

A scenic view of a village with houses and sheep in a field. The houses are built on a hillside, and the foreground is a lush green field with several sheep grazing. The sky is clear and blue.

# The Timsbury Letter

**PUBLISHED BY TIMSBURY  
PARISH COUNCIL**

**NO: 520 February 2023**

**[timsbury.org.uk](http://timsbury.org.uk)**



# Welcome to the February Timsbury Letter

## *Features this Month*

Pesticides and Biodiversity - page 7

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People Profile: Jon Archer- page 23

**March Letter Deadline:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Please send articles and adverts EARLY to:

Madeleine Potts, newsletter@timsbury.org.uk 07834 859291

47 Southlands Drive. Images & adverts in JPG format.

## Village News

### Les Robbins

We were saddened to hear of the loss of Les Robbins who sadly passed away in December. Les was a well-known character in the village who ably kept the village tidy in all winds and weathers for well over 20 years. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The Parish Council are currently

considering the future of litter picking in Timsbury and would welcome enquiries from anyone interested in contracting for the role of litter picker. It is anticipated that it will involve 6 to 8 hours of work per week with some flexibility required. Please see the advert on page 9 for further details.

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### The Avenue road improvements

Following representations from the Parish Council work has now started on improvements to the sharp bend in the

Avenue to make it safer for both pedestrians and motorists.

## Volunteer appreciation

The Parish Council would like to thank all those volunteers who helped to put up and decorate the Christmas tree in the Miners' Garden and for the hard

work in dismantling it after the festivities. It was certainly a very striking and a wonderful addition to the village.

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## Planning Applications

Comments by the Parish Council can be seen on the B&NES planning website, in the Parish Council Minutes at [timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil/meetings](https://timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil/meetings) and on noticeboards in the Conygre Hall and outside the Our Plaice chip shop.

### Applications considered by Timsbury Parish Council

**22/04429/TCA** 1 Bartholomew Row, South Road, Timsbury BA2 0EJ. Ash Trees – Pollard to prevent limbs falling and causing damage to the sheds, with aim of saving the trees. Goat willow – cut back to a similar height of the ash.

**22/04493/FUL** 19 Bloomfield Close, Timsbury BA2 0LP. Proposed two-storey side extension.

### Applications decided by B&NES Council

**22/01463/FUL** Brick House, Church Hill Timsbury. Reinstatement of second

floor. REFUSED

**22/03611/FUL** Rosewood Manor, Loves Hill, Timsbury. Erection of a bin and mower shed built into an existing stone alcove in the drive. PERMIT

**22/04493/FUL** 19 Bloomfield Close, Timsbury BA2 0LP. Proposed two-storey side extension. PERMIT

### Result of Appeals to the Planning Inspectorate

**Appeal ref App/F0114/W/22/3296454 (Planning ref: 21/03754/FUL** refused 7th Oct 2021). Parcel 1120, Bungay's Hill, High Littleton, BA2 0HF. General purpose farm building

APPEAL HAS BEEN ALLOWED AND PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.

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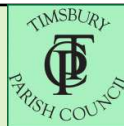
## DISCLAIMER:

Views and opinions expressed in the Timsbury Letter are those of each individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council.

## Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
7.30pm in the Myra Hayward  
Room, Conygre Hall

See [timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil](http://timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil)



**Angela Wilson**  
**Parish Clerk**

[timsbury.pariah.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:timsbury.pariah.clerk@gmail.com)  
07594 651 366  
c/o YMCA, North Road, Timsbury  
BA2 0JH



## 'WELCOME WEDNESDAYS'

at St MARY'S CHURCH, Timsbury.

*Every Wednesday from 11.00 am -1.00pm*

*Coffee, Tea and biscuits, chat and a light soup and roll lunch from 12.00  
Noon.*

*All welcome. Free of charge. Bring a friend!*

# Timsbury Youth Project

by Jane van Haaps

## Timsbury Youth Worker

In my December article, I talked about 'hope' and how we build hope with young people. This month I'm asking, 'Is Death the End?'

It springs from another conversation with one of my children who was worrying about death and dying yesterday evening (it's always at bedtime!). There are no easy answers here. We can't pretend it's OK or that it will feel OK and there are no guarantees of life. But I did say to him, that death isn't the end. He wasn't sure he believed that.

"Do you think we are more than our body and brain?"

"What do you think the soul is?"

"Is there a difference between emotions and spirituality?"

These are all interesting questions at the start of a New Year. They might sound intellectual, but actually they affect how we live our lives, where we spend our time and money, what values we choose, etc etc.

Whatever you believe, and whatever young people believe, it is good to wrestle with these questions in a culture where it seems that most people don't really see the point of God or faith.

Conversations are a key part of youth work. The teenage brain changes from that of the child to embrace more abstract questions and embrace bigger concepts. At our Youth Project, we want to give space to explore the bigger picture, not to impose any answers but to ask the questions. Of course, when you work in a 'young people led' environment, they will probably choose to kick a football round instead!

You'll find us Friday evenings at the YMCA. The early group is for those in School Years 4, 5 and 6. Until February half term it will run from 6.30-7.15pm (we are consulting as to whether an earlier afterschool type club starting around 4pm would suit families better, so do contact me if you have feelings either way on this); 7.15-8.15pm for those in School Years 7-10. Cost £1. Wednesdays we run small group work (12+) which provides more space to chat.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34

[jane@bathyfc.co.uk](mailto:jane@bathyfc.co.uk); 07483156995



# Pesticides and Biodiversity

By Mary-Anne Ansell

## Green Action Group

You might have heard about the convention on biological diversity or Cop 15 which took place in Montreal in December, but may not have understood what it was about.

'Biological Diversity' is usually shortened to 'Biodiversity' and relates to the natural world and in particular the loss of animal and plant life as a result of human activity. The way that we farm, use energy, manufacture things, consume and pollute our world is beyond what our planet Earth can sustain and is currently leading to a mass extinction of life; the greatest since the dinosaurs.

The fate of human beings is inextricably linked to and dependent on the healthy functioning of the natural world. This makes biodiversity an important if not critical issue but the problem with big concept like this and climate change and plastics invading every part of our world, is that they seem detached from our daily lives and we often don't know what to do to make a difference.

Many of the people who read the Timsbury Letter are gardeners and know that Organic gardening methods are now mainstream. However, judging by the availability in garden centres of

pesticides and compost containing peat, for example, practice for some lags behind. Recent research has shown that rather than reduce the numbers of a pest, in fact pesticides kill all insects, both good and bad and so killing your target pest is a short term gain at the expense of also killing natural enemies of that pest. Even worse, the effect of pesticides on natural enemies means numbers of the pest are likely to increase in the longer term, which isn't actually very long in the case of aphids for example.

The natural enemies of pests lose their food supply so even if they are not killed by a pesticide their numbers are reduced. In addition, the research shows that the average effect of pesticides is actually zero over time, in other words they actually don't work. So in order to support the biodiversity of your garden and help ladybirds, hoverflies, spiders etc, stop using pesticides and provide better habitats for insects.

Plant more shrubs, trees and hedges. Don't be too tidy and encourage birds, which also eat insect pests. Whichever you prefer, either controlling pests or gardening for wildlife, the prescription is

the same. More wildlife friendly gardening means more natural enemies, ultimately fewer pests and increased Biodiversity.

Look out for the Nature Chain Project in next month's Timsbury Letter.

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## Timsbury Gardening Club

By Graham Nicholls

The Gardening Club celebrated their December meeting with a visit by Stanton Drew Handbell Ringers in the cosy surroundings of the cricket club clubhouse. Many thanks to Malcolm Tucker for arranging this and to the handbell ringers who entertained us.

The ringers went through a wide range of music starting with 'Men of Harlech' and then 'Lord of the Dance'. We were encouraged to sing along with 'Silent Night', and 'Mary's Boy Child' made famous by Harry Belafonte all those years ago but the song is still popular. This was followed by a range of carols ending with 'Away in a Manger' and finally 'Jingle Bells'.

It was a pleasant and relaxing evening with mince pies and teas/coffee to finish.

We look forward to 2023 with a programme of activities including the Spring Bulb Show and coffee morning on April 8<sup>th</sup>, plus we hope to have the Annual Flower Show again for which we will once more need volunteers to help stage it.



By the time you read this we will have had our AGM but have a visit by David Usher on March 14<sup>th</sup> who will be talking on 'The Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens'. All are welcome to come along. We welcome new members and there is just a small fee for visitors.

## Litter Picking

Following the loss of Les Robbins, who has kept the village tidy for many years, the Parish Council is considering the future for litter picking in Timsbury.

The task is expected to require around 6 to 8 hours work each week and the Council would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in taking on the role.

To express an interest, or for more information, please contact the Parish Clerk, Angela Wilson, at [timsburyparish.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:timsburyparish.clerk@gmail.com) or 07594 651366.



## Conygre Hall Warm Space

You are welcome to join us  
every Friday between 2-4pm

**Starting on  
Friday 13th January 2023**



*We will be in the Myra Hayward Room, in the Conygre Hall, you are assured of a 'warm welcome'! It is FREE to everyone to come along for a chat and a cuppa.*

If you have any queries please email  
[info@conygretrust.org.uk](mailto:info@conygretrust.org.uk)



**For  
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Telephone:  
01761 470261  
Email:  
[bookings@conygre-hall-timsbury.co.uk](mailto:bookings@conygre-hall-timsbury.co.uk)



# Timsbury Natural History Group

By Andrew Harrison



Timsbury Natural History Group, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm, will be welcoming Gary Kingman. Gary is the Cam Valley Wildlife Group Barn Owl Project Leader and is licenced to handle owls.

Not only is Gary a very active member of the CVWG but he is also a talented photographer. The projects he leads aim to improve the status of Barn Owls in the Cam Valley Wildlife Area. Some of the activities carried out are:

- Carrying out surveys and monitoring the owls in the area
- Putting up nest boxes in suitable sites
- Encouraging landowners to manage the habitat appropriately
- Feeding survey results into local and national recording schemes e.g. Bristol and Somerset Environmental Records Centres

The February field trip, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am, is a visit to the Steart Marshes reserve. Last February the Steart Marshes Site Manager Alys Laver gave a most interesting talk about the reserve to Timsbury Nats at the Conygre Hall.

Steart Marshes is the first of the WWT's working wetlands. It provides flood defence for local homes and businesses, showcases productive farmland and is home to a thriving nature reserve. The project wants to prove climate change can be fought by working with nature.

The site encompasses hundreds of acres of saltmarsh and freshwater wetlands. Apart from being a buffer for raising sea levels it is also a wonderful habitat for a rich mix of wetland wildlife that includes otters, egrets, owls, waders and wildfowl.

## FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Treatments available include:

- Toenails trimmed.
- Callus and hard skin removed.
- Corns or verruca treated.
- Ingrown toenails.
- Thickened Nails.

**£25 for the first appointment for new customers**

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07764 190404 or email [clare.singer@hotmail.com](mailto:clare.singer@hotmail.com)

For more information - [www.happysolesfoothealthpractitioner.co.uk](http://www.happysolesfoothealthpractitioner.co.uk)



## Scout Jumble Sale

High Littleton Scout Hall

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am

Admission Free!

# New Parish Councillor Paul Carroll



Paul moved to Timsbury in 2003 and lives with his wife Nicola at Meadgate, just inside the village boundary with Camerton. Since 2012 Paul has been running his own business, MeadgateSC that provides a variety of outdoor adventure activities, safety and First Aid courses.

Paul was born and grew up in Plymouth where he developed his interest in outdoor sports and sport leadership. Leaving Plymouth in his early 20s he had a variety of logistics jobs in Norfolk, Yorkshire and Oxfordshire before moving to America with his family to work for three years.

His love of the outdoors saw him complete his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award whilst at school and now, having been the DofE Manager at Hayesfield Girls School and Beechen Cliff School, he acts as a freelance expedition assessor and expedition supervisor mainly on the Mendips, the Quantocks, Dartmoor and the Brecon Beacons.

Paul teaches safety for watersports, runs Safeguarding and First Aid courses and coaches kayaking, canoeing and Stand Up Paddleboarding(SUP).

He is an enthusiastic kayaker, having completed the Devizes to Westminster 125-mile Canoe race five times, and a trail runner with five full marathons and 12 Bath half marathons under his belt. He also does a little cycling plus weekly Boxercise classes.

He is slowly reducing his work commitments and is looking forward to helping Timsbury develop into a strong and safer community.

# Timsbury Wives

## 2023 Meetings

**8<sup>th</sup> February-** AGM and members afternoon

**8<sup>th</sup> March-** Avon Fire & Rescue/ Dementia bracelets

**12<sup>th</sup> April-** Heads Up – Carolle Ann Skeats

**10<sup>th</sup> May-** Martin with his plants

**14<sup>th</sup> June-** Maya to Mini Eggs – Hugh Evans

**12<sup>th</sup> July-** Kennet & Avon canal - Gill Redman



*Leanne Marie Hill*

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**LIVE  
LIFE**

HEALTH & FITNESS

# Local walks authors joined by Clare Balding

By Peter Bradshaw



The BBC broadcaster Clare Balding came to Timsbury last week to record an episode of her Radio 4 'Ramblings' programme with villagers Peter Bradshaw, Larry Cunningham and Sue Fraser, the co-authors of five books of circular local walks. 'Our conversation with her was recorded as we walked', said Larry Cunningham, 'and will be edited to be broadcast on Radio 4 in a few weeks time.

Sales of the books have boosted use of the dense web of footpaths in the area and raised over three thousand pounds to date for Timsbury Parish Council, Radstock Museum, WaterAid and The Avon Wildlife Trust. 'We have just finished enlarging the Radstock book', explained Peter Bradshaw, 'which means that our one hundredth walk will be published in the spring'.

'Clare was interested in how this had come about and to walk with us to find out more about the Somerset Coalfield,

which is little known nationally, and the Somersetshire Coal Canal', added Sue Fraser. Clare Balding has presented the 'Ramblings' programme for over twenty years and said that it remained one of the most enjoyable elements in her work.



The five books of circular walks produced by Peter, Larry and Sue are available from Health & More, The Hub and Canine Craze in Timsbury, Radstock Museum, Farmborough Community Shop and Oldfield Park Book Shop. Each book costs £6.00 and all proceeds go to good causes.

If you need more information please contact Peter Bradshaw at ***petergrad@gmail.com*** or ***07840 398191***.



S A V E  
*the*  
D A T E

IT'S BACK !  
TIMSBURY VILLAGE DAY

It is with great pleasure that the trustees of Conygre Trust  
are announcing the return of Timsbury Village Day

***ON Saturday 10th June 2023***

It will also be the celebration and 50th anniversary of the  
Conygre Hall being built and opened for community use in  
1973.

Many of the village clubs, businesses, classes and  
groups have been approached to join in, sell their  
wares, have a stall, share their expertise, organise 'have a go'  
sessions or sing their way through the day!

Please contact the organising committee if you wish to get  
involved on [info@conygretrust.org.uk](mailto:info@conygretrust.org.uk)

# Movement as medicine

by Kate Allport

Yoga teacher based in Timsbury



These days so many of us spend endless hours being sedentary and glued to our screens. This loss of movement and muscle mass is having a huge impact on our health and wellbeing. 'Sarcopenia' is the tendency for our muscles to get smaller and weaker as we age and in Western cultures generally the loss of muscle mass is precipitous as we age.

Research is now helping us understand the connection between this loss of muscle strength and our health outcomes. Studies have found that low muscle strength is associated with a significantly elevated risk of death by

any means. Sarcopenia leaves us vulnerable to chronic disease including cardiovascular disease, various cancers, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, lung disease, osteoporosis and stroke. Dr Doug McDuff, an expert in fitness medicine stated that: 'Aging and diseases of modern civilization are 100% related to pathological muscle loss that occurs with age: aka sarcopenia.'

So what does this mean for us? By the age of 50, research indicates that the average annual loss of muscle is about 0.5kg. Imagine that disappearing from your body every year? Maybe you read this and feel defeated, however the good news is that the science of exercise is able to help us address this problem. Exercise is the medicine that we need to prescribe ourselves. To counteract sarcopenia (the wasting of muscle) we need strength training.

For some people this is doing workouts at the gym, but there are many different ways of building muscle strength, and we all need to find the ways that work for us. I would love to hear any strategies that are working for you.



### **Feeling stuck or stressed, tired or low mood?**

The movement classes I teach in Timsbury encompass strength building as well as offering multi-dimensional movement designed to increase mobility and 'un-stick' our sedentary bodies. The practice of yoga is fundamentally about connecting and listening to yourself – and being guided from within. As a teacher I'm offering suggestions, not instructions, and I encourage students to adapt the practice to their unique bodies and needs.

Classes include guided relaxation. With today's busy and stressful lifestyles most people are living with chronic stress, and the associated physical and

emotional impacts of this, such as sleep problems, high blood pressure, back pain, digestive issues, anxiety and depression.



Relaxation is an antidote to stress, and practices that trigger the relaxation response are vitally important. This mix of movement and stillness practices offer students a doorway to 'bodyfulness,' which is a body-based contemplative practice. Finding new ways to move and to relate to our internal landscape can be an empowering and healing practice which helps to transform our relationship with ourselves.

To find out more about our small friendly classes (Friday mornings) held in-person in my peaceful studio space in Timsbury find me on Facebook (Yoga From The Inside UK), visit my website <https://yogafromtheinside.com> or email me at [kateallport70@gmail.com](mailto:kateallport70@gmail.com).

# Village Church Services

## St Mary's Church, Timsbury

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February** 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP1662) 11.00am Holy Communion

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February** 8.00am Holy Communion (CW) 11.00am Holy Communion

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February** 8.00am Holy Comunion (BCP1662) 11.00am Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 22<sup>th</sup> February** Ash Wednesday 7.30pm

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February** 8.00am Holy Comunion(CW) 11.00am Holy Communion

**Every Wednesday, weekly 9.30 am Holy Communion Service.**

**Every Wednesday: 'Welcome Wednesday's' 11.00am-1.00pm Coffee, biscuits, chat and light lunch. (See page 5)**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Coffee Morning from 10.00 am to 12.00 Noon**

### Revd Martin Blewett

Benefice of Timsbury with Priston, Camerton & Dunkerton

The Rectory, South Road, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0EJ

Tel: (01761) 472448. Mobile: 07854 273489 Email: martinblewett@gmail.com

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer.** Mrs Elaine Martin. (01761) 479506

## Tabor Free Methodist Church

Tabor will continue to hold services at 11.00am every fortnight in February. On February 5<sup>th</sup> Colin Halstead will be the preacher. A fortnight later Eric Barge will lead a shortened service to be followed by a members' meeting. A warm welcome is extended to all in our newly refurbished building. Come along and see the changes that have been made.

Tabor will continue to operate the two large monitors fitted at the front of the church to enhance worship. It will stream hymns direct into the building via the internet projecting them on the monitors.

Two former members of Tabor who made big contributions to the church sadly died in January. Sue Macey who ran the Girls' Brigade for many years and often led worship and Vivian Dalton who was secretary have both passed away. Members of Tabor send their condolences at this sad time.

**Pastoral Matters-** Eric Barge 01761 420234

**Secretary-** Geoff Shute 01761 568524

**[www.taborfreemethodist.org](http://www.taborfreemethodist.org)**

## Methodist Church South Road

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February** 10.30am Mr Steve Beck

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February** 10.30am Rev David Winstanley Holy Communion

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February** 10.30am Mr Greville Mills

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February** 10.30am Rev David Musgrave

### **Revd David Winstanley**

40 North Meadows,

Peasedown St John, Bath

BA2 8PS

01761 439934

dwin64@hotmail.com

Secretary Frances Nicholson 01761 470841

## Congregational Church North Road (with full wheelchair access)

Secretary: Maureen Cox 01761 479656

# St Mary's Primary School

By Chris Daniels

The St Mary's News Team have continued to be busy finding the important news stories to bring to your attention. There is so much going on that it is often difficult for our budding journalists to keep up with all the breaking news. We hope you enjoy reading their reports of some of the events that have taken place recently.

## Celebrating Difference



At St Mary's, we always like to find ways to promote the message that no one should be bullied because of who they are. In our assemblies, we regularly raise awareness about celebrating that we are all different and making sure that everybody is treated

with respect. We wore odd socks on one day to show how important it is that we are different.

Our assemblies are led by our different Leadership Teams made up of pupils from across the year groups, for example our Worship Champions, our School Council and our Digital Team (who led an assembly all about cyber-bullying).

Mrs Roberts said, "We do termly assemblies on anti-bullying to remind people of the important messages. Children leading the assemblies shows that the Leadership Teams know what they are talking about and it reminds everyone that you can always talk to other children as well, not just the adults."

Our work on celebrating difference also covered anti-racism. Each class learnt about a particular person and then did a presentation about them in an assembly. The famous people we studied were Phillis Wheatley, Rosa Parks, Claudia Jones, Daniel Hale Williams, Bessie Coleman and Jesse Owens.

Year 6 focussed on Jesse Owens because of his link to their History topic of World War Two. Jesse was the fastest man in 1936 who went to the Berlin Olympics even though Hitler

didn't like black people. People told him that would be a big mistake because Hitler was there. He won four gold medals much to Hitler's disgust.



One Year Six pupil said, "It is important to remember Jesse Owens because he stood up for black people's rights and never gave up or listened to people who doubted him and we should remember him."

We liked this quote from the American political activist and philosopher Angela Davis who said, "In a racist society being not racist is not good enough, you have to be anti-racist."

### **Writhlington School Visit**



All of the pupils in Year 4/5 and Year 6 went on a special school trip to Writhlington School and saw an orchestra play. We wanted to do this so we could experience what it's like for

brass bands to play.

A lady called Laura told us all about her instrument, the French horn, and her friends told us about their instruments as well. There were two trumpets, a tuba and a trombone.

Everybody really enjoyed this visit and we saw some of the students from St Mary's who are now in Year 7 whilst we were there. Isaac was chosen to walk around carrying a funnel while one of the performers blew through the end of a long hose pipe to demonstrate how vibrations are needed to produce sound. The whole performance was great.



### **Rock Stars and Robots Day**

At St Mary's, we regularly practise our arithmetic fluency skills by using the Times Tables Rock Stars and Numbots online resources. Each year, we hold a special event to accompany this important learning in Maths. On the day, we dress up as rock stars and robots and enjoy special Maths activities together in the school hall.

It's great to see how much everyone



enjoys the experience and the effort people put into their costumes. It's a brilliant way to promote enthusiasm for children to want to continue practising

their key number skills and securing their knowledge of the important facts associated with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Timsbury Library is in the YMCA Building, next to the Coop in Timsbury.  
Open Saturdays 10-12, Mondays 2:30-4:30, Tuesdays 2-4 and Thursdays 1:30-4:30pm.

From borrowing books to downloading newspapers, ebooks and magazines, libraries offer a great free alternative to buying things you'll only read once.



**Saturday Stories for 0-5's**  
**STORYTIME**  
Second Saturday of the month  
at Timsbury Library  
10:30-11:00am.  
FREE

Community Library  
YMCA Building North Road  
Timsbury

**Knit and Chat**

Knit, D crochet, Sew, Embroider - whatever you like!  
Informal group, all welcome, just a chance to have a natter.

Come along every other Tuesday 2:30pm - 4pm,  
dates the group will run are as follows:

Tuesday 10th Jan
24th Jan
7th Feb
21st Feb
7th March
21st March
4th April
18th April

It is in the YMCA Cafe area,  
( next to the Library in the YMCA Building, North Road,  
Timsbury )

Free to attend, 50p for a hot drink.  
For further details email [hub@timsbury.org.uk](mailto:hub@timsbury.org.uk)

Timsbury Community Library

**EVERY MONDAY**  
**AT THE TIMSBURY HUB**  
(By the library)

**Cuppa and Chat**

All welcome  
50p a hot drink and plenty of chat.  
2.30pm - 4pm

We are in the YMCA building (by the Co-op) North Road, Timsbury BA2 0JH

# People Profile: Jon Archer

By Paul Carroll



One of our villagers, Jon Archer, has been recognized by a national award from British Canoeing for his voluntary outstanding sporting work.

Jon Archer has grown up here in Timsbury and lived here with his family for many years having been part of the footballing community as a player and a referee and before that an active member of the village Youth Club. In 2022 he was nominated for and was awarded British Canoeing's National Outstanding Contribution Award for his

work locally in the discipline of Stand Up Paddle boarding (SUP).

Jon Archer started Bath Paddleboard Centre as a business in 2017 alongside his full-time job as a teacher at a school in Bristol.

From the early days it blossomed with the interest in the new sport of SUP and Jon adapted the non-business related activity. He formed initially a Facebook group in Bath, SUP Bath, and then a group based in Bradford-on-Avon, SUP Wiltshire. These were meant as a way for students from his business courses to keep in touch and SUP together. Whilst the business continues with giving introductory lessons to individuals and families, gyms and Scout groups the recreational aspect of his groups have led to lots of paddle boarding activity each week in and around Bath and west Wiltshire.

Jon nurtures the groups and encourages individuals to SUP in social groups in sheltered waters. He has developed his own progression course for SUP and it includes safety elements so group members have the relevant skills and knowledge.

He initially organized weekly social

paddles but now as the group has grown paddlers organize themselves and in January there were six organised group paddles and even more informal get-togethers. Even whilst encouraging and enthusing SUP'ers he remains firm on safety and for all group events SUP'ers must always wear a Buoyancy Aid and a leash. In the winter months group rules are that the leash must be a quick release waist belt.

Through Jon's enthusiasm, passion for SUP and leadership he has promoted paddle sport locally, but more importantly through personal endeavour, motivated more people participating in SUP. The Facebook groups now stand at 3000 members for SUP Bath and 1090 for SUP Wiltshire.

Jon is active weekly on SUP and has paddled 325 from 365 days in 2021. A further example of how his own effort brings people together in SUP is the Christmas SUP Paddle on the River Avon. On 18<sup>th</sup> December there were nearly 100 SUP'ers paddling through Bath mostly in some form of Christmas fancy dress and importantly enjoying themselves on the water. As an aside this event raised over £1400 for charity. It is through one man's passion for SUP and persistent enthusiasm and nurturing that so many people locally have the confidence to SUP as members of social groups and enjoy their sport.

*"I joined SUP Bath a year ago and haven't looked back. Jon makes walking*

*in to a group of strangers easy. Inclusive, friendly, supportive, fun, welcoming and safe are just a few words to describe the club that Jon founded many years ago. He encourages beginner paddlers, inspires everyone to push themselves and has a brilliant sense of humor. Our hours spent on the water are the best hours of my week. He volunteers countless hours of his time, organises trips and most importantly drills into us the need to respect the water and be safe. He is an inspirational and selfless leader who is extremely respected".* Alison Holvey

You can see this was a well deserved award for a Timsbury resident. The photograph shows the glass vase that was given to Jon after he attended the World Freestyle Canoeing Championships in July last year. Now the village knows that we have a nationally recognised paddle boarder in our midst.

If you are interested in Stand Up Paddle boarding look up Bath Paddleboard Centre and SUP Bath or SUP Wiltshire on Facebook and join in.

### **Project Linus**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Conygre Hall, Timsbury 10.00am-2.00pm.

Linda McGregor

Project Linus: coordinator for Bath, Wells and surrounding areas.

01761 752337

Facebook: Project Linus -Bath, Wells and

# Timsbury WI

By Nicola Carroll



Timsbury WI had their first meeting of 2023 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. Numbers were somewhat diminished by the weather but we had a cosy evening catching up with each other over a sharing supper.



#ShowTheLove

Gill Miles led us in making some colourful hearts for the WI's February "Show the Love" campaign. The WI is a founder member of the Climate Coalition and work to protect what we love from climate change as well as lobby politicians to prioritise tackling the issue. Use this link for more information about the "show the love campaign" and other WI Campaigns. <https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/key-and-current-campaigns/climate-change>

Our March meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> and will feature a talk from Wessex Water. Future events and activities include talks, table games, light-hearted quizzes

and demonstrations as well as outings to local attractions.

Our monthly lunches are held on different weekdays to allow those with regular commitments to fit a couple in. The arrangements for March's lunch have not been agreed yet; we are open to suggestions and recommendations. These are informal, friendly gatherings and a good way to come and meet us.

Our book club meets monthly in the Seven Stars. We cover a range of books and discussion can be quite lively as opinions differ, we are always open to suggestions for a good read. If you see (or hear!) us come and say hello. Our next official meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7:30pm in the Conygre Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

If you would like to join us for one of our lunches, games or other activities then please contact us at [timsbury.wi@btinternet.com](mailto:timsbury.wi@btinternet.com) for any information, or check out our Facebook page.

For more details of National events activities and campaigns check out the WI [website https://www.thewi.org.uk](https://www.thewi.org.uk)

All our meetings, clubs and groups meet the government guidelines for meetings to ensure that we can socialise support each other and have a good time.

# Tisbury Theatre Group

By Peter Buchanan

## **Ghostly goes on at the Conygre Hall in April!**

We are now starting to rehearse our next production, “Laying the Ghost” by Simon Williams. This fast moving comedy is set in Yew Tree House, a retirement home for a group of eccentric thespians “growing old disgracefully”. These include former leading lady Margot Buchanan and her slightly dotty friend Freda who communicates with “the other side”.

Margot seems less than pleased when she receives three birthday visitors: her ex-husband Sir Leo (a well-known actor and philanderer), his second wife and his current mistress. Jean Willis directs a largely female cast of seven, headed by Jean Gibbs and Sharon Wilkins. The other female roles are taken by Jo Jewell, Rosalie Cook and, in her first time on stage with TTG, Kathryn Clarke. As to the men, Peter Buchanan plays Sir Leo, with George Clark contributing a small but hilarious cameo.

“Laying the Ghost” will be on stage at the Conygre Hall for three performances from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale soon – please visit our website [www.thettg.org](http://www.thettg.org) for details.

Our December pantomime “Beauty and

the Beast” was a huge success, with ticket sales exceeding all expectations; three of the five performances were virtually sold out! We have received a very good review from the Somerset Fellowship of Drama and lots of congratulations from audience members, some of whom had never been to a pantomime before and really enjoyed the experience.

We had huge fun (as well as a lot of hard work) putting it on, and these positive comments make it even more enjoyable! Our audiences were generous in their support of this year’s charity, and at the end of our season we will be making a significant donation to BillyChip, an innovative enterprise (started locally) which helps rough sleepers.

In July, we will be staging a revue to celebrate TTG’s 50th anniversary. We’re keen to hear from former members of the group or anyone who has photographs or other memorabilia that they are willing to share. You can get in touch by emailing us at [\*\*tisburytheatre@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:tisburytheatre@gmail.com).

# Timsbury Cricket Club AGM 2022

By Malcolm Tucker

Timsbury Cricket Club's first eleven will be led by probably the youngest skipper in its 150 year old history with the appointment of 25 year old Jesse Bishop . He will be replacing Jon Strand who has led the club with distinction but who felt it was now the right time to step down.



*Jesse Bishop*

There is also a new vice-captain in the form of Kevin Sibley and both appointments were ratified at the club's AGM which was held in the clubroom. There are no changes for the second and third teams with club chairman Ben Hosford continuing his dual role as

second team captain with Dan Hill vice-captain and Laurie Jones remaining in charge of the third team with Neil Hulford as vice-captain.

Hosford reviewed the past season which had not been memorable for on the field results but which had seen many positive aspects. The first team finished eighth in the Bristol and District Senior Division but had reached the semi-finals of the Somerset Intermediate Cup , the second team had ended up seventh in Division 5 and the third eleven fifth in Division 13.

Once again the youth players had made immense progress and the All Stars and Dynamos sessions had been very well led and attended. Availability had been less consistent but this had given more opportunities for the young players in the club and numbers had remained consistently high for training sessions. The staging of the county play-offs for under 19s had been a huge success and received glowing reports from the county.

Hosford paid tributes to Adam Brinkworth whose charity run had raised nearly £5000 for the club and to Strand who he said had been a great leader both on and off the field. Nige and Rita Day were again thanked for

their 23 years of service behind the bar and the members of the Management Committee and club sponsors were thanked for their continued support.

Hosford informed the meeting that a recent Management meeting had looked in depth at the future of the club and there was a clear vision of what the club hoped to achieve. He handed out to members a clear five year plan and said that plans were already beginning to take shape.

Sol Thompson announced that a special day was being planned for August 27<sup>th</sup> next year to pay tribute to his father Jer and Richard Ford who had both made a massive contribution to the club before their deaths.

Malcolm Tucker, on the recommendation of the Management Committee was unanimously

reappointed as Club President. Steve and Paula Hoddinott were to be invited to become club Vice Presidents.

The election of officers were as follows:

**Chairman-** Ben Hosford

**Vice Chairman-** Mark Sage

**Treasurer-** Ben Curtis

**Secretary-** Richard Davis

**Fixture Secretary-** Martyn Sage

**1st Team Captain-** Jesse Bishop

**1st Team Vice Captain-** Kevin Sibley

**2nd Team Captain-** Ben Hosford

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team Vice Captain-** Dan Hill

**3<sup>rd</sup> Team Captain-** Laurie Jones

**3<sup>rd</sup> Team Vice Captain-** Neil Hulford

**Auditor-** Ashley Davis

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## **Bowling, an invitation to beginners**

By David Collet

“Monday mornings are really a social thing, we are here to enjoy ourselves and we usually have a few spaces to welcome new players” John Gardner is talking about Short Mat Bowls an indoor sport that is played three times each week in the Conygre Hall.

The two evening sessions are still social but a bit more competitive. Newcomers are welcome on Tuesday evenings and on Thursdays the six-bowler Timsbury

team plays in the Mendip League, sometimes travelling as far as Wells, Street and Wedmore.

According to John “Getting started requires no special skills. We have two mats available and can use one of them for training and practice sessions. We have a selection of bowls for newcomers to try and the only requirement is that anyone without flat-soled shoes plays in thick socks.”



The Monday morning sessions begin at 10.00am and run until midday with break for coffee and biscuits at around 10.45am. Evening sessions begin at 7.30pm and continue until around 9.00pm, again with a half-time break. Players pay £3 a session to cover the cost of hiring the court.

Bowls for the short mat game are available in a range of weights to fit the player's hand size and are biased to suit the 45ft mats. Bowlmania in Melksham ([bowlmania.co.uk](http://bowlmania.co.uk)) can provide bowls from around £112 a pair and eBay usually has used sets on offer. Flat, tread-free shoes, essential to avoid treading grit on to an expensive carpet, are available from around £20. Higher-priced woods and shoes are readily

available as your skills and enthusiasm develop.

“Match play is two triples playing 18 ends which can get quite tense especially as we are doing well in the league this year.” said John. “Amongst ourselves we generally play in pairs or quartets and the competition is much more friendly. The Court, at the side of the Conygre Hall, was built especially for short mat bowls and I am pleased to invite people to come along and make use of it.”

Potential bowlers can telephone John or Sue Gardner on 472741 to find out more details or are welcome to drop in at the Conygre Hall on a Monday morning or Tuesday evening.

## **DEADLINE**

**March issue  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

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47 Southlands Drive.

Images & adverts in JPG format.

# Poppy Appeal 2022

By Chris Fiddes

On behalf of Timsbury Royal British Legion Branch I would like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers, who managed to get out collecting door to door year after year, despite the rain and cold. We would also like to thank all the business's, Clubs, St Mary's School, St Mary's Church and all those who had wreaths, for their very generous donations, making this years - Total to date: £3673.61.

We would also like to thank all those who attended the Remembrance Service in the village in November, in particular the Veterans, B&NES, Timsbury Parish Council, Brownies, St Mary's School and others who led wreaths. It was one of the largest crowds we have had and also great to see more families attending.

The Royal British Legion has continually helped serving and ex service personnel since the First World War. More recently the RBL has provided numerous recovery initiatives for serving and veteran wounded, injured and sick (WIS) community. In 2011 they opened the Battle Back Centre in Shropshire which has helped hundreds recovering from serious injuries by getting involved in sports and adventure training courses, as well as offering wellbeing courses for veterans.

This year the RBL will be working with Combat Stress and Outside the Wire to help tackle PTSD, drug and alcohol dependency and other mental-health concerns.

Without your support we would not be able to help the thousands of ex service men, women and their families. You can donate to the Poppy Appeal at any time throughout the year by logging onto their website [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)



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# Tabor Independent Methodist Church

By Dianne Carter

It has been a busy period for the Tabor Independent Methodist Church in North Road and also the Tabor Ringers who are based there.

A successful Christmas Extravaganza was held early in December and, later in the month, Mrs Margaret West led the well attended Carol Service. The Service included a mixture of both modern and traditional Carols, some being accompanied by the congregation with assorted "musical instruments.". Margaret, wearing a halo of tinsel, (to make her look more angelic!) told the Christmas Story through the eyes of Angel Gabriel with help from Poppy Brinkworth who built up the Crib as the story went along.

The Tabor Ringers played whilst the congregation were assembling as well as during the Service after which refreshments were served.

The Christmas Day Service was again led by Margaret.

If you would like to attend any of our Services, details can be found on the large outside noticeboard and you will be made most welcome.

The Tabor Ringers had a busy few weeks in the run up to Christmas, playing at local residential homes, the

switching on of Paulton Village Christmas Lights, Tabor's own Carol Service, and Writhlington's Village Christmas Celebrations.

Bookings are beginning to come in for 2023, so if you would like us to entertain your club, residential home, village celebrations, or anything you are organising please contact our Secretary Mrs Barb Spalding **01761 752177**

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# Gadget Busters

By Sarah Diacono

**February 1<sup>st</sup> - The Queens, Chew Magna**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> - Stoke Inn, Chew Stoke**

Chew Valley Gadget Busters are holding face to face sessions, thanks to The Queens pub in Chew Magna and the Stoke Inn, Chew Stoke.

Do you have problems using your laptop, iPad, tablet, phone or digital camera? Or maybe you want to make video calls, send photos or use WhatsApp to contact your friends and family, but don't know how.

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mailing [cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com](mailto:cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com), or turn up on the day. We hold two, 2-hour sessions a month. The first Wednesday of each month is at The Queens pub, Silver Street, Chew Magna, and the third Wednesday of each month at the Stoke Inn, Bristol Road, Chew Stoke. Both sessions are from 12.30-2.30 pm. It costs £3 per session, all of which will go to charity.

We are still looking for more volunteers, so if you would like to become a Gadget Busters volunteer, please email [cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com](mailto:cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com) for more information.

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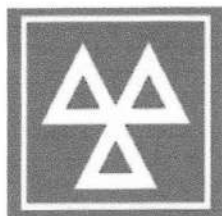
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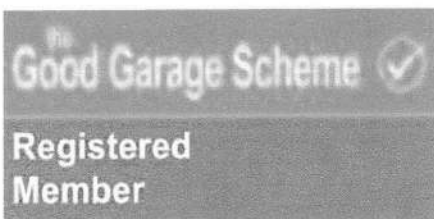


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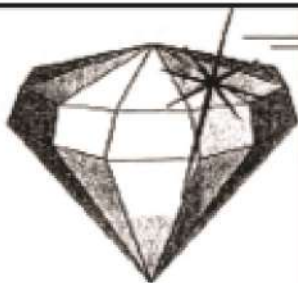


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