

The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley

ST AN
BAC
PARISH

© Ann Belcher

Vol 93 No 5

Free In print
On line

May 2026

Adroit Print
& design

Unit 3 Avon House
Blackfriars Road, Nailsea,
Bristol, BS48 4DJ
Sales: 01275 810 388
Email: sales@adroitprint.org.uk
www.adroitprint.org.uk

**NOW AVAILABLE
LARGE FORMAT PRINTING
A0, A1, A2, Banners, Stickers
and Canvas Printing**

Adroit Print in Nailsea offers the complete range of
printing from Digital printing right through to
full colour lithographic printing.

Books - Perfect / Wire / Stapled bound books
Manuals - Safety / Instruction
Business Cards / Letterheads / Newsletters / Leaflets
/ Flyers Monthly Magazines / Fixture Books
Anything you need printed
we can print it !!



Paul Nicholson
Painter and Decorator


07500 969752
01275 870033


28 Kingston Avenue
Clevedon
BS21 6EA




CLASSIC DECORATING
nicholsont.paul@gmail.com

BACKWELL
LOGS

 Sustainably sourced
high-quality firewood

 Free and convenient
delivery

 Order online
or by phone



01275 792 222

www.backwell-logs.uk

Samuel Bird TV
Panasonic
PREMIUM
Television Authorised Dealer



*** Free 5 Year Panasonic TV Warranties**
(on selected models)

* TV, Freeview Recorders, DVD & Audio

* Digital Aerial, Freesat & SKY

* LCD Wall Mount Installations

Sales, Installations & Repairs

Hifi, Roberts Radios, Record Decks,
Bluetooth Speakers, Headphones & more

Great range of Light Bulbs & Batteries.

Heaters, Fans, Vacuum Cleaners & spares.

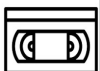
Full range of Audio, Video, Aerial accessories

iPad, iPhone, smart phone & tablet accessories

& Much, Much More!!

 Cine Film / Video & Audio Tape

Transfers to various formats



118 High Street, Nailsea

Tel: 01275 853216 - www.sbirdtv.co.uk

Serving our community since 1969

LOCAL SERVICES

<p>Backwell Parish Council 43 Rodney Road, Backwell BS48 3HW Parish Clerk Mrs Clare Melton Tel 01275 464653 clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk www.backwell-pc.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Village Magazine Editor: Allan Rhodes backwellvillagemag@gmail.com Advertising: Simon Russell - villagemagazineadvertising@hotmail.com www.backwellvillagemag.co.uk</p>
<p>Backwell Secondary School Kim Laney (Business Leader) Tel 01275 463371</p>	<p>The Rotary Nailsea and Backwell enquiries@RotaryNailsea.org www.RotaryNailsea.org</p>
<p>Backwell C of E Junior School Secretary Tel 01275 462632</p>	<p>Backwell Senior Club Sue Griffiths 01275 461231 suegriff44@myyahoo.com</p>
<p>West Leigh Infant School Secretary Tel 01275 463274</p>	<p>Backwell Probus Club Chris Hooper Tel 01275 464353</p>
<p>Backwell Medical Centre (Part of the Tynesfield Medical Group) 15 West Town Road Tel 01275 465100 (Monday - Fridays, excluding Bank Holidays) Out of hours Tel 111 www.tynesfield.nhs.uk</p>	<p>Backwell Bridge Club Richard Gaunt Tel 01275461104 richardgau@live.co.uk</p>
<p>Dental Surgeons P Kennedy and Associates, 17 West Town Road Tel 01275 462421</p>	<p>Backwell Climate Action Group - backwellclimateaction@gmail.com</p>
<p>Cohens Chemist 1 West Town Road Tel 01275 462386</p>	<p>BET (Backwell Environmental Trust) Ian Chambers Tel 01275 463315 www.backwellenvironmenttrust.org</p>
<p>Post Office 30-32 West Town Road Tel 01275 462721</p>	<p>Backwell Camera Club www.backwellcameraclub.org.uk</p>
<p>Police Avon & Somerset Constabulary Non Emergency Calls 101 https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk</p>	<p>Backwell Garden Club Robin Langford Tel 01275 855822 rclangford64@gmail.com</p>
<p>Backwell Residents Association (BRA) Hon Secretary David Heymans 01275 462300 www.backwellresidents.org.uk</p>	<p>West Backwell Bowling Club Bob Bees Tel 0800 083 5198 WBBCSecretaryInternal@outlook.com</p>
<p>Backwell Playing Field Charity Jacqueline Reardon Tel 07949487457 backwellplayingfieldscharity@gmail.com</p>	<p>Backwell Baby & Toddler Group backwelltoddlers@gmail.com</p>
<p>Backwell Village Club 01275 462387 backwellvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>Brockley Parish Council (also contact for Cleve Parish Council) Parish Clerk Andy Warren Tel 07932 191964 brockley_pc@hotmail.co.uk www.brockleypc.org</p>
<p>North Somerset District Councillors Cllr Bridget Petty, Backwell Tel 07881320224 bridget.petty@n-somerset.gov.uk Cllr Thomas Daw, Wrington thomas.daw@n-somerset.gov.uk</p>	<p>Nailsea District Leg Club Carole Brook Tel 07954 302498</p>
<p>Parish Hall Booking Sarah Ould Tel 01275 541080 booking@backwellparishhall.org.uk</p>	<p>Wellspring Counselling Tel 01275 810879 admin@wellspringcounselling.org.uk</p>
<p>WI Hall Booking www.backwellwihall.org.uk, email info@backwellwihall.org.uk or call Sarah on 01275 541080</p>	<p>Backwell Baby & Toddler Group backwelltoddlers@gmail.com</p>
<p>Methodist Church Hire Julie Ratcliffe Tel 01275 463123 ratcliffedj@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Playhouse Theatre membership@backwellplayhouse.co.uk bookings@backwellplayhouse.co.uk Playhouse Film Club 07766 756747</p>

cutlinesglass

**GLASS DESIGN
REPAIR &
RESTORATION**

Call Us For :

- Stained Glass Restoration and Repair
- Bespoke Stained Glass Commissions
- Encapsulation into Triple Glazed Units
- Victorian Etched Glass Reproduction
- Expert Service and Advice



**GET IN TOUCH
FOR A FREE
QUOTE!**



07813 668 306 | info@cutlines.co.uk | www.cutlinesglass.co.uk

ALLSEASONS SOUTHWEST

'Working consciously, with nature in mind.'

Organic Gardening & Planting
Specialist

Landscaping & Design

Traditional & Ancient Stoneworks

Contact Us
07501 868 845

Red Bus
NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

- Large landscaped gardens
- Cosy Cabin
- Woodwork Station
- Dedicated sleep room
- Baby gym and soft play
- Onsite kitchen
- Parent car park
- Accepting children from 3 months to 4 years old
- Accepting the new government funding

Old Weston Road , Flax Bourton, Bristol, BS48 1UL
flax@redbusnursery.co.uk
01275 268080
www.redbusnursery.co.uk

Red Bus
NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL



**Hiring at our
Outstanding
Nursery!**

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

JOIN OUR TEAM



onboard@redbusnursery.co.uk
careers.redbusnursery.co.uk

**WHY SHOULD YOU
Hop on Red Bus?**

- A vibrant, top quality setting - fun for children and adults alike!
- Competitive rates of pay
- A range of staff benefits and perks
- A supportive, welcoming workplace
- Lots of opportunities for training and career progression!

The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

May: The month of Mary

'My soul magnifies the Lord'

As spring blossoms around us, May brings a renewed sense of life, colour and hope. It is fitting then that this month has long been dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. In the Catholic tradition, May is a time to honour her in a special way - often with flowers, prayers, and periods of focused scriptural contemplation that reflect the newness and beauty of the season.

Mary holds a vital place in the story of salvation. She is the mother who answered "yes" to God's call, trusting in a plan she did not yet fully understand. We meet her throughout the Gospels: at the Annunciation, at the birth of Jesus, at the foot of the Cross, and among the early Church at Pentecost. For all Christians, Mary stands as a powerful figure of compassion, humility and obedience to God's will.

Catholics have a long history of honouring Mary, not as divine, but as someone who leads us ever closer to Christ. Practices such as the praying the Rosary, participating in May Crownings, visiting holy sites associated with Mary, and singing Marian hymns, are all ways of reflecting on Christ's life through her eyes. At their core, these traditions are not about elevating Mary above Jesus, but are about learning from her, and walking more closely with Him.

In our world today, Mary's example remains deeply relevant. She shows us how to trust God in times of uncertainty, how to listen in silence, and how to remain faithful even in our suffering. Her life was not without difficulty, yet she remained steadfast, resolute in faith even during the Passion of her Son.

During this month of May, we might take small steps to draw inspiration and guidance from her life. This could be as simple as praying the Hail Mary, reading a Bible passage that features Mary, or placing flowers in our homes and parishes as a reminder of her loving obedience. Reflecting on her story can strengthen our understanding of what it means to follow Christ with faith and reverence even during difficult moments.

While Christians express their faith in different ways, Mary continues to unite us as a figure of discipleship and trust; always pointing beyond herself to Christ, her Son. So, as we venerate Mary this May, may we learn from her example and, like her, find the courage to say "yes" to God in our daily lives.

Rachel Roberts
St Francis

It's that time of year again, with blossom everywhere. It comes and goes so quickly – one minute on a branch, the next a moving carpet on the ground like this image which I took last year. It reminds me so much of confetti. In order to capture this effect I watched the weather and the development of the blossom so that I caught just the right moment when both the branches and the pavement were covered in petals. I love taking photographs of flowers and use some to enter into competitions at Backwell Camera Club and elsewhere.

The club is not just about competitions, improving photographic technique or finding inspiration by looking at work by other photographers. It actively encourages involvement in community

projects such as this magazine and for other village clubs and events needing publicity photographs which they are unable to afford or get elsewhere. If this applies to you, then get in touch with

www.backwellcamerclub.org.uk

And if you are lucky enough to still have blossom around in your garden or on your street, enjoy it while it lasts! And take a photo on your phone.....that's another skill that the camera club can help you with.

Ann Belcher

Keith C. Britton
Funeral Directors

& Son



Independent Family Funeral Directors.
Established over 55 years

10 High Street, Yatton, North Somerset BS49 4JA
Tel: 01934 832115

Private Chapel of Rest
24-hour emergency service 365 days a year.
Home visits available for funeral arrangements and
no obligation pre-paid plans.



THOMAS DAVIS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

S E R V I N G B R I S T O L S I N C E 1 8 4 0

- Family Operated
- Traditional & Bespoke Funeral Services
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Modern Fleet
- Home Visits
- Independent Pre Paid Funeral Plans



3 Gateway House, Rodney Road,
Backwell, North Somerset, BS48 3HL
Tel: 01275 400328 | Email: backwell@bristolfunerals.co.uk



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish Council Report – April Meeting

Councillors noted the resignation of Cllr James Sharkey and wished him well for the future.

Planning Farleigh Fields West (Land off Dark Lane).

Cllr Horner has raised drainage concerns with Persimmon Homes.

Land West of Rodney Road. Councillors noted that some residents were confused about Rodney Road resurfacing road closure. BPC coordinated with NSC and Taylor Wimpey to facilitate the concurrent closure of the A370 and a section of Rodney Road, ensuring that residents received comprehensive information regarding these changes.

Land At Grove Farm West Town Rd. Cllr Harland raised her concerns regarding the demise of the X7 bus route, leaving the Grove Farm site car dependent.

Land East of Backwell Councillors were disappointed to see a public notice of intent to demolish 37 Farleigh Road despite there being no active application on the planning portal.

Coles Quarry. Following an incident on the school run with two HGVs, BPC requested that there should be no traffic movement at school times. It was agreed that the Clerk would also contact the PCSO and request their presence during the school run and to explore pavement obstructions around the village to try to increase safety.

Local Plan. BPC has replied to NSC's publication of the draft plan expressing serious concern about the identification of Backwell for further development.

Highways Cllr Power was pleased to report that a kissing gate was being installed in a field close to the Leisure Centre where the stile had fallen into disrepair. Councillors thanked BRA for their audit of pavements in Backwell. This will inform future contact with North Somerset Council to request repairs.

BPC have queried the schedule for the introduction of the 20mph limit on Farleigh Road and are awaiting a response to share with residents on the BPC website. Councillors were pleased to note the installation of a

'Smiley' speed indication device by Persimmon Homes on Farleigh Road.

Downside Cllrs Taylor and Martin are working hard to progress changes to the local bus stop to provide a safer pull-in. This has always been a thorny issue, but they are determined to work with NSC to resolve the barriers standing in the way of effective changes. Councillors were disappointed to hear that BPC's request for parking restrictions on Hyatt's Wood Road had been refused by NSC citing safety reasons. On the 4th June 7.30pm the Parish Council meeting will be held at Felton Village Hall to welcome and facilitate attendance by Downside residents.

Transport Councillors were very concerned about the lack of co-ordination with the road closures on the A370, together with the lack of consistent information about replacement buses. These concerns will be passed to the District Councillor.

Cllr Power reported that the criteria for the use of Speed Indicator Devices (Smileys) had been received from NSC. The Clerk was asked to confirm quotes already obtained, to see if they complied with these requirements. A further update will be provided at the May meeting.

Councillors expressed their concern about the withdrawal of the X7 bus. An update is awaited from the Chair of Flax Bourton Parish Council is leading on the X7 issues on behalf of Avon Local Councils' Association.

Environment and Community Councillors were told that the idea of 'green' bus shelters had been explored, but that they were impractical due to the weight of plants together with maintenance.

A planning application has now been submitted for the proposed digital noticeboard on Spar Green.

The next meeting of Backwell Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 7th May 2026 at the Parish Hall. All would be made most welcome.

West Backwell Bowling Club

We held our Opening Bowls Drive last month, and now look forward to the forthcoming season of league and friendly matches, competitions, and social events. Friday evenings are club nights, when all are welcome to come along and meet the members. The bar is open. You are invited to a free Open Day on 10th May, from 2pm to 'have a go' at bowls. This is a sport that is accessible to everyone, all ages and abilities, and we want to show you how. There will be coaches and members on hand to give guidance and answer any queries, and there will be free tea, coffee and cake. The bar will be open too. So, come and challenge yourself, family and friends and have a fun afternoon learning a new skill. To book a place, Email: trybowl.wbbc@gmail.com or just turn up!

(SEE PAGE 13 FOR MORE INFORMATION)

If you cannot make 10th May, why not come to Try Bowls Tuesday. We are running free 4 weekly coaching sessions starting on 12th May. Please contact the above email for more information. All equipment is provided. Please wear flat shoes.

During the winter months, we have had short mat bowling, popular Sunday lunches, and social events. Gerry Horler penned a very funny Panto 'Cinderella'. It was well supported, we had a great evening and raised £875!

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



**CHECK OUT OUR
NEW WEBSITE:**
www.nailseapatiosupplies.co.uk

**OPEN TO TRADE AND GENERAL PUBLIC FOR LANDSCAPING
AND BUILDING SUPPLIES,
DRIVEWAY BLOCK PAVING, READY MIXED CONCRETE,
NATURAL STONE WALLING SPECIALISTS AS BELOW**



OPENING HOURS:
Mon – Fri 7.30am – 4.30pm, Sat 9am – 2pm, Sun 10am – 2pm

DELIVERY
We take the hassle out of getting your purchase to where you need them for both trade and retail customers. We deliver to any area, from small quantities to up to 15 tonnes. We can supply much larger quantities and unlimited tonnage on arrangement.

TRADE ACCOUNTS WELCOME

The Coalyard, Station Close, Backwell,
North Somerset BS48 1TJ. • Tel: 01275 851706
www.nailseapatiosupplies.co.uk • email: enquiries@nailseapatiosupplies.co.uk
Follow our facebook page for special offers.



**It's easy,
let me
do it!**

077427 91139

**Removals &
clearances**
eddyvanman.com

Young Johnson
MONUMENTAL MASONS

TRADITIONAL AND MODERN MEMORIALS
PRODUCED IN OUR OWN WORKSHOP

*New Memorials
Renovations
Additional Inscriptions*



*Individual designs
made to order
Home visits arranged
with no obligation*

WWW.YOUNGJOHNSON.COM

TELEPHONE: 01373 859629

Mendip Carpets
of Nailsea

**Why pay more
for carpets?**



Best Choice, Best Advice and
Best Value all the year round!
Make the Smart Choice and buy
your carpet from ...



Mendip Carpets of Nailsea Tel: 01275
81/83 High Street, Nailsea, North Somerset 810299
Visit our online showroom at www.mendipcarpets.co.uk

BACKWELL SCOUTS

Tuesday Beavers

We are delighted to have restarted the Tuesday Beavers group in January with a new team of eager beaver volunteer leaders. We also welcomed 6 new beavers.

The beavers have been enjoying team-building games, designing and building their own sweet machine, making Mother's Day gifts and cards, and learning about looking after animals with the support of a local vet, Helen.

They've also completed a 6-week fitness challenge at home, learned about Chinese New Year, Burns night and flags from around the world. We've all been having lots of fun!

Hils

Tuesday Scouts

A short report this month as the Scouts (and Leaders) took a well earned break over the Easter holidays, a time to reflect on past experiences and start planning our next ones as Spring has finally reached us with warmer, lighter evenings to help get us outside more.

The final weeks of the term saw some backwoods cooking and it looks as if some of the Scouts may finally have mastered the art of lighting fires. I did ask a passing Scout what it was they were cooking but he didn't seem too sure! I think it may have been Shakshuka, but whatever it was seemed to go down well with the Scouts. Our older Scouts were looking at preparation for their Expedition Challenge later in the year and once again we are looking to Exmoor to provide the necessary physical and navigational challenges - so far a campsite has been identified, a good start!

We finished off with Scouts manning a Crisis Command Centre as a major road traffic incident unfolded before them - they needed to identify individuals involved, arrange traffic diversions, inform the highways and railway authorities and coordinate the fire and ambulance services whilst all the time receiving new information on the screen and via the telephone - much paper and pencil stock was worn down. At the end they presented their reports and discussed them with the other teams.

Spring and Summer camps are now well into the planning stages and we are all looking forward to these along with the hill walking day, so plenty of adventurous outdoor activities are heading our way

Ian

Explorers

Following the success of Monopoly Run Live in London, Barracuda Explorers headed into the final spring month with added vigour.

First up was the Royal Espionage challenge!

Following the kidnap of Prince William, the unit had to use coordinates to triangulate points on a map. Once complete they had to head out into Backwell to find additional coordinates which would lead them to where Prince William was being held hostage.

Next up was the ever-popular Apocalyptic Chef – Working in small teams, the unit had to locate bags of unlabelled food which were dotted around the hut's outdoor space. Once found, they had to return to the hut and, using the basic ingredients, cook a meal with what they had found.

A fun night at Laser Fusion in Bristol followed the

week later with some enthusiastic zapping of opponents in the darkened maze of the old fire station.

The final week saw the unit take part in an improvised Easter 'Egg' Hunt where coloured sticks were hidden around the village each providing a different score. The team that found the most sticks and got the biggest score won the prize appropriate for the time of year.

Plans are now also underway for the summer camp which will see the unit head to Poland to explore the culture and sites of this amazing country.

If anyone would be interested in helping or getting involved, please get in touch ian@backwellscouts.org.uk

Laurence

Friday Scouts

Last term was a mixture of fun, serious and awe-inspiring activities! Friday scouts enjoyed some Winter Olympics fun and spent some time doing a few activities to help us learn about the harmful effects of smoking, drugs and alcohol. We finished our air rifle shooting and whittling rotation and also had a great skittles night at Backwell Club!

We ended the term with a talk and up-close experience with some birds of prey, courtesy of the North Somerset Bird of Prey Centre. The scouts were as extremely well behaved as the Little Owl and the Falcon, which meant we were able to even hold a scout's investiture with a bird of prey!

We were also delighted to award one of our scouts the Gold Chief Scout Award, the highest award a scout can receive.

We are planning to be outdoors as much as possible next term, with a hike, a sandcastle competition, learning some local knowledge for our Local Knowledge Activity Badge, a trip to a Lido, a cooking competition and so much more...

We also wish our year 9 scouts all the very best of luck as they embark on the Ten Tors event in May. Good luck Scouts - you've got this!

Lorraine



bikesmiths



Located in nearby
Long Ashton

Over 250
★★★★★
Reviews

Buy a Bike on a
Cycle to work Scheme
Genesis, Kona, Ampere
eBikes, Squish, Frog
and Hoy Bikes
Available

Bike servicing | Parts, tools and accessories | Clothing and helmets
Bikes for adults and children | eBikes | Tuition | Gift vouchers

Drop in to our shop at 8 Lovelinch Gardens, Long Ashton, BS41 9AH
from Monday to Saturday or call 01275 219464

bristolbikesmiths.com



Arthur E. Davey

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Our services include:

- TRADITIONAL & INFORMAL BURIAL & CREMATION
- UNATTENDED & WOODLAND FUNERALS
- MEMORIALS
- PRE-PAID PLANS



“Here for you and your family”

For more information:
01275 852 307

mail@aedavey.co.uk
www.aedavey.co.uk

82 Silver Street, Nailsea,
Bristol BS48 2DS

SCHOOL NEWS

Backwell School: A March Filled with Joy, Community, and Achievement

As spring unfolded across Backwell this March, the school community experienced a season of hope, inspiration, and remarkable achievement. It has been a month that truly reflects the spirit of Backwell—kind, curious, ambitious—and one filled with stories that uplift and unite us as a wider parish family.

This term has been one rich in cultural connection. Backwell welcomed visiting students first from Dinan in France, and later from Freising in Germany. These exchanges brought language learning to life as students shared lessons, explored Bristol's heritage, and forged friendships across borders. From discovering the SS Great Britain and Roman Baths to trying traditional English favourites such as cricket, these young visitors immersed themselves in British culture while enriching Backwell's own community with their presence. The joy and energy they brought were felt throughout the school.

Music has long been a beating heart of Backwell School, and this month it shone as brightly as ever. The Spring Concert lit up the Main Theatre with performances that spanned genres and generations. Students from all year groups showcased their talent, from orchestral works and folk arrangements to modern classics and the award-winning harmonies of the MadriGals. The evening culminated in an exuberant performance by the 90s Dance Group—a moment that filled the room with nostalgia, laughter, and applause.

Many of these same performers also took part in Candlelight to Dancefloor, a charity event supporting The Brain Tumour Charity. Their musical dedication helped raise over £10,000, a testament not only to their talent but to their compassion and generosity. Audience members wrote to the school praising the professionalism, energy, and joy brought by these young performers—an example of how music can bring hope to a community.

Sport has been another source of pride and celebration. From rugby to gymnastics, swimming to football, Backwell's students have competed with heart, teamwork, and determination. Highlights include impressive performances at the Rosslyn Park National Rugby 7s, victories at local swimming galas, and national selections in both rugby and golf. Mariella in Year 11 will represent England at golf in Spain in April—an extraordinary milestone for a young athlete and her family. These accomplishments are not just about trophies—they reflect resilience, discipline, and the joy of striving for one's best.

A significant focus this month has also been wellbeing. As Backwell prepares to introduce new mobile phone pouches for Years 7–10 next term, families have been encouraged to reflect on screen time and rediscover the value of real-world connection—walking outdoors, talking face-to-face, and being fully present with the world around them. With lighter evenings and warmer days ahead, it is the perfect time for such renewal.

As Easter approaches—a season of hope, renewal, and new beginnings—the Backwell community looks back with gratitude on a joyful and inspiring month. The school sends warmest wishes for a peaceful, refreshing, and hope-filled Easter to all families across the parish.

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



Will Penny, Headteacher

West Leigh Infant School

WL Class News – Badgers (Reception aged 5-6 years)

Badger class had a fun time learning outside with our Little Explorers teacher, Mr Welty.

We made animal homes with natural materials such as sticks, leaves and mud so that any hibernating animals could easily move in when they wake up. We used binoculars to spot birds, and enticed them by leaving bird seed and dried worms for them to eat. We used pots, pans and utensils to make our own concoctions based on the Gruffalo's scrambled snake and owl ice-cream, as well as being worm conjurers (stamping our feet on the spot) and tricking the worms into thinking it was raining so they would make an appearance.

WL Class News – Squirrels (Reception aged 5-6 years)

Squirrel class enjoyed learning our new text 'My Pet Star'. They thought about how to care for their pet star and wrote sentences to show this. We also talked about how people traditionally make wishes on a shooting star.

They thought of what they might wish for. A few ideas were 'lots of money', 'to be a fairy/ unicorn', 'to be able to fly' and 'to have a huge playground in their garden'. We also enjoyed learning about Spring and Easter.

The children went on a spring walk and ticked off what they could see. It was lovely to have some nice sunny weather after all the rain!

Easter Festival at West Leigh Infant School

Every year we are astounded by the talent our children have! The variety on display has been incredible, musicians, dancing, singing, comedians and the incredible Arts and Crafts we have seen is just another level. Each year we think we have peaked but we have been surprised and impressed by the children yet again! The bravery and confidence shown is something to be proud of – well done to all! Here is a small selection of some of the fabulous designs.

Bridget Petty for Backwell

I remain deeply concerned that urgent action is needed to respond to the climate crisis. At home some of us have been able to fit solar panels or invest in electric cars. For smaller price tags swaps to locally bought food from 5 Acre Farm reduces our food miles, or buying second hand gifts and clothes. Our actions do make a difference!

I remember a couple of years ago when I heard local father, Darren Hall had the idea there really should be solar panels on the infant school roof. With the electricity needed mostly during the day when the sun shines, it felt like a no-brainer. So Darren got to work, he worked with other committed volunteers from Sustainable Backwell and Backwell Climate Emergency. They met regularly and worked up ambitious fundraising goals.

It's not always easy to work with a schools academy system, but despite hurdles they launched a crowd fund campaign, they applied for funding from local grants and while at times it felt like the target was still a long way off, this spring the project reached its target.

In April and May the solar panels are being fitted to the West Leigh school roof. Just about two years since a group of local residents decided the local village school should be benefiting from clean energy and showing our children that a cleaner energy network is possible.

I'd like to thank all those volunteers who didn't give up, to get to the targeted £23,000. A great achievement.

Thank you Darren, Rick Evans, Ervin Bossanyi, Neil Elliott, Simon Russell and all the others involved.

Did you know Backwell has a terrific film club, with showings at the weekend through the winter months - for more information contact Les lesjwharram@gmail.com 07766 756747

Bridget Petty
Green Party Councillor for Backwell



Another lovely Fairtrade Cafe where good conversation is had. Sharing local issues and catching up with friends. April 2026

Backwell Climate Action

April was a busy month. At the Fair Trade Cafe we had items of good news, from beavers and storks being reintroduced on Dagenham Marshes, to Ukraine's growth of renewable energy sources in response to the conflict. See happyeconews.com for more. Make, Do and Mend event demonstrated sustainable

and low cost ways of being kinder to the planet.

The Monthly Litter pickers have increased in numbers and make a noticeable difference to the village environment.

No Mow May is a well established way of helping our depleted insect population. Try to leave a patch of grass all year where you can.

The last weekend of June will be our 3rd Carnival on the Playing Fields.

To join any of our activities contact 37westtown@gmail.com

Backwell's Second Saturday May Fair Trade Café

May 9th Backwell Parish Hall 10 am to 12 noon

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

As usual this month the bulk-buy Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service. Here you can join and buy all kinds of food stuffs in bulk, The range includes many fair trade and organic items, you can peruse the catalogue at the cafe or at <http://www.essential-trading.co.uk>. Why not come along, join the club and place an order for what you need. You can also buy from the range of goods on display without joining or ordering.

If you are interested in environmental issues one or more of Backwell's energetic groups such as Sustainable Backwell or Action for Climate Change may well be in attendance to discuss and advise.

Move from recycling to re-using by bringing your own container to fill (or better refill) with all kinds of Ecover detergents and cleaning fluids on our Ecover stall.

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

Morley Plants and Gardens

Morley Plants and Gardens plan to hold a plant sale between 10-12noon on Saturday 9th May at the WI Hall. We shall have a variety of summer plants, including bedding, perennial and some salad/vegetables.

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 repair a wide variety of items, including repairing and maintaining bikes. Come early with your broken things because repairs take time to do. 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.

Next 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 31st May, Saturday 28th June, Saturday 26th July.

Email sustainablebackwell@gmail.com for more info.

Backwell Allotments

After a bleak winter with little sun, it has suddenly reached 20 oC in the first week of April and our field has been buzzing with activity. We held our Annual Meeting of Plotolders on March 31st, with 37 people coming to the Backwell Village Club to exchange ideas and experiences. Manure was high on the agenda, where we have contacts for cow, horse and alpaca products and are hoping for mushrooms as well! Finally, we think we can leave the water on for the season as frost danger has gone, after a period of OFF, ON, OFF ON!

We are proud of our wild flower area at the entrance to the field. Currently the flowers of white honesty are the main feature, which is shown in the attached photo. Also in flower are green alkanet (member of the borage family) and campion. The tree we planted in memory of former plotholder Pino the barber is a mass of white blossom at the time of writing.

One of the services we offer plotholders is a supply of wood chippings which are topped up by a friendly tree surgeon. This is popular for putting on paths as a weed suppressant. Recently I saw a girl of about 10, pushing a big wheelbarrow from the chippings pile back to her plot. I asked "who was on her plot?" She said "well, there is my Mum, and her friend, my brother and my sister". With the sun shining and birds singing, it was a perfect example of our plots being great for social welfare within and between families, as well as for our plots with just one gardener. Current crops being harvested are asparagus, rhubarb, leeks and broccoli.

Good gardeners will have prepared their land over the winter and the view of the field attached shows how attractive it is looking at the moment. There are footpaths through the allotments and walkers are very welcome with dogs on a tight lead. At the moment we do not have a waiting list.

Anyone interested in having a plot should register their interest with Backwell Parish Council, owners of the field . (01275 464653 or clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk)

Allotments Committee:

Geoff Wells
Richard Anderton
Lorna O'Sullivan
Robert Stewart



WELLBEING • WEST
BANER • BACKWELL
BELONGING • BOWLING
COMPETING • CLUB
BACKWELL PLAYING
FIELDS BS48 3HQ

FREE ENTRY

HAVE A GO

**OPEN DAY ON
SUNDAY MAY 10TH 2-4PM
AT WEST BACKWELL BOWLING
CLUB**

BAR OPEN

**SUITABLE FOR
ALL ABILITIES**

AGES 9-90

**CHALLENGE
YOURSELF**

**FREE TEA, COFFEE &
CAKE**

- REGISTER OR TURN UP ON THE DAY
- E: TRYBOWLS.WBBC@GMAIL.COM
- M: 07526 024240

st Peter's Hospice

**Be at the heart
of your community**

Become a Retail Volunteer at St Peter's Hospice, Backwell.

For more information and to apply, contact:
01275 464 359
40 Rodney Road, Backwell,
BS48 3HW
Or visit:
stpetershospice.org/ShopVolunteers

Registered Charity No. 269177



SEVERNSIDE ROOFING (SW) LTD

Our Services Include:

- ✓ Complete Re-Roofs
- ✓ Roof Repairs
- ✓ Leadworks
- ✓ GRP & EPDM Flat Roofs
- ✓ uPVC Fascias, Soffits & Guttering
- ✓ Roof Surveys & Inspections

Quality workmanship • Honest advice
Local & dependable

07884 157 935

✉ enquiries@severnside-roofing.co.uk

Free quotations available • All work guaranteed • Fully insured

Pilates classes

with Becky

Backwell Parish Hall



INTRODUCTORY
OFFER
3 CLASSES FOR £25

Friday 's 9.15-10.15

Feel Great Flow: Ideal for both complete beginners and intermediate practitioners, our "Feel Great Flow" class offers gentle yet practical sessions to help you achieve alignment while building strength, flexibility, and confidence.

Friday's 10.20-11.20

Restorative Flow: Experience the joy of movement and cultivate a sense of well-being with our 'Restorative Flow' Sessions.' For those confident in the foundations of Pilates, we focus on enhancing overall fitness, improving posture, and promoting a positive mind-body connection.

For more information and to book your first session, please visit:
www.pilates-port.com

Tel : 07795295995

Email: bex@pilates-port.com

A1 GARDEN SERVICES

Jonathan Hobbs H.N.D. Agr, Dip D.A.B.M.

- Grass Cutting
- Hedge Trimming
- Shrub & Fruit Pruning
- All Types of Fencing

For a competitive rate please call:

M: 07789 916930 H: 01275 878164

PETE ROLLINGS N.I.C.E.I.C.

Electrical Contractor

'Pendennis', Backwell Hill Road

All types of Domestic and Industrial Installations TEL: **01275 462920**

The Chimney Doctor

CHIMNEY SWEEPING SERVICE



- Trained by and Member of The Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps
- Fully insured
- Woodburners, open fires and cookers (Agas, Rayburns, etc) undertaken
- Offering a clean and friendly service using modern equipment and techniques
- Covering North Somerset and South Bristol

Contact Charlie Ekin: 07722 950314 or email: thechimneydoctorsomerset@gmail.com

Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

Losing one's sight is not the end of the world.

The next meeting of the macular support group will be on Wednesday 27th May, at the W.I. Hall, Backwell, from 1.30 p.m.

We welcome back Judy Pride, retired Regional Manager for the Macular Society.

All are welcome; no commitment. Further info. from Sheila, 01275 462107.

Backwell and Nailsea Support Group for Carers
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at the WI Hall, Backwell from 2.00pm - 3.30pm when we will be enjoying a delicious FISH AND CHIPS lunch. Booking is essential. RSVP by 1st May 2026 (01275 463215)

Our group offers support, friendship, entertainment, and a short respite from their caring role to carers within the local community. The meetings include a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and a warm welcome. New carers are always welcome, any age or gender. Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris and Mel (Volunteers)

Nailsea District Leg Club

Handbags Galore! Leg Club annual handbag sale, Saturday morning 16th of May, outside Waitrose, Nailsea. Donations are again being accepted by 65 High Street, so think of Leg Club when sorting unwanted handbags, purses, backpacks. PLEASE check they're clean, empty, and in good condition, we'd rather sell them and not visit the tip! Sorry no suitcases or holdalls. This is a major fund raiser so come to buy too, lots of bargains on offer (cash only please).

Leg Club drop-in clinic is held at Nailsea Tithe Barn on Wednesday from 9.00 – 11.30 a.m., and is open to anyone registered with Tyntesfield Medical Group. However, to be sure of being seen, it's advisable to arrive as soon after 9.00 a.m. as possible or make an appointment through the surgery. Please be aware that there is no parking available at the Tithe Barn, only on-street parking, there is a drop-off point for those with walking difficulties. Leg Club is a 'caring clinic' and we ask our members and visitors to consider others when parking, as lots happens on a Wednesday morning around the immediate area! For patient, volunteer or general information call Carole Brooke on 07954 302498.

Parkinson's UK NW Somerset Local Support Group

We welcome all those with Parkinson's as well as family members and carers. Do join us for an informal coffee morning on Saturday 9th May at St Francis' Church Hall, Nailsea, BS48 2LP, from 10.30am to 12.15pm, with coffee and chat and a talk by Lisa, one of our local Sirona Parkinson's Practitioners.

Singalong

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 on the 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.

Patient Participation Group

In March the PPG discussed potential topics for the joint TMG / PPG stall at the Farmers' Market in July. If you have a suggestion for a health topic that would be of interest email TMGPPG@gmail.com

TMG's Dr Stamelos had led the 'Love Your Breasts' event with staff from Central Clinic Breast Screening. The aim of the event was to improve Breast Cancer awareness; we discussed the importance of early diagnosis for successful treatment and not missing breast screening appointments. Look here for information: <https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/breast-awareness> and links to further information.

The BP machine in Backwell surgery is being removed, please ask for BP tests at the Pharmacy or use a home machine. Contact your surgery if BP is high. Information on high blood pressure can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/high-blood-pressure/>

NTC is repeating last year's successful Age Without Limits event. The 2026 event will be at Nailsea's Tithe Barn in June for another day of barn dancing and line dancing with free lunch. Campaign information can be found here: <https://www.agewithoutlimits.org/day>

For information about the PPG see: <https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1>

**NAILSEA &
BACKWELL
DISABLED
ACCESS CAFE**

Members of North Somerset Council's Disabled Access Group offer friendly advice and empathy

Friday 22nd May 10.30am - 12 noon

At No 65

Discuss problems relating to Disabled Access

Meet new people, connect and socialise

Make a difference in your community



Free cup of tea or coffee and biscuits

65 High Street, Nailsea, BS48 1AW

For more Information email:
disabledaccessgroup@gmail.com



**MILLER
INDEPENDENT
PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT**

Looking for a high quality property manager for your rental or block?

I'm here to help

- Residential Lettings
- Property Management
- Tenancy Drafting Services



WWW.MILLERIPM.CO.UK
GEORGIE@MILLERIPM.CO.UK
07503 580 864



Google ★★★★★ 5.0
Top Rated Service 2026

TURN YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS INTO REALITY

Your holiday, planned with care and tailored just for you.

Ski Flights Hotels Cruises Transfers Holiday Packages

0790 000 8679 Contact Andy
aptravelconsultant@yahoo.com
@aptravelconsultant

ABTA ABTA No. P7394

Enquiry QR Scan QR code

HOPPO'S HANDYMAN SERVICES

Friendly, reliable help around the house & garden.
Need a hand with odd jobs, repairs, or general maintenance?
From shelves and flat-pack building to installing and hanging your TV on the wall - I've got you covered.

Alex on 07459 837766
alex@handymanhoppo.co.uk
www.handymanhoppo.co.uk

- ✓ Local & trusted
- ✓ No job too small
- ✓ Fair prices & quick response
- ✓ Hourly & day rates

JOHN BROWN
hardware EST. 1957



Architectural Plans

If you want to extend your house you need the best advice, we are the long established local professionals with creative design ideas, high service level, and a top planning success rate.

CADPLAN
ARCHITECTURE

01275 859110 or 078900 58406
Royal Oak House, High Street, Nailsea, BS48 1AW
office@cad-plan.co.uk

The Meeting Point

May already, time flies when you are having fun! The Meeting Point has a thriving community of visitors who enjoy lunches twice a month, accessible yoga, after school cuppa and cake, children's activities in the school holidays and who always find a warm welcome and friendly company. More users means we are recruiting a few more volunteers and one or two more trustees. Could this be you? Would you like to be part of a supportive team who are having fun making a difference in Backwell? Do pop in to meet us on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall, whether you would like to join any of our activities or would like to help deliver them. We'd love to meet you.

May Calendar

Every Tuesday in term time. We are open from 10.30 till 4.30 for coffee/tea, cake and company. Suggested donation £2.

May 5th 11.00 -12.00 - Sittingfit yoga with Nina. £5
12.15 - 12.45 - Informal communion service.
1.00 -2.30 - Home made soup, bread, cheeses, fruit. £6

May 12th 10.30 - Refreshments
11.00-12.00 - Sittingfit yoga with Nina. £5
Close 4.30

May 19th 10.30 - Refreshments
11.00-12.00 - Sittingfit yoga with Nina £5
1.00-2.30 - Two course lunch cooked by Scotty. £9

Close 4.30
May 26th School holiday. No yoga.
10.00- 12.00 Children's activities
(accompanied please)
Close 12.30
We look forward to welcoming you.

North Somerset Quilters

North Somerset Quilters will be meeting on Friday May 15th at 7.30pm at Backwell W.I. Hall, Station Rd., Backwell BS48 3QW

The Speaker will be Merrill Tanton with her talk "I Like this Quilt, but is it any Good?". Merrill will also be our trader for the evening. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £7 for the evening.

For more information telephone Karen 01275 463119

Yatton Local History Society

Tuesday May 5th Yatton Local History Society talk by Katherine Groves on Commonwealth War Graves. 7.30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW. Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

The Nailsea & District Local History Society

The next N&DLHS meeting will be Monday 11th May in the Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School starting at 7.45pm when Dr Jonathan Harlow will be presenting Bristol & the Civil War. Members free and visitors most welcome £3pp. Further info from 01275 463479

West Town & Backwell WI

Wednesday 20th May - Rosie Passingham, Pelvic Health Specialist



Join our friendly group of women for their May 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 Rosie Passingham, Pelvic Health Specialist, who will share her knowledge and expertise, and also answer any questions relating to women's pelvic health. For more information, email BackwellWI@gmail.com or find us on Facebook or www.backwellwi.org.uk

Saturday 13th June - Table Top Sale

Please support our WI Hall 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

Backwell Senior Club (BSC)

Our BSC 70th anniversary was an enjoyable occasion with almost a full house celebrating with us. Our speaker, Lottie, as expected, gave us an interesting and hilarious account of her time in training as a nurse (somewhat reminiscent of a "carry on film" in parts) plus progress in her chosen career. The students worked hard and played hard and made life-long friendships as they progressed. Thank you Lottie, we hope to see you again next season.



The talk was followed by a celebration cake, which was yummy, together with a cuppa and much chatting around the tables. We had a good time. We meet on the 3rd Friday of the month, doors open at 2.00pm for 2.30 start at West Town Methodist Church, (WTM) and seniors, ladies and gentlemen, are very welcome to join us. On May 15th we set up "café style" and have various team activities to enjoy. All followed by a cuppa, biscuits and a friendly chat. Depending on road works, access to WTM may not be possible so ring as below for confirmation of venue on Wednesday 13th May. Further info from: Sue: 01275 461231

Nailsea and District Croquet Club

The croquet season is in full swing, having opened with a soup lunch and then a charity event for Save the Children (£130 raised). Members would be delighted to show you the game or teach some techniques. Trial membership is just £20 for 6 weeks, including coaching in basic skills and introductions to both Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. The club, which has four lawns open for play or practice during all day-light hours, is just off Avening Close, Nailsea (<https://what3words.com/pose.lame.former>). When matches are being played, members of the public are welcome as spectators (entrance free). Further details can be found at <https://www.nailsea-croquet.org.uk/>. or contact Erica on ericacroquet@gmail.com (07754 092800).

Press Statement – Candlelight to Dancefloor

Students from Backwell School took centre stage at a unique candlelit concert event, performing 90s and 00s dance classics to sell-out audiences and helping raise over £10,000 for The Brain Tumour Charity during Brain Tumour Awareness Month.

The event, Candlelight to Dancefloor, brought together a traditional church setting with well-known dance music in a completely new way. After the first night sold out within a week, a second date was added due to overwhelming demand.

At the heart of the performances was the Backwell School orchestra. The students learned 22 completely new tracks from scratch, many of which were entirely unfamiliar to them, and delivered two incredible performances. Their energy, commitment and willingness to embrace a new style of music created a truly special atmosphere and brought the whole community together.

"While the fundraising total is something I'm incredibly proud of, for me the real highlight was the students. They didn't know this music when I first approached them, but they threw themselves into it and created something amazing. To see them grow in confidence, enjoying every moment and really connecting with the audience, was so special.

They absolutely deserve the recognition for what they achieved. They were the heart of the event, and it simply wouldn't have been possible without them. What could have been a difficult anniversary was turned into something joyful, and that's thanks to the students, the school, and the wider community coming together."

Jane Roberts
Event Organiser



Photo credit: Luke Hagan - Backwell School

Backwell Probus Club Report (April 2026)

Since our last report, we have had two meetings, the first was an illustrated talk by Ian Selby on "Cockney Culture & Entertainment". He started by explaining the territory within the sound of Bow Bells (The church of St. Mary-Le-Bow on Cheapside) in the East End of London. We were shown the many variations of the Cockney slang and given video sound recordings of many of the Cockney songs from "Lambeth Walk" to "Boiled Beef & Carrots" involving characters such as Marie Lloyd. He finished the talk with the pearly Kings & Queens of the Costermongers. It was certainly a most entertaining talk.

Our second talk in early April was an illustrated talk on "From Mars via Kazakhstan" by Terry Ransome. He told us about his involvement in building a landing device at Filton for sending to Mars via the European Space Agency site at Kazakhstan. He also detailed all the many attempts by Russian and American rockets launched since 1970's to the present day, when they have been more successful, particularly in 2003, when the Filton device was parachuted onto Mars.

For our next meetings in May, we can look forward to talks on "Building the Severn Tunnel" and "Whatever happened to the Great Enlightenment". 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

simpsonsolicitors 

Free Will Review

Book your FREEMEETING at home or at our Nailsea office.

Get up-to-date Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney to make sure it is your wishes that are followed. Have peace of mind that everything is done properly by our award-winning team: In person meetings. Plain English advice. Clear fixed prices. No hidden costs. Protect their inheritance.

On your own: You choose who you want to inherit from you

Living together: Decide if and how your partner is protected

Parent Wills: Provide for children & name Guardians to raise them

Later Life Wills: Protect inheritance from Tax and Care Home Fees

Lasting Powers of Attorney: Appoint those you trust to make decisions, in case of serious illness or injury



"We were made to feel very welcome and cared for" H.L.

"You have lifted a great weight off our shoulders" C.R.

20% OFF
full price if you buy 2 Powers of Attorney

Wills | Powers of Attorney | Probate



Get in touch: message@simpsonslawuk.com | 01275 857 122

Free home visits or ground floor offices in Nailsea shopping centre

The Sion, Crown Glass Shopping Centre, Nailsea, BS48 1RB | simpsonsolicitors.com

St Andrews Mothers' Union

A good attendance at our March meeting was given a very interesting talk with illustrations by Peter Speight on the Backwell Environmental Trust. We saw photographs of land purchased by the Trust near to the old quarry and Jubilee Stone, how it had been developed and restored over the years by a very dedicated team of volunteers. An interesting feature was the restoration of dry stone walls and how horses were used in the clearing of large logs from the area. We were shown aerial photographs of Backwell taken by Peter's Drone, showing areas of new development and possible future building expansion.

We are looking forward to our April meeting when we will welcome Rev Carol Edwards from Wraxall. Her talk is entitled 'A Woman's Place is in the Church'.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.15pm in Church House. There is always a warm welcome to all.

St Andrew's Ladies Group

Sandy Bateman came to talk to the ladies about the history of the Minach theatre near Lands End in Cornwall. She told us about Rowena Cade who in the early 1920s bought a house on the Minach headland and saw the possibility of building a theatre at the end of her garden which had fine views of the sea. She spent the rest of her life working to construct the theatre with material from the local environment. Today the theatre is famous for its unique position and the delight many theatre goers experience when they sit on the grassy arena and watch the wonderful productions it offers over the summer months. Sandy showed us some fine photographs of the theatre where she herself has performed during her acting career.

North Somerset Arts Contemporary Art and Craft Members' Exhibition 15th-17th May 2026

North Somerset Arts are excited to showcase the wonderful creativity of our artists at our biennial Members' Exhibition on Friday 15th - Sunday 17th May at Failand Village Hall. North Somerset Arts represents over ninety artists and creatives throughout the county who work with a wide variety of media from ceramics to textiles, painting to sculpture - there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Over the weekend we will have talks and demonstrations from some of our members. This is a great opportunity to meet local artists and find out more about their process and inspiration. A full programme will be published on our website www.northsomersetarts.org and on our social media @northsomersetarts.

For our younger visitors, we have some fun craft activities as well as our Young Collectors stall. We want to encourage the next generation of creatives to begin developing their own appreciation for art, so all the pieces on this stall will be available exclusively for children to choose and all priced under £15.

This year we are launching the People's Choice award. Visitors will be able to vote for their favourite

On May 11th we are holding our annual charity quiz night, non members both men and women are most welcome to bring a team or to come on their own. Tickets are £5.00 with light refreshments and B.A.B. For tickets please phone Gillian on 07392004836.

St Andrew's Art Group

St Andrew's Art Group are holding their Open Exhibition at Backwell Parish Hall 22-24/05/2026

This year's chosen charity is St Peter's Hospice.

Opening Evening from 7:30pm on Friday 22nd May

10am-6pm on Saturday 23rd May

10am-4pm on Sunday 24th May

FREE ENTRY to view affordable original art by local artists. Homemade refreshments available.

For any artists who wish to participate please contact Lindsey for an entry form by 9th May via email rtscribbler88@gmail.com May at Backwell Playhouse

Jo Frank
Michael McKenzie
COMEDY NIGHT
SAT 16th MAY 2026
7.30pm (Bar 7pm)
Tickets £10 available from
www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk
Mariners Drive, Backwell, BS48 3HT
Not suitable for under 10's. The evening may contain explicit content. Performances may be recorded and made available online.
Samantha Day

artist and the winner will get a cash prize of £150!

We will also have a tempting selection of homemade cakes and refreshments!

Entry is free and our opening times are:

- Friday 15th May preview 6pm-8pm
- Saturday 16th May 10am-6pm
- Sunday 17th May 10am-3pm

Join us to support your local artists and discover the beautiful work they have to offer.



Image credits: Anna Barclay

BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptist Church Services

3rd May (Communion)
Preacher: Josh Howard
Service Leader: Anne Nicklen
Theme: Rahab & the Spies: God uses unlikely people
Passages: Joshua 2

10th May
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Dawn Jefferies
Theme: Crossing the Jordan: God makes a way
Passage: Joshua 3

17th May
Preacher: Peter Burns
Service Leader: Dave Nicklen
Theme: The 12 Stones: Remembering God's Faithfulness
Passage: Joshua 4

24th May
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Theme: The Passover at Gilgal: Preparing for Jericho
Passage: Joshua 5

31st May
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Ruth Ham
Theme: The Fall of Jericho
Passage: Joshua 6

May Music Concert at St Mary's Yatton

Amethyst Duo (Clarinet and Piano) at St Mary's Church, Yatton 16th May.

This will be the final concert for Yatton Music Society's Spring season and will be an evening of French music which Meg Davies (clarinet) and Chloe Clayton (piano) have themed their concert 'Sous les étoiles'. Their performance will include music from French composers selected to please the audience with soothing melodies interwoven with dramatic climaxes. Both Meg and Chloe are first class honours graduates from the Royal Welsh College of Music and we are assured an evening of virtuoso music. The evening will be even more memorable with refreshments provided with a French flavour.

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

Saturday, May 16
Amethyst Duo (clarinet and piano), 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Yatton, Tickets £15, Children free, details: www.yms.org.uk



WEST TOWN METHODIST CHURCH

West Town Methodist Church
Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

May	3rd	Rev Sally Ratcliffe
	10th	Mrs Jean Balcombe
	17th	Rev Christine Legge
	24th	Rev Philip Challis
Pentecost		
	31st	Rev Sally Ratcliffe Communion

Do watch Songs of Praise on 24th May, when the service was recorded at the New Room and at Turnaround, Bristol.

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 or Shirley Edwards: 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
7th and 28th May, 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

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

Services in April St Andrew's Church

Sunday 3rd 11.00am 5.00pm	4th Sunday after Easter Informal Communion Evensong
Sunday 10th 11.00am 5.00pm	5th Sunday after Easter Sung Eucharist Said Evening Prayer
Sunday 17th 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Sunday after Ascension Café Church Sung Eucharist Said Evening Prayer
Sunday 24th 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Whit Sunday Café Church Sung Eucharist Said Evening Prayer
Sunday 31st 11.00am 5.00pm	Trinity Sunday Sung Eucharist Healing service

St Bridget's Church

Sunday 3rd 9.15am Sunday 10th 9.15am	4th Sunday after Easter Holy Communion 5th Sunday after Easter Morning Prayer
Thursday 14th 10.00am	Ascension Day Holy Communion
Sunday 17th 9.15am	Sunday after Ascension Holy Communion
Sunday 24th 9.15am	Whit Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday 31st 9.15am	Trinity Sunday Morning Prayer

St Bridget's Church

Our thanks to all those who supported a wonderful Holy Saturday Coffee Morning on 4th April, which raised an impressive £635.43 towards the upkeep of our beautiful Church. The plant and cake stalls were very popular, and it was lovely to see so many familiar and new faces in the Tynte Chapel.

The good news is that this was just the first of our regular coffee mornings, held on the first Saturday of each month through to October, 10am to 12 noon. The next is on Saturday 3rd May at St. Bridget's – why not join us for coffee, cake, and a look around our fascinating 12th century Church?

Looking ahead, we are delighted to invite you to a Cream Tea at the home of Howard and Barbara Walton, 9 Sedgemoor Close, Nailsea, on Saturday 27th June, 2.30–4.30pm. More details to follow, but do save the date!

For information about all our services and events please visit our website www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk.



St Francis

The Season of Easter continues through this month moving towards Pentecost which we celebrate on Sunday 24th May at the 11:00am Mass.

In St Francis (as do all Catholic Churches) May is the month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Christ. We remember her especially in all Masses in May.

Please pray for our children and young people who are making their First Holy Communion and Confirmation early next month.

Please see all Mass times and Livestreaming on www.josephfrancis.org

Christians Together In & around Backwell

Open the Book – Wednesday 13th May at West Leigh Infants School
Thursday 7th and 21st May at Backwell Junior School

Prayer Watch – Monday 11th May, at West Town Methodist Church
7.15 for 7.30pm

Lent Lunch - This took place in March in aid of Turnaround, Bristol, a charity helping the homeless. Thank you to those who helped or supported – we raised £202.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th – 16th May 2026

Help fund aid today. Help fuel hope for tomorrow. Pray for peace

Huge cuts in international aid funding have reduced the level of assistance that's offered to communities living in a state of crisis. Where hardship means hunger, urban farmers can grow hope. Your support will help them to grow food and protect their children from hunger. The familiar red envelopes will be in local churches, at Meeting Point, and at Parker's Estate Agents. Parker's have kindly agreed to be the Collection Point for the return of envelopes. Please be generous – the need is greater than ever.

Please visit the website, if wish to donate online. Thank you

Julie Ratcliffe - Backwell area co-ordinator.

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

Organist & Choir Master: Vacant - contact via Benefice Office

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

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

Email: backwellbaptist@gmail.com

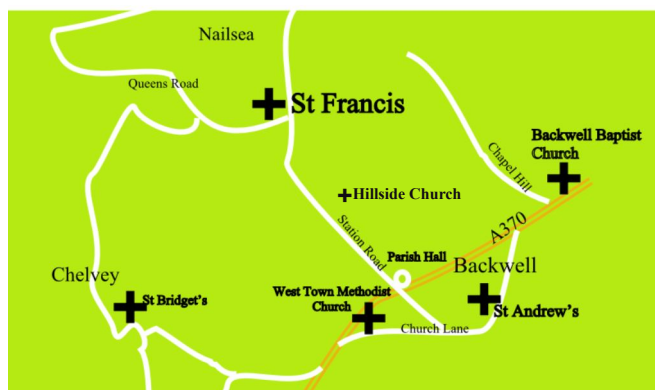
Phone: 07521 787115

Facebook: 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



Advertising Neither The Village Magazine, its editor, nor management committee accept any responsibility or give any guarantee in the case of dispute or claim as to quality, condition or delivery of commodities or services advertised in this magazine. It is not to be taken that publication implies recommendation. It is always advisable to check prices when ordering goods or services. **Views** expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or The Village Magazine. **Copyright** The Village Magazine 2026. Copyright remains with the author(s) and The Village Magazine. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without prior permission of the copyright owners.

**CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH?
WANT TO BE MORE ACTIVE?
WANT TO FEEL HAPPIER, STRONGER, FITTER?**



Terry Bees

With over 20 years of experience, Terry combines GP exercise referral, sports rehabilitation and personal training to offer a highly individual approach to prevent injury, promote recovery and to achieve results.



- Hypertension
- Osteoarthritis
- Asthma and COPD
- Stress and Anxiety
- Obesity and Diabetes
- Arthritis and Joint Replacement



CALL TODAY
to book a phone
consultation call:

0788 064 6029

STUDIO IN BACKWELL



beesytraining@gmail.com
www.beesytraining.co.uk

“The service provided by Parker’s was exceptional. The team were transparent and maintained regular contact with me throughout the process. From viewings to completion, Parker’s worked hard to establish a sale.”



01275 463096



www.parkers-ea.co.uk

info@parkers-ea.co.uk
1/3 Station Road, Backwell,
North Somerset, BS48 3NW



Parker's

Estate Agents & Property Lettings

Successfully selling and letting homes since 1989

Solving your legal problems... **locally**



FOR YOU: Accident and Injury | Cohabitation Wills
Conveyancing | Court of Protection | Crime | Disputes
Employee Relocation | Employment | Family Law and Divorce | Medical Negligence
New Homes | Notary Public | Probate | Probate Disputes | Wills and Mental Capacity

FOR YOUR BUSINESS: Business Disputes | Business Development | Business Relocation
Commercial Property | Commercial Services | Countryside Commercial | Crime
Debt Recovery | New Homes Developers | Notary Public

Get in touch

01275 850470. 1-3 Alexandra Road, Clevedon

01275 850460. 2 Harbour Road, Portishead

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

wards.uk.com

13 offices in: Bradley Stoke | Central Bristol | Clevedon | Clifton | Henleaze | Keynsham
Nailsea | Portishead | Staple Hill | Thornbury | Weston-super-Mare | Worle | Yate

SWIFT
tree surgery



swifftreesurgery.co.uk

- All aspects of tree surgery
- Hedge & Shrub Maintenance
- Free no-obligation quote
- Over 10 years specialist experience
- Fully qualified & insured tree surgeons

07802 480881 01275 463301

ben@swifftreesurgery.co.uk