



The Timsbury Letter

**PUBLISHED BY TIMSBURY
PARISH COUNCIL
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timsbury.org.uk

Christmas Services St Mary's Church, Timsbury

December 2024



Thursday 19th December. 7.30 pm **'The Joy of Christmas.'** Traditional Carol Service. St Mary's Church

Friday 20th December 7.30 pm **Christmas Carol Sing-along.** Seven Stars, North Road, Timsbury.

Monday 23rd December 6.30pm **Open Air Carols at the Miner's Garden** with the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band.

24th December. Christmas Eve. 3.00 pm **The Crib Service: For all the Family!**
Christmas Eve. 11.30 pm **Midnight 'Mass'**

25th December. Christmas Day 10.00 am **Christmas Service at **Priston Church****

For more details contact Revd Martin on 01761 472448 or email martinblewett@gmail.com. St Mary's Church are on



Welcome to the December Timsbury Letter

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February 2025 Letter Deadline: Thursday 16th January

Please send articles and adverts EARLY to:

Madeleine Potts, newsletter@timsbury.org.uk 07834 859291 (after 4pm)

47 Southlands Drive. Images & adverts in JPG format.

Village News

Merry Christmas Timsbury

Members of the Parish Council, the Clerk and everyone involved in producing and distributing the Timsbury Letter would like to offer all our readers very best wishes for joy and happiness throughout the festive season.

As part of the celebrations the Parish

Council has again arranged for a Christmas tree to be erected in the Miners' Garden which will be festooned with lights and baubles by a keen band of volunteers. In addition, on Monday 23rd December at 6.30pm everyone is invited to gather in the Miners' Garden and the The Square to join in the singing

of Christmas carols. The session will be led by the Rev. Blewett and supported

by the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band.

Church Hill/South Road junction improvements

After years of campaigning by the Parish Council's Streets and Safety Group you will have noticed that much needed improvements have finally been made to the junction of Church Hill with South Road. Please see the photo on page 20 Unfortunately, the requested traffic island could not be implemented.

Nevertheless, with the able assistance of the Timsbury Ward Councillor, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, who campaigned vigorously for the proposed changes on behalf of the Parish Council, negotiating the junction should now prove much easier and safer for pedestrians.

Buy with Confidence scheme

With the growing number of concerns about rogue traders B&NES Council have launched a new campaign to raise awareness of their Buy With Confidence Scheme. Residents looking for a reliable plumber, gardener, electrician or any other trades person can access an approved list of local businesses who have given their commitment to trading fairly and have undergone scrutiny by the Council's Trading Standards team. Businesses are only permitted to join the scheme once they have passed a series of stringent checks including research into their trading history and

financial background, a review of their complaint history and customer references and, for those working in and around people's homes, a criminal record check. Once on the scheme they will continue to be monitored.

The find a business go to www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk and put in your postcode and select the type of business. From the list of approved local businesses you will then be able to view their profile, send them an email and read customer reviews.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Avon and Somerset Police Neighbourhood team hold their local surgeries at Timsbury every month. They will be holding their next surgery on Tuesday 17th December 2024 at The Square café from 3.00pm to 4.00pm.

Feel free to drop in and meet members of your neighbourhood policing team to talk to about any issues in the area and get crime reduction advice.

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 and on noticeboards in the Conygre Hall and outside the Our Plaiice chip shop.

Applications considered by Timsbury Parish Council

24/03877/TCA (Tree works in a Con Area) 4 Pitfour Terrace, High Street Timsbury BA2 0HT. Weeping Willow T001 - fell

24/04014/FUL Teran, South Road, BA2 0NA. Erection of a single storey side extension granny annex and the formation of a rear dormer window to the main roof.

Planning Applications decided by B&NES Council

24/03582/TCA (Tree works in Con Area) 1 Chapel walk, Timsbury BA2 0JZ. T1 twin stem walnut tree – to be felled.
Decision – NO OBJECTION

23/03938/TCA (Listed building consent Alts/exts). Pitfour House, High Street, Timsbury. Internal and external work to be facilitate erection of single storey extension following demolition of existing rear extension. Conversion of workshop to pantry and WC installation of flat roof over courtyard to form new workshop. Installation of EV charging point. Replace roof tiles and repairs to lead flashings and valley gutters. Repairs to sash and casement windows. Internal room modifications. Decision – CONSENT

23/03937/FUL Pitfour House, High Street, Timsbury. Erection of single storey extension following demolition of existing rear extension. Conversion of workshop to pantry and WC. Installation of flat roof over courtyard to form new workshop. Installation EV charging point. Replace roof tiles and repairs to lead flashings and valley gutters. . Repairs to sash and casement windows. Internal room modifications
Decision - PERMIT



Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 2nd December 2024 at
7.30pm in the Jeff Sluggett
Room, Conygre Hall

See timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil

Angela Wilson Parish Clerk

timsbury.pariah.clerk@gmail.com
07594 651 366

c/o YMCA, North Road, Timsbury
BA2 0JH

Remembrance Day Display

By Barry Sewell



Timsbury RBL Branch Committee with the Poppy Ladies

A group of Timsbury ladies has spent many hundreds of hours over the last six months crocheting and knitting over three thousand red poppies which were used to decorate the Timsbury War Memorial for Remembrance Day.

The ladies included:

Sharon Mallon, Lorna Sridevi Miller, Helen Smart, Leslie Bishop, Marilyn Willcox, Anoushka Stevens, Linda Neal, Sue Fraser, Sandra Doulton, Liz Pearce, Liz Bradshaw, Juanita Lowther, Heather Shaw, Michelle Sage, Laura Marsland, Helen Goodchild, Amy Shaw, Inez Chalk, Mary Clothier and Josie Pownall.

Included is also a contribution from the 'Knit & Natter' Group.

The display consisted of a 16ft high waterfall of poppies as a backdrop with two additional displays on the walls either side of the Newmans Lane entrance to the War Memorial. The whole effect was very striking and a fitting tribute to the men of Timsbury and Camerton who gave their lives during the two World Wars.

A fantastic effort by all concerned.

Well Done, the Timsbury Poppy Ladies!

Timsbury Remembrance Service 2024

By Chris Fiddes



Thank you to all those who attended Timsbury Remembrance Service this year. There were lots more young faces which is fantastic to see and it was the largest turnout we have had in years.

The service at the village War Memorial was conducted by the Revd., Martin Blewitt and Barry Sewell, Chairman of Timsbury Branch of the Royal British Legion. Wreaths were laid by veterans and various organizations from the village. One of those laying a wreath again this year was John Baker, a 98 year old Commando and WWII Veteran with his great grandson Alfie, an amazing man, we salute you John.

Thank you to Spike our new Standard Bearer for doing a brilliant job well done. I would also like to thank Chris Jopling our new Poppy Appeal organiser

for all his hard work organising this years Poppy Appeal, putting up the large poppies around the village and helping prepare for the Remembrance Service, excellent.

A big thank you again to all our fantastic Poppy Appeal volunteers who go around collecting door to door every year doing a fantastic job well done. We will not have a total for this years Poppy Appeal collection until all the boxes are collected and counted, then the total will be posted on FACEBOOK and in the Timsbury Letter.

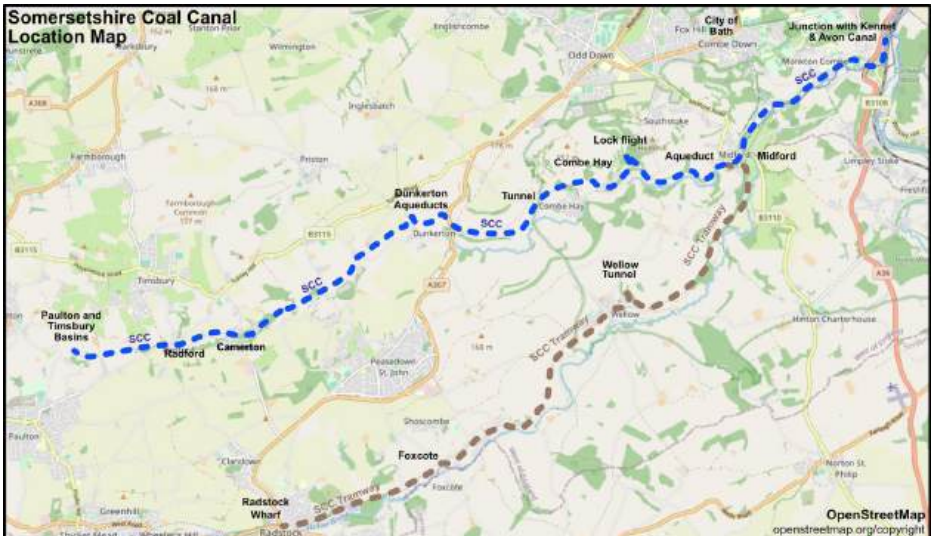
Also a new addition this year the beautiful waterfall of knitted poppies by the War Memorial. This was an idea by Sharon Mallon one of our volunteer poppy collectors brilliant. Also thank you to Amie Goodman who made the

amazing wire mesh statuette of a soldier that was positioned at the War Memorial.

On behalf of Timsbury Royal British Legion Branch we would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

The Somersetshire Coal Canal and the Local Plan

By Martin Turner



Each Local Authority in England and Wales has to produce a 'Local Plan' which defines its planning policies for the development and use of land in their area. It is drawn up by planning officers before going out to public consultation and it is eventually submitted to the Secretary of State for ratification, following which it is normally in place for 15-years. Each plan must define the authority's visions and development strategies for areas such as housing, industry, the

environment and infrastructure and, once adopted, it will form the basis of future planning decisions.

It should come as no surprise that the B&NES Local Plan contains a significant section covering the Historic environment. This section contains two Heritage policies, HE1 and HE2 which are both of particular importance to the Society. Policy HE1 sets out how any development that affects the historic environment should be considered within the planning process. It aims to

support and protect the District's Heritage Assets, in particular assets such as the Bath World Heritage Site, conservation areas, ancient monuments and historic parks and gardens.

Policy HE2 additionally sets out how to protect 'two important linear assets', namely the Wansdyke earthwork and the Somersetshire Coal Canal. Both of these features are defined as Designated Heritage Assets within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework. That policy states 'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation'.

As a Society we are therefore very fortunate that the Somersetshire Coal Canal is not only covered by the general planning policy HE1 but, alongside the Wansdyke, it is given specific protection under policy HE2. That policy sets out a protected area that surrounds the historic route, including some of the tramways leading to it. This map can be viewed online within the Planning/Historic Environment section of the www.bathnes.gov.uk/webforms/maps website.

Somersetshire Coal Canal Society Restoration policy – Protecting the Route

The Somersetshire Coal Canal Society is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (reg no 1207513) with the

following objectives:

To advance the education of the general public in the history of the Somersetshire Coal Canal by carrying out historical research and by providing information in published documents and in public meetings.

To promote the conservation, protection and restoration to a waterway of the physical and natural environment of the Somersetshire Coal Canal and its structures for the benefit of the general public.

Overview

Canal restoration is always a long-term project, relying as it does on Local Authority and public support, funding and landowner agreement. The Somersetshire Coal Canal Society's approach to restoration follows four key phases.

Works are expected to follow a 'string of pearls' approach where different sections of the route are at different stages of restoration at any one time. The four key phases are:

Protect the Route - to ensure that the historic route, plus any necessary diversions, is protected from destruction or development using local planning legislation.

Conserve - Conservation typically includes vegetation management and the protection of canal structures at risk of further deterioration. Conservation is

an essential and ongoing activity as shrubs and saplings growing in the bed of the canal are likely to destroy the original puddling clay bed and any roots that penetrate stone structures have the potential to destroy those structures over time.

Repair – Many of the historic canal structures have suffered significant damage since the canal was abandoned. A programme of repair will be undertaken to rebuild the historic canal structures along the route, many of which are now in various states of disrepair.

Restore - The Society's long-term aim is to restore the full length of the northern arm of the canal to Dundas Wharf to water. Restoration brings all the previous steps together to create a vibrant and positive waterway environment.

Protecting the Route

The Society acknowledges that the restoration of the northern arm of the canal to water is likely to take several decades to fully achieve. Volunteer work parties have already been actively engaged in conservation and repair activities at various locations for some years, with a current focus at Paulton & Timsbury Basins and at Combe Hay Lock Flight & Midford Aqueduct.

Whilst these activities continue to conserve and repair selected locations on the historic route it is essential that,

at the same time, the remaining lengths of canal are protected from destruction or development. Where development upon the line of the canal has already blocked the historic route, it is essential that we should agree and protect minor route diversions to maintain the integrity of the canal. These diversions will be designed in such a way as to mitigate any detrimental impact on local landowners or householders.

The evidence of canal restoration schemes throughout the UK, particularly in rural areas, is that they significantly increase biodiversity, enhance the natural environment and stimulate the rural economy. B&NES planning policy already recognises that the historic remains and route of the Somersetshire Coal Canal are key components of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and have committed to support proposals that seek to conserve and enhance their significance.

The Somersetshire Coal Canal Society has submitted proposals to the B&NES Planning team as part of the consultation phase of the Local Plan to request that the current protection of the route of the northern arm of the canal should be enhanced by extending the area protected from development to include essential diversions that avoid several dwellings that have been constructed on the historic route. Without these diversions it will be impossible to achieve the public

benefits that will be brought by returning the canal to water from Paulton / Timsbury Basins to its junction with the Kennet and Avon Canal at Dundas Wharf.

The sympathetic restoration of the Somersetshire Coal Canal to water offers the opportunity to deliver important leisure, wellbeing and environmental benefits within the Cam and Midford valleys. The Society's policy is that this should be achieved, in association with public bodies, landowners and homeowners, in a way that mitigates any disturbance caused by the restoration. While the Society

anticipates that the return of the canal to water will be welcomed by the majority of local residents, many of whom will benefit directly from the new waterway and amenities, it is fully committed to respect landowner / householder interests and consents in doing so.



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Timsbury Theatre Group

by Peter Buchanan

Mirror, Mirror on the wall, Snow White is at the Conygre Hall!

There's still time to get tickets for our pantomime "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" by Limelight Scripts. This has all the elements of a great show, with the classic pantomime ingredients – a wicked queen, a beautiful heroine, a handsome prince and an outrageous dame. Add in a comedy couple, the magic mirror, a trio of incompetent villains and of course the seven "little men" and what you've got is the recipe for a perfectly wonderful entertainment!

There's plenty of music and dance together with some great set-piece comedy routines including "The Tree of Truth" and "The Twelve Days of Panto"! With superb scenery and colourful costumes, this production continues the proud tradition of brilliant Timsbury pantomimes.

"Snow White" will be on stage at the Conygre Hall from Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th December - weekdays at 7.30pm, Saturday at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Prices are £12 adult, £8 child and £35 for a family ticket (2+2 or 1+3).

No booking fees, sensibly priced ice-creams and easy parking! Why not bring the whole family to a great show for the price of a single ticket elsewhere?

Tickets are on sale online now at www.ticketsource.co.uk/timsbury-theatre-group. The Friday evening and the Saturday 2.00pm performances are almost sold out, so don't delay, get online now!

Looking forward to the spring of 2025, we plan to stage the classic comedy whodunnit "Murdered to Death" by Peter Gordon in early April. We will be reading the script on Tuesday 17th December with a view to casting before Christmas, so anyone who is interested should come to the Conygre Hall at 7.30pm.

At the pantomime and the spring play, we will be raising money for this year's charity Music Man Project Keynsham, a wonderful local charity providing music education for adults and children with learning disabilities.

We're always keen to hear from anyone interested in taking part in productions or helping with the many important support tasks. To find out more, contact Jo Whittock (07590 903207), Peter Croke (01761 434479), Peter Buchanan (01761 471818), visit our website timsburytheatre.co.uk or check us out on social media.



ST MARY'S CHURCH
Timsbury

VILLAGE VOICES
COMMUNITY CHOIR

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Kerrie Duce-Jones

A Feast of Fine Music
with Christmas Carols and
plenty of audience participation

Monday 9 December
7.30pm

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
Raffle

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St Mary's Church

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Timsbury Gardening Club

By Graham Nicholls

At our October meeting we welcomed James Cross, head gardener at the beautiful Bishop's Gardens, Wells. He explained that when he started working there 20 years ago there were very few gardeners or helpers there. Now there are many more, mostly volunteers who give up their time to help keep the garden in their lovely state we see today.

The gardens gradually change over a 20 year period with a number of different plantings and flower beds reclaimed from grassed areas and the changes also vary as Bishops come and go. However one grassed area which seems never to change is the large Croquet lawn which in 2024 stayed the greenest of all with the rain.

James described the various beds where flowers and shrubs are planted. One bed facing south featured architectural planting with flowers growing there that have texture not only colour. He showed digital slides and we saw another large bed being prepared for a winter border to be displayed. This involved three gardeners removing all the turf and the soil was then double dug. Hard work.

Another fully operation beds contained lilies, roses, lots of phlox, anchusa and dahlias. This bed is what is known as a hot garden with lots of colour. Hostas

are also grown here mostly slug resistant forms.

Spring brings lots of colour with huge beds of tulips throughout the gardens. The childrens' play area and picnic area, 'The Dragon's Lair' is always popular. This is where the children can let their hair down and use up all their energy whilst their parents take a well earned rest. For those who want more than just a garden, the Rampart Walk is a nice gentle stroll and feature views of Glastonbury Tor and in the Bishop's Table café you can rest and have a few refreshments.



A bed of tulips in the Bishop's Palace gardens

There are so many other areas to visit here, the Arboretum, the wells, water comes underground from the Mendips before rising here. The Quiet Garden and the Community Garden are other places worth a visit. We were all enthralled with the work being carried out here and the gardens are well

worth a visit.

A change in the size of the garden brought Matthew Symonds to the Club's November evening with a talk 'The making of a City Garden 'or 'Gardening in small spaces'. The City Matthew referred to was Bristol and in particular Bedminster where he lives and has a rear garden (no front) just 21' x 18'. With over 30 years of gardening experience during which he was inspired by his Nan and his Mother who had an old red telephone box used as a greenhouse.

When he bought the house the rear 'garden' was just a mass of concrete slabs but it is now filled with colour. Pots, large and small have been the mainstay with perennials and bulbs planted in them. He made shelves fitted to the wall to hold containers of plants and a cover over the wheelie bins with potted plants on the shelves. He did suggest planting small trees or shrubs in pots, especially those with all round interest, flowers in spring and summer and coloured bark or leaves later. However he showed a large tree in his next door neighbour's garden overlooking his and considered it part of the whole scene.

Even fairy lights in the garden were accepted as they lit up all the colours. Several videos of visitors to the garden at different times of the year were shown including a TV channel filming the garden. Another success for his

garden was winning a trophy for coming first in the B&Q Small Gardens 2023 competition.

Finally he told us about the Bedminster's Annual Secret Gardens project for charity where one fee covers visiting everyones garden, big or small, on the circuit. I believe this was done once in Timsbury many years ago.

Matthew left everyone feeling that they can take some of his ideas and put them into practice.

As a reminder our next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd December (first Tuesday) when Ann Bevan, President of Farmborough Floral Art Club will demonstrate something for Christmas.



Timsbury Village Carols

Monday 23rd December at the Miner's Garden, The Square, Timsbury. 6.30-7.30 pm



With **The Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band**

Bring all the family to enjoy a traditional Christmas Celebration!

Please bring Lanterns and Torches.

Organised by Timsbury Churches Together and Timsbury Parish Council.

If wet, in St Mary's Church.

Details 01761 472448



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PIX LOOPHOLE



- 3 bands playing at the Conygre Hall on the 7th December!
- All proceeds for much needed repairs to the Conygre Hall

£5 Entry on the door

Saturday 7th Dec

6:30pm-11pm

Timsbury, Conygre Hall

- Please also buy drinks at the bar!
(ID Required for Alcoholic Beverages)
- All ages welcome!

Approx. Timings:

Loophole: 6:30 - 7:30

R.R.S: 7:45 - 8:45

PIX: 9:00 - 11:00

Conygre Hall Events



proceeds go to the upkeep of the hall.

Tuesday 11th December– Golden Oldies singalong.

Wednesday 12th December– Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Pantomime 7.30pm. Adults £12, Child £8, Family (2 +2) £35

Wednesday 4th December– Timsbury Wives Carol Concert

Saturday 7th December– Band Night 6.00pm– 11.30pm The Pix, Loophole and the Rusty Rhythm Syndicate. All

Church Hill/South Road junction improvements



KC Bradley Parish Council Chairman, Ray Merchant Chairman, Streets and Safety Committee, Shaun Stephenson McCall, Ward Councillor.

Christmas Quiz

What could be nicer than a Christmas themed quiz?

Can you work out the Christmas related songs from their initials?

1	SHIIMC	6	ISMKSC
2	WSGSUTC	7	MBS
3	RATCT	8	SCICTT
4	IWICBCE	9	AIWFCIY
5	FTONY	10	TLDB

And what do you know about Christmas films?

1. Who played Scrooge in the 1951 British film version of 'A Christmas Carol'?
2. Who played the Scrooge character in the film 'Scrooged'?
3. Who played Scrooge in the 'Muppets Christmas Carol'?
4. In which film does a conman and partner play Santa and his helper to rob a shop on Christmas Eve?
5. What is the name of the character played by James Stewart in 'It's a wonderful life'?
6. In 'Home Alone' what is Kevin's surname?
7. Who is the singer on a comeback record played by Bill Nighy in 'Love Actually'?
8. Who dashes with his Grandfather to deliver a Christmas present to a little girl in Cornwall who gets accidentally missed out?
9. In 'Elf' what is the name of the elf played by Will Ferrell?
10. Who plays Kris Kringle in the 1994 version of 'Miracle on 34th Street'?

Stocking Fillers

1. What is the traditional Christmas fruit cake of Germany?
2. In the 12 days of Christmas how many ladies are dancing?
3. Who made Christmas illegal because revelry on a holy day was immoral?
4. Which Christmas associated King ruled Bohemia from 911 to 935 AD?
5. Which Christmas drink is made from cider, oranges, lemons, cinnamon, cloves, allspice and Nutmeg ?
6. The song White Christmas comes from which film?
7. Christmas Island lies on which body of water?
8. Who invented Christmas Crackers in 1846?
9. In A Christmas Carol – what is Scrooge’s first name?
10. What is the connection between the answers?



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Paulton Concert Band Celebrate Years of Service

By Lorna, Engagement Officer



Paulton Concert Band enjoyed a fabulous lunch celebrating all the dedication, time and effort Richard Soulsby has given to the band. He has stepped down as Conductor and Musical Director after more than 30 years being involved with the band. Luckily he isn't cutting all ties as he has

agreed to become one of our Trustees.

This means we are looking for a new Conductor/ Musical Director. We were established over 40 years ago and practice on Monday evenings, currently at The Cellar in Paulton.

Over the festive period we will be out playing carols so please do come and say hello, and if you feel you would like to know more about becoming our conductor or would like to join us please do email us on paultonconcertband@hotmail.com or www.paultonconcertband.org

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all a Merry Christmas

Thank you messages

We would once again like to thank the people of Timsbury who have kindly donated towards the Children's Hospice South West, this year we have raised £285.

We hope you have enjoyed the fruit and vegetable in return.

Once again, thank you

Ann and Mike Saunders

I would like to thank all the volunteers who deliver the Timsbury Letter. You do an amazing job and it would not work without you.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Great Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes from

Clive Pearce

Tabor Independent Methodist Church

By Dianne Carter

Tabor is joining forces with the Timsbury British Legion on 7th December for a joint Christmas Bazaar to be held at the Legion. 11.00 a.m – 2.00p.m. There will be handmade Christmas presents to purchase £5 and under; grand raffle, tombola; guess the weight of the cake – Christmas and Dundee; refreshments and much more. Father Christmas (£1.00 per child) will also make an appearance to hear your Christmas wishes and you may even have an early present.

Tabor's Carol Service will be held on 15th December at 3.00 p.m. Mrs M West will be presiding and the Tabor Ringers will perform a few pieces. The

Ringers do not charge for their Services during the year but welcome donations. After taking out expenses the remaining monies are donated to local Charities. This year representatives from Youth Connect South West; Swallow and the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance will attend to receive £150 each. The money to Youth Connect South West is ringfenced to further their work within Timsbury. A retiring collection will be taken and this will also be donated to these 3 charities. Please come along and support these worthy causes. Refreshments will follow the Service.

Ted Hudson 1929-2024

By Paul Stevens, Chair and Trustee

Local resident Ted Hudson died suddenly in the afternoon of Sunday 13th October whilst he was at home with his wife Ena.

Ted was awarded the British Empire Medal for Services to Education with his charity Bibles for Children which he set up in 1997, based in Southlands Drive, Timsbury.

Since 1997, Bibles for Children has presented over 740,000 age appropriate bibles to children in 2,510 Primary Schools. The charity is

supported by charitable trusts, churches, and private individuals all of which have enabled the expansion of the work to all parts of the United Kingdom. If you would like to support the work of Bibles for Children by either making a one-off donation or setting up a Standing Order (if you can Gift Aid it so much the better) please contact us.

The Trustees will continue to promote Ted's vision throughout the UK

01761 479506 / 07976 439990
bibles4children8@aol.com

Tisbury Youth Project

by Jane van Haaps

Tisbury Youth Worker



I love the end of the Dr Seuss story 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas'. You may remember that the Grinch had stolen all the presents, all the food, all the decorations. He's waiting for howls of despair but instead he hears singing: "Every Who down in Who-ville, the tall and the small, was singing! Without any presents at all! He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME! Somehow or other, it came just the same!"

It reminds me of when my sister, her husband and three young children headed off on Christmas Eve to go to her in-laws. After a 3 hour journey they arrived only to realise that they had left the large suitcase containing all the children's presents under their bed! Could the children do Christmas without presents? No! She quickly got on the phone to my brother who met her at a service station near Birmingham late at night with the essential presents! The book continues, "Then the Grinch

thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps means a little bit more." We know that Christmas means more than presents but it is hard to put it into practice!

In our conversations at Youth Club we talk about Christmas and all sorts of other topics. By the time you read this, we are hoping that our Street and Hip Hop Dance sessions on a Tuesday will be established. Do let me know if you are interested. They are being taught by Motus Dance Academy who are also part of Lux Youth Project. They run from 5.00-7.00pm on a Tuesday at the YMCA for those at secondary school. The initial greatly subsidised cost will be £2. All abilities (or none) welcome. Young people can come to try it out and see if they want to continue.

Youth Club continues to run on a Friday night at the YMCA. New members are always welcome. We are also looking to recruit some more volunteers for a Friday evening. Get in touch if you are, or could be, interested.

Wishing you all love, joy and peace this Christmas – and so much more than can be bought in a store!

Village Church Services

St Mary's Church, Timsbury

Sunday 1st December 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th December 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th December 11.15am Morning Praise

Thursday 19th December 7.30pm *'The Joy of Christmas'*. Carol Service

Monday 23rd December 6.30pm Open Air Carols. The Miner's Garden.

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 3.00pm Crib Service for all the Family
11.30pm Midnight 'Mass'

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day) 10.00am Christmas service at Priston Church

Sunday 29th December 10.00am Benefice Service at St Mary's, Timsbury

January 2025 Services

Saturday 4th January 2025 10.00am-12.00 noon Coffee Morning at church.

Sunday 5th January 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th January 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th January 11.15am Morning Praise

Sunday 26th January 11.00am Holy Communion

Saturday 4th January 10.00am-12.00 noon Coffee Morning at church.

Friday 17th January 7.30pm Illustrated talk by Mr Larry Cunningham 'More History in the Landscape' (See page 29)

Wednesday morning Holy Communion Services at 9.30 am (Not 1st January)

Revd Martin Blewett

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

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

Benefice Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Jill Jones (01761) 472448

Methodist Church South Road

Sunday 1st December 10.30am Mr Mike Honey

Sunday 8th December 10.30am Rev John Crane Holy Communion

Sunday 15th December 10.30am Rev John Hayes

Sunday 22nd December 10.30am Rev David Winstanley Carol Service

Wednesday 25th December 9.30am Rev David Winstanley

Sunday 29th December 10.30am Local Arrangement

Sunday 5th January 10.30am Mr Greville Mills

Sunday 12th January 10.30am Ms Pat Heynes

Sunday 19th January 10.30am Rev David Winstanley Holy Communion

Sunday 26th January 10.30am Rev Christine Coram

Revd David Winstanley

40 North Meadows,
Peasedown St John, Bath, BA2 8PS

01761 439934

dwin64@hotmail.com

Secretary Frances Nicholson

01761 470841

Tabor Free Methodist Church

Sunday 1st December 11.00am Mrs M West

Sunday 15th December 3.00pm Mrs M West Carol Service. Youth Connect South West, SWALLOW and the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance will attend to receive a monetary donation from the Tabor Ringers. The retiring collection will also be donated.

Wednesday 25th December No Service

Donations for the local foodbank can be accepted on any Sunday whilst the Church is open. There is a prayer box on the wall outside of the door leading to the Childcare group which meets at Tabor. If there is anyone in need and would like a prayer said for them, please pop a request in the box.

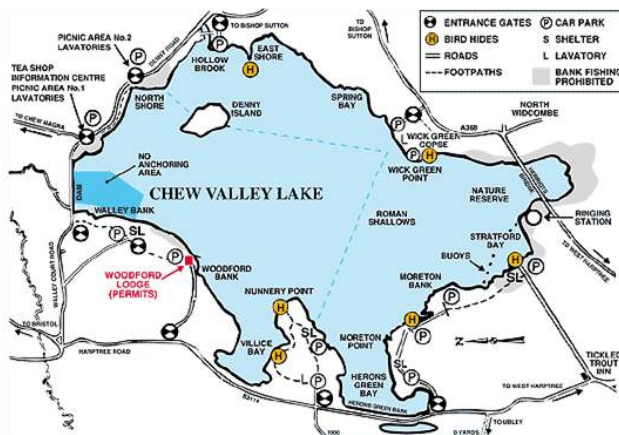
Pastoral Matters- Eric Barge 01761 420234

Secretary- Geoff Shute 01761 568524

www.taborfreemethodist.org

Timsbury Natural History Society

By Andy Daw, Chairman



On Monday 16th December starting at 7.30pm Timsbury Natural History Group will be hosting a talk to be given by Brian Plant entitled 'Lion Hunt'. Brian spent most of his life in South Africa and has previously given us two very interesting South African based talks. As usual the talk will be held at the Conygre Hall.

Two days earlier on Saturday 14th the group will be visiting the nearby Chew Valley Lake. The plan is to meet at 10.30 am on Herriots Bridge.

Chew Lake

Chew Valley Lake (grid reference ST5659) is a large reservoir in the Chew Valley, Somerset, England, and the fifth-largest artificial lake in the United Kingdom (the largest in south-west England), with an area of 1,200 acres (4.9 km²). The lake, created in the early 1950s and opened by Queen Elizabeth II

in 1956, provides much of the drinking water for the city of Bristol and surrounding area, taking its supply from the Mendip Hills. Some of the water from the lake is used to maintain the flow in the River Chew.

Before the lake was created, archaeological investigations were carried out that showed evidence of occupation since Neolithic times and included Roman artefacts. The lake is an important site for wildlife and has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). It is a national centre for birdwatching, with over 260 species recorded, including some unusual sightings. The lake has indigenous and migrant water birds throughout the year, and two nature trails have been created. The flora and fauna provide habitats for some less common plants and insects.



NEW YEAR – NEW FRIENDS AT THE TIMSBURY LUNCH CLUB

If you live alone but like good company and a delicious meal, a warm welcome awaits you at the Timsbury Lunch Club.

Come and enjoy a delicious two-course lunch with tea or coffee for only £7.50 per person.

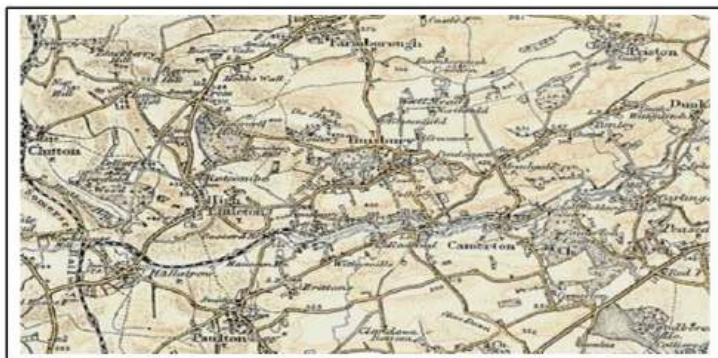
We meet every other month on Thursdays throughout the year in the Myra Hayward Room (Conygre Hall). Put the dates on your 2025 calendar now.

30th January, 27th March, 29th May, 31st July, 25th September, 27th November

Ring Helen Pease on 01761 470077 to book your place (booking needed for catering purposes). We look forward to meeting you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE TIMSBURY LUNCH CLUB

MORE HISTORY IN THE LANDSCAPE!



An illustrated talk by Mr Larry Cunningham (Co- author of the successful 'Walks around Timsbury' books) on the landscape, history and buildings of the Timsbury area. A follow up to the very successful talk of last year.

All new material!

St Mary's, Church, Timsbury. Friday 17th January at 7.30 pm.

Refreshments and a retiring donation.

Timsbury WI

By Nicola Carrol

By the time you read this Timsbury WI will have hosted their Annual Meeting, this is when we look back over the year and plan for the future.

2024 has been a challenging year with several last minute changes of venue or speakers. Despite this, or perhaps because of them we had some great meetings ranging from a tea parties to talks on guide dogs, history and scams. We've made Scandinavian hearts, woven corn rings and produced scarecrows.

We've supported the community by serving refreshments at the Golden Oldies sing-a-long and the Gardening Club craft fair. We sponsor the planter by the kitchen door of the Conygre Hall and we've also been supporting the Charity "Action against Breast Cancer" by recycling bras – thank you to the Conygre Trust for allowing the big pink box to sit in their lobby.

Looking forward to 2025, February is traditionally the month where we celebrate "sharing the love". This is usually a relaxed session where we socialize and catch up with events, maybe do a little crafting and play games.

Later in the year we have a series of talks and events including archaeologist Gail Boyle on "what makes Treasure

Treasure", paper basket making, Corn crafting, sharing suppers and a trip to the Theatre with Timsbury Theatre Group. These are separate to our Book club, which meets in the Seven Stars and our Lunch club which meets monthly on different weekdays to allow those with regular commitments to fit a couple in and are open to non members. These are informal, friendly gatherings and a good way to come and meet us.

We are also planning a big quiz night in collaboration with the Conygre Trust. We are also planning our 80th Birthday party in May, this will be a gala event and open to members from other groups within the federation

Our next official meeting will be 6th February at 7.30pm in the Conygre Hall. Visitors are always welcome, you don't need to book, but it is helpful and helps us ensure there is enough cake!

If you would like to join us for one of our lunches, Book club or other activities contact us at **timsbury.wi@btinternet.com** or check out our face book page.

For more details of about the WI and national events and activities check out the WI website **<https://www.thewi.org.uk>**

Timsbury and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

By Josie Pownell

I recently attended a history talk, organised through the WI, and given by a volunteer from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). My interest was piqued because I noticed a while ago Timsbury cemetery gained a 'War Graves' plaque, but I could never see the expected white Portland head stone.

The speaker covered aspects of the CWGC – history, gravestone design and differences, the cemeteries and memorials and the detective work that goes on to locate and maintain the smaller sites – like our own.

I looked up the CWGC site and found that Timsbury has two graves listed.

One is of Private G G Moxham, machine gunner corps, Died 13 April 1917. A note says his 'headstone is not included'.

I noticed a G Moxham is engraved on the war memorial at the Royal British Legion – is this person related to the GG Moxham in the cemetery?

The other grave is of Henry Walter Whetham Paul, 3rd Somerset (Long Aston) Bn Home Guard, died 20 January 1941, aged 55. Son of Mr & Mrs Henry Walter Whetham Paul. Husband to

Bessie Emily Paul of Timsbury. The note for this is 'maintained by relatives'.

I am now intrigued and will try to find out more.

DEADLINE

February issue

Thursday 16th January October

Please send articles and adverts

EARLY to: Madeleine Potts

newsletter@timsbury.org.uk
(contact by email preferred)

07834 859291 (after 4pm only)

47 Southlands Drive.

Images & adverts in JPG format.

December Quiz Answers

Songs

1. So here it is Merry Christmas
2. When Santa got stuck up the chimney
3. Rocking around the Christmas tree
4. I wish it could be Christmas everyday
5. Fairy tale of New York
6. I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus
7. Must be Santa
8. Santa Claus is coming to town
9. All I want for Christmas is you
10. The little drummer boy

Films

1. Alistair Sim
2. Bill Murray
3. Michael Caine
4. Bad Santa
5. George Bailey
6. McAllister
7. Billy Mack
8. Arthur Christmas

9. Buddy

10. Richard Attenborough

Stocking Fillers

1. Stollen
2. Nine
3. Oliver Cromwell
4. Wenceslas
5. Wassail
6. Holiday Inn
7. Indian ocean
8. Thomas Smith
9. Ebenezer
10. Snow White

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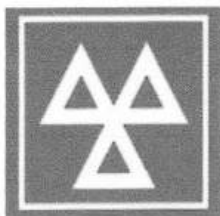
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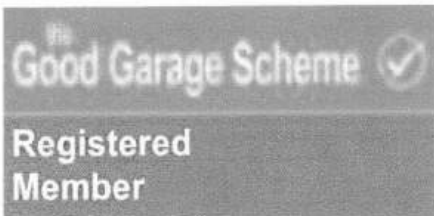


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