



# The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

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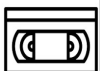
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# The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

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## What is your story? What is Backwell's?

The stories that we tell ourselves are the foundations of our lives – we are each the central character in the drama. I mean this in a very literal sense, not as some poetic metaphor. We each have a sense of who we are, what we are like, what sort of choices someone like us would make in different situations – and these stories shape the path that we follow from birth to death, through all the various happenings that make up the stories of our lives.

Those stories that we tell ourselves – and the story that we tell about ourselves – can be good or bad. We can see ourselves as heroic and courageous, committed to do the right thing when times get tough. Or we might see ourselves as broken and bewildered, full of fault, not worth being here at all – and those stories tend to have tragic outcomes. Or we might see our worth through the possessions we accumulate, 'he who dies with the most stuff wins'; or we might see our worth through our social relationships, 'see how important I am'; or through a sense of fame, sometimes infamy, 'everyone has heard of me!'

This applies to nations too, and we have entered into a time when national stories are being broken. The story of the United States, for example, celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding this year, is one of being a 'shining light upon a hill' bringing good to the world. That story is dying in the Persian gulf as the world wakes up to just how devastating the choices of the carrot-coloured catastrophe are proving to be. Here in Britain we are discovering what decades of teaching how bad the British have been in our history does to our national cohesion, leading us over the brink of sectarian conflict, perhaps even into a form of civil war (see the academic David Betz for more on this).

Can we find a better story? Most especially, can we find a better story for Backwell, for ourselves and for our friends and neighbours, as we seek to navigate our way over the coming years through times of economic and ecological dislocation? I think that we can – but we will need to reacquaint ourselves with the greatest story ever told, the one true 'big' story within which all of our little stories find their own integrity, meaning and fulfilment.

Let me put it like this. There once was a man who told a story about two people building houses. The first built their house upon sand, and when the winds rose and the storm came, great was the falling of that house. Yet the second built their house upon the rock, and when the winds rose and the storm came, that house stood firm.

Let's, together, build Backwell upon a solid foundation, one that can last. That begins with telling a story together about how we get through these crises. Let's tell a story for Backwell that has a happy ending – for our children and our children's children.

Sam Norton  
St. Andrews

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*Cover photograph from Ann Belcher of pressed flower artworks from Tanya.*

*With a career rooted in the creative industry and fresh florals, Tanya of Barley and Mabel began traditionally pressing flowers in 2024 to capture the fleeting beauty of nature in long-lasting artwork.*

*In January 2026, she moved into her dream creative space within the supportive, artisan community at Middlecombe Nursery in Congresbury. Her studio is now filled with botanical beauty, offering original pressed flower artworks, fine art giclée prints, greeting cards, and bespoke wedding flower preservation*

*commissions. Passionate about sharing her craft with the North Somerset community, Tanya also hosts hands-on pressed flower workshops for anyone eager to get creative.*

*You can visit her studio at Middlecombe Nursery, explore her work on Instagram (@barleyandmabel), or get in touch via [tanya@barleyandmabel.co.uk](mailto:tanya@barleyandmabel.co.uk) (07766 775959).*

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## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

### Parish Council Report – May Meeting

Councillors were sorry to hear of the resignation of Paul Ramos and thanked him for his contribution to the Council.

**Planning** Two members of the public spoke regarding ongoing issues at Long Lane on the Former BT Research Centre site. Cllr Harland also referred to correspondence received from a resident. Cllr Harland confirmed that Backwell Parish Council (BPC) is aware of the issues and has visited the site. North Somerset Council (NSC) Enforcement has been involved. She further noted that both BPC and NSC had objected to the proposed fifth dwelling, which is currently subject to appeal.

Head of Planning, Cllr Harland, updated Councillors on a number of further matters:

An NSC Ecologist had visited Farleigh Fields East following the removal of a hedge by Persimmon Homes (PH). Persimmon have consent to enhance the hedge, but works were undertaken outside the optimum planting season; the matter is being monitored by NSC. NSC have not yet approved the Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for the site at Farleigh Fields West (Dark Lane).

Issues with the pavements have been raised related to the Rodney Road site, Taylor Wimpey is following these matters up with its contractors.

Coles Quarry. Following road safety concerns, the developers had agreed to produce a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). However, further refinement is required. BPC's suggested amendments be sent to the developer.

Land east of Backwell. Cllr Harland proposed that should an application come forward Rubix and Mac Mic be invited to give presentations at the Parish Hall, hosted by BPC, with members of the public invited to attend and ask questions.

Local Green Space. BPC continues to work hard to explore options to secure the land for the benefit of the village without placing a financial burden on residents. Councillors unanimously agreed that professional experts regarding local development should be employed to ensure the best outcomes for residents. Cllr Petty was thanked for following up BPC's letter regarding the objecting to the proposed closure of Chelvey Road when the Grove Farm site is developed.

**Footpaths and Highways.** Councillors were told that NSC were aware of the difficulties with the wooden kissing gate installed by Taylor Wimpey at the path crossing to West Leigh Infants' School.

'Smiley' speed signs. Cllr Harland reported that potential locations for the speed signs are being identified to assist with obtaining a more accurate quotation and assessing installation requirements. Pavement Audit. Cllr Gordon provided an update on progress with the pavement audit. All the concerns identified as part of the audit will be submitted to NSC. Vegetation Clearance. Councillors agreed to contribute towards the cost of vegetation clearance along the A370 footpath from Backwell Farleigh to Flax Bourton, with a budget provision of up to £1,000 approved for this purpose.

Councillors approved expenditure of £21.93 for litter picking aids for village volunteers.

**Downside and Bristol Airport.** Cllr Harland updated Councillors on the ongoing issues with Bristol Airport, and thanked Cllr Petty for her support.

Cllr Martin raised concerns reported by Downside residents regarding speeding, missing signage, and highway safety. Councillors noted that there had sadly been a recent fatal collision at Brockley Coombe on the approach to the airport.

Cllr Harland said that a team of Councillors are working through the lengthy Bristol Airport planning application and will circulate a draft response when ready.

*The date of the next meeting is Thursday 4th June 2026 to be held in FELTON VILLAGE HALL at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.*



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The Dig For Victory Show will be returning to The North Somerset Showground on **13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

As in previous years, the weekend programme will include some loud bangs at intervals during Saturday and Sunday but we have taken in to account feedback from local residents and **there will not be any gunfire during the Saturday evening programme this year.**

As you may be aware, the show is not for profit to raise funds for our chosen charities. We will continue to do everything possible to minimise inconvenience to the local residents and we appreciate your continued support for our event.

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## BACKWELL SCOUTS

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### Monday Cubs

With the weather becoming warmer and drier and the evenings stretching out, we have been spending as much time as possible outside on pack nights.

We've had a game night where each six chose a game to teach for the benefit of the younger Cubs then to lead. Everyone made a French arrow and engaged in some target throwing. Planning is underway for an evening at Weston Super Mare beach.

Helen

### Tuesday Scouts

This month Tuesday Scouts kicked off with a celebration of Leader Jim Cliffe's latest birthday with a 'Jim' themed evening including such delectable activities as 'Jim's Gym' for all things fitness (a lot of jumping seemed to be involved), a 'Who am I' game based on famous Jims and a write a limerick competition with Jim as the 'young man from'. After such an exciting evening the next week we all calmed down a little to enjoy a countryside walk around Priors Wood where the bluebells were still in full bloom and well worth the visit.

Then back to two weeks of hard work as the Scouts alternated between rowing at Bristol Docks, something new for everyone, whilst the remainder prepared the tents and equipment needed for our Spring Camp at Caehopkin in the Swansea Valley. Hopefully they will have done a good job and we will have a successful, stress free camp! All the gory details from the camp will be available next month.

Ian

### Explorers

There's always a lot going on in the spring term with many of the Explorers sitting either their GCSE, A Level or mock exams so the focus is always to provide activities that let the unit destress.

There's also the added test of the annual Ten Tors with many of the unit taking part in the 35, 45 and 55 mile challenges on Dartmoor.

The spring term started with the popular barrel challenge. Splitting into teams of about five, they had to carry one of the large blue barrels around Backwell. Using poles and rope, once each team got a dedicated location, they had to complete a specific challenge which tested teamwork and problem solving.

The following week the activity was billed as 'Back from the Future'. Working in small teams one member was transported to a dystopian future. Reporting back to their team they had to prepare a plan on how they would prevent the world from slipping into ruin and present their ideas to the rest of the unit with some particularly creative solutions.

### Ten Tors

On the 8th, 9th and 10th May 16 of our Scouts and Explorers took part in the 2026 Ten Tors Challenge. We are very pleased and proud to announce that all of them successfully completed their respective challenges.

Well done to the following:

- 35-miles: Reuben, Zachary, Fred, Jamie, Quentin, Felix, Darragh and Farley
- 45-miles: Jack, Miles, Grace & Sam
- 55-miles: George, Noah, Barnaby & Angus

If anyone would be interested in helping or getting involved, please get in touch [ian@backwellscouts.org.uk](mailto:ian@backwellscouts.org.uk)

Laurence

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### Ten Tors Challenge (Year 9)

I wanted to share a quick update about an amazing achievement this weekend from a number of Year 9s from Backwell school who were representing Backwell scouts in the Ten Tors challenge on Dartmoor.

The group tackled an impressive 35-mile route, navigating independently across Dartmoor and camping overnight without outside assistance. This has been the culmination of training throughout the winter where they have left at the crack of dawn for long hikes and overnight camping to build their experience and endurance.

It was a true test of teamwork, resilience, courage and navigation skills, and they rose to the occasion brilliantly. The experience was not only physically and mentally demanding but also brought the team closer together as they faced Dartmoor's unique terrain and weather after setting off at the crack of dawn on Saturday and returning back Sunday afternoon. They were one of the youngest groups doing the challenge. We are incredibly proud of their determination and the spirit they showed throughout this journey. We feel they are a great representation of our community and would love it if there could be some acknowledgement of their achievement.

The children doing the 35 mile challenge were from Year 9.

Team Barracudas

- Felix Lecoche
- Jimmy Dent
- Fred Davis
- Darragh Peoples
- Reuben Barfield
- Zachary Bees

Team North Somerset explorers - included from Backwell school

- Farley Richards
- Quentin Driscoll

Justine Stafford (mother of a Felix)



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## SCHOOL NEWS

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### **Life at Backwell School: A Community of Kindness, Curiosity and Ambition**

The spring and early summer terms are often some of the busiest and most vibrant times in a school year, and recent weeks at Backwell School have been no exception. As the days lengthen and activities move outdoors, there has been a real sense of energy across the school community, with students embracing opportunities both in and beyond the classroom. Underpinning everything we do are our core values of being Kind, Curious and Ambitious, which continue to shine through in daily school life.

One of the most significant milestones this term has been the start of public examinations for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. These exams represent the culmination of many months – and in some cases years – of sustained effort, perseverance and commitment. We are immensely proud of how calmly and maturely our students have approached this period. While exams are important, we are keen to remind students that they do not define them. What matters most is doing their best, looking after their wellbeing and asking for support when needed. We wish all our Year 11 and 13 students, as well as students in the Parish from other schools, the very best of luck as they continue through the exam season.

A key factor supporting success in learning is attendance, and we are delighted to share that Backwell School has recently been placed in the top 25% of schools nationally for attendance during Terms 3 and 4. This is a significant achievement and reflects the strong partnership between school and families.

Beyond the classroom, students have continued to challenge themselves and celebrate success across a wide range of activities. Our commitment to curiosity has been particularly evident in the Modern Foreign Languages department. Recently, students took part in the Regional Languages Spelling Bee Final held at Kingswood School in Bath, competing against schools from across the region. The competition was tough, with a tense tie-break, but our students performed exceptionally well and have now qualified for the national final, which will be held at the University of Cambridge. This achievement reflects not only linguistic skill but also confidence, focus and curiosity about language.

Sport continues to play a vital role in school life, fostering teamwork, resilience and ambition. Over the Bank Holiday weekend, our Year 7 students were part of the U12 Nailsea and Backwell Rugby team at the Revel Somerset Tournament, finishing unbeaten and bringing home two trophies. Just as impressive as the results was the sportsmanship shown throughout, with players supporting teammates and showing respect to opponents.

Outdoor education and enrichment continue to flourish. Our Year 9 students recently took part in their Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition in the Mendip Hills, demonstrating resilience, kindness and cooperation as they navigated routes, managed equipment and supported one another. Meanwhile, over the Easter break, Sixth Form students travelled to the Italian Dolomites for the annual ski trip, where many tackled the slopes for the first time. These experiences help students grow in confidence and independence while building lasting friendships.

There have also been notable individual achievements, including success in golf at county and national level, strong performances in indoor cricket, and students representing Avon at regional and national athletics finals. In the arts, our younger students recently performed at the Weston Dance Festival, with routines choreographed by older students – a wonderful example of leadership, creativity and kindness across year groups.

As a school rooted in its community, we are grateful for the continued support of families and local partners. By working together, we nurture young people who are kind in how they treat others, curious about the world around them, and ambitious for their futures. It is a privilege to see these values lived out every day at Backwell School.

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



Will Penny, Headteacher

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## Bridget Petty for Backwell

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in North Somerset. The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. It includes a suggestion to increase the total number of councillors to 51 due to population growth since last review and 'Our draft recommendations are for a two-councillor Backwell & Wrington ward'

We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting that the existing Backwell ward has too many electors to secure good electoral equality. We therefore examined options to address this. On balance, we consider that the strongest warding pattern is achieved by linking Backwell with the existing Wrington ward. Wrington Ward includes Brockley and Cleeve which share many facilities with Backwell.

A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 6 July 2026. The website is [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) where there is information on how to respond.

A number of people contacted me with concern about the cutting back of trees at Backwell Leisure Centre. I contacted North Somerset Council to find out more. They have reassured me re-pollarding of willows and removing the birch tree following a recent survey and tree assessment. The council must review risks to people, and there were branches hanging over the car park. The birch tree unfortunately had structural weakness. Diseased branches were removed. The willows are expected to respond positively and will start to regrow in the coming weeks. "We manage around 1200 street trees in the same way, pruning in the region of 300 trees each winter." I have already noticed regrowth.

At the April Full Council meeting, councillors voted on an important document to strengthen the formal protection of the Bat population in North Somerset, North Somerset has all the species that can be found in the UK, with the exception of only one. This makes us a very special species landscape and worth protecting.

Councillor Bridget Petty  
Green Party Councillor for Backwell, North Somerset Council  
Bridget.petty@n-somerset.gov.uk : 07881 320 224 (Primarily available Tuesday and Thursday)



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

### West Leigh Infant School

WL Class News – Hedgehogs and All of KS1 This term Hedgehog Class has enjoyed being scientists exploring the school grounds for signs of spring and spotting garden and wild flowers.

After learning all about the Great Fire of London in our history lessons, Hedgehogs, Owls and Rabbits created this fantastic scene showing the fire. We practised colour mixing paints to create fire colours, explored using tissue paper to make textured flames and used collage to create the houses.



### Backwell C Of E Junior School

The school office has yet again been receiving a large number of neighbourhood complaints regarding parking at school and in the surrounding roads. There has been an increase in the number of parents dropping their children off by car directly opposite Backwell Juniors.

We'd like to remind everyone that it is not permitted to stop on the painted zig zag lines outside school, but it is also unsafe to park on the road due to the narrowness of the lanes.

Several children have mentioned that they feel unsafe walking to and from school due to the speed and number of cars on this road and so we politely ask for you to refrain from dropping off in these areas and park on Dark Lane and walk the short distance to school to drop off/pick up. This additional 5 minutes is a small ask given these safety concerns.

Large vehicles have been unable to pass on Church Lane and the congestion level at school times is excessive.

As well as being very concerned about reports of people being rude to other road users and our neighbours we are very concerned that if larger vehicles are unable to pass then emergency vehicles will also be unable to reach a destination in an emergency situation which in turn could have devastating results to the community.

We ask you all to consider your parking – leave a little earlier for a space near school or park a little further away in a safe manner. Community Police have been informed and we have requested assistance in managing this going forward.

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

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## Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th June in Backwell W.I. Hall at 1.30 p.m. We will have an "in house" discussion, focussing on members' worries, problems and queries, sharing each others' experience to find possible solutions, or to guide research later. This would be a good time for anyone to come and see if the Group can allay any fears of macular degeneration and its treatment. A very warm welcome awaits you!

Further information from Sheila, 01275 462107.

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## Nailsea District Leg Club

Nailsea & Backwell Rotary Club sponsored walk is on 7 June and several volunteers will be walking and enjoying a picnic. This is a great fund raiser for Leg Club, so sponsorship (and a fine day!) would be welcome please. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/nailsea-leg-club>.

Leg Club occasionally has a tombola of 'edible' items on Wednesday mornings and over £168 was raised just before Easter, when the table was decked with Easter chocolate, eggs, rabbits, cakes and biscuits etc. Grateful thanks to all who donated and bought tickets. At a recent volunteer get-together, an interesting talk was given by Sirona Specialist Falls Service about falls prevention and reducing the risk. The ageing process can't be stopped (if only), but the effects can be reduced by regular exercise, walking, gardening, cycling, and even housework! These all help to keep muscles strong. Being outdoors in the sun from which Vitamin D is gained, is important. Watch out for those rugs and cables, no clutter, they can be trip hazards; walk at a steady pace, take your time, no rushing; good lighting. It was an extremely enlightening afternoon, followed by cake of course!

For more information call Carole Brooke: 07954 302498.

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## Parkinson's Local Support Group

The Parkinson's UK NW Somerset Local Support Group 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 June meeting will be held on the 13th, with a representative of "Driving Miss Daisy" telling us about help with transport. 07800 815262

Help wanted with our Singalong group!

Are there any keen singers (not necessarily with Parkinson's) who would like to come along and boost our therapeutic singing group?

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. 01275 394124

## Patient Participation Group

Despite members from TMG and NTC being unable to attend, we had plenty of discussion at the April meeting. Blood Pressure tests by TMG staff will be available at our stall at July's Nailsea Farmers' Market. Monitoring BP is important; a selection of reliable blood pressure machines can be found at the British Heart Foundation: <https://shop.bhf.org.uk/health-fitness/health-monitoring/blood-pressure-monitors>

Sometimes patients feel that they are not making best use of the online facilities such as the NHS App and the Tyntesfield website. We agreed to draft a guide. If you have found difficulties or frustrations, please let us know: [TMGPPG@gmail.com](mailto:TMGPPG@gmail.com)

The 2026 Over 50s Barn and Line Dancing at Nailsea's Tithe Barn will now be on 2nd July, with free refreshments. Contact the Wellbeing Officer for more information or to reserve a space.

[wellbeing@nailseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeing@nailseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

RSVP, a befriending service, is starting a new group in the Tyntesfield area. Training will be given along with the DBS check. If you are over 50 and interested in volunteering to befriend a local person, please get in touch before 30th May with [bnssg.tmgwellbeing@nhs.net](mailto:bnssg.tmgwellbeing@nhs.net)

New PPG members are welcome; for information about the PPG and an application form, see: <https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1>

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## Backwell and Nailsea Support Group for Carers

ANNUAL FREE CREAM TEA AND PLANT SALE - CELEBRATING NATIONAL CARERS WEEK

Inviting EVERYONE to join us on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at the WI Hall, Backwell from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm for our Annual FREE Cream Tea and Plant Sale. The afternoon will include delicious refreshments, a raffle, quiz, homemade cakes and biscuits for sale, as well as books and puzzles. Please join us for this delightful event, bring along friends, relatives and neighbours, a warm welcome awaits everyone. Music will be provided by Mrs Routley. All proceeds from this event will go towards the running of our local group. Look forward to seeing you. Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris and Mel (Volunteers)

Time to catch up with friends!



Everyone is invited to ....

A Mid-Summer  
'Cuppa and Cream Tea'

on  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June  
2.30 - 4.30pm

at  
West Town Methodist Church

(No charge but donations welcome. Money will go to Backwell Playing Fields Fund)

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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 Garden Club

The Garden Club will not be meeting on June 17th as we will be on our annual trip which this year is to South Wales.

In July the Club will meet as usual on the 15th July at 1.45pm for 2pm prompt start in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. BS48 3QW when we have Howard Burnett talking on 'Growing Orchids'.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors and potential new members just come along.

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

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## Backwell Climate Action

The Make, Do and Mend event was a great success. The variety of activities from Bug Box building, bike and clothing repairs to making your own cleaning materials all generated keen

interest. Shedders and the Climate Emergency Group from Nailsea also attended as we all

have similar objectives. Thank you to the Scouts, their grounds proved an ideal location with indoor and outdoor space, and all those who took part. I was pleased to meet the new editor too!

By now you will have enjoyed the rest that No Mow May allowed. This helps increase our insect population which has declined over the last 20 years. Think back to days with bugs on the car windscreen.

We will be back at the Fair Trade Cafe in June. In time to remind you of the Walking Carnival at the end of the month.



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## 27th June Litterpicking of Backwell's Hedges and Verges

Last Saturday of each month. 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 27th June, Saturday 25th July  
Email [sustainablebackwell@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablebackwell@gmail.com) for more info.

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## KENN RIVER ACTION GROUP (Krag) HELP US TO BRING LIFE BACK TO OUR LOCAL RIVER

It is unusual for 3 parishes to come together in a combined project, but in this case Nailsea, Flax Bourton and Backwell have joined to form the Kenn River Action Group, to be known as Krag.

The head waters of the River Kenn run along the railway line parallel with the Festival Way, flow along Backwell Bow before running beside Trendlewood Park and alongside Backwell Lake. For some of its length it forms the line of the ancient parish boundary. The aim of Krag is to reverse the long-term decline in biodiversity, improve the river as a natural and amenity asset, and reduce downstream flooding.

Starting with a baseline survey of the health of the river and its wildlife, a team of professionals from BART (Bristol and Avon River Trust) are surveying the site for its biodiversity and water quality. Later, bird & river fly surveys will be carried out and eDNA testing will help detect the fish, invertebrates and mammals using the river. From this baseline and wealth of information, ideas will be generated about how the water quality and biodiversity of the river can be improved. (NB already a small population of water voles - Ratty in 'Wind in the Willows', have been detected).

We are grateful to Nailsea Town Council for funding the survey by BART, and Stancombe Quarry Community Fund who are covering the cost of the eDNA kits.

To find out more, or let us know you are interested in taking part in monthly bird and river fly surveys contact: Pat Gilbert: [patwildlife@gmail.com](mailto:patwildlife@gmail.com) or Grahame Dixie: [hvgdixie@aol.com](mailto:hvgdixie@aol.com)

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## Repair Café (including bikes): Saturday 13th June

Sustainable Backwell's volunteer repairers will be at the Parish Hall on Saturday 13th June, 10am-12noon. We can mend clothes, repair costume jewellery, sharpen shears, secateurs and knives, maintain bikes, and mend a wide variety of common household equipment. Come early with your broken things because repairs take time to do. Chat to the repairers to learn how to do it yourself. 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 tea or coffee and a cake from the Fairtrade Community Café.



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## Backwell Senior Club

It's May and spring is well and truly with us. All the trees I can see from my study window are showing off their new clothes in various beautiful colours. I just hope there won't be so many airborne dandelion seeds floating about and landing in my lawn this year!

April meeting was AGM time for the club and we had a good turnout this year. Lots to talk about and thankfully an expanded Committee to lead the way forward; what a relief! My thanks to the members for their support and to all who come and enjoy themselves each month with entertainment, tea, biscuits/cake and a good chat. Entry fee is £3. The June meeting, Friday 19th is our Summer Tea Party and we are expecting a MAGICAL show!!! We meet at the West Town Methodist Church (A370), doors open 2.00pm where a warm welcome awaits LADIES and GENTLEMEN. Local transport may be arranged by calling LESLEY on 07816966728. Further info from SUE on 01275 461231. See YOU There.

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## Monday Tea Group

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday 1st June - usual time and location please.  
Elizabeth 07502 108 648

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## Backwell Probus Club Report

Since our last report, we have had two meetings, the first was a talk by our worthy Secretary Chris Hooper standing in instead of the anticipated speaker. He told us the story of starting out as an RAF pilot at the age of 22. He learned to fly first in a Varsity two engine airplane showing us pictures of the dashboard with the various controls. He then later transferred to a much larger four engined Shackleton when he learned to temporarily stall the engines and still control the flight! It was a very interesting story. At our next meeting, we heard Robert Tinker give us a talk entitled "Building the Severn Tunnel". First, he discussed the previous Severn crossing with a rail bridge farther up towards Gloucester built in 1879 to carry coal from the Forest of Dean. He also gave details of the previous crossing at Aust by boat. The Rail Tunnel was built in 1886 designed by Sir John Hawkshaw and needed a pumping station on the English side to remove water daily. He showed us pictures of the massive machine, which had been later replaced with an electrically driven pump. Nowadays 200 trains pass through the Tunnel, both passenger and freight.

For our next meetings in June, we can look forward to talks on "DNA for Solving Crime and Finding Ancestors" and "Putin's Russia". 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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## Rotary Nailsea & Backwell

We have recently enjoyed trips to Oakham Treasures and SS Great Britain plus had a couple of good meetings. We held a Pink evening with entertainment

by UKeBox as just part of our support for the Turn Nailsea Pink campaign and had a 'medical' evening with a CPR Refresher followed by tales from a retired surgeon about his early career (which could have produced a script for Carry On Doctor!).

We are busy preparing for our main fundraisers of the year, Charity Walks in June and Charity Golf in May. Although the main walks are on 7 June, registration will remain open and you can walk anytime during June. Hopefully, walkers (and runners) will register and then obtain sponsorship to support the charity of their choice. Nailsea's Leg Club and Memory Cafe use the Walks as a substantial part of their fund raising each year.

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## St Andrews Backwell Mothers' Union

In April our guest speaker was the Reverend Carol Edwards and her talk was entitled 'A woman's place is in the Church'. Carole chose to talk about the ordination of women through her own experience. This was the first time this had happened in the history of the Church of England. She gave an insight from her private diary written on the week of the ordination. Some entries were from 3am on the morning before as she realised her special new surplice was badly creased. Was there an iron in the cathedral? Yes there was, but there was a queue for it! With such practical details we understood the atmosphere of this great occasion. As Carole settled into her new life as a curate she was encouraged by the people who appreciated her contribution to parish life. Now one third of clergy are women and the number is growing.

Carols is now retired but continues to contribute to the life of Wraxall Church.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in Church House at 2.15pm and in June we will be welcoming Councillor Bridget Petty our Green Party Councillor for Backwell.

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## Congresbury Singers

Congresbury Singers present " Music to Elevate the Soul" Tuesday 23rd June 7.30 at War Memorial Hall Congresbury with wine & refreshments.  
Tickets £12 from PO, Re-Store, on the door.

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## St Andrew's Art Group

St Andrew's Art Group would like to thank everyone who supported their Open Exhibition and Sale of Paintings in May. They will advise how much they are able to donate to St Peter's Hospice once the figures are available.



**St Andrew's Art Group**

**Exhibition**  
Free Entry

**Open Exhibition & Sale of Paintings**

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th May 2026  
Opening Evening Friday 7.30pm to 9.15pm  
Saturday 10am to 6pm  
Sunday 10am to 4pm

**Backwell Parish Hall**  
Station Road  
Backwell BS48 3QW

Refreshments Available

In aid of **St Peter's Hospice**  
www.stpetershospice.org

**North Somerset Philharmonia's 2026 summer concert: July 4th in Nailsea**

North Somerset Philharmonia returns to Nailsea to present a lively summer concert on Saturday July 4th at 7.30pm. The programme includes Copland's "Appalachian Spring", Gershwin's "An American in Paris", and a selection of popular works. The concert will be at Nailsea Methodist Church, 47-76 Silver Street, Nailsea BS48 2DS.

The conductor is Phil Draisey, and the leader is Ali White.

Tickets are available at [www.nsphilharmonia.org.uk](http://www.nsphilharmonia.org.uk), from Nailsea Music Shop, or on the door. Adults £15, concessions £12, under 18s £6.

There will be a retiring collection in support of Weston Hospicecare.



**NORTH SOMERSET PHILHARMONIA**  
Presents  
**Copland 'Appalachian Spring'**  
**Gershwin 'An American in Paris'**  
*and a selection of popular works*

**Nailsea Methodist Church**  
74-76 Silver Street, Nailsea BS48 2DS  
**Saturday 4th July 2026 | 7:30pm**  
Conductor Phil Draisey | Leader Ali White  
Tickets Adults £15 | Concessions £12 | Under 18s £6  
Available via our website, Nailsea Music Shop, and on the door  
[www.nsphilharmonia.org.uk](http://www.nsphilharmonia.org.uk)  
Retiring collection in support of Weston Hospicecare



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## The Meeting Point

As we look towards the end of the school year we are busy planning and booking children's activities for the school summer holiday. These will run from 10.00-12.00 each Tuesday morning in the holiday, beginning 28th July and including 1st September. The activities will be suitable for children in the primary age range with activities for younger siblings too. We cannot accept unaccompanied children but there will be cafe style refreshments with home made cake for parents/carers and snacks for the children.

The activities programme will be published in the July magazine together with the Eventbrite booking (required) details and QR code.

Of course there will be the usual warm welcome and refreshments for all. If you would usually go to yoga, which does not run in school holidays, come for coffee, cake and chat. There are comfortable sofas in the committee room if the hall is noisy. Why not bring a book to swap?  
Lunch as usual on 11th and 18th August.

### TMP June calendar

2nd June	Refreshments from 10.30. 11.00 - 12.00 Yoga with Nina. 12.15 - 12.45. Informal Communion Service	Donation £2 please £5
	1.00 - 2.30. Soup,bread, cheeses,fruit lunch. 4.30. Close	Donation £7 please
9th June.	Refreshments from 10.30. 11.00 - 12.00. Yoga with Nina. 4.30. Close	Donation £2 please £5
16th June.	Refreshments from 10.30. 11.00 - 12.00 Yoga with Nina. 1.00 - 2.30. 2 course lunch cooked by Scotty. 4.30 Close	Donation £2 please £5 Donation £9 please
23rd & 30th June.	Refreshments from 10.30 11.00 - 12.00. Yoga with Nina 4.30. Close	

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## West Town & Backwell WI

### Wednesday 17th June - Deaf Awareness & British Sign Language

Join our friendly group of women for their June 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 Liana Lloyd - British Sign Language interpreter. Liana will introduce us to the key aspects of Deaf awareness and Deaf culture, as well as explain the unique challenges of translating between a visual language like British Sign Language (BSL) and spoken English. You will gain practical communication tips for interacting with Deaf people and will be given an opportunity to test your lip-reading skills and try out some BSL for yourself. 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)

### Saturday 13th June - Table Top Sale

Please support our WI Hal Roof Fundraising Event by coming along to our Table Top Sale at Backwell WI Hall 12:00-3:00pm. Entry is FREE. Our tables will be adorned with a range of crafts, jewellery and plants. If you would like to book a table for £10, email [BackwellWI@gmail.com](mailto:BackwellWI@gmail.com)

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INSPIRING WOMEN

## Backwell Playhouse

As befitting the summer months, Backwell Playhouse slows down a bit though we will be starting work on our Autumn Show soon. 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 two more NT Live shows before the summer break when 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 12th JUNE 7.30pm - NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: The Playboy Of The Western World

The Playboy of the Western World by John Millington Synge and starring Nicola Coughlan, Eanna Hardwicke and Siobhan McSweeney. Pegeen Flaherty's life is turned upside down when a young man walks into her pub claiming that he's killed his father. Instead of being shunned, the killer becomes a local hero and begins to win hearts, that is until a second man unexpectedly arrives on the scene... Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Caitriona McLaughlin directs this darkly funny tale full to the brim with secrets.

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)

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## BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Baptist Church Services

7th June

Preacher: Anne Nicklen

Service Leader: Dawn Jefferies

Theme: Achan's Story

Passages: Joshua 7

14th June (Communion)

Preacher: Neil Mobbs

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Theme: Destruction & Covenant Renewal

Passage: Joshua 8

21st June

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Sarah Crossley

Theme: Father's Day

28th June

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Dave Nicklen

Theme: The Gibeonite Deception

Passage: Joshua 9

✨ Want to get involved? There's still time to sign up!

<https://www.backwell-walking-carnival.co.uk/>



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## WEST TOWN METHODIST CHURCH

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### West Town Methodist Church

Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

June	7th	Rev Peter Mortlake
	14th	Rev Sally Ratcliffe Communion
	21st	Margaret Andersen Father's Day
	28th	Heather Bentley

**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](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 the schoolroom.

**Art Group** – Wednesday mornings in schoolroom

### Wednesday Fellowship Group

Dates and venue tba

### Thursday Fellowship Group

11th and 18th June, 10.30 for 11.00  
venue tba

### 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 June

#### St Andrew's Church

Sunday 7th Trinity 11.00am Communion 5.00pm	1st Sunday after Informal  Evensong
Sunday 14th 11.00am 5.00pm Prayer	2nd Sunday after Trinity Sung Eucharist Said Evening
Sunday 21st 9.30am 11.00am	3rd Sunday after Trinity Café Church Sung Eucharist
Sunday 28th 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm Prayer	4th Sunday after Trinity Café Church Sung Eucharist Said Evening

#### St Bridget's Church

Sunday 7th Trinity 9.15am	1st Sunday after Holy Communion
Sunday 14th 9.15am	2nd Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer
Sunday 21st 9.15am	3rd Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion
Sunday 28th 9.15am	4th Sunday after Trinity Morning Worship

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#### St Bridget's Church

We warmly invite you to a Summer Cream Tea on Saturday 27th June, hosted by Howard and Barbara Walton at their home, 9 Sedgemoor Close, Nailsea, BS48 4YR, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Do come along for tea, scones, cake and good company in support of our beautiful 12th century Church.

Our regular Coffee Mornings continue as well, on the first Saturday of each month through to October, 10am to 12 noon. The next is at St. Bridget's on Saturday 6th June — a chance for coffee, cake and a look around our fascinating Church, which has stood at the heart of Chelvey for almost nine hundred years.

Sunday services are held every week at 9.15am. New faces are always very welcome.

Looking further ahead, do save the dates for our Antiques Evening on 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

This is an exciting month for our children who make their First Holy Communion on Sunday 7th June at the 11:00am Mass. At the end of the month, on Tuesday 30th at 7pm Bishop Bosco is coming to confirm some of our young people.

These are very special occasions for our Parish and we pray for them and their families.

A social event this month is a music evening on Friday 12th starting at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome, with children and young people being encouraged to play an instrument and join in with well known songs.

Please see all Mass times and Livestreaming on [www.josephfrancis.org](http://www.josephfrancis.org)

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## Christians Together In & around Backwell

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**Open the Book** – Wednesday, 3rd and 17th June at West Leigh Infants School  
Thursday, 25th June at Backwell Junior School

**Prayer Watch** – Monday 1st June, at St Andrew's 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. Amount raised to be advised.

### 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)

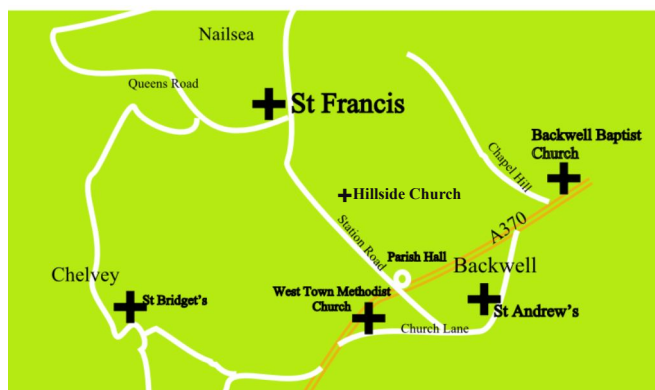
Phone: 07521 787115

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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