

# The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley

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# The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

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## **The Beginning and the End: Holiday at Home, Green Spaces & the Story of a Garden**

As I write this article, I have just been part of three wonderful days at Holiday at Home. Organised jointly by Backwell and Nailsea Baptist Churches. Holiday at Home does exactly what it says on the tin: it provides an opportunity for senior people to enjoy games, crafts, quizzes, musical performances, a cream tea at New Manor Farm, and plenty of delicious food and drink, all without having to go away. This year's theme was A Garden Party.

As someone who suffers from hay fever, I can't say that I am a great lover of flowers, plants, and gardens. However, I do appreciate the colour, beauty, and diversity they bring. We are fortunate to enjoy plenty of green space in and around Backwell, one of the many reasons it is such a wonderful place to live.

I find it fascinating that the Bible both begins and ends with a garden. In the beginning, humanity lived with God and enjoyed a perfect and intimate relationship with him. That relationship was damaged when people rebelled and turned their backs on God. Yet at the end of the Bible, in Revelation 22, we see the garden restored, a picture of the healing of both the world and our relationship with God. Once again, we will live with him face to face, free from the evil, suffering, and pain that we experience in the world today.

The Bible is not a short book. In fact, it is a collection of 66 books. Yet the story that unfolds from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 points to, describes, and celebrates Jesus coming to live among us, and his death and resurrection. The garden can only be restored and our relationship with God healed because of Jesus' death on the cross, which defeated evil and paid the price for our wrongdoing, and because of his resurrection, which offers hope and new life to all who call on him as Lord and Saviour.

As we enter the summer months, I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy some of the green spaces around us. Whether you sit on a bench by Backwell Lake, enjoy a picnic in the fields, or climb a nearby hill, nature is truly a blessing. The churches in Backwell will be gathering on the fields behind the tennis club on Sunday 19 July at 3.00 pm for 'Picnic & Praise.' It will be a wonderful celebration of our unity, an opportunity to meet new people, and another chance to enjoy the beauty of a green space. Whether you consider yourself a Christian or not, we would love to see you there.

Enjoy the summer, find a green space, and God bless.

Rev'd Tim Crossley  
Minister, Backwell Baptist Church

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*Cover photograph by Ann Belcher.*

*During lockdown we were able to go for a walk as long as we did not interact closely with other people. So I frequently took my camera with me and photographed places which looked good. I built up quite a library of places around Backwell which has come in useful since. This one was taken near the start of Hillside Road and I had just started using AI to delete unwanted objects so I got rid of the rubbish bins left out for collection!*

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## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

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### Parish Council Report – June Meeting

Residents from Downside who attended the meeting held at Felton Village Hall were warmly welcomed by the Chair, Cllr Ould.

**Bristol Airport** A number of residents spoke regarding issues relating to Bristol Airport. Councillors addressed concerns raised and outlined Backwell Parish Council's (BPC) ongoing concerns and actions being taken. Matters discussed included infrastructure, pollution, parking, speeding, sewage capacity, noise and fuel odour from aircraft, road safety, and flooding. Residents were encouraged to report issues to North Somerset Council (NSC) and to email BPC, with photographs noted as being helpful where possible.

**Response to Planning Application** A comprehensive response strongly objecting to the proposals to Bristol Airport's Hybrid planning application for expansion to 15 million passengers per annum has been submitted by the Parish Council

**Local Government Review** Cllr Ould drew members' attention to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England draft recommendation that Backwell and Wrington form a new two-member ward. Members were asked to review the report, as a response to the consultation will be required before the next meeting. Concern was expressed that BPC had not been contacted directly regarding the draft recommendations. Details of the draft recommendation will be shared on Facebook to help raise residents' awareness.

**Planning** The Chair, Cllr Ould, gave special thanks to Cllr Harland, Chair of Planning, for the significant amount of time she dedicated to planning matters. Members wholeheartedly agreed. Cllr Harland gave an overview of current major planning sites in the village.

**Farleigh Fields west** (Land off Dark Lane). Members were informed that the latest iteration of the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for Farleigh Fields West still contains a number of unresolved issues and requires further amendments. Cllrs Harland and Horner will continue their review.

**Long Lane** It was noted that the outcome of the appeal relating to an additional property is awaited. Residents have requested consideration of additional hazard signage in the area, including signage relating to horses and children, due to concerns regarding speeding.

**Coles Quarry** Liaison with the developers at Coles Quarry continues regarding improvements to the CTMP. Members were informed that NSC Enforcement had visited the site that week. Cllr Rogers raised concerns that traffic in the area surrounding the quarry is exacerbated at school times by vehicles parking on double yellow lines.

**Land East of Backwell** Cllr Harland reported that a planning application from Mac Mic relating to East

Backwell is expected shortly.

**Local Green Space** Cllr Ould informed Members that a meeting with Persimmon Homes (PH) is scheduled for the following week. Following this, the Farleigh Fields Working Party will meet.

**Local Plan** Cllr Harland reported that the Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Thanks were given to a resident for their analysis relating to Green Belt matters.

**General Planning** Members received notification of National Grid's intention to change a pole from 9m to 10m at 37 Oakleigh Close, Backwell. Unanimously Backwell Parish Council (BPC) objects and requests further review

**11A Meadow Close Backwell.** Unanimously members strongly objected to an application to vary the plans relating to the erection of a detached house next to the address.

**Highways and Footpaths** Cllrs Power and Harland reported that they had reviewed potential locations for the proposed speed indicator signs ("smiley face" signs) throughout the village. It was noted that there may be limitations due to a lack of suitable street furniture for mounting the signs. Speed indicator signs are also being considered for Downside, although this is more complex due to existing road and traffic issues in the area.

**BSIP** It was noted that the work, including the installation of new bus shelters, appears to be progressing ahead of schedule. **Footpaths** The kissing gate installed by Taylor Wimpey on the field approaching West Leigh School has been inspected by NSC who did not consider it fit for purpose. It is therefore likely to be replaced.

**Digital Notice Board** Cllr Ould informed members that the planning application relating to the digital noticeboard on the Spar Green had been approved by NSC. Thanks were given to the Assistant Clerk and the Planning and Communications Officer for their work in progressing the application. Members unanimously approved the purchase of the digital noticeboard at a cost of £16,703.58 plus VAT

**Other Matters** Cllr Ould requested that the newly formed Environment Working Party explore possible tree planting options and locations. Members were delighted to hear that the Clerk, Mrs Clare Melton, had obtained her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).

*The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 2nd July at the earlier time of 6.00pm at the Parish Hall. All would be made most welcome.*



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## BACKWELL SCOUTS

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### Monday Cubs

The Cubs used tools skills to make French arrows and then to have a throwing tournament. They have worked on navigation skills by doing a scavenger hunt for which the co-ordinates of their funds had to be recorded. An evening hike at Goblin Combe was enjoyed by all.

Helen

### Tuesday Scouts

This month Tuesday Scouts have kept with a watery theme, kicking off with a visit to Watercress Farm to see and learn about the rewilding projects currently taking place to restore biodiversity and create new habitats for many native species of animals, birds and insects. Have a look at <https://belmont.estate/restoration/> for more information.



The Scouts have also participated in two sessions of rafting on the River Yeo at Congresbury with our own leader instructors who have all had their activity permits renewed at the same time for a further five years, so well done everyone. More importantly the

rafts didn't fall to pieces and no-one got stuck in the mud! Whilst half the Troop were rafting the remaining Scouts were looking at the difficulties of getting all parties to agree on house building plans using the fields below the recycling centre as a possible development area - this session was ably led by our own in-house planning officer and gave the Scouts real insight into the issues and problems in getting agreement to build new housing.



The highlight of the month was our Spring Camp as we once again visited Caehopkin on the edge of the Tawe Valley in Wales. It was a very successful camp and on Saturday the Scouts hiked around the local area taking in the valley along the River Tawe and walking to (and behind) the Henrhyd Falls. A relaxing film night meant they were ready the next day for more

water as they went Gorge Walking in the rivers around and below Dinas Rock near Pontneddfechan and had a great time getting wet whilst the leaders 'wetted' their insides with a welcome coffee at the local village hall! The return home was not complete without the traditional stop off at Sub Zero in Newport for ice cream, much appreciated by young and old alike.

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## Backwell Parish Hall: News

The volunteer trustees of Backwell Parish Hall are pleased to announce that, as of 18 May 2026, the hall's Wi-Fi has been upgraded from a previously unreliable 4G mobile router to a Virgin Media fibre digital 200 Mb/s service. This will give hall hirers a stronger, more reliable connection, including better support for online banking apps and other digital needs.

In the coming months, we also plan to equip Committee Room 1 (CR1) with audio-visual screen connectivity so hirers can book the room and equipment to hold Zoom or Teams meetings with remote participants. We expect this to be a welcome addition to the hall and appeal to work at home residents and clubs alike.

Always looking to improve what we offer our residents of Backwell in line with the charities constitution if you or anyone you know locally is looking to offer some time help ideas or experience for the community please contact us – we would love to hear from you.

Andy Stagg  
chair@backwellph.onmicrosoft.com

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## SCHOOL NEWS

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### Backwell School News – July 2026

The start of summer at Backwell School!

The past few weeks at Backwell School have been filled with celebration, achievement and a strong sense of community, reflecting the very best of what a school can offer its young people and their families.

A particular highlight has been the marking of important milestones for our older students. We recently said a fond farewell to our Year 13 cohort as they gathered for their final day, arriving in creative fancy dress and sharing one last celebration together. For many, this moment represented the culmination of seven years of friendship and hard work. Equally, our Year 11 students have reached the end of their GCSE journey, with many preparing to return in September to begin Sixth Form, while others set off towards new opportunities. These occasions are always tinged with both pride and nostalgia, as we recognise not only academic success but the growth of confident, capable young people ready to take their next steps.

Alongside these milestones, there have been many inspiring examples of student achievement beyond the classroom. A group of Year 9 students recently completed the demanding Ten Tors Challenge on Dartmoor, navigating 35 miles of rugged terrain independently; an impressive test of resilience, teamwork and determination. We are incredibly grateful to the Backwell Scout Group for their invaluable support in preparing our students for this challenge, giving their time, expertise and encouragement to help make such an achievement possible. Meanwhile, others from the same year group took part in the Bristol 10km, raising funds for St Peter's Hospice and embodying the values of kindness and ambition that are central to our community.

Our students continue to excel in a wide range of pursuits. We are delighted to celebrate further sporting success in golf, with current Year 11 student Mariella B selected to represent England over the summer, and a former pupil Davina Xanh chosen for the prestigious international golf tournament The Curtis Cup. Our equestrian team has also enjoyed remarkable success, qualifying all members for the National Championships after an exceptional team performance. In the academic arena, James E in Year 11 achieved a Silver Medal in the national Maclaurin Maths Olympiad competing against over 2,000 other students.

Beyond individual success, Backwell School is proud to offer rich opportunities that bring learning to life. Recent experiences have included a visit to Shepton Mallet Prison to support GCSE studies, eye-opening workshops on knife crime awareness, and an exciting French exchange trip to Dinan, giving students the chance to immerse themselves in language and culture.

At the heart of all this activity is a deep appreciation for the partnership between school and home. We recently marked the UN Global Day of Parents, an important reminder of the countless small acts of care, encouragement and support that families provide every day. These quiet contributions make an enormous difference, enabling students to thrive both academically and personally.

Looking ahead, there is much excitement about future developments within the school. Planned improvements to the structure of the school day, alongside enhanced social and dining spaces, aim to further support student wellbeing and learning. As we move into the final weeks of term, there are also many eagerly anticipated events on the horizon, including Enrichment Week, Summer Concerts, Sports Day and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions as well as our Year 6 transition events, which mark the beginning of each student's exciting secondary school journey at Backwell.

Above all, these weeks have been a powerful reminder of what it means to belong to a vibrant and supportive school community. Through perseverance, kindness and ambition, our students continue to embrace challenges, celebrate successes and make a positive difference—values that resonate far beyond the school gates and into the wider parish community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we ensure that 'we are Backwell'.



Will Penny, Headteacher

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## A British Empire Medal Award for a well-known Villager

***It has been announced in King Charles 3's 2026 Birthday Honours List that Jean Routley has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Church Music and the Community in Backwell.***

Jean Routley was appointed organist and choir leader at St Andrew's Backwell in 1969. Over a period of thirty-one years, she built the choir to be one of the largest church choirs in Somerset. She instructed some two hundred children through the Royal School of Church Music training scheme, encouraging those with less ability, who were reserved or shy, or "couldn't sing", to become more confident. (There is no such thing as being tone deaf" she would say).

When people left, she kept in touch with those who were unwell, had moved, or were in difficulty. She founded the St Andrew's orchestra which played monthly and grew to fill the east end of the nave and both aisles. She also organised numerous concerts there.

She retired from St Andrew's in 2000, having served under eight rectors, and leaving a rich musical tradition. She continues to deputise, particularly for weddings and funeral services.

As President of the Bristol and District Organists Association she organised visits, master classes, talks, presentations, demonstrations, and recitals, at some of which she would play herself. She remains an active member.

In 1982 she was appointed Portishead Deanery choir leader, running the Deanery choir from some dozen churches, several times a year, continuing until 2019, when she retired at the age of 80. She was involved in community choirs for some fifty years, notably the Backwell & Nailsea Ladies' Choir, which flourished under her guidance. The concerts she organised for this choir were varied programs, often featuring local musicians, including local children and they entertained the village. She made sure that proceeds from concerts went to support nominated charities.

She has been a highly regarded local organ and piano teacher and occasional recitalist for decades. She still plays for multiple church services in North Somerset regularly on Sundays, in particular St Bridget's Chelvey. Her community support for young people, nursing homes and the community, continues; including playing at social events and organising the distribution of Christmas presents to nursing homes

Typically, Jean's reaction to receiving this honour, was "Why me? I don't deserve it."

**However, we say "Well done Jean this award is richly deserved."**

*Lesley Barratt*

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## Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School – July 2026

West Leigh Infant School  
WL Class News – Owls (Yr1 aged 5 and 6)

### COMPUTING LESSONS

During our Computing lessons, we used the Scratch Jnr app to experiment with programming. Our Year 2 experts were great at explaining the features of Scratch to the Year 1s and Mrs BG was really impressed with how confidently all the children followed and created algorithms. We finished Term 5 off with the children designing and programming their own rocket ship race!



### RACKET and STICK SKILLS

We worked on our racket and stick skills in our tennis and hockey PE lessons in Term 5. The class had opportunities to demonstrate moving balls around with control, both inside the hall and on the playground. They practised rallying with a partner in tennis and dribbling and pushing the ball in hockey. The children worked really hard to try and remember how to hold the racket/stick correctly and it was great to see their confidence growing each week. Fantastic effort Owls!



**PICNIC & PRAISE**  
SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
3 PM  
Come along with a picnic & something to sit on!  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**  
Backwell Playing Fields,  
BS48 3HH - On the green  
behind the tennis club

BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH  
The Methodist Church  
St Francis of Assisi Church  
St Andrew's Backwell

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## Rotary Nailsea & Backwell

June was a busy month with lunch at Yeo Valley, winning our first Boules match in the District competition and losing at the District Skittles Quarter Finals. We assisted at Trendlewood Tree Trail and Dig for Victory as well as organising our own Nailsea Charity Walks which enables local charities to raise funds. Our speaker meeting involved a trip to the Moon guided by Space Detective Jo.

July is the start of the Rotary Year so we start with a meeting attended by our Assistant District Governor when Committee Leads report on their proposals for the year. Our major July event is the Golf Day which raises funds for Prostate Cancer Charity. A club meeting will involve a slideshow of our previous year's activities and illustrated talks about Rome and Peru. In August we will be seeing a video and hearing about Turning Nailsea Pink plus having a speaker from Cancer Research UK.

We are looking for community minded individuals that want to have fun to join us, More information on our website <https://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=613> or email us [enquiries@rotarynailsea.org](mailto:enquiries@rotarynailsea.org).

## Backwell Senior Club

I sometimes find it difficult to get my head around what I should be reporting on each month. So, although it is June right now, you will be reading this in July. I report on May's meeting as we are preparing for our June meeting. Any wonder I get confused!?!?

So, in May we had a CAFE - DIY session. We played Scattergories in teams of 4. Only 1 person had played it before and it was like teaching a kindergarten class, but we got there in the end! Aussie 2UP followed, well that was easy – an individual game of Heads and Tails. We had fun and then enjoyed our cuppa and chat, as we do. June is our end of year Summer Tea Party and we will be entertained by Ian Selby with a trip down Memory Lane. Then we have our summer break for July and August.

Our BSC new year begins on Friday 18 September (3rd Friday) when we have a talk by Sandy Bateman about the Bronte family history.

We meet at Backwell West Town Methodist Church (A370) and invite local seniors, Ladies and Gents to join us. Doors open at 2.00pm for 2.30pm start. Local transport may be arranged with Lesley by preceding Weds 16th Sept Tel 07816966728. Further information from Sue 01275 461231

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**16<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
20<sup>TH</sup> JUN  
18<sup>TH</sup> JULY**      **9.30 - 11am**

A chance to play with your youngsters [with toys kindly lent to us by the Baby and Toddler Group] and let them meet with other youngsters and their dads

Bacon butties, teas and coffee, squash and biscuits available

Every third Saturday of the month, Backwell Who Let the Dads Out meet in the Parish Hall at the centre of the village 9 - 11.30am

'Who let the Dads Out' is part of a registered charity 'Care for the Family' a Christian initiative to strengthen family life.

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## Backwell Climate Action

I hope that readers enjoyed the 3rd Walking Carnival on the Playing Fields.

Thanks to all who helped organise, had stalls and ran activities. Also those who gave generous support to make this community event possible, not least the Playing Fields Committee.

There are many other actions to bring to your attention:

- Backwell vets now accept blister packs.
- Nailsea Sheddars have moved to Mizzymeard Sports Centre for your repairs (and better parking).
- The Parish Council funded equipment to make the monthly litter picking easier.
- Friends of the Earth has published an interesting read on how to improve the North Somerset Environment for all.
- Many of the recently installed bus stops have green roofs.
- The Felton Common Appeal has a recording of an old song which is pertinent to the application by the Airport to install landing lights on the Common. Find [‘The Goose and the Common’](#) on YouTube.

The meeting is at 1.45pm for 2pm prompt start at the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. BS48 3QW.

The Club meets every 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month in the WI Hall and Visitors or prospective new members are always welcome. Just come along at 1.45pm.

For further information please contact Robin Langford on 01275 855822 or [rclangford64@gmail.com](mailto:rclangford64@gmail.com)

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## 25th July Litterpicking of Backwell's Hedges and Verges

Last Saturday of each month (except August). Meet outside The Spar on Rodney Road at 2.30pm. We have litterpickers to lend out but please bring your own garden gloves and high viz, if possible.



Dates: Saturday 25th July, Saturday 26th September

Email [sustainablebackwell@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablebackwell@gmail.com) for more info.

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## Backwell's Second Saturday Fair Trade Café

July 11th Backwell Parish Hall 10 am to 12 noon

You are invited to Backwell's July Fair Trade Community Café to enjoy the excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea and some delicious home baked pastries and biscuits.



As usual the Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service offering a range which 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 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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## Backwell Garden Club

The July meeting of the garden club has Howard Burnett giving a talk on 'Growing Orchids'. Howard has asked members if they have an Orchid that is looking a 'bit sick' or is in need of some attention please bring it along to the meeting.

**NAILSEA & BACKWELL  
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65 High Street, Nailsea, BS48 1AW

For more information email: [disabledaccessgroup@gmail.com](mailto:disabledaccessgroup@gmail.com)

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## St Andrews Mothers' Union

In May our members met together to share, read and discuss their favourite poems. It was a very hot afternoon and this was a relaxing way to spend the time. We heard poems written by Roald Dahl, Rudyard Kipling, Walter de la Mare, Robert Browning and John Betjeman to name but a few. Our meeting on the 28th July will be our annual Cream Tea. This will start at 2.30, a little later than usual. The cost will be £4.50. There will be a raffle. All are welcome.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month in Church House at 2.15 unless otherwise stated. Visitors are always welcome.

Marie Bale



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

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th July in Backwell W.I. Hall at 1.30 p.m. The speaker will be of very great interest to those with impaired sight: "Out and About", with Judy Pride, retired Regional Manager for the Macular Society. The importance of getting out-of-doors cannot be over-emphasised. It is so easy for the poorly sighted to lose confidence - come and be encouraged to widen your horizons! Everyone is welcome; no commitment. Further info. from Sheila, 01275 462107.

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

Inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 1st July 2026 at the WI Hall in Backwell from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm  
Speaker: Ms Grete Howard (Backwell Camera Club)  
Subject: Discovering Saudi Arabia  
Come and join us for support, friendship, 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 are always welcome, any age or gender. Look forward to seeing you. Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris and Mel - Volunteers

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### **Nailsea District Leg Club**

Very many thanks to all who donated, bought and volunteered at the recent handbag sale, which raised a fantastic £400 for funds, despite it being a chilly morning and fewer shoppers around.

Now that summer is here, (the hottest day of the year as this is written), get out and use those legs as often as possible, even if it's only a walk round the garden, this keeps the circulation going, helps to prevent and reduce leg problems, plus a whole host of other benefits too.

Leg Club is held every Wednesday 9.00 -11.30 a.m., at Nailsea Tithe Barn, for anyone registered with Tyntesfield Medical Group, where expert advice on lower leg issues is provided by Lead Nurse Rachel Tanner and her team.

New members are always welcome, as are new volunteers, Wednesday mornings at the Tithe Barn, are very happy, busy and satisfying, for more information call Carole Brooke: 07954 302498.

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### **The NW Somerset Local Support Group (Parkinson's UK)**

The NW Somerset Local Support Group (Parkinson's UK) welcomes all those with Parkinson's as well as family members and carers. Do join us at one of our meetings, held on the second Saturday of each month, for an informal coffee morning at St Francis' Church Hall, Nailsea, BS48 2LP, from 10.30am to 12.15pm. The July meeting will be held on the 11th, with a talk by Nick King about Goats of the Gorge (with a twist!).

Singing helps voice loss 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 get to know our fellow singers.

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### **Patient Participation Group**

The PPG is supporting the Nailsea Wellbeing Officer's event at the Tithe Barn in Nailsea on 2nd of July. The free event is for people over 50 from Nailsea, Backwell and Long Ashton and is offering free refreshments. Choose either the morning or afternoon slot: Line Dancing 10:30am to 1pm (Afternoon Tea 12pm-1pm) Barn Dancing 1pm to 3:30pm (Afternoon Tea 1pm-2pm) Booking required on a first come basis: 07939 957995 or wellbeing@nailseatowncouncil.gov.uk.

Tyntesfield Medical Group and the Patient Participation Group will have a stall at the Farmer's Market on 18th July, repeating the success of the stall last year. A GP and a nurse will be there offering free blood pressure checks and we will have information available for cardiac conditions, prostate and breast cancer. Do come and say hello to us on the 18th on the High Street. Information about your PPG is on the Tyntesfield web site: <https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1>



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### **Monday Tea Group**

The next meeting will be on Monday 6th July and on Monday 3rd August 2pm-ish as usual and in the usual place for those who are not away on holiday. Looking forward to seeing everyone, Elizabeth and Pauline.

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**St Andrew's Art Group** would like to thank all the artists who entered paintings into our recent Open Exhibition at Backwell Parish Hall in May. It was a fantastic display with a wide variety of styles and subject matter from an extremely talented group of North Somerset artists. Thanks also go to all the visitors who braved the extreme heat to come along over the bank holiday weekend. Everyone's support has ensured that we will be able to donate at least £1500 to St Peter's Hospice to help them continue their fantastic work.

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## Backwell Playhouse

Backwell Playhouse Theatre Company has started work on our Autumn Show. It's the Playhouse's 75th Anniversary this year, and we are looking to celebrate our wonderful venue, the people involved and the shows we've done. More information soon.

In the meantime, we have one more NT Live show before the summer break where we will be working hard on the next phase of the foyer refurbishment started last year. We are also taking part in various village events over the summer, so please say hello at our stall.

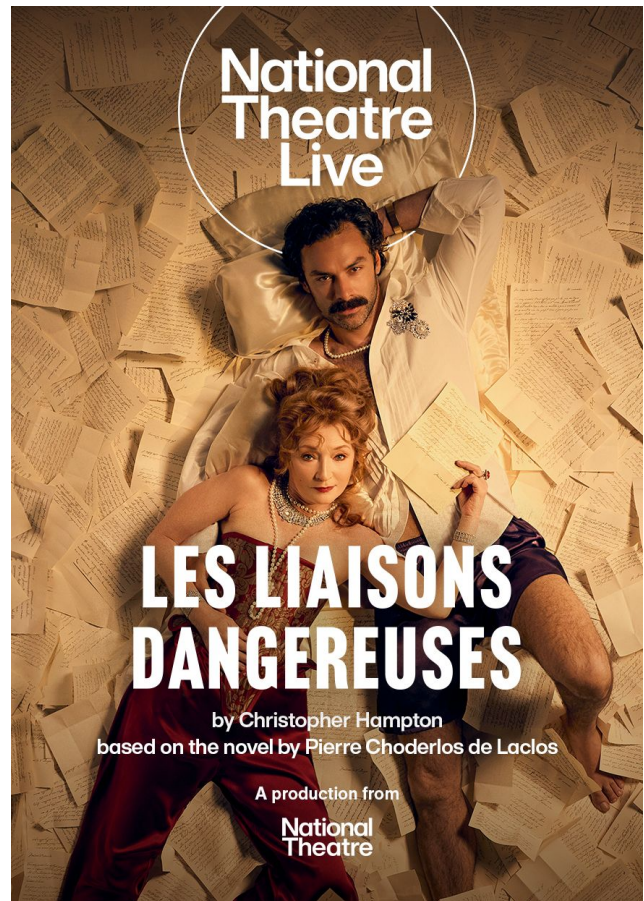
### FRIDAY 10th JULY 7.30pm - NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

Lesley Manville and Aidan Turner star in a striking new staging of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the classic novel, where among the glittering salons of the super-rich, one misstep can mean ruin

NT Live brings the best of British theatre to your cinema screen. Each production gives you the best seats in the house by filming theatre in front of a live audience to make you feel like you are there!

Tickets £15 (£13 Members) available from [www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk](http://www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk)

Tickets are also on sale for our new season of National Theatre Live, starting with *The Misanthrope*, starring Sandra Oh on Friday 25th September.



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## The Meeting Point in July

### Summer Activities 2026

We are looking forward to our school summer holiday kids activities. 10am - 12pm on Tuesdays. As usual the events and refreshments will be free but there will be an opportunity for you to donate towards costs. All children to be accompanied by a parent/carer. 30 places per morning. Booking through Eventbrite from 1st July (QR code with this article). If you book but are unable to come please cancel to release your place. This will avoid disappointing families when there would have been space. Please call or send a message to 07851 438530

The sessions are : July 28th. Craft with Sarah  
August 10th Noah's Ark.  
August 25th Circus Skills  
August 4th Drums with Josh  
August 18th Cook with Tamsin  
September 1st Collage with Sue

Of course there will as usual be a warm welcome and refreshments for all from 10-12 during the school holiday. There are comfortable sofas in the committee room if the hall is too noisy for you. Come for coffee, cake and chat. Swap a book?

### July calendar

Tuesday 7th	Yoga 11.00-12.00. Informal communion Soup lunch. Close 4.30	Refreshments from 10.30 £2 12.15 - 12.45 £7
Tuesday 14th	Yoga with Nina. £5 11-12. Close 4.30	Refreshments from 10.30. £2
Tuesday 21st.	Yoga with Nina. £5. Scotty's 2 course lunch Close 3.00	Refreshments from 10.30. £2 £9
Tuesday 28th	Children's activities. 10.00-12.00. Close. 12.00.	Open for refreshments for all.



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## Wednesday 15th July - Lisa Orton - A View from the Pit!

Join our friendly group of women for their July meet-up at **Backwell WI Hall**. Doors open at 7:30pm. New faces are warmly welcomed; the first taster session is free! This month, we will be joined by Lisa Orton - professional violinist at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Lisa will be sharing anecdotes about her 30-year career playing the violin in the Royal Opera House Orchestra; she will also perform some short excerpts from her Opera and Ballet repertoire. For more information, email [BackwellWI@gmail.com](mailto:BackwellWI@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook or [www.backwellwi.org.uk](http://www.backwellwi.org.uk)



religious reforms in the 1700's. He went on to bestow the same credit on many European monarchs as an intellectual and cultural movement in the 17th- and 18th-century. It championed reason and the scientific method over religious dogma. It was finished by the Industrial Revolution, with Justin highlighting James Watt, the inventor of the Steam Engine and thus the railways.

The second meeting was a fascinating talk by Dr Carolyn Morton from the University of West of England on "DNA for Solving Crime and Finding Ancestors" with considerable detail. She started by explaining the various routes to identifying criminals, DNA, finger-prints and foot-prints associated with forensics. She gave details of the recent cases, including cold case reviews. Carolyn then turned to Genealogy using DNA to create family trees. It was a complex story but Carolyn told it brilliantly.

For our next meetings in July, we can look forward to talks on "UN Peacekeeping not Fit for Service" and "Pyronaut; The Queen's Diamond Jubilee". We meet 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

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## Backwell Probus Club Report (June 2026)

Since our last report, we have had two meetings, the first was a talk on "Whatever Happened to the Great Enlightenment" by Justin Newlands. He said the Great Enlightenment was started by Frederick the Great of Prussia, who was a superb ruler introducing education to the masses. He modernised the Prussian state through administrative, judicial, and

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## BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Baptist Church Services

Baptist Church Services

5th July (Family Sunday)

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Sarah Crossley

Theme & Passage: TBC

12th July (Communion)

Preacher: Steve Loader

Service Leader: Anne Nicklen

Theme: Mission Morning

19th July (Together Service with NBC at Kingshill School)

Preacher: Esther & Henry Court

Service Leader: Tim Crossley & Peter Burns

Theme: Mission Morning

26th July

Preacher: Ruth Ham

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Theme: Northern Kings Defeated

Passage: Joshua 11



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**LITTLE FEET**  
**BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

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**9:30 - 11:30am**  
at  
**BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## WEST TOWN METHODIST CHURCH

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### West Town Methodist Church

Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

July	5th	Rev David Sharpe	Communion
	12th	Rev Preben Andersen	
	19th	Rev Sally Ratcliffe	
	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 project etc., or simply enjoy the conversation! Any info, please contact Ann Pullan Email: [ann.pullan@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.pullan@btinternet.com) or Shirley Edwards: [tsmce12@gmail.com](mailto:tsmce12@gmail.com)

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

Knitting Group – Tuesday evenings, in schoolroom.

Art Group – Wednesday mornings in schoolroom

Wednesday Fellowship Group

Dates and venue tba

Thursday Fellowship Group

2nd July at Jan Lydon's 10.30 for 11.00

16th July 11.30 am at Rooted

Hire of building

West Town Methodist Church is in the centre of the village and provides ample comfortable space for small gatherings, meetings, children's parties etc. For details please contact Julie on Email: [ratcliffedj@btinternet.com](mailto:ratcliffedj@btinternet.com)

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

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### Services in July

#### St Andrew's Church

Sunday 5th 11.00am baptism 5.00pm	5th Sunday after Trinity Informal Communion with Evensong
Sunday 12th 11.00am 5.00pm	6th Sunday after Trinity Sung Eucharist Said Evening Prayer
Sunday 19th 9.30am 11.00am	7th Sunday after Trinity Café Church Sung Eucharist
Sunday 26th 11.00am	8th Sunday after Trinity Combined Eucharist

#### St Bridget's Church

Sunday 5th 9.15am	5th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion
Sunday 12th 9.15am	6th Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th 9.15am	7th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion
Sunday 26th 9.15am	8th Sunday after Trinity Morning Worship

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#### St Bridget's Church

Summer at St. Bridget's brings the next of our monthly Coffee Mornings on Saturday 4th July, 10am to 12 noon at the church. Do come along for coffee, cake and a chance to wander around our beautiful 12th century Church, which has stood at the heart of Chelvey for almost nine hundred years.

By the time this magazine reaches you, our Summer Cream Tea on 27th June at the home of Howard and Barbara Walton will, we hope, have been a warm and well-attended afternoon. Our sincere thanks to Howard and Barbara, and to everyone who supported it.

Sunday services continue every week at 9.15am — a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us.

Looking further ahead, do save the dates for our Antiques Evening on Thursday 10th September and our Christmas Fayre on 5th and 6th December.

For information about all our services and events, please visit our website [www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk](http://www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk).



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#### St Francis

After a busy June, with the children celebrating their First Holy Communion and our young people receiving the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, July is a quieter month.

Our children are looking forward to their summer holidays from School just before the following events. Towards the end of July we have some exciting occasions in Backwell and St Francis.

On Sunday 19th July all the Churches in Backwell are coming together on the Playing fields by the tennis club for a Picnic and Praise celebration. Everyone is welcome at 3:00pm.

The following Sunday at the 11:00am Mass we will be celebrating Deacon Ivan's Silver Jubilee. This is a great occasion followed by a bring and share lunch in the Church Hall.

Please see the website [www.josephfrancis.org](http://www.josephfrancis.org) for Mass times and Livestreaming.

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## Christians Together In & around Backwell

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**Open the Book** – Wednesday, 1st and 15th July at West Leigh Infants School  
Thursday 9th July, at Backwell Junior School

**Prayer Watch** – Monday 6th July, at Backwell Baptist Church 7.15 for 7.30pm

**Christian Aid** – thanks to all who supported this great cause, donating online or filling in envelopes. Thank you Parker's for being the Collection Point.  
The amount raised in the envelopes was £412.60, with an extra £77.50 from gift aid. So, our total was £490.10.

### St. Andrew's

Rector: Rev'd Sam Norton revsamnorton@gmail.com Tel 07771349319 (Day off: Friday)

Benefice Office: admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk Tel 01275 463469 (Open Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30-12.30)

Church Wardens: Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075  
leakefamily1@hotmail.com / Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158

Bell Ringers: Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416

Director of Music: Edward Stancombe  
BackwellMusic@outlook.com

PCC Secretary: Vacant- contact via Church Wardens

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: Lindsey Busby Tel 01275 852348

Children's Worker: Timi Booy currently on maternity leave

### Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

<https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.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

### Roman Catholic Church of St Francis

Parish Priest  
Father Frank Wainwright  
Tel 01275 851530  
[www.josephfrancis.org](http://www.josephfrancis.org)

### West Town Methodist Church

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

- Minister
  - Revd Sally Ratcliffe- 01275 852473
- Church Stewards
  - Val Sowerby
  - Heather Bentley
  - Shirley Edwards
  - Brian Kemmish
  - Sarah Ould
  - Julie Ratcliffe
  - May Vivian
- Treasurer: Nigel Hardman - 01275 851581

### Backwell Baptist Church

Chapel Hill, BS48 3PW

Minister Rev'd. Tim Crossley

Children / Toddler Activities (& DSL) - Sarah Crossley

Website: [www.backwellbaptist.co.uk/contact](http://www.backwellbaptist.co.uk/contact)

Email: [backwellbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:backwellbaptist@gmail.com)

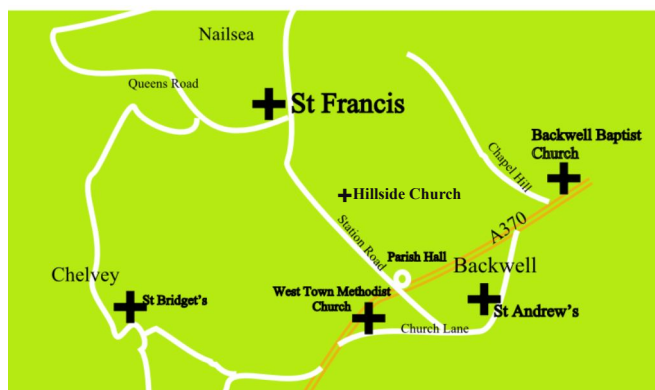
Phone: 07521 787115

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/backwellbaptistchurch/](http://www.facebook.com/backwellbaptistchurch/)

### Hillside Church, part of Woodlands Church Family

Meeting every Sunday 11am  
Backwell School Sixth Form Centre  
Church Leader: Zoe Germain

For more details email: [hillside@woodlandschurch.net](mailto:hillside@woodlandschurch.net)



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