

October 2021



Tree seed sowers needed

DURING OCTOBER the hedgerows are full of fruit and this is a particularly good year – the dark reds haws of hawthorn, the brighter red rose hips from the dog rose and the blue-black sloe are everywhere. Look carefully and you may also find the gaudy pink and orange clusters of the spindle or the succulent looking (but poisonous) guelder rose. Less obvious are the winged seeds of the field maple and, if you get there before the squirrels, bunches of hazel nuts.

Some trees have not had a good year. Last year we could pick acorns by the bucket load. This year there are hardly any, and even those seem mainly deformed by the knopper gall which turns them into something like pieces of green coral, wrinkled and convoluted. Crab apples, like our cider apples, seem less abundant.

Many of us still collect wild fruit to make crab apple jelly or blackberry jam and some drown the bitter sloes in sugar and gin to make a surprisingly good Xmas tippie. The tree group is collecting seeds for a different reason, however. We want to grow trees – lots of them – and we want to grow local ones. By collecting our seeds locally, we can select those known to do well around here and avoid the risk of importing disease from other countries.

We aim to produce at least 2,000 trees per year – enough to plant 500 metres of hedge or up to an acre of woodland. With the current emphasis on tree planting we don't expect to have any problems finding them a home. This year we will have grown around 1,000 seedlings which should be ready for planting out in the winter of 2022/23.



Wych elm seeds and hawthorn seedlings

Collecting the seeds is the easy part and is well under way. We need more volunteers, however, to grow them in pots or trays until we can plant them out in the nursery. You don't need much space and it won't take a lot of your time (unless you get hooked).

Some seeds are easier to grow than others so we are looking both for beginners who would just like to have a go and more skilled gardeners who would like a bit of a challenge. We can supply seed trays and compost if need be as well as the seed and detailed instructions. You could also become part of a friendly group exchanging notes and gossip – and feel that you are doing something to benefit our damaged environment.

Ring Sally Bailey on 870506 or Buffy Fletcher on 870531 to find out more.

Mick Fletcher

Fifty trees at fifty



THE MENDIP HILLS Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is hoping to plant a number of established trees in the area as part of celebrations for its 50th anniversary. This is one of several projects the AONB is hoping to deliver and aims to create iconic features within the landscape, whilst replacing some of the veteran or standard trees that have or will be lost as a result of ash dieback.

These trees will be three to seven years old, of a species appropriate to the area in which they are planted and visible from a public right of way or road. The species they are considering include English oak, small-leaved lime, sweet chestnut, field maple, alder, hornbeam, Cheddar whitebeam, Scots pine and beech (depending on what is best for receptor sites).

If anyone has any suggestions as to a suitable site in Westbury for such a specimen tree, please let me know and the parish council can take it forward.

Sue Isherwood

***The next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Village Hall on
Wednesday, 6th October, at 7.30 pm.***

Village Agents – How can we help?



What is a Village Agent?

THE VILLAGE AGENT service is part of the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) and offers free, confidential, practical support to anyone in need, including community groups. We are local, problem solving solution finders! We love the challenge of making a positive impact in our local community for people who need it most – and in an area in which we have grown up in and love. It is very rewarding when a plan comes together, and a person's life is enhanced by the work we have done. We also love to chat! If needed, we work closely with your local GP surgery and the Adult Social Care team, so you have well rounded support.

Sounds Interesting but WHO can they help?

A Village Agent can help if –

- ❖ You are an unpaid Carer or looking after someone else informally and need a little help and support – for you and the person you care for.
- ❖ You are struggling with a problem that can be fixed or improved by accessing the right people or services in the local community, but don't know where to turn.
- ❖ You live alone and are feeling lonely and isolated.

- ❖ You are part of a community with a collective problem and need a kick start to solve it.
- ❖ It doesn't matter how big or small the problem, we are here to help.

OK that's great – but HOW exactly can a Village Agent help?

It's probably easier to list the things Agents CAN'T do!

We don't like to pin down exactly how an Agent can help, as each person's situation is unique, but generally to make someone's everyday life better with the right connections, access to food, emergency funding or practical community-based solutions. A few recent examples are:

- ❖ Supported clients to access transport so that they can attend their vaccination appointments.
- ❖ Sourced and arranged delivery of white goods, furniture and household items to people in need.
- ❖ Made sure that the clients are supported to get the financial help they need.
- ❖ Arranged translations for clients who don't speak fluent English but need our support.

- ❖ Supported people who need help collecting prescriptions.
- ❖ Conducted welfare calls on behalf of local GPs to ensure clients are safe and well.
- ❖ Gave emotional support to people who are feeling isolated and lonely.
- ❖ Supported people and particularly unpaid carers by brokering a microprovider who can help with daily living tasks to alleviate some pressure and provided respite meals for Carers.
- ❖ Supported elderly Somerset residents to 'survive winter' by making sure that they have sufficient heating and cooking facilities. Distributed Surviving Winter grants.
- ❖ Gifted refurbished mobiles to people who are cut off from their family and friends.
- ❖ Helped people to get home from hospital or temporary accommodation.
- ❖ Found and made connections between clients and the right community-based support.

If you think we could help you in any way please call 01823 331 222 or visit www.somersetagents.org and request a call back.

MAKE A CHANGE

BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

If you care about where you live
and are passionate about your community,

WE NEED YOU.

Join us to make a local change!

Westbury-sub-Mendip are looking for another Parish Councillor.

For more information, contact the Parish Clerk.

Email: clerk@westburysubmendip-pc.gov.uk



Update – 29 September



Collections

We expect full crew deployment for all recycling, rubbish and garden waste rounds this week, though misses can happen for other reasons. Check full details [here](#).

The ongoing nationwide driver shortage means services are fragile. Recruitment and retention work and the close monitoring of the Covid situation continues.

Garden waste collections

Now operating as normal.

Returning for missed collections

Crews should now be returning within two working days for any missed collections.

Please encourage residents to report any missed collections after 7pm on due day each time using My Waste Services at somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWP and contractor SUEZ apologise for recent disruption. For info on recruitment opportunities (including those with LGV but no CPC): suez.co.uk/en-gb/join-our-team-in-somerset ; email/call: somersetjobs.uk@suez.com 07970 724559.

OUR SUMMER road safety scarecrow competition has **not** been forgotten.

We have had some great entries which will be displayed on Court House farm lawn from Monday, 4 October.

Judging will take place that week and prizes will be awarded.

In the end every scarecrow will be a winner as all of them will be spread out and positioned on minor roads leading into the village to make drivers slow down and think.

The council would like to see 20mph limits on all roads in the village and this is the start of our campaign.

Westbury Village Hall



is available for hire!

To request a booking and for information about Covid safeguards, contact Peter Bright on 870640.

Grants, Grants, Grants

THERE ARE GRANTS available for communities, local businesses and green groups – don't forget to apply!



NEW!! Business Revitalisation Grant for Mendip

Applications close 5pm on 11th October

Bookmark the webpage and find out more information before you apply:

www.mendip.gov.uk/revitalisegrant

Leader and Deputy Leader of Mendip District Council, Cllr Ros Wyke and Cllr Barry O'Leary launch the Business Revitalisation grant at Cabinet.

WESTBURY FRIENDLY SOCIETY

FRIENDLY SOCIETY GRANTS

Covid-19 Hardship Grants are still available. Contact the Chair of the Committee, Tony Shepherd, on 870871 or the Chair of the Parish Council, Sue Isherwood, on 870457.

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

The Parish Council's community grants for village organisations will be discussed at the next PC meeting which will take place on Wednesday, 6th October, at 7.30 pm.



Westbury's Changing Habitat

An Exhibition

in the Village Hall

Saturday, October 9th,

10 am – 12 noon

Free admission

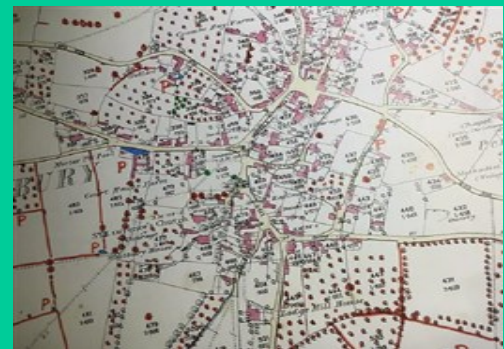
Westbury WI have been working on a project to discover what habitat has been lost locally over the last 100 years. We have looked at old tithe maps up to modern day ones and created a timeline to discover what might have caused the losses of both plants and animals.

We hope you can join us to see the exhibition along with some of our "Heritage" books, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a slice of cake as well.

Following this, there will be the opportunity to join us for a talk by Team Wilder about how we can all do our bit to conserve the local environment.



The Heritage Books



Team Wilder Talk

Tuesday, October 12th, 7.30 pm

Non-member £3.50

Everyone is welcome

Sarah Hunt

Getting involved with wildlife – the role of Somerset Wildlife Trust in your community



Registered Charity Number: 238372



Staying in touch

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Future Farm Resilience Programme



Mendip District Council has announced an exciting new programme FREE to all farmers and land managers who are based in Somerset.

The support is designed to help those eligible businesses to learn more about:

- Helping to understand any changes within the agriculture transition
- How their business models might need to adapt
- Business planning
- Performance recording
- Succession planning
- And the impact of reductions to direct payments on their business

These topics will be delivered through a programme of FREE workshops.

The programme also offers farmers free one-to-one sessions with a business advisor to help them map out their future plans and cash flows to take account of the diminishing farm payments.

Visit: **Future Farming Resilience | Somerset Business Agency** where there is a facility to register your interest and to book on to the events.