



The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

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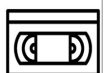
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The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

New Beginnings

As we look back on a remarkable summer, it is hard not to feel a sense of relief. We endured five consecutive heatwaves, record-breaking temperatures, and the stark reality of the worst drought since 1976. Our gardens are parched, the earth cracked, and our usual lush landscape has turned to straw.

Yet, as the wheel of the season turns, September brings the welcome promise of renewal. We feel it in the gentler, cooler breezes and see it in the steady return of green grass to our fields. Life is springing back. For many in our parish family, this month marks significant transitions: children starting school, moving up classes, beginning secondary school and universities. All making new friends, and taking their next big steps in life.

In the church calendar, autumn is often a quiet season of spiritual harvest and resetting. Scripture reminds us that God is forever encouraging renewal. In Psalm 51:10, we pray, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Just as rain restores the dry, thirsty ground, sincere prayer restores our spirits, offering us a spiritual "clean slate" whenever we feel weary or burnt out.

Jesus taught us that true beginnings start inwardly through prayer and reflection. As we step into this new season together, let us carry the resilience we found during the heat into our daily worship. May God refresh our minds, nourish our village community, and bless all our children and young people as they begin their exciting new journeys.

Jane Elliott
St Francis Parishioner

Cover photograph by Ann Belcher.

This picture was taken at the Backwell Village Show which will take place this year on September 19th in the WI and Parish halls.

It is a great community event and attracts lots of entries in many classes, not only the usual fruit and vegetable, but cooking, handicraft, children's entries and photography.

So why not come along and see what your friends and neighbours are doing and at the same time enjoy a cream tea. Then stay and see the very many prizes and cups awarded.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish Council Report – August Meeting

Planning Councillors received a comprehensive report from Councillor Harland, Head of Planning and Place.

Land North of Backwell Cllr Harland proposed that a joint response from the Parish Council and Backwell Residents' Association strongly objecting to this planning application (Mac Mic 26/P/1324/OU2). All councillors agreed.

Proposal to use land adjacent to West Leigh Infant School as a temporary car park - Councillors were dismayed that a licence had been granted by North Somerset council (NSC) to Taylor Wimpey (TW) without consultation with either the Parish Council or DCllr Petty. More details can be found on the Parish Council website.

BPC has worked with TW and NSC to ensure that the entrance avoids Westfield Drive which alleviates safety concerns for the school run. TW will ensure that the footpath which runs from the scout hut to West Leigh Infants is completed for the beginning of a new term.

Farleigh Fields east and west - Residents have reported their concerns around the drainage schemes for both sites. Councillors agreed to commission hydrological reports for both sites to evaluate off-site surface water impacts.

Land off Dark Lane - After much discussion, the traffic management plan now includes provision for a pedestrian walkway on Dark Lane throughout the build. There will also be a village wide 'no waiting or parking' zone for any associated HGVs.

Land south of Nailsea (Gleeson Land (GL)) - Under the direction of NSC, TW and GL are working together to create a transport corridor through the Nailsea sites to come out onto Station Road and be the link road across east Backwell. Concerns were raised about routing the proposal through flood-prone land in an environmentally sensitive area, and about the apparent lack of guaranteed funding for the road schemes.

Neighbourhood Plan - Although NSC Local Plan has gone live, the latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework is awaited. This will dictate final policies.

Bristol Airport – BPC councillors met Bristol Airport Limited (BAL) staff to discuss BPC's comprehensive response to their application. Councillors are also trying to organise an update meeting with NSC and BAL later in the year regarding safety at Downside and highway provisions.

Felton Common – Whilst not in Backwell Parish, some residents have expressed concern about the proposal for BAL to compulsorily purchase a section of the Common. BPC will register an interest on behalf of our residents which will mean that BAL will be obliged to keep BPC informed and updated.

Ordinary Planning Applications

Open Acres, Backwell Hill. Councillors voted to support the change of use of part of a workshop at into 4 units of short-term visitor accommodation. This was felt to be an efficient reuse of an existing rural building.

4 Russets Cottages, Backwell Common. Councillors voted to object to an application to erect an extension to due to its overbearing impact on its neighbours.

20 Mulberry Close. Councillors voted to object to a proposal in principle for the construction of a new house after demolition of a garage. It was felt, amongst other concerns, to be unacceptable overdevelopment which would harm the local residential character.

31 West Town Road. Councillors voted to support an application for an extension at the rear of the property. However, they did make comment about the access for constructors' vehicles and asked for this to be addressed if the application were allowed.

As planning issues formed a major part of the August meeting, information on other subjects discussed can be found on the Backwell Parish Council website.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 3rd September 2026 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall

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After taking August off, we find that the third Saturday in September the Village Show has first claim on the Parish Hall, so we'll recommence on the third Saturday of October.

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BACKWELL SCOUTS

Backwell Scout Group AGM – Save the Date!

Thursday 17 September, 7.30pm

Backwell Scout Hut, 15 Rodney Road, Backwell

The Backwell Scout Group invites members of the local community to attend its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 17 September at 7.30pm at the Scout Hut. The AGM is a great opportunity to hear about the exciting activities, adventures and achievements of our young people over the past year, as well as our plans for the future. We are proud of everything our volunteers and members have accomplished and would love to share our successes with you.

Could You Help Shape the Future of Backwell Scouts?

To ensure the continued success of the Group, we are currently seeking volunteers to join our Trustee Board in two key roles:

Trustee Board Chair

The Chair leads and coordinates the work of the Trustee Board, helping to ensure the Group is well governed and effectively managed. The role involves chairing meetings, including the AGM, supporting collaboration with the Group's Lead Volunteers, and helping to recruit new trustees to maintain a strong and sustainable board.

Group Secretary

The Secretary provides essential administrative support to the Trustee Board. Responsibilities include organising meetings, preparing and distributing agendas, and keeping accurate records through meeting minutes and supporting documentation.

Both roles are rewarding opportunities to make a real difference to local young people, and no previous Scouting experience is required.

If you would like to find out more about either position, or are interested in supporting Backwell Scouts in any capacity, please contact our current Secretary, Katie Gore, at katgore@googlemail.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to our AGM and sharing our plans for the future of Scouting in Backwell.

Monday Cubs

The cubs held a cookout for their families. They were given a starter task for the cook out at the beginning of the evening. After that everyone either recognised what needed doing and did it or asked what to do next. The level of motivation was impressive!

The term ended with a game of Puddocks on the playing fields followed by water games at the hut then ice lollies all round.

Helen

Tuesday Scouts

As we ambled into the end of the Scout year we finished off with a World Cup (remember that?) Master Chef evening with each Patrol cooking up a three course meal based on a World Cup participating country (nothing from the UK of course, that would have been far too easy!). All Patrols rose to the challenge and we were much impressed with the results of their endeavours.

As always, the last evening of term was our traditional parent and Scout rounders evening followed by a well earned barbecue bringing the year to a close. Summer

camp is looming so there is preparation to be done now to ensure that it is a success and is something to look forward to - you can hear all about it next month.

Ian

Explorers

With the unit coming together to start another year of exploring, many will reflect on what turned out to be a very memorable summer camp in Poland.

The nine-day expedition saw 19 Explorers and five leaders start their adventure in the stunning city of Wroclaw which included fantastic buildings and many miniature dwarfs that were dotted around the city. The final four nights were spent in the Baltic city of Gdansk with its working port, waterways and brilliant WW2 museum, finished off with a much deserved day at the beach.

It takes a lot of time and effort to put on these amazing camps for the young people making sure they enjoy themselves and learn about new places and cultures. It's why Barracuda Explorers really, really does need the help from parents or anyone who thinks they would like to get involved as the new programme kicks off for another year. All you need is energy, enthusiasm and lots of ideas.

If you can help please contact iain@backwellscouts.org.uk

Laurence

Friday Scouts

We had a wonderful Summer term, which saw us awarding gold chief scout awards to 5 of our young people, the highest award you can get as a scout. The term culminated in our fundraising colour run, to which people of all ages came to run a 2k race around the rec whilst getting a variety of environmentally friendly colourful hues thrown at them. With our BBQ and bar in addition, the event had a superb community feel, was so much fun and we managed to raise £867.67 towards scout hut renovations!

We were also delighted to be able to go on a week summer camp to Huish Woods Scout Campsite in Taunton. We made the most of our time with.....a night hike, a high rope experience day, pioneering (see pic of some of our boys with the goal net they made), kayaking, a MasterChef competition where each team had a budget to shop with in Aldi, archery, zip wire, climbing tower, orienteering, Taskmaster challenges, site disco, laser tag, axe and saw work, swimming at a lido and bivouacking! Campfires were banned due to the high temperatures, but we filled our time and just had an incredible amount of fun.

We are sad to say goodbye to two of our fantastic leaders, Ali and Rich, both of whom have been absolutely amazing and will be massively missed. We are looking for more leaders in Friday Scouts so please do get in touch if you think you can help. We have such a laugh with our troop and the young people get so much from it - volunteering is a wonderful thing to do. We also say farewell to a number of our awesome scouts, the majority of whom are moving up to Explorers, and a couple to concentrate on their performance careers. We wish them all the very best in their future adventures. They will all be missed! Now, I turn my head to the new term and wonder what exciting things we will get up to this year!

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SCHOOL NEWS

Fresh Starts and Fond Farewells at Backwell School

September always brings with it a special sense of excitement and anticipation. As the summer days draw to a close, our school once again comes to life with the energy, optimism and promise that a new academic year brings.

Across our community, there is the familiar sight of new uniforms being proudly worn, school bags packed with fresh stationery, and young people returning with stories of their summer adventures. For many, September marks not just the start of a new term, but the beginning of a brand-new chapter.

We extend a particularly warm welcome to all those joining us for the first time, especially our new Year 7 and Year 12 students. Starting a new school can be both exciting and a little daunting, but we are delighted that they are now part of our school family and look forward to seeing them flourish in the months and years ahead.

We are also pleased to welcome new members of staff who bring with them fresh ideas, enthusiasm and expertise. Their contribution will undoubtedly enrich our community as we continue to provide the very best opportunities for the young people in our care.

At the same time, the close of the last academic year provided an opportunity to reflect and to thank those colleagues who have given so much to Backwell School. At the end of the summer term, we said goodbye and wished every success to eleven members of staff as they embarked on their next adventures. In particular, we paid tribute to four colleagues whose combined service to the school amounts to more than a century. Mr Elliott (20 years, English), Mrs Bangham (22 years, Student Support), Mrs Nunes (25 years, English) and Mr Bonney (34 years, Science) have each devoted more than two decades to Backwell School, making an extraordinary contribution to generations of young people and leaving a lasting legacy within our community. We thank them sincerely for their commitment, care and dedication, and wish them every happiness in the future.

September is also an exciting time for families considering the next stage of their child's education. We are delighted to be holding our **Open Evening** for prospective students and their parents currently in Year 6 on **Thursday 17th September**. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore our school, meet staff and students, and gain a sense of the vibrant learning community that makes Backwell School such a special place.

For those who would like to see the school during a normal working day, we will also be hosting **morning tours starting at 9.00am from Monday 20th September** and continuing for four weeks. These tours provide a valuable opportunity to see the school in action, visit lessons, meet teachers and students, and experience first-hand the warm, welcoming and ambitious environment that our young people enjoy every day.

As we embark on this new academic year together, we do so with excitement for what lies ahead. We cannot wait to see what this year will bring for our students, our school and our wider community. The successes we celebrate, the challenges we overcome and the memories we create will all be the result of people working together with a shared sense of belonging and ambition that truly embodies what it means to say **'We Are Backwell'**.



Will Penny
Headteacher

September Music Concert at St Mary's Yatton.

VIDA Guitar Quartet at St Mary's, Yatton, 26th September.

The Yatton Music Society open their Autumn season of music with a stunning performance from the VIDA guitar quartet (Amada Cook, Mark Ashford, Mark Eden and Chris Stell). Since forming in 2007, VIDA has performed to critical acclaim in major UK venues including King's Place (London), London's Southbank Centre, The Sage (Gateshead), and St George's (Bristol). They are sought-after festival artists throughout the UK, Europe, North America, and China. For our concert they will entertain our audience with music that will be appropriate for our opening concert and include well-known music from their latest CD

called *Bachianas* based on 'theme and variations on Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3

VIDA's starts at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church. Tickets price £16, YMS members and students £10, accompanied children under 18 free. Details of this concert are on the Yatton Music Society's website www.yms.org.uk

Saturday, September 26

VIDA Guitar Quartet
7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Yatton,
Tickets £16 (YMS members £10),
details: www.yms.org.uk



Bridget Petty for Backwell

In the last week of July, I was surprised to see fencing going up in the field between West Leigh School and the scout hut. The field is owned by North Somerset Council (NSC), and I know it well, having walked my children to school across it for years. Residents were rightly concerned and contacted me.

I then found out that a department of North Somerset Council had signed an agreement with Taylor Wimpey to use part of the field as a temporary car park for their on-site staff carpark until December 2028. Taylor Wimpey had also agreed to make a footpath run across the field to provide an all-weather surface to enable it to be used throughout the winter; historically, the gateways and path would become very muddy and slippery.

Unfortunately, NSC did not contact the Parish Council or me. This caused significant stress and prevented either of us from communicating with Backwell residents or making sensible suggestions. The design was for cars to drive up Westfield Drive to park for the day. I, and many others, saw that this would increase the risk to pedestrians, specifically our youngest children in the community, who walk up that road to access West Leigh Infants and Meadowside pre-school.

On hearing this, I contacted senior council officers to identify what solutions or mitigations could take place. After several rapid phone calls and meetings, we worked towards some significant changes. Taylor Wimpey staff were very good at talking to me about what flexibility they had and what could be done differently to reduce impact on the community. Site visits took place.

We were able to confirm that the cars would be able to arrive NOT on the school road but via the site and using wider roads thus making it safer. The agreement in place was not a planning application; it was permitted use of a field owned by NSC. It is temporary but is still upsetting for community members. Taylor Wimpey has committed to reseed and this will be done to enhance nature diversity in the future. Any small saplings removed to allow for access will be replaced and no trees or hedgerows that have Tree Protection Orders will be impacted. Everyone worked collaboratively to find solutions, but it was a real shame that it had to be done in this way.

The developments around Backwell will certainly have an impact on all our lives but where possible, I will be working to minimise this and ensure everyone knows how to report issues when they see them.

In September, I am looking forward to the village show and will have a stall at Five Acre Farm, Harvest Festival 2-4.30pm.



Backwell Probus Club Report

Since our last report, we have had two meetings, the first was a talk by Clive Brain on "The Pironaut, the Queen's Silver Jubilee". Clive started his talk with a history of Bristol Harbour. Then we discovered that he and his father had been Fire Officers with a Fireboat, called the Pironaut, built in 1934 and he told us of some of the hazardous duties it had performed. He described a tugboat called John King and a singing group associated with it. Finally, he described how the Pironaut had been taken by road to London to join the flotilla on the River Thames celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee. It was a most entertaining talk.

The second talk was "From Carting Boy to Area Manager" given by Bryn Hawkins. Bryn started his talk by detailing the numerous collier pits that had been active in the area south of Midsomer Norton and

Radstock reducing to two in the 20th century. His main talk was about a man called Cyril Weeks, who started at the bottom and rose to the top of running the remaining pits until nationalisation. He showed what Cyril would have endured as a young man and ended with the closure of the pits. He rounded off the talk with the unveiling of a memorial in the centre of Radstock.

For our next meetings in September, we can look forward to talks on "The Role of a Royal Mail Guard" and "Follies of Bristol and Somerset". 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

Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School – September 2026

West Leigh Infant School

WL Class News – Rabbits (Yr1 aged 6 and)

West Leigh School was very lucky to have a visit from Maddie Steel (Ivy from Owl class Auntie). Maddie has a very important job carrying out maintenance on wind turbines in the North Sea. Maddie has to wear some very special clothes to help keep her safe when she is at work. We were allowed to try on the clothes and Mrs Brice and Miss Taylor even had a race to see who could get dressed in the safety suits first!

In History, Rabbit Class learnt about Victorian seaside holidays. We discovered that seaside holidays became popular when Queen Victoria started going on them to improve her health. We compared activities the Victorians would have done and what we enjoy doing at the seaside in the present. We even watched part of a Punch and Judy show. We have noticed that the Victorians were very covered up at the beach and they used bathing machines to get in and out of the sea. As part of our local history, we have looked how Birnbeck pier looked in the past and how it was used

Hedgehogs, Owls and Rabbits enjoyed a wonderful school trip to Clevedon Pier following our history work on seaside holidays of the past. Despite the very warm weather, we were delighted to see so many children dressed in Victorian costumes. Many members of the public commented on how much they enjoyed seeing the children dressed up! We loved exploring the Discovery Centre Museum, where we found out that the pier is 157 years old. The views from the Porthole Room were spectacular, giving us a unique perspective of the pier's architecture from beneath. We enjoyed sketching this view, as well as looking at beautiful artwork and historical photographs of the pier through the years. We also explored the full length of the pier, following a discovery picture trail to spot interesting features both on the pier itself and out across the coastline.



Some children even had time to create wax crayon rubbings of the brass fish hidden on the benches. After a busy morning, we enjoyed eating our lunch in the shade of a nearby park before making our way to the beach. The children had great fun stacking rocks, searching for sea glass and cooling down with a well-earned ice lolly while enjoying the sea breeze.

Those who attended Thursday's trip were treated to an extra-special surprise. We were lucky enough to witness the final moments of a remarkable swim all the way from Wales, arriving at the slipway just as we were leaving. It was a very exciting moment to see! We all had a fantastic day, and the children were excellent ambassadors for our school throughout the visit. Their exemplary behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity made us incredibly proud.

All Classes

We all had a brilliant time welcoming CBeebies presenter and author Ben Cajee to West Leigh to share his new book, *The Panda-Badger!* The children listened beautifully to the story of Pablo, a unique little character navigating identity, diversity, and finding his place in the world. The children did a fantastic job soaking up these important messages and took part in a lively Q&A session at the end, asking some great questions. A massive thank you to Ben for giving up his time to come in, and share his story with us—we all loved it!

Rotary Nailsea & Backwell

Our Charity Golf Day in July raised £2500 for Prostate Cancer UK. Recently we have visited the American Museum in Bath to see an original copy of the Declaration of Independence and held a speaker meeting when we saw a video and heard about this year's Turn Nailsea Pink campaign (which raised £10,000) plus having a speaker from Cancer Research UK informing us about recent developments in fighting the many different types of cancer. Our September speaker will be speaking about Bristol born Viscount, Field Marshal 'Bill' Slim of 'The Forgotten Army' who became Governor General of Australia and in October we will be having a humorous talk about setting up a holiday business

in Brittany.

September sees the start of our popular Autumn programme of Whist Drives for the elderly and/or lonely (2pm, third Thursday of the month at Nailsea Tithe Barn). October 10th sees a return of our popular Quiz Evening at Backwell WI Hall with proceeds to Nailsea Leg Club (7pm on 10 Oct but get your tickets in advance as we always sell out).

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 enquiries@rotarynailsea.org to arrange a no commitment chat.



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Backwell Climate Action

It all seems a long time since the Carnival in the park most notable has been the lack of rain with unusually high temperatures.

It has been the first time since records began that the UK has experienced four months with temperatures above 34C. There is evidence that this may become more frequent. If so, we need to be prepared for it. The likely changes are described in the National Emergency Briefing, a 40 minute film, where a variety of experts not only set out wider changes but also consider how communities can be better prepared. After the film there are small group discussions where all attending will be able to comment.

The Parish Council has agreed to support a showing of the film in the village in September following discussions with Backwell Residents Association and Backwell Climate Action. All groups appreciate the importance of ensuring Community resilience to face these challenges.

At the time of writing this the exact date is yet to be decided but it will be widely published.

Backwell's Second Saturday Community Fair Trade Café

Sept 12th Backwell Parish Hall 10 am to 12 noon

Backwell 2nd Saturday Community Café restarts on September 12th. 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.

Backwell Garden Club

The Garden Club's September meeting is on Wednesday 16th in the afternoon starting at 1.45pm for 2pm prompt start. The speaker is Dr George B Hargreaves who will be talking on "Asiatic Magnolias and their cultivation".

The Club meets every 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. BS48 3QW. Guests and potential new Members are always welcome to just come along.

For further information contact Robin Langford on either 07811693579 or email rclangford64@gmail.com

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

In July, only 5 stalwart residents came to litterpick, so many places did not get cleaned up. I found some plastic wrappers (such as kitkat) that looked as if they had been in the hedges only a short time, yet were fragmenting into hundreds of tiny polluting particles already. From Station Road alone, which we clean up almost every month, we collected 3 sackfuls of rubbish.

We need your help. Could you join us for an hour or so? Together we can clear the rubbish so that wildlife does not become entangled with it, and so that

microplastic particles do not pollute our environment so much. The next Backwell Litterpick will be at 2.30pm on Saturday 26th September. Meet outside The Spar on Rodney Road at 2.30pm. 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.



Congresbury Singers

Congresbury Singers new term starts Tues 8th Sept, at War Memorial Hall Congresbury @ 7.30pm new members welcome, no audition. For more information: Tel. 078-18811803

Backwell Senior Club

Have we had enough sun? Have we had enough rain? I guess most of us would answer YES and NO. However, we hope you are having a good summer's break and being with the family, especially the little ones.

Our last meeting was in June which seems like a long time ago now and we had an interesting afternoon with Ian, audience participation and memories of times past including Pearly Kings and Queens and a lovely summer tea party to follow. BSC is due to be up and running again on Friday 18th Sept, 3rd Fri of the month, £3 entry, 2.00pm for 2.30 start, as usual. We are looking forward to hearing Sandy Bateman, a Bronte fanatic I understand, who will be telling us about the history of the family.

Ladies and gentlemen are very welcome to join us. We have a varied programme in place through Dec 26. We meet in the West Town Methodist Church (A370) and, if needed, we can arrange local transport on a first come first served basis. Please contact LESLEY 07816 966728 by Wednesday 16th to book.

BSC would welcome a few volunteer drivers to pick up our less able members. You would be very welcome to stay with us, as a guest, for the entertainment, a cuppa and chat. If you can help please get in touch with Sue 01275 461231. See YOU There!



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Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 30th September, at the W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell at 1.30 p.m. Our speaker will be Gemma, from Boots opticians, on vision aids. So, if you have poor vision, do come and hear what is available.

All are welcome: macular degeneration is not a specific requirement!

For further information ring Sheila on 01275 462107.

Nailsea & Backwell Disabled Access Café Connect, Socialise, Make a Difference

Are you, or someone you care for, encountering difficulties accessing shops, transport or venues? Are uneven or obstructed pavements preventing you from getting around? Do you have any other issues relating to disability access?

If your answer is yes to any of these, members of North Somerset Council's Disabled Access Group are on hand to offer friendly advice and empathy over a free cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Friday 25th September 10.30 am - 12 noon, at 65 High Street, Nailsea, BS48 1AW.

Nailsea District Leg Club

Many clubs/organisations take a well-earned break during July and August, not Leg Club. Nurses and volunteers are at the Tithe Barn every Wednesday morning throughout the year, providing advice and treatment on lower leg issues, not to mention refreshments too. The only exceptions are Christmas week and New Year's Day!

Anyone registered with Tyntesfield Medical Group is welcome to the drop-in clinic between 9.00 – 11.30 a.m., though it is advisable to get there as early as possible in order to be seen by one of the regular nursing team from TMG.

New volunteers are always appreciated. Volunteering is a two-way thing, not just helping others, but can be extremely rewarding and necessary to the volunteer, providing a focus to a week and the feeling of being needed too.

Leg Club will have a stand at the September Nailsea Farmer's Market giving lots of information about what, why, where and who we are. Satisfy your curiosity and come to find out!

In the meantime for more information call Carole Brooke: 07954 302498.

Patient Participation Group

Over 50 people had blood pressure checks with DR Pepper at the joint TMG /PPG stall in the July Farmers Market. PROSPECT, the prostate cancer charity had several meaningful conversations, whilst PPG members talked to many about the PPG and handed out delicious flapjacks and fruit.

The TMG manager told us about challenges they are facing due to the holiday season; clinicians and admin staff are affected, so please be patient with TMG's attempts to offer a good service at this time. Another topic was the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme and how TMG will be required to work within this as it rolls out across our region. A speaker will explain what this is going to look like at our September PPG meeting. A further challenge for TMG is that the platform for

the website is no longer being supported. Whilst a temporary platform is in use and basic updates can be made, TMG have called a halt to any development projects until they have looked at the alternatives. The upside is that this gives patients the opportunity to say what they like and value. Please send your views! Email: TMGPPG@gmail.com Jointly promoted by TMG and NTC, the RSVP befriending service got off to a good start; for more information, contact wellbeing@nailseatowncouncil.gov.uk.

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

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 September meeting will be held on the 12th, with a talk (re-scheduled) about Driving Miss Daisy.

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 chat to our fellow singers.

Backwell and Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting carers (present members) to join us on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 for Afternoon Tea at the Cadbury Garden Centre. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. RSVP ASAP (01275 463215 after 6.00 pm)

Our group offers support, friendship, entertainment and a short respite from your caring role.

The afternoon sessions include a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and a warm welcome - all free of charge.

New carers are always welcome, any age of gender. Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris and Mel (Volunteers)

West Town & Backwell WI

Wednesday 16th September - Ceilidh & Resolutions Join our fun and friendly WI for our September meeting at Backwell WI Hall. We will be introduced to the fascinating tradition of ceilidhs from The Lochrian Ceilidh Band. We will also be hearing from the charity Shelter who will be speaking about women's homelessness as part of the WI's resolutions work. Doors open at 7:30pm.

New members are warmly welcomed; first-time visits are free! Each month we are treated to inspiring speakers, whilst enjoying wine, tea, coffee and cake with friends old and new. Additional social events are also organised throughout the year. For more information, email backwellwi@gmail.com or find us on Facebook or www.backwellwi.org.uk

St Andrews Mothers' Union

It was on one of the many warm days in July when 19 of our members and guests enjoyed our annual Cream Tea. As is often the case at this event there was a discussion about how we like to enjoy our scones. Was it the Cornish way with jam first and then cream or the Devonian way with the cream and then the jam? Whichever way, it was all delicious.

To recognise and celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union, Cleeve and Claverham branch will be holding a Flower Festival at Holy Trinity Church, Cleeve on 11th - 13th September. 10am - 4pm Friday and Saturday, 12 - 4pm on Sunday.

There will also be a Celebration Service at Wells Cathedral on Saturday 12th September at 5pm. Our branch meeting in September will be on Tuesday 22nd at 12 noon. in Church House. This will be our Harvest lunch. As always visitors are very welcome to join us.

Marie Bale

St. Andrew's Ladies Group

As another year for our group commences on Monday September 14th with our AGM at 7.30pm in the church house. Hopefully many members will come along and take the opportunity to see friends and acquaintances who they maybe haven't seen since our last meeting in May. After the usual AGM procedure we hope to welcome Megan Austin from St Peter's Charity, this being our chosen charity for the coming year. Megan will be talking about the work of the charity which is largely funded through charitable giving. We hope to raise money for this

charity in the coming months and be able to present her with a generous cheque sometime next summer. Ladies will be able to pay the subscription of fifteen pounds on this occasion if they wish and we are always pleased to welcome new members. Do join us if you can.

Gillian Vasey

The Nailsea & District Local History Society

The Nailsea & District Local History Society starts again at 7.45pm on Monday 14th September in the Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School when Steve Grudgings will present the History and Development of Coal Mining in the Bristol Area, a subject close to home for residents and people in Nailsea and Backwell. Members free and visitors most welcome £3pp. Further detail from 01275-463479.

Backwell and Nailsea Ladies Choir

The choir is really looking forward to starting a new term with our Musical Director Naomi Davies. Our first weekly session will be on Thursday 10 September 2026 at our usual time of 13.15 until 14.45 in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. If you are able to stay longer, tea and biscuits are available until 15.15. The term will be 13 sessions culminating with our Christmas concert in the WI Hall on the afternoon of Thursday 10 December, so save the date now!

As always, we welcome new members, and are offering a 'first session for free' if you would like to give us a try. Do join us. We are a mixed ability, friendly choir and no auditions are required. For more information contact Mandy Collinson on 07722 70395

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The Meeting Point in September

Could you join us as a volunteer?

We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response to our children's summer activities. As I write 45 children and their parents have, this morning, enjoyed an educational hands-on experience with creatures from Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, a selection of craft activities, and refreshments for all. This was the third week of the children's summer holiday activities, with three more weeks fully planned. We are able to do this supported by a grant from Backwell Parish Council to help cover costs, but it would be impossible without our wonderful team of volunteers.

Next Tuesday, as well as the children's morning we will be serving a much enjoyed two course lunch. This too, would not be possible without volunteers.

Our volunteers have fun. We enjoy the buzz of happy people, we enjoy feeling that by working together we can give something to our village community, older members and younger members alike. However, to continue making a difference in Backwell we need to be succession planning. We need recently retired people to get involved and to pick up the baton. Could that be you? Come and visit us on a Tuesday. Taste and see. It is good!

September Calendar

Tuesday 1st	Children's Activities. Informal communion	10-12.00 12.15 -
12.45	Soup lunch. Close	£7 2.30
Tuesday 8th.	Accessible yoga with Nina. £5. Refreshments 10.30 £2 Close	11-12.00 12.30
Tuesday 15th	Accessible yoga with Nina 12.00. £5. Refreshments 10.30 £2 Scotty's 2 course lunch	11- 1.00.
	Close	3.00
Tuesday 21st	Accessible yoga with Nina. 12.00. £5. Refreshments 10.30 £2 Close.	11- 12.30
Tuesday 28th	Accessible yoga with Nina. 12.00. £5. Refreshments 10.30 £2	11-
Very sadly, please note our earlier closing times due lack of afternoon volunteers. We will review in January.		

Backwell Playhouse

Backwell Playhouse starts its 2026/27 Season with a celebration of our wonderful theatre. It is our 75th anniversary, with the Playhouse opening as a home for the North Somerset Players on the 31st October 1951.

In September, we will present a National Theatre Live production of "The Misanthrope". Recorded in front of a live audience and putting you in the best seat in the house, this reimagined production of Moliere's classic dark comedy stars Sandra Oh as Alice, a brilliant novelist, who despises the hollow contemporary mantras of kindness and respect. But the bolder she becomes in speaking out, the more colleagues avoid her, and the more her personal relationships begin to fracture. Showing on Friday 25th September, tickets are £15 (£13 Members) and available from www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk.

Our first Comedy Night of the new season starts on Saturday 26th September, with the performers to be announced. Visit our website for more information and tickets, which remain at just £10.

We are delighted to announce that our autumn show will pay honour to our opening night 75 years ago, with a recreation of that first performance. Running from the 29th-31st 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 wife, who is a person with mutism.

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

Tickets are £12 (£10 Members) and on sale from www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk



BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptist Church Services

6th Sept: Family Sunday!
Service Leader's: Tim & Sarah Crossley
Passage: John 1:43-51
Theme: The Big Discovery

13th Sept
Preacher: Crawford Telfor
Service Leader: Dave Nicklen
Passage: Ephesians 1:1-14
Theme: Spiritual Blessings in Christ

20th Sept (Communion)
Preacher: Matt Bradley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Passage: Ephesians 1:15-23
Theme: Thanksgiving & Prayer

27th Sept
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Ruth Ham
Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10
Theme: Made Alive in Christ



Backwell Life 
IS LOOKING FOR
FRIENDLY VOLUNTEERS! 

Backwell Life is looking for friendly volunteers to help at **The Meeting Point** - our welcoming Tuesday sessions in the Parish Hall from 10.30am.

 **The Meeting Point (TMP)** is our weekly community day, with accessible yoga, home-cooked lunches, refreshments, and a relaxed space for people to meet and chat.

 We also run **children's activities** during the school holidays, bringing families together.

 **Volunteering at TMP** will give you a chance to meet new people, be part of a supportive team and make a truly-valued real difference in Backwell.

INTERESTED?
We'd love to hear from you! 

CHAT TO ONE OF OUR FRIENDLY TEAM:

-  Sue: 07718 493272
-  Sarah: 07906 907715
-  Email: backwell.life@gmail.com

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WEST TOWN METHODIST CHURCH

West Town Methodist Church

Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

September 6th Jim Richards
13th Revd David Sharp
20th Revd Sally Ratcliffe
Communion
27th Heather Bentley

The Hub - Monday mornings 10.00 to 12.00, where a warm welcome awaits you for a cuppa and a chat. Feel free to bring along knitting, crocheting, puzzles, craft project 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. Starts 8th September

Knitting Group – Tuesday evenings, in schoolroom.

Art Group – Wednesday mornings 10.00 - 12.00. Re-starts in September.

Wednesday Fellowship Group

September dates tba

Thursday Fellowship Group

10.30 for 11.00. 3rd September at Julie's, 11 The Avenue and 17th at May's, 4 St Margaret's Close.

Sing Sankey Service

Saturday 5th September 3pm at Nailsea Methodist Church, led by Rev. Preben Andersen. A fun and joyful afternoon. Tickets £5 to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Contact val.sowerby@blueyonder.co.uk

Date for Diary

Harvest Service and Bring & Share Lunch 11th October

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 September

St Andrew's Church

Sunday 6th 11.00am 5.00pm	14th Sunday after Trinity Informal Communion Evensong
Sunday 13th 11.00am 12.45pm 5.00pm	15th Sunday after Trinity Sung Eucharist Baptism Service Said Evening Prayer
Sunday 20th 9.30am 11.00am	16th Sunday after Trinity Café Church Sung Eucharist
Sunday 27th 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	17th Sunday after Trinity Café Church Sung Eucharist Healing Service

St Bridget's Church

Sunday 6th 9.15am	14th Sunday after Trinity Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 13th 9.15am	15th Sunday after Trinity Morning Prayer
Sunday 20th 9.15am	16th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion
Sunday 27th 9.15am	17th Sunday after Trinity Morning Worship

St Bridget's Church

Autumn arrives at St. Bridget's with plenty to look forward to.

Our Coffee Morning returns on Saturday 5th September, 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.

The following morning, Sunday 6th September, we celebrate our Harvest Festival at the 9.15am service, followed by bacon rolls and coffee. We will be collecting donations on the day for the local Food Bank. Everyone is very welcome.

Then on Thursday 10th September we are delighted to welcome Chris Yeo from Clevedon Salerooms for an Antiques Evening at the church, starting at 6.30pm. Bring along your antiques to learn more about them (please, no clocks, medals, jewellery or coins). Light refreshments will be provided, with donations welcome on the day. To reserve a seat, please ring Sue Bougourd on 01275 853879.

Sunday services continue every week at 9.15am, and new faces are always very welcome. Our final Coffee Morning of the season follows on Saturday 3rd October, and do save the dates for our Christmas Fayre on 5th and 6th December.

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

From the Registers

Baptisms

26th April – Emily Bow
24th May – Lottie Zinn-Swift
5th July – Vincent Brooker

Weddings

1st May – Connor Ford & Daisy Leman
25th July – Sebastian Bartlett & Elizabeth Ryalls

Funerals

30th April – Jennifer Webb
6th May – Rita Wheeler
7th May – Audrey Robbins
15th June – Cyril Routley
3rd July – Patricia Jones

St Francis

This month sees the start of new beginnings for many children, young people and adults and all the parishioners of St Francis wish them well.

We look forward to welcoming a number of visiting priests over the next few weeks to St Francis.

The annual Glastonbury Pilgrimage takes place on Sunday 6th September which everyone is welcome to attend.

Please see further information on the website www.josephfrancis.org

Mass times can also be found at this address.

Christians Together In & around Backwell

Prayer Watch

7.15 for 7.30pm Monday, 7th September at St Andrew's.

Open the Book

West Leigh Infants: Wednesdays 16th and 30th September

Junior School: Thursday 24th September

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/

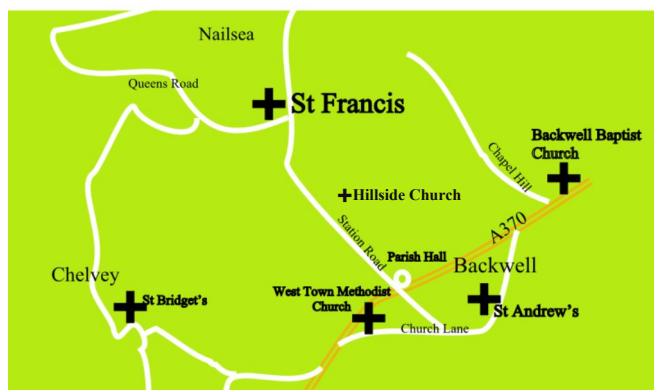
Hillside Church, part of Woodlands Church Family

Meeting every Sunday 11am

Backwell School Sixth Form Centre

Church Leader: Zoe Germain

For more details email: hillside@woodlandschurch.net



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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

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