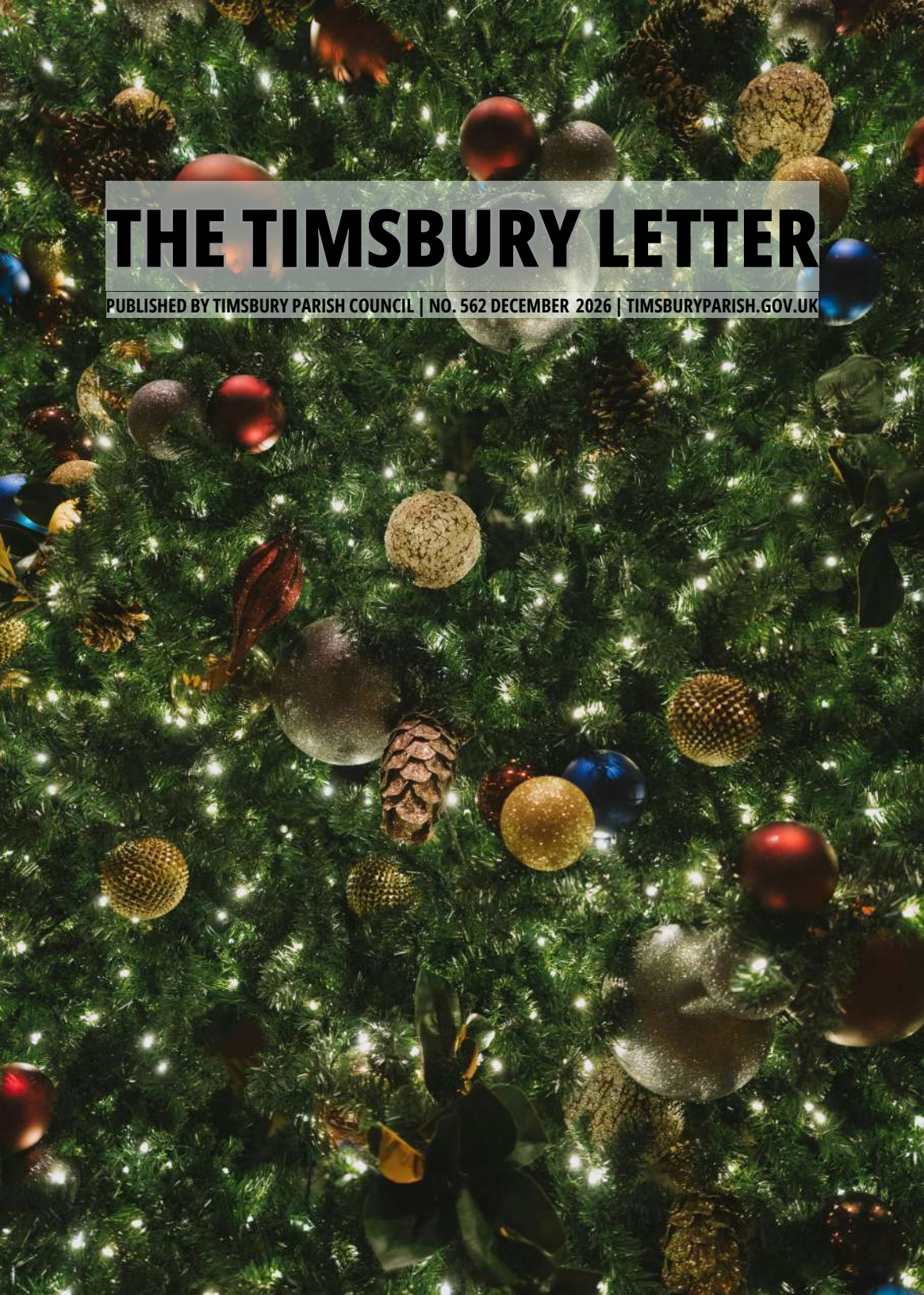


THE TIMSBURY LETTER

PUBLISHED BY TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL | NO. 562 DECEMBER 2026 | TIMSBURYPARISH.GOV.UK

Timsbury Community Library

Children's Christmas Craft

Free drop in event



Saturday 5th December

10:00-12:00
YMCA Building

Join us a colour in your own Christmas window display



WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER TIMSBURY LETTER

VILLAGE NEWS 3
ST MARY'S CHURCH TIMSBURY SERVICES 5
WHAT'S ON 6
THE CONYGRE 200 CLUB 7
MEET YOUR NEW PARISH CLERK 8
2027 TIMSBURY LETTER ADVERTISING RATES 8
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA 9
TABOR CHURCH 9
GROW TIMSBURY 10
THE TABOR RINGERS 14
ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF SOME HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN TIMSBURY 17
TIMSBURY THEATRE GROUP 18
TIMSBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY A SUCCESS 19
TIMSBURY WI 22
TIMSBURY GARDENING CLUB 26
A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION WORTH MAKING: PLANNING AHEAD WITH A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY 27
TIMSBURY NATURAL HISTORY GROUP 29
FARMBOROUGH FLORAL ART 31
THANK YOU 31

FEBRUARY LETTER DEADLINE: THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES AND ADVERTS EARLY TO:

MADELEINE POTTS, **NEWSLETTER@TIMSBURYPARISH.GOV.UK** |07834 859 291 (AFTER 4PM)

IMAGES AND ADVERTS IN JPG FORMAT.

VILLAGE NEWS

B&NES Local Plan Update

Timsbury Parish Council submitted its formal response to the latest stage of the B&NES Local Plan consultation on 30th October 2026, raising serious concerns about the scale of proposed housing development in Timsbury and the wider Somer Valley. The Council highlighted the lack of adequate infrastructure to support this growth, particularly increased traffic and congestion on rural roads, limited public transport, pressure on schools and healthcare services, and insufficient sewage and wastewater capacity.

Concerns were also raised about the loss of green spaces and countryside, and whether the proposed developments are sustainable without the significant improvements to local infrastructure. The Council believes that these issues must be properly addressed before further housing allocations can be justified.

Planning Applications

Applications Considered by Timsbury Parish Council

26/03493/FUL Land At Rear Of Timsbury Congregational Church, Lippiatt Lane, Timsbury, Bath.
Proposed access and construction of a Use Class C3 detached dwelling and garage

26/03961/FUL 5 St Mary's Close, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0HX
Repairs to cracked wall outside 5-11 St Mary's Close

26/04069/TCA 1 Chapel Walk, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0JZ
Prunus Padus - remove all of tree to ground level.

B&NES Decisions on planning applications

26/02850/TPO Application Address: Parish's House , Hook, Timsbury, Bath, Bath And North East Somerset, BA2 0ND
T1 Thuja - dismantle and removed before it falls down as the tree is dead. T2 cherry - to be removed due to being dead. Replanting can be put in place.
Application Status: CONSENT

26/03902/TCA Bramble Cottage , North Road, Timsbury, Bath, Bath And North East Somerset, BA2 0JH
Magnolia T1 - crown reduction of 2.5m. Silver Birch T2 - crown reduction of 3m. Lawson's Cypress T3 - fell.
CONSENT

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 7th December 2026 7.30pm

Meetings are held in the Myra Hayward

Room, Conygre Hall

www.timsburyparish.gov.uk/parishcouncil

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

If you wish to speak please contact the

Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL DETAILS

parishclerk@timsburyparish.gov.uk

Address: c/o YMCA, North Road, Timsbury

BA2 0JH

ST MARY'S CHURCH TIMSBURY SERVICES

Sunday 6th December 11.15am Holy communion

Sunday 13th December 11.15am Holy communion

Thursday 17th December 6.30pm 'The joy of Christmas' Traditional Carol service

Sunday 20th December 11.15am Morning Praise for Christmas

Monday 21st December Open Air Carols in the Miners' Garden with Midsomer and Norton Silver Band at 6.30 pm (see page 25).

Christmas Eve 3.00pm Crib service for all the family.

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sunday 27th December 10.00am Holy Communion

January Services

Sunday 3rd January 11.15am Holy communion

Sunday 10th January 11.15am Holy communion

Sunday 17th January 11.15am Morning Praise

Sunday 24th January 11.15am Holy communion

Sunday 31st January 10.00am Benefice Service, St Peter's Church Camerton 10.00am

All are welcome at St Mary's Services.

Wednesday morning Holy Communion Service each Wednesday at 9.30am

Revd Martin Blewett
Benefice of Timsbury with Priston, Camerton & Dunkerton
The Rectory, South Road, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0EJ
Tel: (01761) 472 448.
Mobile: 07854 273 489
Email: martinblewett@gmail.com
Benefice Safeguarding Officer - Mrs Jill Jones (01761) 472 448

WHAT'S ON

By KC Bradley

WHY NOT BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT WITH US?

With various sized rooms and a licensed bar, it's ideal for weddings, private parties and corporate events.
Email: info@conygretrust.org.uk

Ward Councillor's Surgery
Monday 7th December • 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Women's Institute
Thursday 3rd December • 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Contact: Josie • timswijp@gmail.com

Timsbury Theatre Group presents Jack and the Beanstalk
Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th December • 7.30pm
Saturday 19th December • 2.00pm and 6.00pm
Adults £12 • Children £8

Timsbury Art
Thursdays 3rd 10th and 17th December • 2.00pm – 4.00pm
The first three sessions are free. Try a friendly and supportive group.
www.timsburyartgroup.org
Contact: Theresa Andrews • theresa09@hotmail.co.uk
07854 240117

Tai Chi (Qigong)
Tuesdays • 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Everyone welcome, including beginners. Revitalise body and mind with slow, gentle movements to improve wellbeing and energy. Drop in for £8.
Contact: Kirsty • 07976 213226
kirsty@kirstyharper.com

Timsbury Wives
Wednesday 9th December • 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Join this fun group.
Email: maureen.bain@sky.com

Snooker
Few villages offer such good snooker facilities. Free tuition and play available every day of the year. Junior membership is available.
Contact: Jon Peters • timsburysnooker@gmail.com

Slimming World
Wednesdays • 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Real food, real support, real results.
Contact: Ffiona • 07718 160680

Short Mat Bowls
Mondays • 10.00am – 12.00pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays • 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Contact: John Gardner • 07710 246362
gardner.susan@live.co.uk

Jos Art
Thursdays • 10.00am – 12.00pm
Fridays • 10.00am – 12.00pm and 12.30pm – 3.00pm
Contact: 07769 186234 • jhblake4art@gmail.com

Hearoic
Third Thursday of the month • 8.30am – 4.30pm
Appointments and information: 0117 910 9079

Golden Oldies Christmas Sing-along
Tuesday 8th December • 2.00pm
Wednesday 9th December • 11.00am – 12.00pm

Get into the festive spirit with a Christmas-themed sing-along. Join us for fun and an uplifting sing-along. Listen, sing or just chat.
Call: 01761 470006

Floral Art
Monday 7th December • 7.00pm – 9.30pm
Contact: lizzie.bence@gmail.com • 07733 047066

Curo Christmas Festive Lunch
Wednesday 2nd December
Curo residents should contact Sheena to book.
Contact: Sheena • 07813 544605

Badminton
Wednesdays • 7.00pm – 9.30pm
No session on Wednesday 16th December.
This group is fully subscribed. Please contact Jill to join the waiting list.
Contact: Jill Warrener • Jill.warrener@btinternet.com

Blood Donors
Friday 11th December
Appointment required.

Avon Dance Studios
Saturdays • 9.30am – 1.30pm
No session on Saturday 26th December.
Dance lessons, including introductory ballet and tap.
Contact: Janine • 07739 611394
jvealedance@gmail.com

Alcoholics Anonymous
Mondays • 7.30pm – 8.30pm
In the Bowls Court.
Contact: Jayne • 07712 449148

THE CONYGRE 200 CLUB

Support Conygre Hall – Last 4 Numbers Available!

The Conygre Trust's 200 Club is nearly sold out — and we have just four numbers left for this year's draw.

By joining, you're not only in with a chance of winning monthly cash prizes — you're directly helping to keep our muchloved community hall warm, welcoming, and wellmaintained for everyone who uses it.

✨ Why join the 200 Club?
- Support the heart of our village
- Help fund essential repairs and improvements
- Enjoy monthly prize draws
- Be part of something that keeps Conygre Hall thriving

Want one of the last numbers?
Call 01761 471318 or email events@conygretrust.org.uk to secure yours.



MEET YOUR NEW PARISH CLERK

Hello Timsbury!

I'm Will Shepherd, and I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Clerk to Timsbury Parish Council, having taken up the role at the beginning of November.



A little about me. My professional background spans over 30 years, principally in business focusing on procurement and supply chain management. More recently, I've moved into local government, working as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Camerton Parish Council.

It's been quite a change from the corporate world, but one I've thoroughly enjoyed! Parish councils are the first tier of local government and they deal with many of the issues that matter most to people in their everyday lives.

What attracted me to Timsbury was its strong sense of community, its active village organisations and the obvious pride residents take in where they live. It's a beautiful village with a great deal going on. I was particularly drawn to the opportunity to work alongside councillors, volunteers and residents to help maintain and improve what makes Timsbury special.

In my spare time I'm busy with keeping chickens, gardening and dog walking.

2027 TIMSBURY LETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Please be aware that the prices for advertising are changing in 2027!

With rising printing costs the Parish Council has had to put up the prices for advertisements in order to keep providing the Timsbury Letter to residents and businesses. We hope advertisers will continue to support us in the years to come.

As of January 2027 rates are as follows:

Business rates
Full Page £70
Half Page £37
Quarter Page £25

Charity/ non profit organisations
Full Page £35
Half Page £20
Quarter Page £15

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

The St Mary's School PTA Elves are on the hunt for wrapping paper and decorations to make their next fundraising event as successful as possible! We need items before 5th December, but will still be collecting after 5th December for the return event next year.

If you have any spare wrapping paper, ribbons, sellotape or general Christmas Decorations going spare, we'd love to have them! They can be left at the box in the co-op or dropped to the school office.

Thank you!! The PTA.



TABOR CHURCH

By The Trustees

It is now almost six months since the final service was held at Tabor. We were delighted to be able to sell the church building to Nicky Green so that the Childcare group could stay on the premises. We wish Nicky and her team all the best for the future.

Readers might like to know that all monies from the sale have been given to RUH.

We thank all those who worshipped at Tabor over the years and supported the church's various activities.

Blessings, Trustees of the former Tabor Church



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For more information contact Kara

Email info@karayogadance.com or Tel 07919923405

www.karayogadance.com

GROW TIMSBURY

By The Grow Timsbury Team

Hello and Season's Greetings to Everyone,

The Grow Timsbury monthly market ended, for this year, in November with the Festive Market. We hope that those of you who came enjoyed it and found some Christmas treats to buy. Hopefully we will have some photographs of the event in the February edition of The Newsletter.

The markets will begin again on the last Saturday of April 2027 and we expect to host our usual range of stalls. We are so lucky to live in Somerset, for producing delicious food and drink; as well as having skilled artisans, who make such a wonderful range of high quality food and drink, plants and cut flowers. Of course that is not forgetting our other super stallholders for coffee, cosmetics and clothes, also the knife sharpener and the Blke Whisperer.

High Littleton Scouts will be present again next year, with their range of vintage wares, books and toys, etc. However we are also open to hosting, each month, a charity with a local connection that wishes to promote their cause. In the past we have had the Alzheimer's Society, Royal British Legion and The Conygre Trust.

We cannot end this article without a HUGE THANK YOU to all our wonderful VOLUNTEERS who help out in so many ways; the leaflet distributors, treading the village streets twice-yearly to deliver our publicity, the bread stall volunteers, who have to calculate multiple purchases, whilst also practising the ancient art of tissue paper bread wrapping. Then there are those who help with setting up and taking down the market (very hard work), undertake skilled repairs (textiles, clothes, bikes and jewellery) and our 'Welcome' volunteer, who is at the market entrance to greet you (whilst secretly keeping a check on numbers). Can you guess how many of you come monthly, on average? (see answer at the end of this article)



We always welcome new volunteers. You can offer help as much and often as you wish. If you have particular skills you would feel are useful in our Repair Room, or in some other area, please give us a call, or send an email. Tel: 07840-729445 email: info@growtimsbury.org.uk



Jacqui, Deborah and Sue wish you all a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you again in April. The photographs are of the markets during 2026.



Answer to the question: Average 250 monthly from April - October. The Festive Market has around 3 times as many customers!

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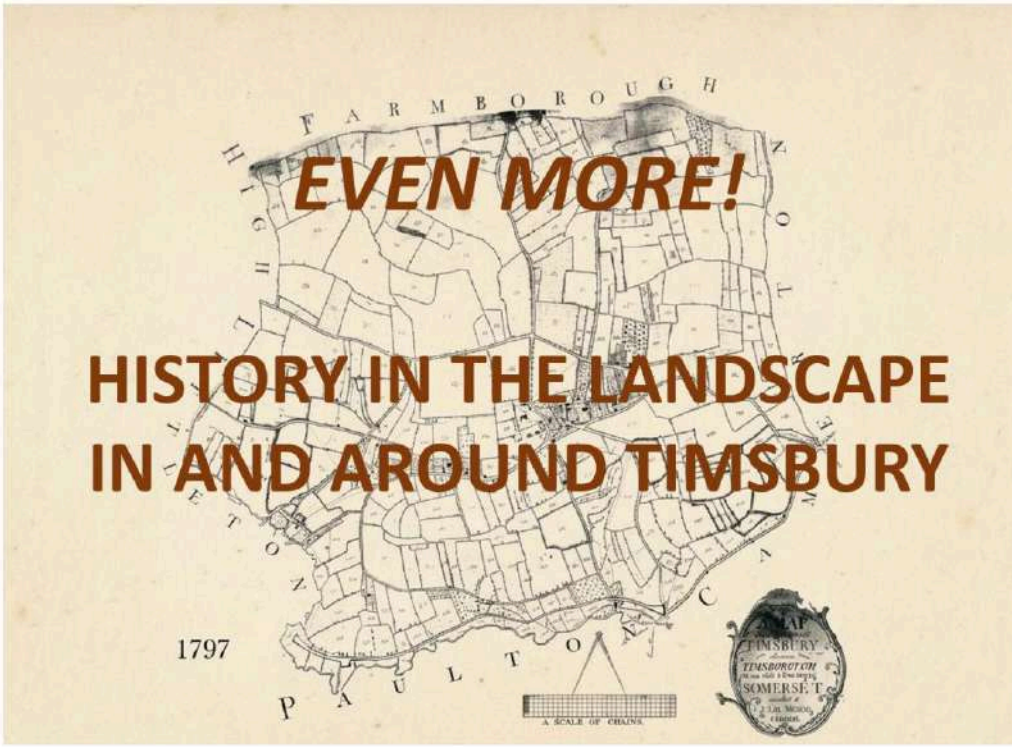
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ST MARY'S CHURCH
Timsbury



EVEN MORE!

HISTORY IN THE LANDSCAPE IN AND AROUND TIMSBURY

A Talk by Larry Cunningham

with wine

Friday 15 January

7.00pm

All donations will go to St Mary's Church

THE

ALCOHOLERY

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th December

10am – 3pm

Local Craft Stalls

Stallholder spaces still available – FREE to book!

Slow-cooked Brisket fresh from our Barbacoa pit

as well as...





Warming Mulled Cider

THE TABOR RINGERS

By Dianne Carter

Since being appointed Booking Officer at the AGM in September, Mary has updated her contact details. If you would like to book the Handbell and Chime Group to entertain your organisation in the New Year, she can now be contacted on 07803 344174.

There is no set fee for our performances, although donations are always very much appreciated.

The coming weeks promise to be particularly busy, with engagements at residential homes, lunch clubs, social clubs and carol services already filling our calendar. We look forward to sharing music with many groups and communities over the festive period.





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We do NOT sell anything past it's 'USE BY' date.

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Timsbury Community Library

Our fun free LEGO Club is back!



LEGO Club

Saturday 2nd January
10:00-12:00
YMCA Building

ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF SOME HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN TIMSBURY

By Larry Cunningham

The Old Rectory

The Old Rectory was built in 1821, but it's not been possible to determine whether the building replaced an earlier structure. Both the 1784 and 1797 maps of Timsbury show the plot with buildings and it is glebe land owned by Balliol College of Oxford. The College had ecclesiastical patronage from the 13th century and in 1701 acquired the advowson for Timsbury. The advowson was the historic right of a patron to present to the bishop a priest to a Church of England parish. Earlier this patronage belonged to the Samborne family of Timsbury House. One condition for the College was that it would always present a rector who would actually reside in Timsbury. Was an earlier building on the same site as the Old Rectory? All the rectors of Timsbury during the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century were former fellows of Balliol College

Glebe land was a historic area of land that originally supported a parish priest, often by being rented out for income. In Timsbury it amounted to 64 acres. During the 20th century much of the glebe land was sold.

The 1797 map is also interesting as it shows a gate into the Old Rectory from Rectory Lane.

Rev. William Brudenell Barter died at the Old Rectory in 1825. He had been rector at Timsbury from 1783 and was the driving force behind the rebuilding of St Mary's Church in 1826. Unfortunately he didn't see its completion.



The Old Rectory was the home of Timsbury rectors until the early 21st century when it was sold. In 1834 Rev. John Skinner described the garden as full of rare plants, but stated that the ancient church font was being used as a receptable for flowers. At times it would have been a very busy house. In 1871 Rev. Richard Hill was living there with his wife, five children and five servants. In more recent times there were many stories about how cold the building was.

For many years the Old Rectory and the grounds were frequently used for fund raising events over many years. For example in 1958 there was a garden fete which raised £73 for the restoration of the church tower and the church room (now the Legion). Members of Timsbury Football supporters club lent their roundabout and Rhona Moxham and her helpers gave pony rides to the children. Teas were provided and there were a good number of stalls with home-made goods.

The Old Rectory was Grade II listed in 1960.

TIMSBURY THEATRE GROUP

By Peter Buchanan

Not long to go now before we're on stage with our latest production! Ben Crocker's version of "Jack and the Beanstalk" relates the classic pantomime story with some modern touches and traditional set-pieces. James Greenaway directs a cast led by Neil Moon as Dame Trot, with Jo Jewell as her son Jack and Lilia Comer as the somewhat dim-witted Simple Sam. Other main roles are taken by Emma Cowles, Jo Hickes, Mike Newman and Julie Smith. The show promises to be a visual treat, with stunning backcloths and some innovative lighting effects!

"Jack and the Beanstalk" is on stage at the Conygre Hall for five performances from Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19th December, weekdays at 7.30pm, Saturday at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Ticket prices are the same as the last two years - adult £12, child £8, family (2+2 or 1+3) £35. At the time of writing, tickets are still available for every performance. Box office: **www.ticketsource.com/timsbury-theatre-group**

This production of "Jack and the Beanstalk" will be dedicated to the memory of Jon Hickes, who died a few days before the deadline for this edition.

JON HICKES 1966-2026

Theatre Group members were greatly saddened to hear that Jon Hickes died on November 8th after a long period of ill-health which he bore with stoicism and good humour.

Jon joined the group in 2015 and played the part of Police Sergeant Letsbyavenue in "Cinderella" that year. His experience in



the scaffolding trade proved very useful when group members refurbished the Conygre Hall's stage equipment in 2016, but his proudest moment came three years later when he won the Somerset Drama Fellowship's "best animal act" award for his portrayal of the wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood"! Talking of animals, who could forget his version of Gerald the Gorilla in the classic comedy sketch!

Over the years, Jon made a huge contribution to the group, directing plays and pantomimes, often in tandem with our long-serving chair Jo Whittock who subsequently became Mrs Hickes. He will be much missed, particularly for his wicked sense of humour, which enlivened many pub gatherings and committee meetings! We extend our deepest sympathies to Jo, her family and to Jon's children Max and Georgina.

TIMSBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY A SUCCESS

By Paul Carroll

This month I want to update you on the work that has been going on behind the scenes especially after the survey and from the two key working groups.

Even though I mentioned it last month, the Village Survey was a success!! We had 454 responses and a quarter were digital. The return rate was over 16% - Thank you. This was a good response sharing your views and concerns and a team effort from the distributors right through to the shops where they were collected.

Particular thanks to Jon Griffin for inputting all 321 paper returns to a spreadsheet and to Dave Watson and Deborah Griffin for the data analysis leading to a qualitative and quantitative report and findings being presented to the Parish Council on 2nd November, complete with charts and graphs. A few of the headline key findings are below and more of this will be displayed for you in January.

The key points arising were:

- The Age distribution shows that most of the respondents were over age 50 and over half of the survey were retired.
- Some 38% are employed or running a business with only 3% unemployed.
- Over 34% have lived in Timsbury for over 30years, 23% over 6 years and 22% over 16 years.
- The most important aspects of living in Timsbury were access to the countryside and access to key services.
- The most dissatisfaction with current provision of Timsbury life came under Traffic Flow and management and Public Transport.
- Under what has become better in the village, the range of community facilities and sense of community and social events scored at 49%.
- Overwhelmingly, the factor that scored highest in terms of worsening was traffic at 60% of replies.
- On a similar theme the one factor that topped the question "What would you improve?" was traffic.
- Even though we had 454 replies to the survey there were 514 comments listed on this question.
- At the Final Comments section we received over 270 comments and 53% of them listed future housing growth as the main concern, whilst 15% mentioned the volume and speed of traffic with additional housing.

Our link with the Parish Council's Local Plan working group and having them at the meeting is a good step forward. Information from our survey was good

enough to be included in the formal Timsbury Parish Council response to the BANES initiated Regulation 19 consultation that proposed 410 more homes to the village.

The working groups on the Natural Environment and the Built Environment are aiming to report at the end of November with their evidence and how that can inform the future policies. It is through this evidence on the village we live in that we can shape the environment for future growth and development. Meanwhile, we expect that the village website www.timsburyparish.gov.uk will soon be showing a Neighbourhood Plan page, the results of the Village survey and the new draft Timsbury Design Code.

Please set the Saturday 23rd January 2027 in your diary for the Village Neighbourhood Plan Open Day hosted by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group at the Conygre Hall.

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SJP Approved 17/12/2025

TIMSBURY WI

By Nicola Carroll



WI's across the country have their annual meeting in November. This is when we look back at the events and activities of the past year and when we discuss plans for the future. There has been so much in the last year that it cannot be squeezed into one article so here is a summary of what we've been up to.

The last 12 months have been busy for members, apart from social evenings, enjoying each others company whilst eating, drinking and play games (anyone for Handbag bingo?) We have had a variety of talks ranging from travelling to Shang hai, accompanied by stunning photos; a fascinating talk from a local Justice of the Peace which sparked some interesting comments . This was follwed by a thought provoking talk from Gayle Boyle about researching local history and the need to stay curious!

We have been visited by a local story teller who gave us the true story of the Somerset Jam mines and enhanced my vocabulary with some local dialect. Then Milliner Debs Mallinson told us about her work, complete with some gorgeous hats she had made . Apparently there is a hat for everyone, you just have to find it. And she certainly found a hat for each of us, we all looked very glamourous.

Lisa, and Kate from the medical detection dogs charity introduced us to Kenny the Medical detection dog. Lisa and Kate explained the role of the dogs and the amazing difference a trained detection dog can make to someones life. Kenny behaved impeccably, despite the enticing smell of cake coming from the kitchen.

A craft evening was lead by Susan Burnett who guided members through weaving their own Saint Brigits crosses while telling the story of the Saint and the meaning of her cross.

The year was rounded off by a talk from Dr Helen Frisby on Christmas customs. As well as being full of interesting interesting information it was accompanied by some lovely slides of Christmas cards. It put us all in a festive mood, ready for our Christmas meeting which will be a meal in the King William, complete with crackers and bad jokes and a visit from Mrs Christmas.

Some of you may have noticed that there is no reference to our Book group, Lunch club or craft group. Sadly this is due to the drop in membership over the last couple of years, which makes it difficult for us to run and manage these additional groups.

The fall in numbers also casts a shadow of uncertainty on our future, with low numbers it is difficult to sustain a group of this type. So if you have ever thought about joining a group of lively, lovely ladies then why not give us a call or better still drop in and join us. Our January

meeting will be on the 7th December at 7:30pm in the Conygre Hall, a great opportunity to get the year off to a good start by making new friends and eating cake.

For more information about our group check out our facebook page or contact:

Phillida Russell
timsbury.wi@btinternet.com
Nicola Carroll
nicnac168@yahoo.com
Josie Pownall
timswijp@gmail.com

We are a women only group *Yes Christmas really was banned in England in 1647, however the ban was finally repealed in 1660, despite complaints from MPs being kept awake by Christmas revellers.

Enjoy this word search and Merry Christmas from the Timsbury WI!

WI word search

S	T	N	V	O	I	C	E	R	R	L	I	F	L
U	C	W	H	I	T	E	A	J	N	I	H	A	J
P	G	O	L	I	F	S	G	N	D	T	U	I	L
P	R	T	N	U	R	U	B	A	A	T	R	R	S
O	I	I	I	Y	P	F	W	R	R	D	P	T	S
R	N	M	S	T	G	F	A	I	I	A	A	R	E
T	P	S	L	O	E	R	V	A	S	E	L	A	W
W	T	B	R	E	N	A	E	Y	E	V	T	D	E
Y	C	U	L	T	R	G	G	S	R	M	D	E	M
R	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	N	T	S	I	I	P
R	N	Y	A	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	O
A	N	T	I	N	S	P	I	R	I	N	G	N	W
P	O	L	L	A	N	F	A	I	R	J	N	E	E
A	C	E	F	S	J	A	M	W	O	M	E	N	R

JAM
PARRY
PRISON
SUFFRAGE
CANADA
JERUSALEM
CONNECT
INSPIRING
WALES
CONYGRE
LLANFAIR
GREEN
TIMSBURY
FAIRTRADE
WHITE
SUPPORT
VOICE
EMPOWER
VIRTUAL
WOMEN

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7119302/

Christmas Services St Mary's Church, Timsbury

December 2026



Thursday 17th December. 6.30 pm **'The Joy of Christmas.'** **Traditional Carol Service. St Mary's Church**

Monday 21st 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**



Timsbury Village Carols

Monday 21st December at the Miner's Garden, The Square, Timsbury. 6.30pm



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

Bring all the familiy 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.

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TIMSBURY GARDENING CLUB

By Graham Nicholls

For our last meeting of the year we welcomed Matthew Symonds who gave a talk 'Greening the City' showing how communities are helping the landscape to go from grey to green. His first slide showed a map of the country in the 18th Century with land overcome with housing and residents having nowhere to go apart from the terrible conditions they were living in. Community spirit finally reacted and insisted that there was a need for green space.

Octavia Hill, born on 3rd December 1838, was one of nine children and was a pioneering thinker and social reformer. She worked tirelessly to improve urban housing and to protect green spaces and the impact of her life and work is still being felt. She was one of the three founders of the National Trust and helped getting the Green Belt recognised. She insisted that everyone needed green space whether it be a small garden or a large park. She campaigned to protect public footpaths, to preserve open spaces and helped with the Public Parks Movement. Birkenhead Park, located in the centre of Birkenhead, Merseyside, officially opened on 5th April 1847 and became the first public park with accessibility for all

In 1864 with money from John Ruskin, Olivia Hill put her ideas into practice. She began buying neglected and decaying properties in London: overhauling them and transforming their tenants' lives. This has transformed people's thinking and all over the country groups are building gardens on plots of land from small to large as shown by the Bedminster Patchwork group.

Matthew went on to show us how a group of residents in Clifton, Bristol in 1997 cleared a bombed site and planted a garden and after a battle with the council and owners of the site it was finally recognised as a public space. Another group in Bristol cultivated a small weed filled area and planted an orchard and every year they have an 'Apple Day' to celebrate.

Mathew, an obvious Bristolian like myself, showed the Dame Emily Park Project in Dean Lane where enthusiasts have been growing edible fruit, herbs and vegetables since 1997. Although the skate park is there the garden has been developed by local people. This was once a concrete jungle and is just adjacent to the Bristol South public Swimming Baths where, as a schoolboy I learnt to swim.

Another project in Bedminster is the Pollinators Pathway Project. This aims to restore fragmented habitats by linking gardens, parks, yards, and small urban green spaces into continuous "pathways" that pollinators can safely travel through. These pathways provide nectar, pollen, nesting sites, and shelter.

Finally Matthew showed how a group had an idea to have a Front Garden Competition. Thery advertised it well but no one entered. So another brilliant idea was to show a picture of a 'Good Garden Award' that winners could put in their windows. This did it and there were dozens of entries as he showed us on the screen.

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION WORTH MAKING: PLANNING AHEAD WITH A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

By Lisa Morgan

The start of a new year is a good time to think about the future and put a few important things in place. Have you considered who would make decisions on your behalf if you were no longer able to make them yourself?



I'm a local solicitor specialising in Will writing, Lasting Powers of Attorney ("LPAs") and Court of Protection matters when a loved one has lost mental capacity to manage their property and affairs.

We often assume that our family or loved ones would automatically be able to step in if something happened to us. Unfortunately, that isn't always the case.

Without a LPA, your loved ones may not be able to access your finances or make important decisions on your behalf if you lose mental capacity. In some circumstances, they may need to make an application to the Court of Protection instead – a process which can be lengthy and costly.

Putting a LPA in place allows you to choose who you trust to help manage your affairs, should you ever need to.

So, at the start of the New Year, why not ask yourself:

Who would you trust to manage your finances and make sure your bills and care costs are paid?

Who would you want to make decisions about your health and welfare if you could no longer make them yourself?

Who would you trust to look after your property, savings and investments?

FREE Information Session – Wills, LPAs & Court Deputyship

If you would like to find out more, come along to my free information session. It's an opportunity to ask questions, understand your options and get some initial guidance in a friendly and informal setting.

🗓️ Thursday 14 January 2027
⏰ 10.30am–12.30pm
📍 Conygre Village Hall, Timsbury (Tyning Room)
Booking essential:
📧 Lisa.morgan@nrglaw.co.uk
📞 07706 038198

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Timsbury



Christmas Crib Exhibition

Saturday 5 Dec, 10.00 – 4.00

Sunday 6 Dec, 2.00 – 4.00

Christmas Biscuits & Drinks

Free Admission

Donations for the homeless in Bath

ALONGSIDE

The new name for Julian House

TIMSBURY NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

By Andrew Harrison

For the December field trip we will be heading to Chew Valley Lake on Saturday 19th December meeting on Herriots Bridge at 10:30.

On the right hand side of the map below you will see Herriots Bridge is on the A368 between Bishop Sutton and West Harptree.



There are various parts of the area around the lake where we can go without a need to purchase a Bird Hide Permit.

Between West Harptree and Chew Stoke there is a viewing spot at Herons Green. From there we can then park at the Woodford Lodge car park and walk through to the dam. More options include parking on the other side of the dam or in the Picnic Area number 2. There are pleasant walks from either starting points. The alternative is to purchase a days hide permit that will allow access to places like Stratford Hide near the Blue Bowl Inn and Nunnery Point. A decision will be probably on the day when we have a better idea what the weather will be like and what has seen in the days leading up to Saturday 19th December.

In December the Chew Valley Lake is a prime location for wildlife enthusiasts. We should expect to see a large population, including important numbers of Shoveler, Gadwall, Teal, and Tufted Duck. Cormorants, Goosander and Great Crested Grebe can be seen in good numbers. If we happen to be in the right place then we will encounter Kingfishers. If it is a cold day then a Water Rail could well appear. If not it is more than likely we will hear them.

With all these birds, notably the wildfowl it will be surprising if we do not encounter any Birds of Prey. The lake is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as well as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Next year on Saturday 23rd January we will visiting WWT Slimbridge meeting at 10.30am in the main visitor centre entrance.

WWT Slimbridge is on the eastern side of the estuary of the River Severn. The reserve, set up by the artist and naturalist, Sir Peter Scott, opened in November 1946. The site has a mixture of captive wildfowl and various species of wild birds.

For further information please text Andrew Harrison on 07814680062.

There is no indoor meeting in December. The next indoor meeting will be on Monday 18th January at the Conygre Hall starting at 7.30pm.

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FARMBOROUGH FLORAL ART

By Liz Bence



Last month the Club finished off their Diamond Anniversary celebrations welcoming Jacqui Arnold from Kent with her demo entitled 'Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness.'

The stage looked fabulous with beautiful arrangements using material from around the world. These were then raffled off to members, along with a food hamper, the proceeds of which will be donated to our charity this year, Nova Sports, which supports children with disabilities.

We meet again in December for our Christmas lunch, followed by a practice class for members to make their own floral Christmas decoration.

THANK YOU

By Ann, Andrew and Christine Saunders

We would like to thank everyone who attended Mike Saunders funeral.

Through your kind donations we have been able to share £270 between two of his favourite charities; The Children's Hospice South West and Sidmouth Donkey sanctuary. They are truly grateful for the donation.

We have also been able to send and additional £190 to The Children's Hospice South West, raises from the donations for the fruit and vegetables.

Thank you

LPAs Direct

LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY (LPA's)

For information, preparation (if required) & registration on LPA's
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