

The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley



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Welcome to the Autumn and Harvest

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Brockley Parish Council (also contact for Cleeve Parish Council) Parish Clerk Andy Warren Tel 07932 191964 brockley_pc@hotmail.co.uk www.brockleypc.org	Backwell Playing Field Charity Fran Parry Tel 07949487457 backwellplayingfieldscharity@gmail.com
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*Submission deadline for next issue is the
12th of the preceding month.*

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The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

God has blessed us with an amazing church community. We love to welcome new faces, support and encourage one another, and serve the village through activities such as Blaze and Holiday at Home. We would love to welcome you!

We were certainly expecting a quiet August after a fun-packed July which included two wonderful days of Holiday at Home for seniors, two amazing days of BlazeFest for children, a visit to a local school, summer socials for the Home Groups, Ezra's Dedication, a glorious afternoon at Chew Valley Lake and more. Nevertheless, God had other plans for us, and instead we began planning for yet more activities over the coming months and creating more content for our Facebook page!

Our online content is varied and reflects our Sunday services and our wider community involvement. On 3rd August, for example, we were grateful to Neil Mobbs, for coming to preach and were delighted to share a recording of his legendary 'Hallelujah!' – it's worth a listen if you haven't heard him before.

In the gap between BlazeFest and our children's activities in September, we also created and shared a Photo Safari – seven days consisting of close-up photos of landmarks around the village, including the sign outside Spar and the old post box at Fairfield Mead. If you missed the answers, they can be found in the comments on the final photo, posted on 16th August.

We have shown gratitude to Tim and others for leading us so brilliantly through the book of Revelation over the past few months and we announced the next series for Sundays which unpacks the topic Jesus talked about more than any other!

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our annual Community BBQ with lots of fun Blaze games for the children. And the Blaze team will have been at the Village Show with plenty more fun and games – we can tell you how that went next month.

Looking ahead to events in the next few weeks ... on Sunday mornings we are covering the Parables taught by Jesus in the gospels, we continue to sing uplifting and joyous songs, and we have our Harvest Festival Service on 5th October at 10.30am. For children in Years 3 to 6, the Blaze team are also arranging a Light Party on Friday 31st October. It is free but please do use the sign-up form to let us know if you would like your child to attend - there's a link in the Light Party event at the top of our Facebook page, or phone 07521 787115 if easier. We can't wait to see you!

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



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Parish Council Report – September 2025

Councillor Sharkey was warmly welcomed to the Council.

Planning

Much of the meeting was concerned with the issues around planning, both current and proposed, in the village. This was led by Cllr Harland, Head of Planning.



Farleigh Fields East – several units have now been sold.

Farleigh Fields West (off Dark Lane) – More details are expected shortly. A meeting is scheduled with Persimmon Homes (PH) for 17th September.

Rodney Road – Cllr Harland thanked Councillors and Dt Cllr Petty for their hard work in monitoring all the issues which had arisen which have been difficult for residents. She reported that she was meeting with Taylor Wimpey (TW) on a regular basis. TW are supporting the Playing Fields and the Scouts by improving the access arrangements.

Cllr Harland told Councillors that parking restrictions will be in force along Rodney Road from 15th September. Cllr Taylor asked that residents be reminded that parking in the laybys by the shops is time restricted.

The Construction Environmental and Traffic Management plans have been approved. BPC will continue to monitor and follow up the report of any breaches with NSC.

Strawberries and Cream Tree - Cllr Harland informed members that the NSC Tree Officer advised that the tree was suffering from the drought, and some remedial action is needed, including a prune. Cllr Harland requested that a note of thanks be sent to the Tree Officer, along with a request for timescales and prior notice so that BPC can notify residents in advance.

Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Harland informed members that Polden Planning will be visiting the village, including Downside, to gather information about the village to help with the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Local Plan Cllr Harland thanked Councillors and Dt Cllr Petty for attending a recent meeting on the Local Plan. Thanks were also extended to the Backwell Residents' Association (BRA) for their recent donation of £5,000.00 as a contribution towards the costs associated with planning matters. The Local Plan is expected to go live on the NSC website on 8th October with a public consultation starting at the end of the month for 6 weeks. BPC & BRA will be working together to safeguard East Backwell.

Other matters

Cllr Ramos updated the meeting about the provision of CCTV at the Railway Station car park. The situation is complex and costly, and Cllr Ramos reminded Councillors that NSC is responsible for the car park and receives the revenue. It was felt that consistent signage would help people make better informed parking decisions. Cllr Power suggested the use of ANPR together with barriers at the entrance and exit. The matter will be followed up with the local

PCSO who initially raised the matter.

Cllr Ould reported that she had further researched the possibility of having a digital noticeboard in the village. Cllr Power is pursuing sources of funding. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the quotation of £3,430 to chamfer two sides of the Jubilee Stone to enable details of King Charles' coronation to be inscribed.

Councillors unanimously agreed to replace the roundabout at the Moor Lane Play area with a new accessible piece of play equipment.

The next Full Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 2nd October 2025 at the Parish Hall. All residents are very welcome to attend.

Bridget Petty for Backwell

An update from your North Somerset Councillor In September, I returned to my councillor duties after an extended time away. It has been great to catch up with the community.

I worked recently with Simon Russell (who has set up his own estate agents locally) and together we repainted the phone box on Westfield Road that is used as a book swap. It was lovely to have chats with people passing on a sunny morning. As the weather changes, I have noticed a few places where the brambles are growing. If you get the chance when you are out and about, we can keep the paths tidy together with a few snips of the secateurs.



For many years the community of Backwell have had update after update on the Local Plan. Successive governments have made bold commitments about housing numbers delivered in a year, they then push these targets to Local Government.

Since Labour were elected in 2024 they increased the target for our area yet again. North Somerset is an area constrained by its coastal landscape, low lying levels as well as rightly protected areas of outstanding natural beauty. The Green Belt is no longer as protected as it once was by this government's target on house building. I know many worry about how our village will change in the future. In my role I am trying to shape the Local Plan to have the best sustainability, affordable housing and commitment to local infrastructure. In October, I expect the Cabinet of North Somerset to vote to put the next version of the Local Plan out for consultation and we will be asked to comment before Christmas.

Councillor Bridget Petty (She/Her)
Green Party Councillor for Backwell, North Somerset
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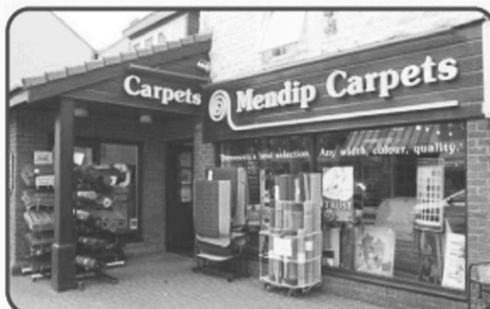
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Monday Cubs

We were delighted when our wolf's head was accepted as a project to be restored at the Repair Shop on BBC 1. I took a group of cubs to The Weald and Downland Museum in Singleton, West Sussex. The episode which featured this and four of our Cubs was broadcast on 12th August. It can be found on BBC iPlayer as Episode 20 in Series 14.

The eight minutes we were on screen took around six hours to film, split into two visits to The Repair Shop. The Cubs were great with ready smiles and lots to say about Cub Scouting and the importance of the wolf's head.

The wolf's head is around seventy years old and it is likely it was acquired when scouting in Backwell was revived in 1955.



It's been used weekly since then by both Cub Packs. Over the years it's been dropped and bashed about a fair bit and was very tatty. We were delighted when the production team responded to our request for a repair. We're so grateful that Kristen and Will took such care with the repair and on making a stand so the wolf's head is stable rather than propped up and wobbly. Everyone is friendly and the level of expertise is astonishing. The way the programme comes across on the telly is exactly how it is.

Helen

Tuesday Scouts

We ended the summer term with a parent v Scout rounders game followed by a barbecue in the Scout Hut grounds which was very well attended by the parents which was much appreciated by all of the leaders - but I've no idea who won the rounders - did it really matter and did anyone actually know?

Over the summer the Tuesday Scout leaders were busy working around the hut and preparing for Summer Camp which happened at the end of August. This year we went to a new site (new to us) at Bowling Green Wood on the Lulworth Castle Estate in Dorset, not far from Swanage. Having booked all the activities and food deliveries we were pleased that everything went as planned and Tesco and Sainsburys both negotiated the very narrow archway into the camp site!

The fun started on Saturday evening when, having pitched all the tents, we went off to see an open air evening showing of 'Paddington in Peru' in the grounds of Corfe Castle. Sunday was a day of settling in around the campsite in readiness for the week ahead.

On Monday we visited Dancing Ledge on the coast for coasteering followed by a quick relocation to Swanage for giant paddle boarding.

Tuesday was hike day straight from the campsite, through the Lulworth Castle estate and down



to the coastal cliffs at Arish Mell. Both routes took the Scouts on a (very) steep climb up to Flowers Barrow and then a loop along the coast to Tyneham Village then back inland to Flowers Barrow and back to camp. All teams successfully completed the route although one or two were less enamoured with the steep climbs along the way!

Wednesday saw a return to Swanage where we arrived in style aboard a steam hauled train ready to have lunch overlooking the seafront followed by a town treasure trail - the leaders were strategically placed outside a most accommodating cake and coffee shop (with awning) where we could watch the Scouts coping with a sudden dramatic downpour - it's not easy being a leader! They then went shopping in the Co-op store by the railway station to purchase their food for the evenings masterchef extravaganza - and there were some offerings that would have put the real Masterchef to shame.

Thursday was water park morning near Corfe (it's one way of taking a relatively clean Scouts home at the end of camp) and afternoon of striking camp before the journey home on Friday.

All in all it was a very successful camp much enjoyed by Scouts and Leaders alike, and Bowling Green Wood has been added to our list of 'must have' camp sites.

Ian

Thursday Cubs

We made the most of the beautiful weather before the summer break, and spent most of our time in the great outdoors. This included going for a bike ride along the Strawberry Line, learning navigation skills and putting them into action in a long, sunny hike, gardening,

and taking part in the Great Thursday Cubs Games. In an impressive



display of grit, technique and strength from all involved, a nail biting Tug of War epic battle rounded off the evening. And of course what would Cubs be without our traditional end-of-term water games evening (including the obligatory 'soak every adult in sight' challenge). We also had a very successful joint camp with our friends on Monday Cubs - a two night camp where the cubs displayed teamwork and independence.

Jane

Explorers

Following the successful camp in the Netherlands, Barracuda Explorers are now looking forward to the Autumn term with plenty of varied activities planned for the unit. With 46 young people registered, it's certainly going to be a busy time for the leaders! There is already a weekend earmarked for the winter camp, plus a host of hut-based and outdoor activities that will test and challenge the unit. The popular Musingo fundraising event will also be making a return on Friday, 14th of 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

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Backwell School Springs Back to Life!

There is always something special about September: a new rhythm, fresh faces, and a renewed sense of purpose. This term has been no exception, and it has been a joy to see the school brimming with life once again. Staff and students have quickly settled into routines, and the corridors and classrooms are filled with energy, excitement, and ambition. This year already promises to be both purposeful and inspiring.

Although Backwell School is well known to many of you, this is my very first taste of school life here, and I have been genuinely touched by the warm welcome from both students and staff. It is clear that this is a community built on kindness, opportunity, and shared values.

One of my early messages to the students has been to seize the opportunities that Backwell provides beyond the classroom. With clubs and societies now in full swing, there is something for everyone – whether it be music, sport, or the arts. From girls' rugby, cheerleading, and choir to film club, Lego club, and an impressive variety of creative arts groups, these activities add so much colour and vibrancy to school life. I've encouraged every student to try at least one new club before Christmas!

We also continue to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students outside the classroom. Over the summer, our equestrian team qualified for the National British Showjumping finals, held in August. Competing against schools from across the country, the Backwell girls did us proud, securing two 4th place finishes and a 7th place in their respective classes – a fantastic accomplishment at national level.

Our community spirit extends well beyond the school gates too. On 23rd September we welcomed students from Colegio Vera-Cruz in Northern Spain as part of our much-loved Spanish Exchange. During their week here in North Somerset, the visiting students enjoyed life at Backwell, while also experiencing some of our local treasures, including the Roman Baths and the SS Great Britain. Exchange programmes such as this offer so much – a chance to experience another culture, the challenge of building resilience, and friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

In September, looking ahead, we eagerly prepared for our Main School Open Evening for current Year 6 pupils. This is always a highlight of our calendar, as we showcase the very best of 'all things Backwell'. Tours for prospective parents and pupils will be running from Monday 22nd September through to Friday 24th October, and we would be delighted to welcome you. These visits offer the perfect chance to see the school in its natural rhythm – a rhythm alive with energy, warmth, and a sense of belonging.

Finally, starting a new school year is always a significant moment for a local community. Thank you for your ongoing support, your trust, and your partnership.



Will Penny
Headteacher



OCTOBER CONCERT BY BOLD BRASS AT CHRIST CHURCH, NAILSEA

BOLD BRASS are giving a much-awaited return concert on 25th October 7pm at Christ Church, Nailsea.

The ensemble was founded originally as a quintet in 1977, but a short time later the larger ensemble was formed for one concert. The usual line-up of 4 trumpets, tenor horn, euphonium, tube, 3 trombones and percussion, with later addition of a flugelhorn. The programmes are drawn from light classics, swing and big band as well as from great musical shows. They have performed in churches, music festivals as well as visited abroad over the years.

Tickets are £10 available in advance mornings from the Church Office (10-12 weekdays) or on the door. Proceeds to Church Funds. Tel. 01275 859210 to reserve tickets.

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Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

Since our last report, the Group have enjoyed a cream tea, mainly prepared by Lyn, a supporter of our Group, and also a trip to Somerset Rural Life Museum, Glastonbury, where the Group was warmly welcomed. Extra seating was strategically placed, guided tours and very helpful staff contributed to a very interesting day out for everyone, but especially for those members who now find it difficult to leave the house due to sight loss and/or mobility issues. The next meeting is at Backwell W.I. Hall on Weds 29th October at 1.30pm. Sarah Harris will be entertaining us, and everyone is invited to come and join us for a light-hearted afternoon.



Backwell And Nailsea Support For Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 1st October 2025 from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm at the WI Hall, Backwell.

Speaker: Mr Ken Hunt

Subject: Travels with Ken (Japan)

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) of 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

Backwell Senior Club

What a lovely (although sad for the village) "Bye Bye" picture of Jane and Martin on the front of the September Village Magazine. We all wish them Good Fortune in the next chapter of their lives. Thank you both for all you have done for the village; you will be much missed. "BYE BYE" and GOD BLESS you both.

WELCOME to our new editor, Allan and all the team who have taken on management of our Village Magazine: THANK YOU.

By the time you read this we will have had our first meeting at West Town Methodist (WTM) when we will have had the pleasure of being entertained by our dear friend Jean Routley playing "Musical Memories" for us to enjoy.

The plan for October is to be trialling our first "Café Style DIY" get-together when we will have some in-

house action! (Don't worry it's not physical!) I'm certain we will have fun. Bear in mind, Halloween is not far away!

We welcome visitors, ladies and gents, to our sessions which take place each 3rd Friday of the month, so October 17th is the date to put in your diaries, 2.00pm for 2.30 start, at the WTM. Charge is £2 to include Entertainment, Tea and Biscuits and Chat. Car parking is available in the football car park, Rodney Road or Church Lane and walk down the footpath. Also we can arrange Backwell transport pick-ups for those who need it. Please book this by previous Wednesday with Mair on 01275 463736.

For further information please ring Sue Griffiths 01275 461231

SEE YOU THERE

Mothers' Union

On 23rd September everyone enjoyed our annual Harvest Lunch - we have prayers in Wells Cathedral on 16th October at 11.30am for those able to attend. The Diocese is in urgent need of help with the Child Contact Centres in Clevedon and Nailsea, each active on one Saturday afternoon each month - members we need help please.

Our speaker on 28th October is Dr Francesca Elloway who worked for 25 years as a doctor in DR Congo and on 25th November our speaker will be our rector, Revd Sam Norton. Both these talks will be full of interest to us.

Monday Tea Group

Looking forward to meeting up again on the first Monday afternoon in the month from 2pm onwards at our usual location in the Coffee Shop in Rodney Road. We must decide where to go for our Christmas lunch so please come. All are welcome.

Knitting for Others

A very belated note to thank you all who have knitted for others; for the large and small blankets, garments and soft toys, all year round. The main Advent knitting was for crib figures including angel or shepherd, one for each small child and that family. If you have time to knit or crochet any member of St Mothers' Union will accept your donation to pass to those who need them.

Again, a heartfelt thank you for all your gifts to others and your loving friendship to me.

God Bless You All. Barbara Paige, Shalom

North Somerset Quilters

North Somerset Quilters will be meeting on Friday October 17th at 7.30pm at Backwell W.I. Hall, Station Rd., Backwell BS48 3QW

Our Speaker will be Lizzie Everard with her talk "What GB Sewing Bee Taught me to Value in Making".

Trader for the evening Debbie Gibson - Quilting in the Meadows

Visitors are welcome at a cost of £7 for the evening.

For more information Tel Karen 01275 463119

Backwell Probus Club Report

We have had two meetings since the last report. The first was an illustrated talk by Mike Rowland entitled "Follow Me, Please", We heard all about his career as a Tour Guide. He had covered Stonehenge and Amesbury many times but also sites in Bristol, including of course the Clifton Suspension Bridge. At the end, he described some of the notable people, mainly Americans, who he had guided around certain monuments.

In early September we heard a superb talk by Lottie Dale on her experiences as a nurse entitled "Treading the Wards". She started in 1969, age 17, as a trainee for three years becoming fully qualified at the St. Bart's Hospital in London. She highlighted many entertaining events, including the visit of Queen Elizabeth. She showed us many pictures with her four close nursing friends over nearly 40 years with backgrounds of the famous hospital. After the talk, we entertained our lady wives and partners for a super cold lunch, a once-a-year event.

In October, our meetings will include talks on "A Night of a Thousand Stars" and "1000 Years of Horseshoes". 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

Repair Café (including bikes)

Sustainable Backwell's volunteer repairers will be at the Parish Hall from 10am-12noon on Saturday 11th October. Please come early because repairs take time to do. We hope to have volunteers available for general repairs, bikes, sewing, sharpening and jewellery. Let's all save stuff from going to landfill and buy less new stuff by repairing the old. While you wait for your repairs, you can enjoy a mug of Fairtrade tea or coffee and a cake from the Fairtrade Café volunteers.

Candles of Remembrance

All are most welcome at the annual Candles of Remembrance Service for those who have been bereaved, being held at Nailsea Methodist Church, Silver Street, on Sunday 2nd November at 4pm. In reflective worship we remember loved ones and draw strength from the prayerful support of others. Refreshments are served afterwards. Come along and be among friends.



Rotary Nailsea and Backwell

Rotary Nailsea and Backwell have been serving the local community, and some further afield, for nearly 50 years. As the current membership are getting older, some are less able to participate in Rotary activities. We are therefore keen to encourage younger men and women (i.e. anyone aged between 18 and 80!) into the club.

This is an opportunity for people to contribute to the well-being of our local area and beyond at the same time as making new friends and business contacts and enjoying social activities.

If you are looking to help your local community and think you know what Rotary is, please read this Rotary Myths Buster. Rotary is actually all about local men and women helping others while enjoying fellowship and fun.

If you would like to know more, please ring Bob Keightley on 07798 832545 to arrange to meet – we buy the coffee! – or email enquiries@RotaryNailsea.org

Rotary Myth Buster



ROTARY IS FOR MEN
WRONG! Rotary has welcomed women for over 30 years.

IT'S FOR RETIRED PEOPLE
WRONG! We are open to ages 18+ Age is just a number, it's attitude that is more important.

IT'S FOR PROFESSIONALS
WRONG! Diversity is our strong asset and there's always a place for you in Rotary.

YOU MUST ATTEND EACH WEEK
WRONG! We focus on what you can contribute. Get involved with fundraising activities, community projects and activities.



IT'S A RELIGIOUS ORGANISATION / SECRET SOCIETY
WRONG! Rotary is non-religious and non-political.

YOU HAVE TO BE FORMALLY DRESSED FOR MEETINGS
WRONG! We are interested in what you can offer, not how you dress.

IT'S A LUNCH AND DINNER CLUB
WRONG! We do have meals at most meetings, however we principally meet to plan projects, have guest speakers, socials and run activities.

MEMBERSHIP BY INVITE ONLY
WRONG! Anyone with the right mindset can visit and join. We accept members from all walks of life.

INTERESTED IN BIG INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS ONLY **WRONG!** We are involved in these huge projects, however the majority of our work is within local communities supporting local causes.



Rotary - People of Action enquiries@rotarynailsea.org

Annual Craft Fair

Saturday 8th November 2025
10am - 4pm

50 stalls selling a range of gifts including Christmas gifts, knitted clothes/toys, honey, jam, chocolate brownies, scarves, cards, driftwood scenes, felt pictures, textiles, soaps, candles, jewellery, accessories, glass, decoupage, felting, place mats, pottery, bunting, cakes, resin crafts, upcycled gifts, Girls' Brigade stall.

2nd hand books and bric-a-brac.

Refreshments served all day

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www.nailseamethodistchurch.org.uk

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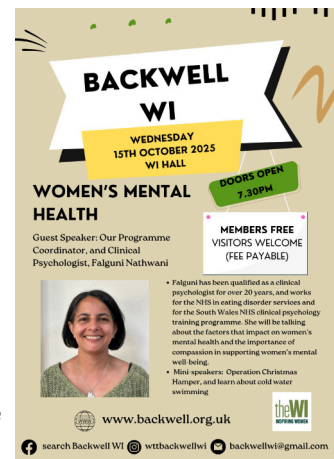
TEL: **01275 462920**

West Town & Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15th October from 7.30pm in the WI Hall.

This month we learn about Women's Mental Health, with Backwell WI's Programme Coordinator, who has been qualified as a clinical psychologist for over 20 years, and works for the NHS in eating disorder services and for the South Wales NHS clinical psychology training programme. She will be talking about the factors that impact on women's mental health and the importance of compassion in supporting women's mental well-being. We also have mini-speakers from Operation Christmas Hamper, and will learn about cold water swimming.

In addition to our meeting, Backwell WI is joining forces with The George at Backwell, and hosting a Murder Mystery evening on 16th October at The George - tickets cost £25, including a 2 course meal and can be booked on Eventbrite.



We also have our first family event during half term, and welcome families to join us for some spooky crafts from 1-3pm on 31st October - £2.50 per child, no need to book.

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



Get a FREE Grand Appeal Will and support Bristol Children's Hospital

We are so lucky to have Bristol Children's Hospital covering our area. It provides an unrivalled level of service when our youngsters are most in need.

Thornbury solicitor John Baden-Daintree says, "The Bristol Children's hospital literally saved our 6 year old daughter's life – mobilising an expert team not available elsewhere. During her recovery we saw how The Grand Appeal charity covered the many extras that the NHS cannot - making life a bit more bearable for sick children and their families at the toughest of times"

This October our local Will experts – Simpson Solicitors – have teamed up with The Grand Appeal.

The scheme allows you to leave a legacy to support the Children's Hospital in your Will. It even covers their home visit service. As there is nothing to pay for your Will the charity hope that in exchange people will use their Will to give a small percentage of their Estate to The Grand Appeal. It means a generous donation is more affordable, as your donation will not be taken until you have died - supporting future generations of local sick children.

There are limited places available under the scheme so book now. Then Simpson Solicitors will prepare your Will (or 2 mirror Wills for a couple) absolutely free to you. You will still receive their full award-winning service. They will check your home ownership for £7 and advise you on optional extras such as Additional Trust Protection and Powers of Attorney.

Michelle Baden-Daintree says "I hope many people will take advantage of the scheme and leave a generous gift in their Will to the Grand Appeal. Call our friendly team on 01454 412 278 saying you'd like to make a Grand Appeal Scheme Will. Then by leaving a donation in your Will, you can gift a sick child a brighter future."



Backwell Playhouse

Backwell Playhouse is back with our Autumn Season and we are very excited to bring you our 2025 schedule.

Our 2025/26 season of Comedy Nights starts again on Saturday 16th October, and will now be monthly! Tickets remain just £10 for a brilliant and hilarious evening of comedy, featuring Joe Riley, Glenn Braley, McClaine Beirne and Emma Hughes. Our MC is Rob C and our headliner is Mark Hurman, returning to the Playhouse for the third time. Tickets are available from our website, www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk, or by calling Jon on 0797 422 3081

The Playhouse Theatre Company perform "The Sneeze" by Anton Chekhov, translated by Michael Frayn, from the 27th -29th November. This is a brilliant collection of Chekhov's early plays and stories with a comedic, and sometimes bittersweet, focus. Chekhov's writing here is as relevant today as it was when written in 1900's Russia. The comedy flair is enhanced with a brilliant adaptation by Michael Frayn, of Noises Off fame. Tickets are now available from our website.

We also have comedy nights in November and December, our AGM on the 13th November and a Christmas Celebration event on the 20th December. We are also very excited to announce that in 2026 the Playhouse will start showing NT Live screenings - watch this space for more information!

To get a discount of Playhouse Productions, including NT Live, Membership for our 2025/26 season is now available. £12 for the year helps the Playhouse maintain its charity status, gets you a £2 discount on in-house shows and allows you to vote on the future of our wonderful venue at our AGM.

If you would like to find out more about being part of the Backwell Playhouse Management Committee, please contact Jon Coupe on 0797 422 3081, or email mailinglist@backwellplayhouse.co.uk, who will happily answer any questions you may have.

West Backwell Bowling Club

Finals weekend at the Club saw a hat trick of wins for Sheila Claxton. She is the Ladies' Championship Singles winner; Finalist Julie Ratcliffe. A close encounter with Julie in the Myf Davis Singles resulted in a 21:20 win, and Sheila also won the 2-wood Singles v Rita Holloway.

Other singles winners were Jayne Keightley, Grace Higgins & Dan Rycroft. Two of the Men's Singles were postponed. Pairs winners were Julie & Alan Webber, Jayne & Brian Gammon, Bob Keightley & Gordon Ogden and Grace & Lynn Pearson.

Adam Knights was the finalist in the Clevedon & District Champion of Champions competition in a very exciting match.

We are very proud of Shireen Matley who won the Somerset Newcomers competition, and of Bob Bees the Finalist in the Hon. Secretary's comp. 10 clubs took part in the C & D Charity Cup and our men won, getting £250 for the charity Vision North Somerset. The ladies and men have had a very successful season!

The popular Novices Tournament took place in September, followed by Captains Day and the annual Men-v-Ladies match.

Members will continue to meet socially during the winter months. In September there was a coffee morning and quiz, and a Pie & Chips evening. There

will be a musical event in October, and regular Sunday lunches. It is planned to start short-mat bowling in the clubhouse – full details next month. Further information about the bowling club can be found on our website, and Facebook, or contact the Secretary email: wbbcsecretaryinternal@outlook.com

St Andrew's Ladies Group

Our AGM held last month in Church House was chaired by our rector Sam Norton. A surprising number of members arrived to pay the subscription of fifteen pounds for a years membership and perhaps also the attraction of meeting up with friends and acquaintances who maybe they hadn't seen over the summer.

Our report of last year's activities, was read by our leader, followed by the report read by the treasurer and the minutes of last year's AGM was read by the secretary. The treasurer mentioned that the club has raised three hundred pounds which had been given to Holly Hedge animal sanctuary. Our secretary announced the chosen charity for this year would be The Children's Air Ambulance, an organisation that takes very sick or disabled children to hospital in an emergency. Sam Norton told the group about his early life living in Essex and his love of the sea and boats. He said that after many other occupations and other opportunities he realised that he had a calling to become ordained as an Anglican priest. He told us that his decision to apply for the vacancy at St Andrew's was complicated but he felt it was the right one and we all thought so too.

Our next meeting will be on Monday October 13th at 7.30pm in Church House and the speaker will be from the Children's Air Ambulance Charity. Do join us if you can.

Gillian Vasey.

St Andrew's Art Group

Charity Evening - 16th October 2025

The Art Group is hosting a charity fund raising evening on Thursday 16th October in Church House, 7 for 7.30 pm in aid of Freewheelers (Blood Bikes). Janet and Colin Stone will present 'The Story of Freewheelers' who deliver essential blood supplies to Bristol, Somerset and West Wiltshire hospitals and medicines to patients in rural areas. This invaluable service provides cover every weekend from 7 pm Friday evening until 7 am Monday morning. The Freewheelers' motto is Delivered with Care - Free to the NHS. We hope to arrange for a 'blood bike' to be available on the evening.

Tickets £8 to include a glass of wine/soft drink from Jill on 01275 464458. Please support this vital service in our area.



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CHRISTMAS POST

Isn't it great when you get an actual proper Christmas Card through the door? Something to decorate your house with. A friend, neighbour or loved one has thought of you while writing that card. Good wishes sent with a smile. A seasonal picture to turn into next year's gift tags.

Well, your luck is in again this year as once again help is on hand to deliver all of your local Christmas Cards throughout Nailsea and Backwell. With the support of our local businesses hosting Post Boxes and selling stamps, Backwell and Nailsea Scouts are joining forces to deliver the post. The Scout Christmas Post service allows a Christmas card to be delivered at a fraction of the cost of other postal services while supporting local young people in the community. The cards will be delivered in Backwell by 1st Backwell Scouts – like this lovely lot.

Stamps will remain at the low cost of just 50p and will be available from various locations around the village including Backwell Vets, Backwell Barbers, Parkers Estate Agents, Backwell Co-op and Backwell Village Club. This year we will launch the service on Saturday 22nd November and the last posting date

Allan Rhodes (new Editor): Cycling for a Cause

This past September, I embarked on a personal challenge to cycle 355 miles across Scotland, from Glasgow to John O'Groats. The journey was also a way to honor the incredible work of CHASE Africa and its life-saving "backpack nurses."

These nurses ride an average of 50 miles per week, often on rough tracks, to reach remote villages in East Africa with essential healthcare. My 355-mile ride was just a glimpse of the distances they cover tirelessly. For 25 years, CHASE Africa has been bringing care to hundreds of thousands of people in last-mile communities who would otherwise go without.

Just £100 covers one day's work for a backpack nurse. I am personally contributing the first £100 and aim to raise enough to support them for a total of 30 days.

So far, I've received generous support from almost 50 friends, family members, work colleagues, and Backwell residents. Now, I invite you to join this important cause. The fundraiser will close at the end of October.

You can contribute in one of two ways:

1. Online: Visit my fundraising page at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/allan-rhodes-chase-africa>
2. In Person: Drop off your contribution at my home (30 The Briars, Backwell).

Thank you for your support. It's a pleasure to be able to help CHASE Africa and, as the new editor, to be part of the wonderful community that makes up The Village Magazine.

will be on Thursday 18th December.

We will also be supporting the Charity Christmas Card Sale where you can have an early opportunity to buy Scout Christmas Stamps along with your cards on Saturday 1st November in the Parish Hall.



Charity Card Sale – 1st November

Spreading Joy and Making a Difference, One Card at a Time

We will be holding our traditional sale again this year but would hope to extend it to include other suitable items such as books, puzzles and other items which you might associate with Christmas. Please put the date in your diary and we would be pleased to hear from any groups that would like to sell at the event. The sale will take place in the Backwell Parish hall between 10 and 12.30

At its core, the Charity Card Sale is about giving back. All proceeds from the event will be donated to a selection of charities chosen for their dedication to impactful causes.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Bob South

Tel 01275463117



Piano concert by Joss Wort at St Mary's, Yatton, 25th October.

A very welcome return from our own Yatton Protégé. Joss, a former student from Backwell School has recently graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where he was awarded the John Roberts Memorial Award for his passion for the works of Beethoven. His programme will include music by Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert.

Joss's concert starts at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church. Tickets price £15, Yatton Music Society (YMS) members and students £10, accompanied children under 16 free. Details of this concert and their programme are on the Yatton Music Society's website www.yms.org.uk.



Yatton Local History Society

Yatton Local History Society talk by Steve Osman on Swiss Air Crash 1973.
Tuesday, October 7th at 7.30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW.
Contact: yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

The Nailsea & District Local History Society

The Nailsea & District Local History Society will meet in the Green Lecture room at Nailsea School on Monday 13th October at 7.45pm for the AGM and to

hear Dr Jo Edwards present her paper "Hannah More's 18th Century". Visitors most welcome £3pp. All enquiries please call 01275-463479.

Nailsea District Leg Club

Good news, especially if you're not keen on exercise, no longer are 10,000 steps deemed necessary to keep fit, but only (!) 7,000, or at least anything over 4,000.

It's no surprise that exercise is key to good health both physically and mentally, having an objective is helpful, but not something to become paranoid about. A walk at a reasonable pace gives the benefit of fresh air and maybe the opportunity to chat, and catch up with neighbours. 30 minutes tidying the garden then a cup of tea. It's so easy to run life from the sofa and order everything you need from there. However it's important to keep moving as regular movement lubricates joints, which in turn stops them from becoming stiff and breaking down.

Give it a go, 4000 steps won't take much out of the day, not only will this give you healthy legs but a healthy mind and body too!

If you do have lower leg issues providing you're registered with Tyntesfield Medical Group, then visit Nailsea Leg Club drop-in any Wednesday morning 9.00 – 11.30 a.m. for advice and treatment. 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, held on the second Saturday of each month, for an informal coffee morning at St Francis Church Hall, Nailsea, from 10.30am to 12.13pm. At the meeting on 11th October you will have the opportunity to meet and chat with others with Parkinson's and there will be a speaker, physiotherapist Amanda Burroughs. Singing helps with 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.

The Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

The Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers is holding an exhibition to celebrate 50 years of its existence. The Guild represents people from North Somerset and Bristol and holds its regular monthly meetings in the bowls pavilion at Long Ashton. The exhibition is being held in SPARKS Bristol, 78 Broadmead, Bristol BS1 3DS, which is the old Marks and Spencer's building. It is being held from 11:00-18:00 31st October to 11:00 – 17:00 2nd November 2025. Members will be displaying and demonstrating the crafts of spinning and weaving. For further information contact the secretary via info.avonguildswd@gmail.com

Backwell Baptist Church

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

Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am

Services start - 10.30am

5th Oct (Communion & Harvest Sunday)

Preacher: Anne Nicklen

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Theme: The Parable of the Net

Passage: Matt 13:47-52

12th Oct

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Sheila Whiting

Theme: The Parable of the Great Banquet

Passage: Luke 14:15-24

19th Oct

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leaders: Alan & Ann

Theme: The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Passage: Matthew 18:21-35

26th Oct (Together Service with Nailsea Baptist Church @ Kingshill School)

Preacher: Andy Caldwell

Service Leader: Tim Crossley & Peter Burns

Theme & Passage: TBC



West Town Methodist Church

Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

October	5th	Heather Bentley
	12th	Revd Sally Ratcliffe
	19th	Jim Richards
	26th	Alan Emery

The Hub - Monday mornings 10.00 to 12.00, where a warm welcome awaits you for a cuppa and a chat.

Feel free to bring along knitting, crocheting, puzzles, craft projects, etc., or simply enjoy the conversation!

Any info, please 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

October 8th and 22nd at 2.30pm, at 2 St Andrew's Road

Thursday Fellowship Group

October 2nd tba and 16th at 10.30 venue 4 St Margaret's Close.

Alpha for Church members

Wednesday 15th, 22nd & 29th October, 7.30pm at West Town.

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

News from St Francis

The Feast Day of St Francis is on Saturday 4th October.

To begin the weekend, Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am on Friday 3rd at St Francis's School and everyone is welcome.

The Saturday Vigil (evening) Mass will remember the Feast of St Francis as well as the Sunday 11:00am Mass.

A party for the Feast is being held on Saturday 18th October after the evening Mass. An Irish folk group called, Tairni Mara will entertain and monies raised is for the roof fund.

October, like the month of May, is dedicated to the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar. We honour Mary especially this month.

Please see website for all Masses and Livestreaming www.josephfrancis.org

St. Bridget's

The Harvest Quiz night in early September was great fun: over 50 filled St. Bridget's, eagerly tackling the questions and tucking into bowls of Chilli! Thanks to all who supported the event and the organisers and quiz-masters – over £700 was raised towards Church upkeep.

Our special thanks to the Cannings, who are heading to pastures new. Martin will be much missed as one of our devoted lay readers, with his steadfast support during our interregnum being so crucial in enabling us to continue our weekly services. And we have greatly appreciated Jane for all she has done for the whole Benefice, not least her editorship of this magazine!

We are holding our last coffee morning of the season on Saturday 4th October 10am to noon. These are becoming increasingly popular (maybe it's the cake?) and a nice excuse to look around our beautiful church.

Looking ahead to the winter months please mark in your calendars Saturday 6th December 10am to noon for coffee, mince pies and Christmas music!

As ever please visit our website www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk

or scan the QR code for all information about services and events.

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

Across the churches in the Benefice we offer a wide variety of services in different formats, styles and traditions which include worship at St Andrew's, St Bridget's and occasionally at St Nicholas. Also events are hosted or promoted.

Events: Somerset Festival of the Arts 2025

Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th October

Our 2025 festival programme will feature beautiful candlelit concerts from our opening concert Baroque 'n' Roll, merging some of the greatest Baroque repertoire with a few 20th century surprises, an orchestral tribute to the evocative and mesmerising sound world of Edith Piaf, and our exuberant festival finale with a spectacular selection of Viennese Waltzes.

Tickets will go on sale on August 3rd.

www.somersetfestivalarts.co.uk

	St Andrew's Church	St Bridget's Church
Sundays in October	Sunday 5th October 11.00am Informal Communion 5.00pm Evensong	Sunday 5th October 9.15am Holy Communion
	Sunday 12th October 11.00am Sung Eucharist 5.00pm Said Evening Prayer	Sunday 12th October 9.15am Morning Worship
	Sunday 19th October 11.00am Sung Eucharist 5.00pm Said Evening Prayer	Sunday 19th October 9.15am Morning Prayer
	Sunday 26th October 11.00am Sung Eucharist 5.00pm Said Evening Prayer	

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.

St Andrew's Charity for July, August, September

In 2023, we decided to commit to supporting a Mission Partner with CMS. We are now supporting Bishop Martin Gordon, Bishop of Goma, in DR Congo.

The Church Mission Society (CMS) story began in London in 1799 with a group of Christians whose hearts were stirred to go to the edges, people like William Wilberforce, John Venn and John Newton. Together, they worked to abolish the slave trade, they fought for the rights of oppressed people at home and they launched out onto dangerous seas to share Jesus with the world.

CMS is likewise called to connect with people at the edges: the edges of church, the edges of society, the edges of our comfort zones. They are always looking for others who will join them at edges near and far, to help share God's love in creative ways, knowing that person-by-person, community-by-community, this is how we will see our world made new.

CMS describes itself as a community on a journey of rediscovering God's mission together, made up of disciples of Jesus from various countries, cultural backgrounds and walks of life. We are talking about a vibrant mix of people in mission from the UK, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia – all following Jesus to the edges together.



**CHURCH
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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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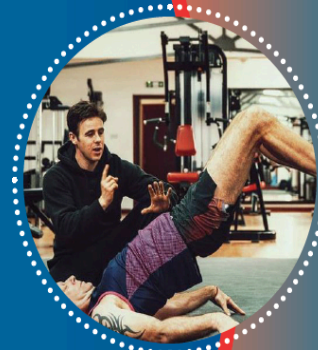
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