet to every household in Backwell. This will explain the Local Plan proposals in detail, and how to make your comment to NSC, which needs to be done by early December. We urge everyone to make their views known.

From your BRA Committee

- Visit our website at: www.backwellresidents.org.uk
- Email us at backwellresidents@btinternet.com

Backwell Playing Fields Charity (BPFC)

For the past seven years, Fran Parry has been the Administrator for Backwell Playing Fields Charity (BPFC), overseeing everything from new playground equipment, paths, and recycling bins to school visits, tree planting, and even a building demolition project. Following Fran’s decision to step down, the Charity’s trustee directors would like to extend their thanks to her for all her work and are delighted to announce the appointment of Jacqueline Reardon as the new BPFC Administrator.

Jacqueline brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles and has been working with the Charity’s directors to develop a community survey. BPFC is keen to hear what Backwell residents would like for the playing fields—both now and in the years ahead, as the community continues to grow. Keep an eye on BPFC’s Facebook page and look out for leaflets featuring a QR code linking to the survey, so you can have your say.

Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School

West Leigh Infant School

Badgers and Squirrels (aged 5)

What an amazing first few weeks we had.. The Reception children amazed us by how well they settled into school life. It was lovely to see children happy, ready to learn and make lots of new friends. The children also started learning phonics for the first time and practised writing their name. This term we have been getting to know each other better by discussing our families, pets and learning what makes us special and unique.

Owls (aged 5,6)

Owl class had a busy start to the new academic year. We enjoyed getting to know each other and Mrs BG has been impressed with the confidence of the Year 1s and how responsible our Year 2s are being! We shared the stories of "Stanley's Stick" and "Billy and the Beast" in English. The Owls enjoyed some outside drama acting out "Billy and the Beast" and there were some amazing facial expressions! We have also learnt about the Human Body and our five senses in Science and the History of Communication in our History lessons. Well done Owls for a fantastic start to term!

Hedgehogs (aged 6,7)

Hedgehogs had a great start to term in their new class. We enjoyed reading a book called "Stanley's Stick" and then painting our own sticks, which became all sorts of wonderful things - we had trains, dinosaurs, sharks and hot air balloons, to name a few. The class created some wonderful writing linked to their sticks.

Backwell C Of E Junior School

Welcome to Year 5 (aged 9,10)

We hit the ground running this term conducting science experiments on exploring the different properties of materials including absorption rates and testing for buoyancy, magnetism and ability to repel water (waterproof status). In English, we enjoyed reading 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' and extending our writing skills to include adverbials, prepositions and expanded noun phrases. In Maths, we focused on place value and rounding up. Remember: 5 or more, let it soar – 4 or less, let it rest! Our art this term has been all about illustrators and telling stories through drawings. In PE we improved our netball skills and strengthened our bodies with circuits. And as for music – well, we apologise now for lots of 80's rock ballads and in particular 'Livin' on a Prayer' that may have been blasted at you at any given moment!

Backwell School News

Backwell School Association

A huge thank you to The Backwell School Parent Association (BSA), who do so much to raise funds that directly enhance the school experience for our students. They support a wide range of events, from school shows and music concerts to quiz nights, by

running refreshments, coordinating second-hand uniform sales, and much more. The BSA are always looking for new volunteers—if you would like to get involved, please email: mailbox@backwellschool.net.

October 2nd was National Poetry Day.

All Year 7 students were given the brief to write a poem titled 'My first month at Backwell School' for our National Poetry Day Competition. We received some truly inspiring entries.

Florence in Sedgemoor house was selected as our winner. We are confident you will agree that this is an incredible piece of prose for such a young writer. Congratulations Florence!

My First Month at Backwell School

*Upon arriving at Backwell, a new chapter's start,
The blue of jumpers, a fresh canvas for the heart.
The grounds stretch out, a vast and verdant stage,
Upon which nervous first-month memories engage.*

*The school's known well, a weighty reputation held,
With each new lesson, and every challenge spelled.
From math equations to scientific laws,
A different cadence, a different learning cause.*

*The hallways fill with strangers' busy feet,
Then friendly faces, with smiles you've come to meet.
The names and lessons, a buzzing, whirring stream,
A tapestry of learning, like a waking dream.*

*There's sixth form bustle, a future yet to know,
And youthful energy, in a constant, vibrant flow.
You find your footing, a new and steady pace,
Within this grand, and unfamiliar, place.*

*The initial awkwardness begins to fade,
As friendships form, a bond that's freshly made.
With each new day, a little more at ease,
The month of firsts, a memory you seize.*

*With blue-blazed shoulders, a first month takes its
flight,*

*At Backwell School, a stage of unfamiliar light.
The morning nerves, a knot inside the chest,
Then finding solace in the school's persistent quest.*

*The bell's loud ring, a summons to the day,
The busy hallways where the strangers play.
From classroom tables to the field's wide green,
A fresh and daunting, ever-changing scene.*

*The rules and rhythms, a new and steady beat,
The friendly faces that you start to meet.
Each lesson learned, a small and steady gain,
As hesitant steps conquer worry and the rain.*

*The reputation known, the grades they strive to meet,
A pressure point, but also a sweet feat.
There's sixth form banter in the hallways heard,
A future glimpsed in every whispered word.*

*The initial awkwardness, a memory to seize,
As Backwell's spirit starts to put you at your ease.
The path is new, the lessons just begun,
A first month conquered, beneath the autumn sun.*

Backwell Village Show

Despite a very dry and early growing season, the Backwell Village Show – held on Saturday 20th September – saw even more entries than last year's event. A total of 85 adults and over 70 children entered, squeezing more than 760 wonderful exhibits into the Parish Hall!

The community came out in force to view entries and enjoy cream teas and games in the WI Hall next door. Displays from the Camera Club, Backwell Environment Trust, Backwell Allotments, and the North Somerset Quilters engaged in conversations while Backwell Baptist's Blaze team entertained children with games and activities.

Roy Ackrill displayed his stunning model of Backwell Station circa 1930, possibly for the last time as it is about to be re-homed.

The Backwell Show, which many of us remember from the first one in 1978, remains free to enter and to attend. All levels of growers, bakers and makers are encouraged to have a go. Every child who entered this year received a souvenir bookmark, and each class was judged by experts with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes awarded. At the end of the day, the award ceremony was kicked off with a splendid raffle in which first prize of a £100 voucher was kindly donated by Butcombe Pubs "The Rising Sun". All of the show's sponsors were invaluable in making the day possible, including The George, The Quarry Gym, Parkers Estate Agents and Backwell WI to name a few.

More than twenty trophies were awarded to both adults and children. Best cookery item was won by Imogen Barfield for her G/F Battenburg, while Helen Macdonald won for her 'most interesting' allotment, Billy Smith for his pot plant in the Best Horticulture category and Chris McMahon for his Bristol painting which won for Best Adult Art/Craft entry.

Thanks to the wonderful Backwell community, enough funds were raised to confirm that next year's show can and will be held on Saturday 19th September: Save the date!

Finally, huge thanks to the dedicated committee and all those who volunteered on the day. An impressive team effort proving yet again what a strong sense of community exists among Backwell residents.

Nicola Everitt

PS If you would like to help organise the show from March '26, or volunteer on the day please contact everittnicola@gmail.com for a chat.



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Backwell Life

AGM 2.00 Tuesday 11th November. Parish Hall.
Tuesday 11th November.

Refreshments from 1.30. Everybody welcome !
Backwell Life is the parent charity of The Meeting Point. The Meeting Point runs on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall with the regular activities described below and in school holidays a Tuesday morning programme specifically designed for children and their carers. Backwell Life also currently runs "Who let the dads out?" for dads with pre-school children, monthly, in the Parish Hall on Saturday mornings. We need more volunteers if we are to continue to run these enjoyable and much appreciated activities. If you would like to help or are just interested in what we are doing, please drop in to meet us when you see the yellow flags flying at the Parish Hall. You can be assured of a very warm welcome and a cup of tea or coffee and home made cake. Alternatively e-mail : backwell.life@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

The Meeting Point

We're still here for you!

Apologies for no entry in October's magazine. Jane and Martin's relocation to Liverpool has left some gaps which we are trying to fill... magazine entry being just one of them.

The autumn term is well underway and by the time you read this around 25 folk each week will have enjoyed Sitting-fit yoga with Nina on Tuesday mornings, we will have provided around 60 sociable lunches on the first and third Tuesdays in October, and a craft activity for primary aged children in half term together with much enjoyed refreshments for a great group of mums with ballet dancers and their siblings for the last hour and a half of our Tuesday sessions, around 20 in all. The Meeting Point is a lively, busy and valued contribution to our community in Backwell, but we need more manpower....

November's schedule:

- Sitting Fit Yoga. 11.00-12.00 each Tuesday. Arrival and refreshments from 10.30
- 4th November. At 1.00 pm home-made soup with bread, cheeses, fruit etc
- 18th November. At 1.00 pm 2 course lunch by Scotty. Please book by 11/09
- 4th November. At 12.15. Informal communion service. Stay for lunch if you can.

We are open until 4.30 with tea, cake, paper, pens, Lego, board games and happy chatter.

Backwell Who Let The Dads Out?

Give mum a Saturday morning break for an hour two? We are having a trial run of two monthly sessions on Saturdays Oct 18th and Nov 15th in the Parish Hall by the traffic lights. [So if you're reading this for the first time in the Village Magazine, you've missed the first one.] We'll be opening up at 9am and finishing by 11.30am - come when you can and go when you must. There'll be toys, etc for you and your youngsters [toddlers up to early primary school age] to play with, squash and biscuits for them and tea/coffee/bacon butties for dads to enjoy as you get to know each other. If this



works ok, we'll aim to have a regular monthly series in the New Year.

Martin and Jane Canning ran a few sessions before they moved north to Liverpool and a few of us are wanting to pick up where they left off. If you want to know more or you're interested in making suggestions or helping to organise something for slightly older kids in the New Year, please get in touch either by calling in on November 15th and speaking to one of the team or by ringing 07973-543030. Ian & Helen Wills.

Backwell and Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 5th November 2025 at the WI Hall in Backwell from 2.00 - 3.30 pm

In-house activity: Making Christmas Foliage Decorations

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

New carers (a carer is someone who cares on a regular basis for a spouse, relative, friend, neighbour etc.) any age or gender are always welcome. Carers from the surrounding area are also welcome. Look forward to seeing you.

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

West Town & Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19th November from 7:30pm in the WI Hall.

This month we celebrate our year at our AGM and vote in our 2025/26 committee, followed by some Christmas Gift Wrapping inspiration from our Crafting Queen, Lynne. We also have a mini-speaker from Children's Hospice South West.

In addition to our meeting, Backwell WI is joining forces with The George at Backwell, and hosting two Wreath Making Workshops on 22nd November at 11:30am & 3pm at The George - tickets cost £22.38 and can be booked on Eventbrite.

Email BackwellWI@gmail.com for more information or find us on Facebook or www.backwellwi.org.uk



Backwell Garden Club

The November meeting of the club is on Wednesday 19th at 1.45pm for 2pm prompt start.

The meeting at the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell has Dan Fox as Speaker and his topic is "Vegetable Farming with tips on growing vegetables and controlling pests".

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome to join us. Further information from Robin Langford, Chairman on either 01275855822 or email rclangford64@gmail.com

Backwell Camera Club and Photography for the Community

Backwell Camera Club is a thriving and sociable photography club that meets at the WI Hall in Backwell every Thursday night from September to June to learn more about photography and view other photographers' work. New members are always welcome. We also offer a photography service to the community, and we have previously taken photos for groups such as the new WI, Long Ashton Running Club, and the Somerset International Festival of the Arts.

Please get in touch by emailing info@backwellcamera.club if you are interested in joining the club or the community services we offer.



Backwell Senior Club (BSC)

We have had our first meeting at Backwell Methodist Church and are very pleased with our new venue. We were supported by our loyal members, as promised, and enjoyed not only a grand turnout but also home-made cake donated by the church. Yummy! Thank you!

We were well impressed with the entertainment by Jean Routley who delighted us with her fond "musical memories" from throughout her playing days, each with its own sentimental, interesting story behind it. Thank you so much, Jean. We look forward to your next visit.

At our next meeting on the 21st of November (2.00pm for 2.30pm start) we will be listening to an account of Gill Vasey's teaching career with deaf children. Many of us in BSC have hearing problems and I am sure we will find this interesting and have some questions for Gill!

We do have local transport available by request (telephone 01275 463736) to arrange.

We welcome visitors, ladies and gents to come and join us for a friendly afternoon out with entertainment, chat and a cuppa, all for £2!

Any further information please contact me, Sue, 01275 461231. See you there!

Backwell Probus Club Report

We have had two meetings since the last report. The first was a superb talk with numerous pictures called "On the Streets" by Mike Britton. It was a talk on how street furniture has changed over the many years. He started with Sign-posts and then Milestones and then included Mail-boxes and Telephone boxes. For Mike to find so many very old street furniture was quite amazing! The oldest sign still in position in Bristol, spelt with the old fashioned "s", must be well over 200years old!! In our second meeting we heard Jo Richardson talking on the subject of "A Night of a Thousand Stars". She is lead member of a group based in Exmoor called Space Detectives and her talk was about light pollution and where there are dark spaces for star-gazing. She mentioned the main one in Exmoor at Haddon Hill and five other local sites in the South West. Everyone was fascinated by her enthusiasm.

In November, our meetings will include talks on "Refuelling the Sea" and "The Great Ming Code". We meet 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

Backwell's Second Saturday Fair Trade Café

November 8th Backwell Parish Hall 10 am to 12 noon

You are invited to Backwell's monthly second Saturday Fair Trade Community Café to 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 stuff in bulk, including different types of flour, a wide range of cereals, nuts, seeds and dried fruits 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, you can peruse the catalogue at the cafe or at <http://www.essential-trading.co.uk>. Why not come along, join the club and place an order for what you need. You can also buy from the range of goods on display without joining or ordering.

If you are interested in environmental issues one or more of Backwell's energetic groups such as Sustainable Backwell or Action for Climate Change may well be in attendance to discuss and advise. Move from recycling to re-using by bringing your own container to fill (or better refill) with all kinds of Ecover detergents and cleaning fluids on our Ecover stall.

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

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Tyntesfield Patient Participation Group

At the September meeting, TMG responded to some process concerns raised by the PPG around making appointments, follow up appointments, responding to messages and jabs.

TMG also explained how they are using women's health funding to support GP training in perimenopausal conditions and ways in which they can best support the community in this area.

Effective communications with patients is always high on the agenda; there were discussions around the value of social media and the website for delivering information. There was also an update on eliciting input from local secondary schools' VI form students.

As usual, Patient Suggestions were discussed; please note there are suggestion boxes in each surgery.

In response to concerns about the impact of the current and proposed housing developments in the area TMG reported that they are in regular conversation with local councils and developers. Full PPG minutes can be found on the TMG website: <https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1>. Please note that minutes can not be published until they are ratified at the subsequent PPG meeting.

Nailsea District Leg Club

Time to celebrate - Nailsea District Leg Club has won a top award and is Leg Club of the Year, awarded by the Leg Club Industry Partners of The Leg Club Foundation. This is all due to the hard work of the committee, volunteers, nursing and support team, and members who come to enjoy what is offered.

Leg Club opened its first drop-in clinic 10 years ago, and the writer has been involved since then, so this is over 100 items I've written on behalf of Leg Club, but more importantly during that time I've learned lots about lower leg issues, and much progress has been made regarding treatment. Prevention is better than cure and hopefully the days of patients having not only one but maybe two legs swathed in bandages are gone. Walking should not be underestimated, a brisk walk aids digestion, improves the mood, and can have a positive effect on metabolism and sleep. Early warning – no Leg Club on Wednesday 24th or 31st December, as the Tithe Barn will be shut.

Please ensure necessary appointments are booked through your surgery well in advance. Call Carole Brooke for more information 07954 302498. Additionally there are information boards in the surgery waiting rooms.

Parkinson's UK local Support Group

The Parkinson's UK local Support Group welcomes all those with Parkinson's, as well as family members and carers. Do join us at our meetings, usually held on the second Saturday of each month, for an informal coffee morning at St Francis Church Hall, Nailsea, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

The meeting on 8th November will be different as it is to be an Open Morning with an Information Stall manned by a member of staff from Parkinson's UK as well as stalls selling decorations, pre-loved jewellery and accessories, books/games, plants, bric a brac, collectibles - and a raffle. Admission is £2.50 which includes coffee & cake, so come along and enjoy a sociable visit and support your local Parkinson's group.

Did you know that singing helps loss of voice due to Parkinson's? Join our friendly group for a Singalong (no skill required!) to sing popular songs and old favourites. We meet at St Francis' Church Hall every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 2.30-4pm, with a break for tea and biscuits and time to chat with fellow singers.

West Town Methodist Church

Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

November

- 2nd - Revd Sally Ratcliffe Café
- 9th - Remembrance Sunday*
- 16th - Heather Bentley
- 23rd - Jean Balcombe
- 30th - Revd Michael Pullan Communion

*Remembrance Service is at St Andrew's Church, at 10.45 am. (No service at West Town that morning.)

The Hub - Monday mornings 10.00 to 12.00, where a warm welcome awaits you for a cuppa and a chat. Contact Ann Pullan Email: ann.pullan@btinternet.com or Shirley Edwards: tsmce12@gmail.com

Ready Teddy Sing – our babies and toddler group. Every Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00 during term time

Wednesday Fellowship Group - November 12th and 26th 2.30pm, at 2 St Andrew's Road

Thursday Fellowship Group - November 6th at 10.30 venue 11 The Avenue, and 20th tba

Alpha for Church members - Wednesday November 5th, 12th and 19th, 7.30pm at West Town.

Harvest Festival

West Town enjoyed a Café style Harvest service with Sally, followed by a delicious lunch consisting of soups and desserts. Non-perishable goods were collected for Turnaround, our centre for the Homeless, in Bristol which were gratefully received plus monetary donations.

Craft Fayre - Saturday, 8th November, 10.00-4.00 at Nailsea Methodist Church.

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: ratcliffedj@btinternet.com

Christians Together in & around Backwell

Open the Book – 5th and 19th November, at West Leigh Infants School

Prayer Watch – Monday 3rd November, 7.45 pm at West Town Methodist Church

The Playhouse

The Playhouse has a busy end to 2025, with two Comedy Nights on the 15th November and 13th December. Tickets are £10 and available through our website, www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk

We have our AGM on the 13th November where we discuss the past year at the theatre and our future plans - come along and join us and give your thoughts on what you'd like to see at the Playhouse. At the end of November we have our next in-house show, "The Sneeze":

"The Sneeze" is a collection of comedic short stories and plays from the renowned Russian author and playwright, Anton Chekhov. Although best known for his more serious works such as "Uncle Vanya" and "The Cherry Orchard", his early career was as a humorist and satirist. These seven plays focus on the absurdities of the mundanity of everyday life, with hilarious results. The world of Chekhov's plays remains unique but as recognisable today as when they were first written.

Michael Frayn is best known as the writer of "Noises Off", but is also one of Britain's finest translators of Chekhov's work. This version of "The Sneeze" was first performed in 1988 and featured Rowan Atkinson. Tickets are just £12 (£10 members/under 18s) and can be bought from our website, www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk or our normal box office numbers.

Tickets are also on sale for our Christmas Celebration on the 20th December, and for our newest venture of "NT Live".

NT Live presents some of the newest and best plays from the National Theatre to where you live and gives you the best seat in the house. Each play is carefully recorded to ensure you enjoy the show up close and as if you were in the room. The playhouse will be showing "The Fifth Step" with Martin Freeman on the 16th January. Details on our website.

West Backwell Bowling Club

Members will continue to meet socially during the winter months. There was a popular musical event with Mike and Ellis in October, and there will be regular Sunday lunches. The Presentation Evening is now being held at the Clubhouse, on Saturday 5 November. Short-mat bowling in the clubhouse will start on Monday, 17th November, at 2.00pm. Do come along if interested – it really is fun. Contact Julie on ratcliffedj@btinternet.com

Further information about the bowling club can be found on our website, and Facebook, or contact the Secretary Email: wbbcsecretaryinternal@outlook.com

Monday Tea group

We look forward to meeting up again on the first Monday afternoon in the month from 2 p.m. onwards at our usual location in the Coffee Shop in Rodney Road. We have decided to go out for our annual lunch on Monday 5th January so please come to our next meeting to make sure your name is on our list - we are still researching where to go.

Mothers' Union - St. Andrew's

Our next branch meeting will be on 25th November when we look forward to hearing our Rector, Revd. Sam Norton speaks to us, no doubt telling us the story of his route to our parish.

On the 9th December we will have our usual Christmas readings and carols - always enjoyable.

Throughout 2026 Mothers' Union will be celebrating 150 years since it was formed so many celebrations will be planned throughout the Diocese and Canterbury Province.

Backwell and Nailsea Ladies Choir

Rehearsals are well underway now for our Christmas Concert with our Musical Director Naomi Davies.

Our concert will follow the theme of the Sounds of Christmas, and include carols and some well known Christmas songs and of course some traditional carols which will require audience participation. It should be a most enjoyable afternoon ending with tea, coffees and mince pies, so put the date in your diary now: Thursday, 11 December 2025 at Backwell WI Hall, Station Road. Doors open at 1.30 pm for a 1.45pm start.

Tickets are available from members of the choir, or from Mandy Collinson (tel. 07722703956) as usual. Please call to reserve your tickets as last year we almost sold every seat! We look forward to seeing you there.

Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support Group

VERY IMPORTANT NEWS OF A SERVICE PROVIDED BY NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL "ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE ELDERLY" Backwell W.I. Hall, Weds 26th November, 1.30 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME: FAMILY, FRIENDS & CARERS. (£3 to cover tea, biscuits, rent of hall etc.) More info from Sheila, 01275 462107

North Somerset Quilters

North Somerset Quilters will be meeting on Friday November 21st at 7.30pm at Backwell W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell BS48 3QW. "Hand Sewing Christmas Decorations Evening". Bring a basic Hand Sewing Kit. Members' Bring and Buy Stall. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £7 for the evening. For more information telephone Karen at 01275 463119.

St Andrew's Ladies Group.

Our planned speaker for our October meeting was unable to give us his talk on the work of the Children's Air Ambulance. Luckily, Geoff Wells stepped in as a long term member of the (BRA) Backwell Residents Association, to talk to us about the radical changes he has seen in Backwell since his family moved here in 1968. At that time Backwell was a small rural community with varied shops, including two banks, two butchers, a haberdashery, a delicatessen, a local sheep fair and when Bristol Airport was quite small with free parking!

Geoff talked about how friendly the village was at those times and had a very supportive and caring community. Many changes have taken place over the last fifty years. Geoff outlined the developments that already have planning consent which include Farleigh Fields, Rodney Road, land off Dark Lane, Grove Farm and sites for a further one thousand houses allocated. We could one day see Backwell and Nailsea joined and become a commuter town for Bristol.

Geoff's talk provoked lively discussions about the potential problems which could result from such expansion to our village. There will be opportunities in the coming months for residents to make their concerns known

Backwell Baptist Church

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

Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am

Services start - 10.30am

2nd Nov (Communion)

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Ruth Ham

Theme: The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Passage: Matt 20:1-16

9th Nov (Remembrance Sunday)

Preacher: Peter Price

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Theme: Peacemakers

Passage: Matt 5:1-12

16th Nov

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leaders: Dave Nicklen

Theme: The Parable of the 10 Virgins

Passage: Matthew 25:1-13

23th Nov

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Dawn Jefferies

Theme: The Parable of the Talents

Passage: Matt 25:14-30

30th Nov (Advent)

Preacher: Josh Howard

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Theme: Lost & Found: Mary & Joseph

Passage: Luke 1:26-38 & Matt 1:18-25

One of the things we are constantly grateful for at Backwell Baptist Church is the gift of enthusiasm! We love God, we all look out for each other, and we endeavour to support Tim in his ministry and with his online and in-person outreach activities in the village.

After a busy summer, we demonstrated this in September when we turned our attention to our annual community BBQ. The Lord challenged us with a rainy afternoon, and so we worked hard to promote wet weather activities including Blaze games for children, prizes and a sensory play area for babies and toddlers! As usual we did not charge and even brought the cooking indoors to cater for the amazing people that came along. There was plenty of conversation, the children had great fun, and we all felt that we could have kept it going well into the evening!

Shortly afterwards, our Blaze team also took part in the Backwell Village Show where they had a wonderful day with plenty of fun and games for the children, chats with families and the opportunity for Tim to present the prizes in the main event! We are enormously grateful to everyone who took part and for all the planning and preparation that goes into these fantastic events!

During the month, we sadly lost one of our treasured congregation and former Deacons, Marion Linge. Many of you – and your children –

may remember Marion from Toddler Group, Holiday Clubs and other church activities. Marion is now safely with the Lord, but we will miss her hugely and are forever grateful for her legacy.



September also marked the anniversary of Tim's Ordination and of his becoming our full-time Minister.

We are so grateful to God for sending Tim to us, for all the wonderful work that Tim does in the local area and for inspiring us through his teaching of God's word.

As part of his ministry, Tim has produced a series of short videos which we began sharing on our Facebook page in September. Topics to date include: What is believers baptism?, Why did Jesus die?, What is the church?, and there are more to follow. If you have any suggestions for future themes, or have any queries about faith, please do contact Tim at minister@backwellbaptist.co.uk. As any of the congregation will tell you, there is no such thing as a silly question and Tim is very easy to talk to.

By the time you read this ... we will have celebrated Harvest and thanked the Lord for all the good gifts he gives us to share with others. We greatly appreciate everyone's generosity each year and will have passed on all those donations to Nailsea Foodbank. For children in Years 3 to 6, the Blaze team will also have held a wonderful 'Light Party' on Friday 31st October – more on both of these events next time.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks ... on Sunday mornings at 10.30am, we are continuing the series of Parables of the Kingdom including on 2nd November, the generous employer (Matt 20:1-16) which encourages us to serve God out of love and devotion rather than any expectation of reward; on 16th November, the ten bridesmaids (Matt 25:1-13) which focuses on the need for constant vigilance and spiritual readiness for Christ's return; and on 23rd November, the parable of the talents (Matt 25: 14-30), which highlights the importance of using our God-given gifts to serve others, and challenges us to reflect on how we are using what we have been given.

In the midst of this, on 9th November, we welcome Peter Price to lead us for Remembrance Sunday.

And finally, if you have any prayer requests, please do get in touch with Tim at minister@backwellbaptist.co.uk.

God has blessed us with an amazing church community. We would love to welcome you!

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

St. Andrews Service Information

November is the season of Remembrance at St Andrew's. It begins with the feast of All Saints on Sunday 2nd November in the morning, when we remember those who have gone before us in the faith, and then that afternoon we shall host an All Souls service when we remember all those whom we have loved but see no longer. All those who have lost loved ones in the previous year are especially invited to join us for that service, followed by refreshments. On Remembrance Sunday we will gather at the War Memorial opposite St Andrew's for the laying of wreaths and the two minute silence at 11am, before the Remembrance Service in St Andrew's itself, when the Rector will preach on the subject of 'defending Christian civilisation'. All are welcome at any of our services.

St. Bridget's Church

As we approach the ever-darker evenings, you may like to spend the time exploring more about the history of the local area. We have recently added a page on our website containing a brief guide of our beautiful St. Bridget's. For instance, I discovered St. Bridget, as well as the co-patron Saint of Ireland (with St. Patrick), is also Patron Saint of poets, blacksmiths, healers and dairy farmers; that the south nave doorway and font at our Church date from 1150; and that the effigy of a Knight and his dog – incised on a slab in our Tynte Chapel – dates from about 1300 and is reputed to be the oldest memorial of its kind in the county. Do visit www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk/history to find out more! Or get in touch if you would like to purchase a full guide for £10 (see contact page on the website).

You may also wish to mark in your calendars Saturday 6th December 10am to noon for coffee, mince pies and Christmas music! There will also be stalls for pottery, glass crafts and cards.

As ever you can visit www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk or scan the QR code below for all information about services and events.



St Andrew's Church

2nd - All Saints/All Souls

- 11.00am - Informal Communion
- 5.00pm - All Souls service

9th - Remembrance Sunday

- 10.45am - Ecumenical Service of Remembrance
- 5.00pm - Holy Communion (BCP)

16th - 2nd Sunday before Advent

- 9.30am - Café Church
- 11.00am - Sung Eucharist
- 5.00pm - Said Evening Prayer

23rd - Christ the King

- 9.30am - Café Church

- 11.00am - Sung Eucharist
- 5.00pm - Said Evening Prayer

30th - Advent Sunday

- 11.00am - Sung Eucharist
- 5.00pm - Advent Evensong

St Bridget's Church

2nd - All Saints

- 9.15am - Holy Communion

9th - Remembrance Sunday (No service at St Bridget's)

16th - 2nd Sunday before Advent

- 9.15am - Morning Prayer

Sundays in November

November News from St Francis

This month begins with celebrating All Saints Day (1st November) which will be celebrated this year at the Sunday 11:00am Mass.

This month, we all remember both nationally and locally all those who have died in the service of their country.

We remember them on Sunday 9th November, Remembrance Sunday at our Mass.

Please see website www.josephfrancis.org for all Mass times and Livestreaming each Mass.

St Andrew's Art Group

St Andrew's Art Group Charity Evening scheduled for 16th October has been postponed until May or June next year. We look forward to Colin and Janet Stone bringing us up-to-date with Freewheelers (Blood Bikes) news and raising funds for this worthy charity.

Our Summer Art Exhibition in July raised £1,900 for St Mungo's. Many thanks to everyone who supported the exhibition and to the Art Group members and friends who put in an enormous amount of work to make it a success.

Christians Together In & around Backwell

Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

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

St Andrew's

Rector	Rev'd Sam Norton revsamnorton@gmail.com / 07771 349319
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 07929 093888
Mothers' Union	Co-ordinator Marie Bale Tel 01275 269246
Ladies Group	Leader Gillian Vasey Tel:07892004836
St Andrew's Art Group	Chair - Jayne Smart Tel 07943 569995
Sunday Club and Little Lambs	Timi Booy childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

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 Sally Ratcliffe 01275 852473
Church Stewards	Heather Bentley, Shirley Edwards, Brian Kemmish, Pam Marchant, Julie Ratcliffe, Val Sowerby, May Vivian, Sarah Ould
Treasurer	Nigel Hardman 01275 851581

Backwell Baptist Church

Chapel Hill, BS48 3PW

Minister	Rev'd. Tim Crossley
Website	www.backwellbaptist.co.uk/contact
Email	backwellbaptist@gmail.com
Phone	07521 787115
Facebook	www.facebook.com/backwellbaptistchurch/

Roman Catholic Church of St Francis Ash Hayes Road, Nailsea

Parish Priest	Father Frank Wainwright Tel 01275 851530
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Hillside Church, Woodlands Church Family Backwell School Sixth Form Centre

Rural Minister	Zoe Germain zoe.germain@woodlandschurch.net
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Annual Craft Fair

Nailsea Methodist Church

Saturday 8th November 10am - 4pm

50 Stalls

All Day Cafe

Free Admission!!

Nailsea Methodist Church, Silver Street.

www.nailseamethodistchurch.org.uk



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01275 850460. 2 Harbour Road, Portishead

01275 858515. First Floor, The Sion, Crown Glass Place, Nailsea

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