



Parish Clerk's notes



Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as your new Parish Clerk as of 1st October 2024. Tony has left me with very big shoes to fill, and I am going to do my utmost to maintain his high standards and care for the Parish of Wembdon.

I live in West Huntspill, so am very local to Wembdon. I come from a background of building houses and running a veterinary practice, which means I have a large range of skills to offer, which I will utilise for Wembdon.

All the Parish Councillors have made me feel extremely welcome and been very supportive as I get to know the people and the Village. I am already impressed by their dedication to Wembdon, they all do far more than simply attend a monthly meeting, they truly are selfless volunteers.

With Christmas around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our December Parish Council meeting on 9th December at 7pm. Following the meeting we will be serving complimentary mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks to all who attend. Come along and meet your dedicated team of Councillors.

The Parish Council would like to thank Tony Jay for his tireless efforts for many years and wish him all the best for his future. Thank you, Tony.

Welcome to your new Parish Councillor



Hello! My name is Suzanne Bromme, and I am the newest member of Wembdon Parish Council, I would like to tell you a bit about myself.

I have lived in Wembdon for much of my life, as a child, and then for the last 20 years. I feel that I know the village very well, especially all the local footpaths, courtesy of a very energetic Springer who needed a lot of exercise! I have seen many changes in the village in that time, and now understand that the parish council have been integral to many of those.

I worked for BT for 30 years, and in that time had many roles, ranging from logistics, process improvements and supply management. For the last 10 years I have worked from home. I left BT in 2020, and since then have been working alongside my husband Dave, in his engineering consultancy business, on a part time basis! I feel that I am now in a position to give some of my time to help represent my community to try and ensure that Wembdon remains an attractive place to live. My Father was on the council for many years, and I saw the worthwhile contribution that he made, and would like to replicate that if I can. I feel I have a lot to learn!

Wembdon Fireworks Display – 26th October 2024

The Grand Fireworks Display staged by the WCA certainly went with a bang in the early evening of Saturday 26th October 2024. We cannot remember a time when the weather conditions were so good to us. In dry, clear weather the WCA Committee members worked all afternoon with “Skyburst The Fireworks Company” to prepare the field for the professionally fired display.



The fireworks were prepared, barriers measured, collected and erected, refreshment tent prepared, and generator and lighting installed in time for the early arrivals. The Skyburst Team worked hard at the far edge of the field preparing the £3000 display. Although slightly soggy underfoot the community flocked in to witness the display, which proved even more spectacular and lasted longer than in previous years. As promised the display started relatively promptly which unfortunately caused a few latecomers to miss it and as usual the WCA incurred a small financial loss on the event, but after such a successful Village Day we were able to absorb the losses. Any financial loss is worthwhile if we prevented a child's injury from a home display. Thanks must go to those with pets and



livestock who heeded our many warnings of the event and to Asda and Morrison's Supermarkets for their kind sponsorships, along with all who helped in any way on the day or in the clearing of the field and cleaning up afterwards. The 2025 event will take place on the evening of Saturday 25th October.

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

Christmas

AT ST GEORGE'S WEMBDON

Wed 11 December

12pm Carols and lunch in the Parish Centre
Please book your place

Sun 22 December

10am Family Christmas Crafts & Activities
in the Parish Centre

6pm Carol Service in Church

Christmas Eve

4pm Family Carols in Church
11pm Christmas Eve Late Holy Communion

Christmas Day

10am All Age Christmas Celebration



All welcome!

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SID and Community Speedwatch Report

We continue to see an increase in traffic flow through the village since work has started on the Cokerhurst development.

Vehicle movements per day have risen as follows:

Sandford Hill – from 426 per day Jan '24 to 711 per day in Oct/November

Wembdon Rise (by Wares Lane) – from 873 per day to 1,165 per day in Oct/November

Wembdon Rise (from NDR) – from 1,444 per day to 1,672 per day in Oct/November

Wembdon Hill (bus stop) – from 919 per day to 1019 per day in Sept/October

Average speeds and 85th% (speed most drivers travel at)

Sandford Hill – Av. 26.50 mph and 34 mph (Highest speed 84 mph exiting the village @ 6 p.m. – 62 mph incoming @ 4 p.m.)!

Wembdon Rise (by Wares Lane) – Av. 20.71 mph & 24 mph (Highest speed 59 mph @ 06:30 a.m.).

Wembdon Rise (from NDR) – Av. 20.86 mph & 25 mph (Highest speed 65 mph @ 8 p.m.)

Wembdon Hill (bus stop heading East) – 21.3 mph & 26.6 mph (Highest speed 45 mph @ 7.20 p.m.)

These have remained broadly unchanged over the past year.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Our co-ordinator recently attended a meeting at Bridgwater police station which was called by Chief Insp Stephanie McKenna. He raised several issues which affect Wembdon CSW (many appear common to other schemes).

We have been instructed to record MOT & Tax anomalies (from DVLA check) which is a 100% U-Turn from previous advice. SID data sent to A&S police is not viewed (due to the sheer volume of data they receive). Speed enforcement report that there are NO suitable sites for a van or tripod enforcement within our 20mph area (M/Cycles are being phased out). However, they have promised they will look again at this. We have been instructed that the use of private video / photo recording is ENCOURAGED and particularly to support reports of verbal abuse. Pocket speed devices (ours) are being phased out & will be replaced with different units as they are gradually replaced. A&S have brand new enforcement vans including 2 x unmarked vans which have AI technology which can detect various moving traffic offences as well as speeders.

Thank you to all those who came to our Pumpkin story trail and for those who commented about it on Facebook. We had such a great time.



Allotment News



As the winter approaches the allotments are being prepared for the winter's rest. There are crops which will over winter, garlic, onion sets, broad beans, leeks, brussels sprouts, parsnips are some. Many allotment holders cover over their plots with weed suppressant material to reduce the effect of the weather on the soil and prevent weeds from continuing to grow. This method has the added bonus of keeping the soil a little bit warmer, enabling earlier sowing of seeds in the spring.

Some allotment holders relinquishing their plots because of ill health or change of circumstances preventing them from spending the time they would like to get the most out of the plots. Regrettably the elder statesman of allotment holders, at the age of 90 years young, relinquished his plot after over 30 years this autumn. He will be sorely missed by his allotment neighbours. Wembdon Parish Council thank him for being a long standing and most highly valued allotment holder. Contact d.claydon@wembdon.org if you would like to be added to the empty Wembdon waiting list.

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Overgrowing vegetation – what a nuisance!

You decide to take a Sunday afternoon walk around the streets of Wembdon and what do you often find? Brambles overhanging a footpath! If you see them, you can duck out of the way, but if not you get a nasty scratch on your head. Then you find that someone has allowed their hedge to grow out over the pavement. A mother pushing a pushchair steps out into the road because the width of the pavement has been reduced by the hedge and is narrowly missed by a car. Suddenly your pleasant stroll isn't quite so enjoyable.

Who is to blame for this. Somerset Council? Wembdon Parish Council? Keir Starmer? No. It is the adjacent landowner.

Section 154 of the Highways Act 1960 gives Local Authorities the power to require landowners to cut back vegetation growing on their land which is overhanging the highway or footpath. This means that Somerset Council would write saying that if the work is not carried out in a reasonable time, then they will do it and charge the landowner. In Wembdon, the Parish Clerk often writes to the person responsible asking politely for the work to be done, or the matter will be reported to Somerset Council.

Is all this timewasting bureaucracy really necessary? Surely everyone who owns a garden or field next to a footpath would have the common sense not to let vegetation grow out and cause a nuisance to others? Sadly, not everyone takes their responsibilities as a landowner and member of the community seriously.

Please do not let this be you. If you have a hedge, tree or bush then please don't let it spoil my walk on a Sunday afternoon.

I had better pop into the Cottage Inn now to calm down!

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Parish Councillor Contacts

Councillors

Anne Reed (Chairman)	01278 421429	Mark Phillips (Vice Chairman)	07941 983311
Peter Major	01278 421448	Bridget Hedaux	01278 424842
Dianne Claydon	01278 456052	Paul King	07564 955964
Lorna Edwards	07917 101990	Dave Gliddon	07828 210076
Jenny Hayden- Briffett	01278 450701	Suzanne Bromme	07483 242030

Parish Clerk and Parish Paper editor

Sam Warren

9 Sloway Lane, West Huntspill, Highbridge, TA9 3RJ

Tel No: 07359 864310

Email: clerk@wembdon.org

Wembdon Parish Council holds its meetings in the Village Hall at 7pm on the second Monday of each month, apart from August. The meeting agenda will be published on the Council's website and notice boards on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. All Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the meetings and learn all about the activities of the Council, and what is happening in Wembdon. The next Parish Council meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 7pm on Mondays 9th December and 13th January.

Please note that Wembdon Parish Council does not endorse any of the advertisers in the Parish Paper

Local contacts and information

Wembdon Community Association (WCA):

Graham Grief tel: 01278 457973

email wembdon.community@btinternet.com

Wembdon Village Hall: - info@wembdonvillagehall.co.uk

website wembdonvillagehall.co.uk

The Cottage Inn: Opening hours Mon-Thurs 4:00pm - Close,
Fri 2:00pm - Close, Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays 12noon - Close.
tel: 07585 448294

St George's Church office: tel: 01278 423468

Rev. Ed Moll tel: 01278 423647

Parish Centre: Liz Birch tel: 07970 119525

Brownies: Leader Tamson Wetherall tel: 07975 866343

Cricket club: Phil Curd tel: 07795 251590 - bounceandturn@hotmail.com

Wembdon FC: Phil Brunskill tel: 07742 429283

email football@wembdonjfc.co.uk

Wembdon Sunshiners Pre-school: Jen Dodden tel: 01278 457100

Music with Mummy: Tues 1.00pm-3.00pm Lisa Drew tel: 07903 284835

Ladies keep Fit: Mon 9.45am-10.45am Viv Tolcher tel: 01278 424491

Art Group: Tues 9:30am-noon Kay Robins tel: 01278 423212

Ukulele Group: Thurs 10am-noon M Wheatley tel: 01278 429388

Wembdon Bridge Club: Thurs 1:45pm Ernie Whitehead
tel: 01278 424134

Sedgemoor Stitchers: Vanessa Leighton tel: 01278 662977

Wembdon Parklands and Community Together: Lorna Edwards

tel: 07917 101990 email wembdonpact@gmail.com

website: www.wembdonparklandsandcommunitytogether.com

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