

The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley

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The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

I love this time of year with the feeling of Autumn just around the corner. Even though we are in the middle of yet another heat wave, I am looking forward to cosy jumpers and the leaves on the trees turning from green to gold. I often think the world is at its most beautiful in the Autumn and of course for us in church, it is when we celebrate Harvest.

When I was a little girl the church where I grew up was always decorated beautifully at harvest time with fruit and vegetables, flowers and often a loaf of bread shaped like a sheaf of corn. There would be apples along the communion rail, leeks in a wheel barrow along with carrots freshly dug from the earth. On Saturday evening we would have a Hotpot Supper and sometimes a Barn Dance. It was a weekend filled with celebrating and giving thanks to God for the beautiful world he had made, for his marvellous provision of food to eat and water to drink.

Giving thanks at harvest is a tradition with a long history. It was a time to celebrate when the crops were safely gathered meaning there would be food in the months to come. For those of us who neither sow or reap, who play no real part in the growing of crops or of harvesting them, it is hard for us to fully grasp the significance of such a celebration. Our Harvest celebrations look very different. After all, we only need to pop to the nearest supermarket to find the food we need, with food being available all year round: strawberries in November, parsnips in March, no problem! Even so, Harvest still has an important function for us today. At harvest time we do three things: we remember, we give thanks and we share what we can with those who are in need. We remember God's goodness, we remember farmers, fishermen, grocers, shop keepers and all those who help bring food to our tables. We remember and we give thanks remembering just how fortunate we are and in doing so are prompted to share. In many of our churches today you will find as many tins of baked beans and bags of pasta as you will apples and potatoes at the Harvest Festival. Food that is non-perishable and donated to the local Foodbank or to a charity for the hungry and homeless. Many churches also collect monetary donations for charities such as Christian Aid, Oxfam and All We Can, who seek to help those overseas who have little to eat and need help to grow food to feed their families. Remembering, thanking and sharing things we can all do. Next time you walk down the cereal aisle at the supermarket, count how many different cereals you can choose from and remember just how fortunate you are. Next time you buy apples, look at the different varieties available and marvel at the amazing world in which we live. And then do what you can to share some of what you have so that others might not go hungry. The Nailsea Foodbank has a great website and Facebook page which includes a list of food currently in short supply and gives details of where to drop it off. Christian Aid, All We Can, Oxfam and so many others have websites enabling us to make a donation to help people overseas.

"For the fruit(s) of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done."
Fred Pratt Green

Remember, give thanks and share this Harvest.

Sally

Cover photograph by Ann Belcher.

A picture taken in autumn as Cheston Combe becomes Backwell Combe Road. I have sprinkled a bit of magic on this image as it never seems to get as colourful as Brockley Combe Road. This year it may.... Let's hope.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

September Meeting

Planning Cllr Harland, Head of Planning and Placemaking, presented a full update on major planning sites within the village.

Grove Farm Proposed Closure of Chelvey Road. A joint meeting with Brockley Parish Council, North Somerset Council, and Highways will take place, to be led by a Transport Consultant on BPC's behalf.

Farleigh Fields East Issues regarding noisy manhole covers at Farleigh Fields East were ongoing. Previous welding attempts on the covers were unsuccessful, and disturbance to residents continues.

Farleigh Fields West The two-week demolition phase at Farleigh Fields West (Dark Lane) had proceeded reasonably well, with mitigation works scheduled to commence in early October. The Parish Council will monitor operations to ensure compliance with the Traffic Management Plan.

Land south of Nailsea Cllr Harland confirmed that she is liaising with Nailsea Town Council to coordinate our responses.

Local Green Space The project is ongoing. A recent meeting with an NSC Ecologist had been very helpful in providing valuable background knowledge and context for the Council.

Neighbourhood Plan Projects regarding youth provision and active travel, specifically focusing on safe routes to school, were now getting underway.

Bristol Airport Cllr Hatcher provided an update on a recent useful meeting with Bristol Airport regarding their 15mppa application. Discussions covered concerns over safety, passenger numbers, and early morning flight schedules, alongside commitments to address local impacts on Downside and potential funding support for parking scheme mitigation.

Downside Cllr Harland reported that the temporary bus stop at Downside was now operational and being used.

Finance Cllr Ould informed Councillors that the six-month financial review would be presented at the October meeting, and that budget planning for 2027-28 is now under way.

Highways and Footpaths Resurfacing works on the A370 were underway, with overnight closures in effect to facilitate the project.

Cllrs considered a request for support for a proposed school holiday bus service connecting Bristol, Long Ashton, Flax Bourton, Backwell, Nailsea and Yatton. Members decided to issue a letter of support, noting that no financial commitment or support is involved. Cllr Harland informed members that the new paved footpath linking Rodney Road to West Leigh Infant School would open on Monday 7th September. Taylor Wimpey has confirmed they will set back the Heras

fencing to enclose only the car park perimeter, improving access along the path.

People's Emergency Briefing Cllr Ould informed members that the screening will take place on 24th September in the Parish Hall and encouraged attendance.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025/26 and the External Auditor's report The Clerk reported that these reports have been successfully completed with no matters arising. Members expressed their thanks to her.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Backwell Parish Hall on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

New Website, Broadband WiFi and Video Conferencing System for Backwell Parish Hall

The **Trustees of the Parish Hall** have had a busy summer and are pleased to announce three important developments at the Hall:

The first is that the Hall has a new web site and booking system which went live at the beginning of September. The web site, with the same address as before – <https://backwellparishhall.org.uk> – has been designed to make it easier for hirers to book the Hall and to advertise their activities to the community. The updated online platform, developed with the LemonBooking system and with the support of Stancombe Quarry and Bristol Airport, provides residents with a clear, comprehensive overview of all Hall activities, including regular weekly sessions and upcoming special events. Through the new site, users can check real-time venue availability, review room specifications and amenities, and submit formal booking requests online. Whether you are planning a private celebration, a company meeting, or a public activity, the new system offers an efficient, accessible process for booking the Hall. We encourage all residents and local organizations to visit the website to discover what is on offer and to use the site for future bookings.

The second development is that broadband Wi-Fi access has been installed throughout the Hall that will support multiple people connected to WiFi, and high bandwidth activities such as streaming video. It also supports the Hall's third development which is the installation of a high-specification video conferencing system in one of its committee rooms. The system is from the Belgian company Barco, a leading manufacturer of such systems, and was installed with a grant from Backwell Parish Council. It combines a large high-resolution monitor with an intelligent room camera and microphones. It is operated with very easy-to-use software so that hirers can now broadcast their meetings and participate in video conferences. More details can be found on the web site or by contacting the Hall's Trustees.



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BACKWELL SCOUTS

Christmas Post

🎄 Join the Scout Christmas Post Team!

Backwell & Nailsea's Scout Christmas Post is gearing up for another festive season — and we're looking for new helpers to join the crew. If you've ever popped a card into one of our Scout post boxes, you've already seen the magic in action. Local residents post their Christmas cards for just 50p, volunteers sort them, and Scouts deliver them across the village — raising funds for local Scouting and providing a service to the community.

☀️ What You'll Do

We need someone friendly, positive, and aged 11+ (old enough to roam safely and handle scissors without causing a village incident).

Tasks include:

Chatting with local shops and services who host our post boxes
Allocating delivery routes
Collecting cards and bringing them to the sorting office
Helping count, sort and frank the post
Deliver sorted post to the Scout Meetings and liaising with Scout leaders
Coordinating with our Nailsea counterparts
Detective work on incomplete addresses
Additional opportunities available for data analysis, poetry, journalism, marketing, design work and social media

😊 Why It's Brilliant

You'll be part of a much-loved local tradition, meet great people, support local young people, and help raise money for the Scouts. And yes — there are mince pies involved. It's practically a contractual obligation.

✉️ Interested?

Get in touch with the Scout Christmas Post team-backwellscoutpost@gmail.com
This could be suitable for a 3 month Duke of Edinburgh volunteering role if accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Monday Cubs

We started Autumn Term with wide games, a pack forum about useful information for new Cubs and building spaghetti and marshmallow towers. In September we also had our first camp of the year, in a woodland and as close to wild camping as we could get.

Helen

Tuesday Scouts

Report for Summer camp which is all we really do in August!

Tuesday Scouts highlight of the year is always the Summer Camp and this year we went to a new (to us) site at Pax Hoh in the southern Peak District National Park near Ashbourne.

We started after lunch on the day of our arrival setting up camp as our home for the week ahead.

Amongst other activities we offered a caving/bouldering day at Stoney Middleton and a day hike around the beautiful dales of Dovedale, Milldale and through the picturesque village of Tissington. We also took a short trip into Ashbourne for the town treasure trail (and a brief episode of torrential rain - the sensible leaders took refuge in a coffee shop) and shopping in the local Sainsbury's supermarket for the traditional (and popular) 'Masterchef' evening. The Scouts wrote their own menu, bought what they needed within a pre-set budget, and cooked (and ate) the excellent results! The leaders did much the same with a much more vague budget! The Scouts even received a compliment on an international Facebook Group page from a local person who was also shopping in Sainsbury's! The final activity was, as always, fun and games in a nearby water park at Alton Towers (in order to return the Scouts a little cleaner than before!!). The weather was very good throughout the week apart from one evening when we were entertained by the sounds and lights of a thunderstorm — last year we said we had the best camp ever, but this year certainly equalled that and it was a pleasure for all the leaders to have been part of it. The Scouts were once again excellent in every way and made life easy for us with their good behaviour and constant enthusiasm in everything they did.

Ian

Explorers

The Autumn term promises to be a busy and exciting one for the Explorers with a packed schedule already in place! The first week back saw the unit welcome seven new members who happily threw themselves into the postponed 'It's a Knockout'. Despite it getting dark a bit sooner than expected, everyone had a great time getting soaked through as they negotiated the fiendish obstacle course wearing an assortment of fancy dress, flippers and oversized wellies! The unit also welcomed Rosie and Lorraine who have agreed to help out running the meetings - help that is greatly appreciated. That's not to say we don't need any more, and with 38 registered young people on the books, if you want to get involved, please get in touch.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Record Sixth Form Numbers and Outstanding Results Mark Strong Start for Backwell School

As a new academic year gets underway, I am delighted to report that Backwell School has enjoyed an exceptionally positive start to September. Across the school, there has been a real sense of energy, purpose and enthusiasm, with students returning ready to learn and eager to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. It has been particularly pleasing to see our young people living out our core values of being Kind, Curious and Ambitious through their interactions with others, their commitment to learning and the goals they have set themselves for the year ahead.

This September has also seen the successful return to a five-period school day, a change that students have embraced remarkably well. Alongside this, we have opened our new Dining Centre, which has transformed the lunchtime experience for our school community. The response from students has been overwhelmingly positive and the facility is already becoming an important hub within the school day.

Over the summer there was much to celebrate, not least another set of outstanding examination results. Our A Level students achieved an impressive average grade of B-, exceeding their target grades and making, on average, almost half a grade more progress than expected. This was followed by an excellent set of GCSE outcomes, with students achieving an average grade of 5.25 across all subjects. These results once again place Backwell School amongst the highest-performing schools in the local area and are a testament to the hard work and ambition of our students, supported by the expertise, commitment and care of our staff.

The strength of these outcomes has also contributed to a record number of students choosing to continue their education with us. This September, we welcomed more than 185 students into Year 12, making it one of our largest Sixth Form cohorts in recent years and reflecting the confidence students and families place in our Sixth Form provision.

Beyond the classroom, our students continue to achieve remarkable success. Year 13 student Olly Freeman represented England at the European Youth Touch Rugby Championships, helping the Mixed Under-18 side win every match on their way to becoming European Champions. Our Equestrian Team also enjoyed an outstanding summer, with Clem E, Lola B, Holly M and Hattie M securing second place in the 70cm competition and third place in the 80cm competition at the National Championships, finishing ahead of several leading independent schools.

Meanwhile, Year 12 student Mariella B continues to excel on the international golfing stage. Over the summer she represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Junior Vagliano Trophy against Europe before winning the prestigious England Golf Champion of Champions event at Woodhall Spa. She has also earned further England appearances and invitations to compete at major events in Dubai and Portugal later this year.

These achievements represent only a small snapshot of the extraordinary talent within our school community. Alongside these students, we continue to support young people competing at regional, national and international level across a range of sports, including swimming, rugby, football and basketball, with several representing academies such as Bristol Bears, Bristol Flyers, Bristol City, Bristol Rovers, Newport County and Exeter City. Their ability to balance elite-level sport with academic success is a constant source of pride.

We also warmly invite members of our local community to engage with the life of the school throughout the year. Backwell School is about far more than academic success, and there are many opportunities to celebrate the talents, creativity and achievements of our students. From our much-loved concerts and school productions to art exhibitions and sporting fixtures, there is always something special taking place. Details of these events are regularly shared on our website, and we would be delighted to welcome parishioners and local residents to join us in celebrating the achievements of our young people.

As we look ahead to the year before us, we do so with great optimism. Backwell School remains a place where young people are encouraged to thrive academically, develop as individuals and pursue their passions with confidence. We are enormously proud of our students and grateful for the continued support of families and the wider community. Together, we will continue to ensure that every child is supported to achieve their very best. In the words that have become synonymous with our school community: We Are Backwell.



Will Penny
Headteacher

Bridget Petty for Backwell

The Summer of 2026 was the hottest on record for the UK, with 6 out of 7 of the hottest recorded summers all coming in the last 8 years. The previous winter was the wettest on record for many parts of the UK.

Our weather is changing, and Green Party Councillors raised this concern to the Full Council in September to ensure the council is preparing for extreme heat. I seconded the motion about Extreme Heat, it was proposed by Councillor Mike Dunn who lives in Long Ashton. Together we encouraged other party members to back the vote, it was close but we did get a majority vote.

Many of us have now had the chance to watch the People's Emergency Briefing (screened in Backwell 24th September 26). The experts state it is not too late to take real action to limit the worst impacts of climate change. We must act now, and government leaders must halt projects that are going to continue to release greenhouse gases or support fossil fuel extraction and the fossil fuel industry. It is clear while we can each play our part in reducing our own impact through the choices we have, it is system change that is required.

Reducing car use and increasing public transport and sustainable transport is part of the big picture. In North Somerset our biggest emissions are from transport.

North Somerset Council has reported that bus usage in our area is up and over the summer reached a record high. July's figures represent more than 170,000 additional passenger boardings compared with July 2023, an increase of more than 32 per cent. Over 700,000 passenger boardings in July showed a real upward trend. When more people use the bus it results in less road congestion for those who must use a private car.

Green Party Councillors have supported continued investment from North Somerset Council in making bus travel more attractive, affordable and easier to use. Improvements include more frequent and better-connected services, free travel initiatives and clearer information to help people plan their journeys. We still believe there is more to be done with routes that link Long Ashton to Backwell, and our Farleigh residents to Nailsea.



Save Felton Common News Airport Application Decision Delayed until 31/12/26?

North Somerset Council have just announced that their Planning Service & The Airport have agreed to extend the statutory period for determining the application until 31/12/26.

Planning Services are now reviewing all the comments and representations received during the consultation period and due to the scale of the application and volume of responses this is expected to take some time. Though the formal consultation period has now closed the **NSC will still accept and consider comments sent to them.** NSC may also request additional information from The Airport and if further consultation periods are required they will be published on the NSC Bristol Airport proposals webpage. The application requires an environmental statement (ES) and it is understood that this has not been fully completed by The Airport. The target for deciding planning applications that need an ES is 16 weeks, although for large complex applications the time period can be longer to address any major issues.

Details of the decision-making process and time frame will be included on the NSC Bristol Airport proposals webpage in due course.

So, things still appear unclear and could be delayed further. **We would therefore ask everyone concerned to send as many new comments to the NSC portal as possible.** These are best personal, how The Airport

affects you and what the proposals may mean. You might like to highlight growing national concerns about the growth of aviation such as- Sustainable Aviation and Industry body acknowledging concerns over ultra fine particulates (UFPs). The Aviation Environment Federation. Government forecasts of reductions in use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel and delays to Jet Zero and zero emission aircraft and lastly more questions about the viability of Heathrow's third runway.

On 09/09 some SFC members attended a No Airport Expansion Group Demonstration at The Houses of Parliament made up of anti-airport growth protesters from around the UK. Several MPs and Lords attended and were made aware of SFC's concerns.

Lastly if you want to advertise your support, we have 2 great car window stickers available from Winford Community Shop for £3 each come along and make your choice or have both!

If you have not already done so, please send your email address to savefeltoncommon@gmail.com so that we can add you to our mailing list and keep you informed of any further developments.
Simon Martin on behalf of Save Felton Common.
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Backwell Residents Association (BRA)

There is an opportunity for newcomers to join our committee and help to keep Backwell a great place in which to live.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE BRA COMMITTEE

Send an email to enquiries@backwellresidents.org.uk to register your interest and have a chat to see how you might contribute.

Several long serving committee members have delayed retiring, given the intense building and planning activity in recent years. They will be a significant loss. Our reduced committee still includes a chartered surveyor, (fully employed in the property world), a person with IT skills, an ecologist/agriculturist, the chair of the Backwell Parish Council (BPC) planning committee, a retired solicitor plus a key member of Backwell Resistance with good external links. Also generalists with strong links to the BRA membership.

In spite of several pleas for fresh faces, we will not be able to continue with the reduced committee numbers and will have to severely limit what we do – or, in the extreme, wind BRA up.

We meet once a month in the evening (by Zoom for some people). We are a lively informal group, who share an interest in what is happening in Backwell. Planning applications and local plans always feature, but we also consider speed limits in Backwell, parking, safety and other highways issues, flooding, ecology, our very inaccessible railway station, bus routes, pavements and Bristol Airport. We also have a representative on the group that allocates community money from Stancombe quarry to adjacent villages.

Examples of what BRA has done

- BRA has provided a unique voice for our village's concerns. We have delivered expertise in supporting projects in Backwell, and are a positive force in building our community.
- Delayed building on Farleigh Fields (from the 1980's) with fewer house numbers, and helped in the creation of a Local Green Space.
- Surveyed our pavements identifying more than 30 issues, over half of which have either been solved or are being solved by the NSC.
- Played a key role in cancelling the bus lane idea for the A370 and the ill-considered proposal to make Dark Lane one way.
- Was the lead organisation for the Climate Emergency screening evening at the Parish Hall.
- Provided expertise and detailed analysis on legal, planning and ecology to support the BPC in negotiating with Developers on the Local Green Space.
- Become part of a partnership with Nailsea to increase the Biodiversity of the River Kenn
- Carried out surveys to quantify village opinion on topics such as the Local Plan housing numbers and airport expansion.
- Submitted insightful comments on every major planning proposal. Developed links with

consultants to enable us to produce strong technical arguments, either to produce our own comments or submit a joint comment with BPC.

- Created credibility at NSC and elsewhere, given our expertise and the fact that 450 households are prepared to pay £10 or more to be part of BRA. Backwell is a strong community, and residents enjoy being here, which Government inspectors have noted.

Relationship with BPC

We each have a focus on the future of Backwell. BPC is our statutory authority and receives its precept from NSC via Council Tax. BPC has a wide range of expenditure which includes looking at all planning applications, even minor ones, litter clearance, maintenance of playgrounds and play equipment, plus making grants to village organisations and having an office team. It runs under strict rules for meetings and declarations of interest etc and for decision making. It is not allowed to fundraise.

In contrast BRA has a much less restrictive constitution and raises around £8,000 a year which we direct to paying for consultancy (planning, traffic, hydrology, biodiversity) on major projects. We can act very quickly if there is a need.

What would we lose if BRA closed down

BPC would lose the support that BRA provides, and has stated that it is very keen for BRA to continue. The ability of BRA to explain planning matters in everyday language and encourage BRA members to have their say.

Submit our submissions to NSC which enhance those from BPC.

BRA provides regular email bulletins to 450 member households on planning, highways and general points of interest. which help keep Backwell residents among the best informed in North Somerset.

Our AGM has nearly 100 attendees, with an opportunity to raise issues of concern with an expert panel. An enquiries email address which residents can use to seek information, and report problems they have noticed.

From your BRA Committee

Visit our website at www.backwellresidents.org.uk
Email us at enquiries@backwellresidents.org.uk

Jean Routley - British Empire Medal

On September 2nd Jean Routley was one of just two people to be awarded the British Empire in a Somerset wide celebration at Marston House, Frome.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mohammed Saddiq, welcomed her and thanked her for her service to our community. The British Empire Medal is an award of service deserving recognition by the Crown and there are only 500 awarded nationwide each year. The Lord Lieutenant echoed the King's words in saying that BEMs are the glue that brings our society together. Jean is one of a special few, he said, who are instrumental in building a brighter future. From fostering community spirit and enhancing the quality of life, she has recognised the value of collective action and community engagement. Her ongoing contribution has built a legacy of service that inspires us all. Somerset thrives because of individuals like Jean who understand the value of collaboration and service to others. Her impact resonates and is woven into the fabric of our community creating strength, resilience and unity. Her service encourages us to follow her example and to join hands in building here in our community. Jean was awarded the BEM for services to music and the community of Backwell and North Somerset in June this year.



Backwell Village Show

Another spectacular Backwell Village Show was held on Saturday 19th September in the Parish and WI halls. Despite this summer's very challenging growing conditions there were so many beautiful flowers and stunning fruit and vegetables. Backwell also produced some amazing cakes and bakes, floral art, photography, creative writing and crafts.

This year saw even more entries than last year's event. So many adults and children entered that we had difficulty squeezing all the wonderful exhibits into the Parish Hall! It was lovely to see so many new, first time entrants and so many entries from children, including some very creative decorated paper plates from the children at Rainbows and Meadowside preschools. We also enjoyed reading the Backwell myths that were created in our new flash fiction class.

The Backwell community came out in force to view entries and enjoy delicious cream teas and cakes in the WI Hall next door. There was also a children's tombola and free children's crafts and games.

There were displays from the Camera Club, Backwell Environment Trust, Backwell Allotments, Backwell Playhouse and the North Somerset Quilters. The Nailsea and District Community Transport team parked



their fantastic "blooming community bus" outside the Parish Hall.

The Village Show, which was first held in 1978, remains free to enter and free to attend. All levels of growers, bakers and makers are encouraged to have a go - our aim is to have a class for everyone to enter.

The classes were judged on the day by experts with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes awarded.

At the end of the day, the award ceremony was kicked off with a fantastic raffle with prizes generously donated by local businesses.

More than twenty trophies were awarded to both adults and children. Among the trophy winners, Billy Smith won the prize for the heaviest pumpkin and the cup for the most points in fruit and vegetables and best horticultural exhibit (a fantastic trug of three vegetables). Gillian Chaffe won the cup for the most points in cookery.

Thanks to the support of the wonderful Backwell community, enough funds were raised to confirm that next year's show will be held on Saturday 18 September: Save the date!

Finally, huge thanks to the dedicated committee, Backwell WI, the judges and all those who donated prizes or volunteered on the day and in the run up to the show. An impressive team effort proving yet again what a strong sense of community exists among Backwell residents.

If you would like to help organise the next show (from Spring 2027), or volunteer on the day, please contact us via our website at www.backwellvillageshow.co.uk



Somerset International Festival of the Arts 2026

Join us for an extraordinary weekend of world-class soloists, chamber music, conversation, and wonderful local artists in the heart of Backwell from the 2nd- 4th October.

This year will give us the wonderful opportunity to perform with the newly acquired Bechstein grand piano at St Andrews Church, performing masterpieces of the piano and chamber music repertoire with our renowned resident orchestra The Bristol Ensemble.

The opening concert features the brilliant pianist Viv McLean, described by France's Le Monde as 'possessing the genius one finds in those that know how to forget themselves'. He will be performing a wonderful programme of Mozart and Chopin piano concertos by candlelight with The Bristol Ensemble.

On the morning Saturday 3rd October Music For Miniatures will present a family concert on the theme of The Little Bird, a fantastic musical journey exploring the world of birds for children age 3-10, with a wonderfully imaginative programme to include flute, piccolo, panpipes, didgeridoo, voice and guitar!

Our evening concert on Saturday 3rd October will feature a Brass Spectacular with The SIFA Brass Ensemble - ten outstanding brass players unleash the full power, colour and sparkle of their instruments in a thrilling programme that travels from the fiery passion of Carmen and the infectious energy of Tico Tico to the unforgettable anthems of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody.

The festival finale evening on Sunday 4th October - Chamber Music Treasures by Candlelight, features an evening of sublime chamber music in the enchanting candlelit surroundings of St Andrew's Church. Two of the greatest masterpieces for piano quartet take centre stage for an unforgettable evening of music making. A

pre-concert talk will take place before this final event of the festival.

Every ticket will include a free interval drink, and the opportunity to view our new SIFA Arts exhibition, an exciting collaboration with local artists and North Somerset Arts from across the region to present their work for the duration of our 2026 festival.

Tickets are on sale now, don't miss out on a fantastic weekend of inspiration, creativity and world-class music making! www.somersetfestivalarts.co.uk



Somerset Gallery Quire

Did you know there is a West Gallery choir based in Nailsea? Their next meeting is Saturday 10th October, 2pm, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Lane, Nailsea, BS48 4NG, and they would welcome new members.

What is a West Gallery choir?

It's a group of singers and instrumentalists who sing and play the sort of music that was performed from the west galleries of English country churches in Georgian times. Think Thomas Hardy and "Under the Greenwood Tree" and you will get the idea.

The music is lively and vital, sung in four parts, each one supported by an instrument; flutes, fiddles, cellos, clarinets and concertinas are commonly used in West Gallery bands. The same band often played for the village dances as well.

Eventually the music was suppressed by the authorities as not refined enough and the bands were replaced by organs or harmoniums. Many of the musicians relocated to non-conformist chapels. Over the last thirty or forty years there has been a revived interest amongst all sorts of people in performing this music again. Somerset Gallery Quire meets just once a month on the second Saturday, in the afternoon, and does a couple of performances a year, so it is not a big commitment, but very enjoyable.

If you fancy coming along to a practice to see what it is all about, please get in touch with Pete on petecr13@gmail.com. You would be very welcome.

West Town & Backwell WI

Wednesday 21st October - Hearing Dogs For Deaf People

Join our fun and friendly WI for our October meeting at Backwell WI Hall. The evening's speaker will be Graham Daynes, accompanied by one of the incredible dogs from Hearing Dogs For Deaf People. We will be shown how personalised support is given to people living with deafness and hearing loss, helping them to rebuild connection, companionship and confidence. Doors open at 7:30pm.

New members are warmly welcomed; first-time visits are free! Each month we are treated to an inspiring speaker, whilst enjoying wine, tea, coffee and cake with friends old and new.

Additional social events are also organised throughout the year. F

or more information, email backwellwi@gmail.com or find us on Facebook or www.backwellwi.org.uk

St Andrew's Ladies Group. AGM September 14th 2026.

We invited Andy Pitcher, one of the church wardens at St Andrew's church, to chair our AGM. Reports of the last years business were read out by committee members. The group leader asked if any of the members would be interested in becoming more involved with the running of the group but there were no volunteers.

The group leader gave some worrying news to the ladies, namely that without a replacement for the leader and for the treasurer, the group will have to close by June 2027. She stressed the fact that this would be a great loss to our members but that she hasn't given up altogether of finding some new blood to lead us on, she added that with all the many new houses that have been built in Backwell and Nailsea there must be women who would like to take over this group or form a new group and maybe use the former name of St Andrew's Young Wives.

At our next meeting on October 12th we will welcome our speaker Sarah Dutton who is coming to speak to us about How to save a life. Do join us if you can.

Dark Lane will close to through traffic for approximately seven weeks starting 12th October.

Please allow extra time for your journeys and take extra

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Not suitable for under 16's
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Backwell Climate Action

I hope that you enjoyed 'Start Mowing again September' after the long dry Summer.

Also that you made the most of 'Second Hand September' and that some of you attended the showing of the 'National Emergency Briefing' towards the end of the month. It was significant that several groups cooperated to bring this to the village.

There have been nearly 4,000 showings around the country.

This year we have seen evidence of Climate Change with fires, flooding and record temperatures. Whilst visiting my daughter in Malaysia I saw the decline of coral reefs due to higher sea temperatures and pollution.

October includes 'Days' to help our planet: 4th World Animal Day, 14th International E-waste, 18th UK Reuse day, and 24th International Day of Climate Action. There are also awareness days for dolphins, lemurs and migratory birds.

On a reuse note some of the never used items accumulated on BS48 Borrowers have now been sent to Ukraine, and Borrowers can offer glasses loan of about 70.

I have a list of items, not clothing, to send to Ukraine. Contact me on 37westtown@gmail.com if interested.

Backwell's Second Saturday Community Fair Trade Café

Oct 10th Backwell Parish Hall 10 am to 12 noon
Backwell's 2nd Saturday Community Fair Trade Café is on October 10th. Please join us to enjoy some excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea and some delicious home baked pastries and biscuits.

As usual the Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service offering a range which includes many Fair Trade and organic items. You can peruse the catalogue at the cafe or at <http://www.essential-trading.co.uk>. Why not come along, join the club and place an order for what you need. You can also buy from the range of goods on display without joining or ordering.

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

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

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

Please note that the November Café will be a Repair Café.

Sustainable Backwell

26th Sept: Please help us Litterpick Backwell's Hedges and Verges

Our last litterpick was in July with only 5 stalwart residents, so many places did not get cleaned up. Litter in our hedges is fragmenting into hundreds of tiny polluting microplastic particles.

We need your help. Could you join us for an hour or so on the next Litterpick?

It will be at **2.30pm on Saturday 26th September.**

Meet outside The Spar on Rodney Road. We have litterpickers to lend out but please bring your own garden gloves, if possible.

Forthcoming Dates: Sat 26th September, Sat 31st October, Sat 28th November

Email sustainablebackwell@gmail.com for more info.

For your diary, the next **Repair Café** will be on **Saturday 14th November**, 10am-12noon at the Parish Hall, running alongside the Fairtrade Café.

Come early with your broken things as repairs take time to do. Sustainable Backwell volunteers can usually repair bikes, clothes and household items, and sharpen tools and knives. Donations for repairs are used to fund useful things for the village, like litterpickers, stakes for trees, etc. They also contributed to the solar panels on Westleigh School's roof.

Backwell Garden Club

The Garden Club Meeting on Wednesday 21st October has Jean Vernon giving a talk on "The Secret Lives of Garden Bees". Jeans talk will follow the Club AGM and the meeting will start at the usual time of 1.45pm for a 2pm prompt start. The Club meets every 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. BS48 3QW and is always pleased to welcome Visitors or potential new Members. Just come along to the meeting. For further information please contact Robin Langford, Chairman, on either 07811693579 or email rclangford64@gmail.com



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Every 3rd 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 Allotments

Review of 2026 so far. No one will need reminding that this year has been different and difficult for gardeners. The intense heat and drought of the summer made it almost impossible to sow seeds outdoors. Some usual stalwarts like runner beans and raspberries were a failure for most of us. A few people have given up their plots through ill health or other changes in their circumstances, and at the present time we have a choice of plots waiting for new keen gardeners!

Here are a few positives:

- Some crops have done well this year.
- Potatoes and broad beans loved the wet spring with good crops. Outdoor tomatoes, squash, courgettes, pumpkins, French beans and sweet corn liked the hot weather, though badgers got the corn cobs first in some cases! Asparagus and purple sprouting broccoli grow well, as do hops and grapes. The land is hugely fertile and productive.
- The Parish Council allows ploholders to have hosepipes that are handheld, which has been most welcome given that Bristol Water did not have a ban till the end of August, when the rains came.
- An allotment is widely acknowledged to be a great boost to mental and physical wellbeing.
- It can be very sociable if you wish to compare notes with neighbours.

Our 90 plots are worked by residents of all ages, from families with young children up to those well past retirement age.

There is something very special about the flavour of fresh produce, and knowing that you are helping to reduce food miles.

You are in control, and can grow crops organically if you wish.

Flowers! Almost every ploholder grows some flowers. Sunflowers are popular at the moment, and we have a great display of snowdrops in the winter. We also have an attractive wild flower area by the entrance to the field.

The allotment field is home to much wildlife; birds, deer, badgers, rabbits, mice, frogs, toads and many insects including bees, ladybirds, butterflies etc. One ploholder this year was delighted to find two grass snakes on his plot!

Backwell Allotments

Interested in having an Allotment?

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clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk or 01275 464653
to register your interest or Geoff Wells on
geoffwells8@yahoo.com for further details



West Backwell Bowling Club

We have had a very hot dry season – the heat affecting some of the ladies' matches. The men had successes, winning the Charity Cup and semi-finalists in the Over 55s Cup. The ladies joined a Somerset Saturday morning league, which was appreciated by our newer working ladies.

Finals weekend was well supported, hot dogs, bacon butties & home-made cakes being on offer. Results as follows: the Ladies' and Men's Championship Singles were really close matches, with Julie Ratcliffe and Brian Powell winners, Lynn Pearson and Gordon Ogden finalists. Lynn won the 2-wood singles v Shireen Matley; Over 60s Singles v Frances Ogden, and ladies' Pairs with Grace Higgins v Josie Finnegan & Pauline Bell. Brian also won the Veterans Singles v Bob Bees and the 2-wood Singles v Adam Shaw. Adam won the Men's Handicap singles v Burt Budd. Dan Rycroft Open

Singles winner v Adam Knights. Dan and Gordon won Men's Pairs v Pete Sims and Ian Wood. Frances and Bob Keightley Mixed Pairs winners v Debz Spinney and Bob. Anna Thomas and Pete winners of Australian Pairs v Josie and Chris Perry. Debra Rycroft won the Ladies' Fixed Jack singles earlier in the season.

We look forward to Sunday lunches and social events during the winter. This month we will be entertained by our favourite musicians Mike Craske and Ellis Johns. The monthly social coffee mornings will be on the third Thursday. November sees our Presentation Dinner at the Masonic Hall. The AGM is on the 17th. Several positions will be vacant, so new volunteers needed to keep the Club running smoothly. Make a date of the popular Holly and Mistletoe on Saturday 5th December. Further information from:
wbbcsecretaryinternal@outlook.com.

Yatton Local History Society

Tuesday October 6th at 7.30pm. Yatton Local History Society talk by Clive Burlton on History Writing. Yatton's Methodist Church BS49 4DW. Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

Nailsea & District Local History Society

The Nailsea & District Local History Society will meet at 7.45pm on Monday 12th October in the Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School for the AGM followed by the Society President Dr Jo Edwards speaking on "Tithe Barns including Nailsea". Members free and visitors most welcome £3pp. Further detail from 01275-463479.

Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

The Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers is having an Open Day on 10th October 2026, from 11:00 to 15:00 in the Bowls Pavilion, Long Ashton Community Centre. The Guild meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Long Ashton. The Open Day includes craft stalls, an exhibition, refreshments and demonstrations of spinning and weaving for you to have a go, come and see how it is done. Entry is free. For further details email the Guild at info.avonguildswd@gmail.com or go to our website: avonguild.org.



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Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 28th, at the W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell, starting at 1.30pm. On this occasion, members will discuss their problems among themselves, and will also consider the future path to be followed by the Group. Further information from Sheila on 01275 462107.

Nailsea District Leg Club

If you missed the Leg Club stand at the last Farmer's Market, then here's a challenge to any registered patient of Tyntesfield Medical Group who has lower leg issues, come to Nailsea Tithe Barn any Wednesday 9.00 -11.30 am to investigate the drop-in clinic, run by Leg Club. Registered nurses provide advice and treatment, volunteers provide refreshments and chat. Appointments aren't necessary, but advisable to arrive early to avoid disappointment. Anyone interested in volunteering is always welcome and the Tithe Barn is an interesting building with lots of history. Ellie Lindsay OBE, founder of The Leg Club Foundation, is visiting later in the year and she's always a welcome visitor. Volunteers are a vital part of Leg Club, it wouldn't exist without them. In recognition of their valuable contribution, Carole Brooke (committee chair) and Judith Brown (PR) were recently invited to represent NDLC at a celebration of volunteers held by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset. It was a memorable occasion and a very diverse number of people from different sectors, all volunteers, were present. The nation as a whole depends in so many ways on volunteers, their input and significance is immeasurable.

Carole Brooke can give more information on 07954 302498.

Parkinson's UK

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

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.

Backwell and Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 7th October 2026 at the WI Hall in Backwell from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Speaker: Mrs Cath Prideaux

Subject: Crafting with Cath

Come and join us for support, friendship, entertainment and a short respite from your caring role (or just call in for a chat). The afternoon includes

a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and a warm welcome. New carers are always welcome, any age or gender. We look forward to seeing you. Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris and Mel (Volunteers)

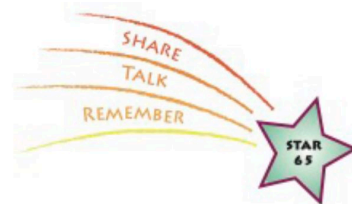
STAR 65

STAR 65 is a peer supported local bereavement & loss group that meets monthly on the last Wednesday of every month from 4-6pm at 65 High street

Nailsea. It is a safe environment in which you can talk about your loss, or simply spend time with others with similar experiences. Your loss can be quite recent or may have happened years ago. We discuss issues relating to bereavement in a confidential and non judgemental way. Leaflets advertising our group can be found in the local GP practices, libraries and shared public spaces.

For more information please contact Pam on 07977905604

or email star65nailsea@gmail.com



Backwell Senior Club

It's raining. The grass is green again. How wonderful!

By the time you read this we will have had the first get together of our new year so things will be getting back to normal.

Our next meeting will be 16 October 26 (3rd Friday of the month). We will be having a "Café - DIY" afternoon when we have "in house" entertainment followed by a really sociable tea and chat.

We meet at the West Town Methodist Church on the A370 at 2pm for 2.30 start. All seniors, ladies and gents are very welcome to come along and join in the fun!

We offer local transport for those who need it on a first come first served basis. Please contact Lesley, tel: 07816966728 by Weds 14th to arrange.

We would welcome a few volunteer drivers to pick up local members for us and you would be welcome to join us, as a guest, for the entertainment, cuppa and chat, if you wish. If you can help please get in touch with Sue, tel: 01275 461231.

See you there!

St Andrews Mothers' Union

Our Mothers' Union branch does not meet in August, although throughout the Diocese there have been many events to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union which we have attended. In October our Diocesan member Elizabeth Reay will be at our meeting to tell us more about these celebrations.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month and our October meeting is on the 27th at 2.15pm in Church House. All are welcome including members and visitors.

Marie Bale.

Backwell Probus Club Report

Since our last report, we have had two meetings, the first was a talk by Paul Watkins on "Sink the Tirpitz - The Life of Godfrey Place VC". The story was about a brave naval guy in Command of a Midget Submarine in 1943 ordered to disable or sink the German Warship "Tirpitz", which was lurking in a Fjord off the coast of Norway and harassing British Convoys. He managed to negotiate through mined netting to disable the warship, but was unable to escape and therefore scuttled their craft with the four members being captured, and spending the rest of the War in captivity. He was awarded the VC. After the War, he was in command of Aircraft Carriers with an exemplary career. In retirement we were shown pictures of him with the Queen and other VC holders. An amazing life indeed!

For our second talk with our ladies present before lunch, we heard "The Role of the Royal Mail Guard" by Martin Horler. It was a superb story with Martin duly

dressed in splendid costume with a red coat, hat and boots. He told us how Henry VIII had originally set up a mail system, but it wasn't until Charles II that a proper Royal Mail service was established by John Palmer, a theatre owner from Bath, who revolutionized the British postal system by introducing the Royal Mail Coach service in 1784. He explained how important the guard was in handling a long horn, blown by Martin for summoning the coach's arrival and also a blunderbuss for keeping away Highway Robbers. Martin was certainly the most entertaining speaker we have had for some time.

For our next meetings in October, we can look forward to talks on "Falling for Style" and "The Role of Police and Crime Commissioner". 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

Rotary Nailsea & Backwell

In September our usual activities continued with providing Foodbank transport, a community litter pick and a whist drive for elderly or lonely. The speaker's meeting was a talk about Bristolian Viscount Field Marshal 'Bill' Slim who led 'The Forgotten Army' and went on to become Governor General of Australia. As well as our usual two dinner meetings at the Mizzymeade Recreation Centre we also had an evening social in the bar.

The Council have made a donation of £500 to Shelterbox for their provision of aid in Nepal.

October 10th is Quiz Night at Backwell WI Hall in

support of Nailsea Leg Club. Previous years have all sold out but there may be a few tickets left at John Brown's in Nailsea, Parker's in Backwell or contacting us by the email below. The speaker meeting will be about setting up a holiday business in a derelict Brittany farmhouse. Our annual Weekend Away is at the end of the month when we are going to Barnstaple. We are looking for community minded individuals that want to have fun to join us. More information on our website www.rotarynailsea.org or email us at enquiries@rotarynailsea.org to arrange a no commitment chat.

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The Meeting Point in October

Celebrating an amazing summer holiday programme.

What a great summer of children's activities we have enjoyed in The Parish Hall! The Meeting point has welcomed between 35 and 45 children and their carers for two hours every Tuesday morning during the school holiday. The comments from those who came made our efforts feel so worthwhile. Comments like "It's such a welcoming place", "Everyone is so friendly", "All the activities are so well structured, yet feel relaxed and low key", "The helpers are so encouraging", were heard, and from the children: "this is the best thing I've done" and "what are we doing next week". But, above all, those who were there, visitors and volunteers alike spoke of an atmosphere of harmony and peace... A calm 2 hours in this turbulent world. We have amazing volunteers who made it happen. Join us?

October Calendar

Tuesday 6th	Yoga Informal communion Soup lunch. Close	11-12.00. £5. Refreshments from 10.30. £2 12.15 - 12.45 1.00 £7 2.30
Tuesday 13th.	Accessible yoga with Nina. Close	11-12.00 £5. Refreshments 10.30 £2 12.30
Tuesday 20th	Accessible yoga with Nina Scotty's 2 course lunch Close	11-12.00. £5. Refreshments 10.30 £2 1.00. Scotty's 2 course lunch £9 3.00
Tuesday 27th	Children's activities	10 - 12.00. Donation for refreshments.

Very sadly, please note our earlier closing times due lack of afternoon volunteers. We will review in January. We are having to request donations for refreshments at children's activities in order to make their provision sustainable. We have a card reader available.

Backwell Playhouse

Our 2026 Autumn Season continues apace at Backwell Playhouse, with a packed schedule coming up.

Our second Comedy Night of the new season is on Saturday 24th October, featuring Mark Percherz and Andrew Watts. Our Headliner is David Hoare, a one-liner musical comedian, who mixes silly, staccato songs with idiotic mischievousness. Tickets are on sale on our website, www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk, for just £10.

Rehearsals are in full swing for our 75th Anniversary Celebration Production at the end of October. We will present a short history of how the Playhouse came to be, and what has happened in the subsequent years! We will also perform two plays in the evening, with the first being a rarely-performed, one-act play written by one of our founders. "Player Queen", by Kathleen Stafford, is set in the court of Queen Elizabeth I and imagines an evening where one of her ladies-in-waiting dares to become one of Mr. Shakespeare's players for the night.

This will be followed by "The Dumb Wife of Cheapside" by Ashley Dukes. This comedy will recreate the very first play performed at the theatre and sees a Theatre Troupe present a cautionary fable to their audience as a newly-married haberdasher longs to converse with his new, non-verbal wife. The moral of the story is to be careful what you wish for...

Please note that this play is presented because it was performed at the Playhouse 75 years ago and contains some outdated attitudes and stereotypes that may offend.

Running from the 29th-31st October, tickets are £12 (£10 Members) and on sale from www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk

We are also putting together a Christmas celebration show on the 12th December, titled "A Christmas Wish". If you fancy taking part with a song or a reading, come along to our first rehearsal on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm, or find out more by emailing karengonsalves@yahoo.com

Backwell Playhouse Film Club

We start our new season on 13th to 3rd October and look forward to meeting with all our existing and new members very soon. We have a great selection of films for this season including The Devil Wears Prada 2, Dead of Winter, and Mothers Pride to name but a few. If you are an existing member you will have the full list of films and dates of showings on your membership card. If you are thinking of joining please contact either Les Wharram (07766756747) or Tina Andrews (01275 464259 or 07773215299) and we will ensure that you have all the information you need to be able to join. In summary we will be showing 8 films over the next 8 months. Each film is shown 3 times usually on the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the month. The cost is £25 per person for the whole season, and this fee includes membership to Backwell Playhouse and entitles the Film Club member to discounts to Playhouse productions.

I look forward to updating all magazine readers re films we have shown and what we are planning to show as the year goes on.

BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptist Church Services

4th Oct
Family Sunday
Service Leader's: Tim & Sarah Crossley
Passage: John 4:1-15
Theme: Water You Waiting For

11th Oct
Preacher: Anne Nicklen
Service Leader: Sheila Whiting
Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22
Theme: Jews & Gentiles Reconciled Through Christ

18th Oct (Communion)
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Dawn Jefferies
Passage: Ephesians 3:1-13
Theme: God's Marvellous Plan for the Gentiles

25th Oct (Together Service @ Backwell Baptist)
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21
Theme: A Prayer for the Ephesians

WEST TOWN METHODIST CHURCH

West Town Methodist Church

Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

October 4th Alan Emery
 11th Revd Carole Challis Harvest Café-style *
 18th United Service at Nailsea Methodist
 25th Revd Sally Ratcliffe Communion

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 Email: ann.pullan@btinternet.com or Shirley: tsmce12@gmail.com

- Ready Teddy Sing – Our baby and toddler group. Every Tuesday during term time, 10.00 – 12.00.
- Knitting Group – Tuesday evenings, in the schoolroom.
- Art Group – Wednesday mornings 10.00 -12.00.
- Wednesday Fellowship Group - October dates tba
- Thursday Fellowship Group for 11.00 1st and 15th October. venue tba

***Harvest Service 11th Café-style. Followed** by a Bring and Share Lunch.

Church members will bring food as per list in the schoolroom, or donate money.

There will be a box for non-perishable goods for Turnaround. The church will be open Saturday morning 10th to decorate and to receive harvest gifts.

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 October St Andrew's Church

Sunday 4th 11.00am	18th Sunday after Trinity Informal Communion
Sunday 11th 11.00am 12.45pm 5.00pm	19th Sunday after Trinity Sung Eucharist Baptism Service Evensong
Sunday 18th 9.30am 11.00am	St Luke Café Church Sung Eucharist
Sunday 25th 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	21st Sunday after Trinity Café Church Sung Eucharist Said Evening Prayer

St Bridget's Church

Sunday 4th 9.15am	18th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion
Sunday 11th 9.15am	19th Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer
Sunday 18th 9.15am	St Luke Holy Communion
Sunday 25th 9.15am	21st Sunday after Trinity Morning Worship

St Bridget's Church

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a busy September at St. Bridget's. Our Harvest Festival service on 6th September was a joyful occasion, with bacon rolls and coffee afterwards and generous donations collected for the local Food Bank. A few days later, Chris Yeo from Clevedon Salerooms gave us a fascinating Antiques Evening, with plenty of curious treasures brought along to be identified. We are delighted that the evening raised over £300 for the church, and thank you to everyone who supported it so generously.

Autumn draws to a close with our final Coffee Morning of the season on Saturday 3rd October, 10am to 12 noon at the church. Do come along for coffee, cake and a chance to look around our beautiful 12th century Church, which has stood at the heart of Chelvey for almost nine hundred years. Thank you to everyone who has supported the series since April.

Sunday services continue every week at 9.15am, and new faces are always warmly welcome.

Looking ahead, do save the date for our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December — more details to follow nearer the time.

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

From the Registers

Baptisms

23rd August – Miles Black

St Francis

This month on October 4th is the feast day of St Francis and we'll celebrate this at our Masses during the weekend.

Pope Leo proclaimed this year, 2026 a special year of St Francis to mark the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's death. To celebrate this a parishioner in Portishead has kindly drawn the life of St Francis in a series of pictures which are proudly displayed in the church.

Please see all Masses and Livestreaming on our webpage www.josephfrancis.org

Christians Together In & around Backwell

Prayer Watch

7.15 for 7.30pm Monday, 5th October at Backwell Baptist Church

Open the Book

West Leigh Infants: Wednesday 14th October

Junior School: Thursdays 8th and 22nd October

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

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

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/

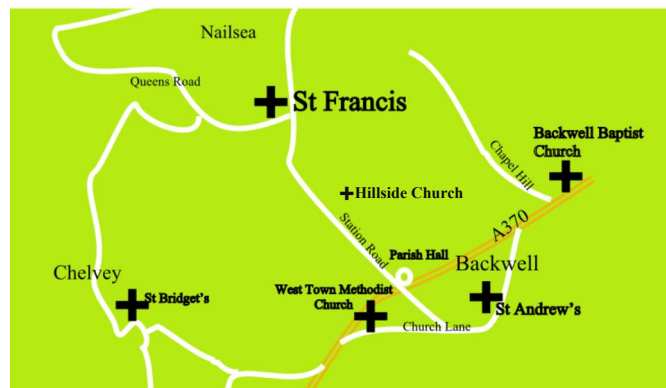
Hillside Church, part of Woodlands Church Family

Meeting every Sunday 11am

Backwell School Sixth Form Centre

Church Leader: Zoe Germain

For more details email: hillside@woodlandschurch.net



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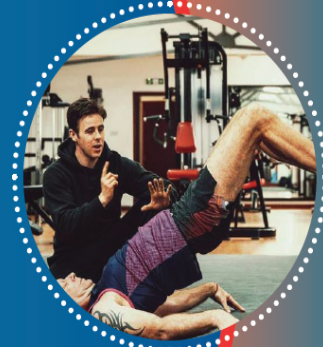
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