

# BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



September 2025

# Bride Valley News – the magazine of the Bride Valley Communities and the Bride Valley & Chesil Churches

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**October 2025 issue deadlines:** Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by 12<sup>th</sup> September for the October issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to [bvnburton@gmail.com](mailto:bvnburton@gmail.com). Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact [bvctc@outlook.com](mailto:bvctc@outlook.com) for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, can be found at [bvbn.org.uk](http://bvbn.org.uk) or via links on the Bride Valley village websites.

**Note:** Contributors are asked to note that space in the BVN is strictly limited and the Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions and cannot guarantee that items will be included.

The Bride Valley News is delivered free to every home in the valley and is entirely produced and distributed by volunteers. Donations to help us continue to provide the magazine would be welcome and if you feel able to contribute - please make a BACS payment to:

Account: 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council', Sort code 30-91-21  
Account number 00074071.....and please quote BVN.

# The Bride Valley & Chesil Churches

**St Mary The Virgin: Burton Bradstock**  
**St Mary: Litton Cheney**  
**St Michael & All Angels: Littlebredy**  
**St Peter: Long Bredy**  
**Chilcombe (dedication unknown)**  
**St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle**  
**St Martin: Shipton Gorge**  
**Holy Trinity: Swyre**

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Rawding (01308) 898799 Associate  
Priest: Rev'd Margaret Preuss Higham (01305) 873978

To enquire about Baptisms, Marriages or Funeral arrangements in the Bride Valley Churches of Burton Bradstock, Chilcombe, Litton Cheney, Littlebredy, Long Bredy, Shipton Gorge, Puncknowle or Swyre please contact Rev'd Rawding by phone (see above) or email [rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com](mailto:rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com)

You can also use [www.acny.com](http://www.acny.com) for Baptism and Marriage enquiries. Contact Rev'd Margaret Preuss Higham by phone (see above) or email [revmph@gmail.com](mailto:revmph@gmail.com) for enquiries in the Chesil Churches of Abbotsbury, Portesham or Langton Herring.

## Lay Pastoral Assistants

We have 2 Lay Pastoral Assistants in our team and they are available for anyone throughout our community and can respond to any need, great or small, for pastoral care.

The team are: Jenny: 01308 898768, Liz: 01308 897451 alternatively you can get in touch with your churchwarden, or Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator on 01308 897260. Home communion is available by arrangement.

If you would like to become an LPA, please have a look at the Diocese of Salisbury webpage: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/news/is-god-calling-you-to-be-a-lay-pastoral-assistant->, and then chat with Rector Andrew.

## From the Rectory

Dear friends,

I've been wondering and thinking about the question: 'what do we all have in common?'

It's a question I consider in the middle of or after discussions and disputes over belief, or the Bible, or the prayer book, or whether someone has been baptised or confirmed or not, or language and liturgy, let alone about issues like human sexuality, or abortion or euthanasia, or race or politics. There are so many ways in which we can be divided or separated from each other over issues, and often are divided and separated from each other: by social and cultural background, class, socio-economic means, age and ability.

So, what do we all have in common? According to the human genome project, all humans are 99.9% identical. Admittedly there are significant variations in appearance in that 0.1% but our DNA is much the same. In addition to biological similarities, we all share the capacity for emotions and for learning and adaptation. We are social by nature. We all have similar needs: our basic needs for food, water and sleep and shelter; emotional needs for love; social needs for belonging and connection. We all have a common mortality; we will all die.

I'm sure you can think of more we all have in common. From the Bible (Genesis 27:1) we were all created in the image of God ('imago dei') and therefore if 'God is love' (1 John 4:16), then we were all created in the image of love. We could pause there and just take a moment to reflect on that: "I am created in the image of love" – "when people see me they see love" – "when I walk into a room love walks into the room". If you've never taken time to reflect on that, look in the mirror and say it to yourself. Now is a good time to start. Some of us may have been told we were a mistake, or were never good enough, or were ugly, or the cause of everyone's problems. Some of us have been struggling with self-loathing and self-punishment all our lives. Here's some good news: 'You were created in the image of love, from divine love, to be loved and to love.'

Something we all have in common is that we were born for a purpose. It can be a life's journey to work out what that purpose is, and sometimes we never escape the purpose that other people gave us and then confine us in, which can be more about their needs rather than ours. We all need to have control

over our own lives and our destiny. We were all born with divine dignity, and even if it's not how we see ourselves because of the way we have been treated or suffered, we are all still divine gifts of love.

We also all suffer. It's a common human experience, for example: illness, broken relationships, poverty, grief and loss, addictions, shame. It's these common human experiences that I have been reflecting on most and it has led me to another question: what does it mean to be a community (a group of people with something in common)?

In our churches we don't all share the same beliefs, or favourite services or music. Too often uncertainty over belief, or the type of service or music can be barriers to people attending church. But we do all share a need for love and belonging, and we all suffer, and we all need hope. If some people can't find that love, belonging and hope in our churches then we need to change and adapt. So, we're looking to start 'community church' services, not because we don't already have amazing church communities but because maybe we could or should be doing more to break down barriers which inhibit some people from experiencing belonging, love and hope. We're also looking to engage with our local communities to hear how our beautiful church buildings can serve a common purpose in and for our communities.

What do we all have in common? We're all part of the Bride Valley and Chesil community, already loving and caring, and with purpose in our churches to be even more so.

*Andrew*

## **Church Floodlighting**

If you would like to have a church floodlit for a baptism or wedding, or in memory of someone, please speak to the following: Burton Bradstock: Ian Ibbotson 898484, Shipton Gorge: Phyl Webster 898657, Litton Cheney: Freddie Spicer 482617.

## **Safeguarding**

The Churches of this Benefice have adopted the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and are 'Promoting Safer Churches'. The Benefice Churches have an open door to all survivors.

For further information or support please contact our Safeguarding Officer: - Les Keatley. Tel: - 07833545450 email: - Les@Keatley.me.uk

# From the Registers

## Baptism

Angus Foster and Tatiana Foster 27<sup>th</sup> July at Litton Cheney  
Albie Turner 10<sup>th</sup> August at Puncknowle

### BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

The BVCS is a volunteer scheme offering residents of the Bride Valley transport to and from medical appointments when they are unable to drive themselves or be driven by relatives or friends.

Clients are charged a mileage fee (currently 50p per mile) plus a standard charge (currently £2.00 per journey).

Because the service depends on the availability of volunteer drivers, clients are asked to give as much notice as possible – we are unlikely to be able to respond to requests within 48 hours of an appointment.

To book a journey please call our  
voluntary co-ordinator on  
07393 607025

We always welcome new drivers.



## Thorners CE VA School

### Whilst We Are on Holiday Report

In August's BVN we reported on the frantic lead-up to the summer hols, so as we head towards a September return we begin to ponder what the new term will bring. Previous Fledglings will have graduated/fledged into Reception, and their place taken by a fresh intake. Everyone will have moved up a year, and those in Year 6 will perhaps begin to wonder how their last year in primary school will shape up.

It is a time of getting to know one another – pupils, their teachers, and teachers, their charges. No doubt, a few weeks into the term, any lingering concerns will have dissipated and headmaster and staff will begin to ready these young citizens for an eventual emergence into a world we and they have yet to know.

*Mike Sitch, Headmaster*

## Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride 2025

Calling all cyclists and walkers. This year's event will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Have a good day out in the countryside pedalling or walking to as many or as few of the many Dorset historic churches as your mood takes you; get yourself sponsored (complete a form with cash donations or use JustGiving online) - the object being to raise money for the preservation of the county's historic church buildings. Half the money raised comes back for the upkeep of our churches.

Contact Freddie Spicer (482617 or [fandspicer@gmail.com](mailto:fandspicer@gmail.com)) or Kathryn Brooks (482548 or [brookskj@btinternet.com](mailto:brookskj@btinternet.com)) for details for taking part. If not walking or riding, please sponsor someone who is.

## Our Night Sky in September 2025

Mars will be setting in the south-west shortly after sunset, while Saturn will be rising in the east, followed by Jupiter, both of which will be visible throughout the night, with Jupiter being by far the brightest.



A century-old hypothesis that Betelgeuse, the 10<sup>th</sup> brightest star in our night sky, is orbited by a very close companion star was proved true by a team of astrophysicists led by a scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley.

Fluctuations in the brightness and measured velocity of Betelgeuse, the closest red supergiant star to Earth, had long presented clues that it may have a partner, but the bigger star's intense glow made direct observations of any fainter neighbours nearly impossible. If the smaller star did exist, the location predictions suggested that scientists had a window of just a few months to observe the companion star at its widest separation from Betelgeuse, as it orbited near the visible edge of the supergiant. After that, they would have to wait another three years for it to orbit to the other side and again leave the overpowering glow of its larger companion.

With thanks to the JPL at NASA,

*Bill Turnill*

## National Coastwatch Celebrate 15 Years

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 NCI Lyme Bay opened its doors and scanned its 'Eyes Along the Coast' for the very first time. From its original location in front of the Seaside Boarding House, Burton Bradstock, an unrestricted view of the bay both east and west was seen.

The original lookout subsequently succumbed to the elements, being destroyed by the Valentine's Day storm of 2014. Its replacement, in a more sheltered position to the east at Hive Beach, opened later the same year. Since that small beginning, NCI Lyme Bay has grown in stature and, to help overcome the now restricted view to the west, opened a satellite lookout at Charmouth in 2016.

The 10th Anniversary 'celebration' was a very muted affair as we all dealt with Covid. Thus, the opportunity was taken this year to commemorate, and celebrate, the 15th Anniversary properly with watchkeepers, partners and invited guests congregating at the 'Old Bridge', South Petherton run by new trainee watchkeeper John Blake.



Guests included the High Sheriff of Dorset, Mr Callum Bremner, his wife, Mrs Jane Bremner in her capacity as chair of Charmouth Parish Council and The Deputy Mayor of Bridport, Mr Jonathan Bourbon. The other NCI stations in Dorset were also represented. Mr Bremner made the ceremonial cut of the anniversary cake and gave the toast, which were followed by the traditional three cheers.

Anyone wishing to join this friendly team, and members of the Search and Rescue Family, are welcome to contact the NCI Lyme Bay manager, Judy Clarke, on 07786 354403.

## Bride Valley WI

The Bride Valley WI held its Summer Social in July. The weather threatened to intervene but luckily we were once again blessed with a lovely evening. We met on Hive Beach and some of our hardier members went for an early evening dip. We feasted on our fish and chip supper and enjoyed another wonderful evening with the glorious Dorset coast as our backdrop.

We had to wait until July 31<sup>st</sup> for our evening walk which was led by Marion. Yet again a glorious evening presented itself. We began our walk at Abbotsbury Swannery and strolled through the countryside skirting the village whilst being rewarded with views of the Fleet and the lovely stone buildings shining in the evening sunshine. A well-earned soft drink was enjoyed at The Ilchester Arms. Before arriving back at the car park, we spotted a heron, a buzzard and some bats.

Skittles for fun is still continuing at The White Horse and if you would like to play, please contact us.

If you are interested in joining The Bride Valley WI, we meet every third Thursday in Puncknowle Village Hall, at 7.30pm. Please contact us on: - [Bridevalleywi@gmail.com](mailto:Bridevalleywi@gmail.com)

## The Bride Valley Book Club

For various reasons we did not have a designated book to discuss this month. So we decided to each bring a book we would recommend. We shared an interesting variety of titles, some contemporary - some dating back from the days when we were impressionable teenagers. Here is the list.....

“Caledonian Road” by Andrew Hagan. This contemporary novel is set in and around this famously urban and gritty area in North London with wealthy garden squares and ruinously expensive Georgian town houses only a stone’s throw away from squalor. It has a bewildering cast of characters with a plot encompassing many aspects of London life in all its complexity.

“Emma” by Jane Austen - we were all familiar with this one - and agreed that Austen repays repeated readings. Emma has her faults especially when interfering in the lives of others. She is redeemed by learning from her mistakes, acquiring a degree of humility - and the love of her neighbour Mr Knightley.

“Shakespeare - The Man who Pays the Rent” by Judy Dench. Dame Judy conveys a lifetime of experience playing so many Shakespearean roles, on

stage, film and TV. In a series of interviews she reflects on this enduring passion. This book is an antidote to the academic/literary criticism approach and although it focuses on Shakespeare, it reveals much about Judy Dench herself.

“The Heather Blazing” and “The Blackwater Lightship” both by Colm Toibin. These are less well known novels by Toibin, made famous by “Brooklyn” and its more recent sequel “Long Island”. Both novels deal with grief and bereavement within contemporary Irish families. Fractured family relationships are interwoven with Irish Republican social and political concerns.

“Table for Two” - short stories by Amor Towles. Towles is a popular author within our reading group and an acknowledged master story teller. We have previously read both “The Lincoln Highway” and “A Gentleman in Moscow”. These short stories are mainly set in New York and are said to be inspired by Towles’s conviction that our lives can change significantly as a result of a single conversation or chance encounter.

“Middlemarch” by George Eliot – this, a dense 1000+ page masterpiece, narrates the lives of characters in a Midlands town just before the Great Reform Act of 1832. One of its profound messages is ‘marry in haste and repent at leisure’. Eliot’s wonderful character development against a background of social and political change has a strong moral compass, it is complex and clever.

“1984” by George Orwell. One of literature’s most enduring dystopian novels which has given us famous sayings such as ‘Room 101’ - “Big Brother is Watching You” - and “The Thought Police”. The story of Winston, and his lover Julia, their rebellion, eventual arrest and brutal “rehabilitation” continues to shock. Orwell wrote it as an attack on Totalitarianism and its message is as relevant today as in 1948 when first published.

*Liz Pinfield*

## Archaeology & Local History

The Valley of Stones is a special place. Today it’s a peaceful nature reserve but to an archaeologist it’s full of evidence from the people who lived and worked there in the past. Past Participate CIC are running a project called *Living amongst the Sarsens: Revealing the Hidden Heritage of the Valley of Stones, Dorset*. We received a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

in order to learn more about this landscape with local people, and to share our discoveries.

This summer we excavated a brick kiln. It was probably built by the Bridehead Estate and used to make bricks for their farm buildings. We did not find a date for its initial construction, but it was likely to have been in use



**The Brickworks Kiln**

at several points during the 18th and 19th Centuries. The pits where the clay was extracted are still visible as ponds, and there are many other traces in the immediate landscape related to the wider brick works. We're currently writing up the report and teasing out the details. More information will be available once this is complete.

As part of the project, we've set out to record every single sarsen stone in the Valley of Stones looking for evidence of human activity. So far, we've found examples that were used in prehistory, in the medieval period and more recently too! If you'd like to join in, we will be running some training sessions in the autumn- dates yet to be confirmed. No experience is required and you can do the survey in your own time with our support. Please email [info@pastparticipate.co.uk](mailto:info@pastparticipate.co.uk) to find out more.

## Events in the Valley and nearby



**ST.SWITHUN'S CHURCH, North Allington, Bridport, DT6 5DU**

Tickets via TIC, South Street, Bridport DT6 3LF tel: (01308) 424901

Website: <https://bridportandwestbay.co.uk>



### Caught in a Web' – Special screening of films of local interest

Two films made in 1982 by Toni de Bromhead (first shown on Channel 4 in 1986) are being shown on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at LATCH, doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm showing.

The first film 'A Village Heritage' is focussed on Bridehead and Little Bredy and the second 'Heart of the Village' is set in Puncknowle. Both films are intimate portraits of the land, landowners and the communities as they were in 1982.

Tickets £5 (including a glass of wine or soft drink) available from Caddy Sitwell, Long Bredy ([caddysitwell@gmail.com](mailto:caddysitwell@gmail.com)), Elizabeth Kingston, Litton Cheney ([paulkingston1440@btinternet.com](mailto:paulkingston1440@btinternet.com)) and Paul Bullen, Puncknowle ([paul.bullen@me.com](mailto:paul.bullen@me.com)).

Proceeds are in support of Long Bredy Village Hall.

## Artsreach Returns

It's that time of year again. Following a very successful 2024/25 season the Dorset Artsreach team have been working hard to come up with a portfolio of new events for the 2025/26 season across the spectrum of the performing arts. Their full programme will be published shortly on the Artsreach website [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk) and will also be available from the Bridport Tourist Information office.



Meanwhile we wanted to highlight the events which are coming specifically to the village halls in the Bride Valley and nearby between now and December. These are as follows:

### ***Burton Bradstock***

*Sunday 12th October, 7.30pm.*  
Worklight Theatre present "It's The Economy Stupid", an award-winning play based on the true story of a family caught up in the 1990's recession, revealing the heart, humour and humanity behind modern economics.



*Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30pm.*  
Firelight Trio, a group from Scotland who play European folk music and song, both traditional material and their own compositions. This will be preceded at 4.00pm with a Balkan Folk Dance workshop run by the trio.



### ***Shipton Gorge***

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 3.00pm. Michell, Pfeiffer & Kulesh. A close-harmony folk trio with roots in the UK, Germany and Russia, award-winning song-writers and talented musicians, singing and playing guitar, bouzouki, accordion, dulcimer and flute and percussion. **Pre-show meal at the New Inn with 15% off food when quoting 'Artsreach'.**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm. John Doran & The Northern Assembly. A newly formed collaboration between three established performers who breathe new life and energy to traditional British songs in their own musical and vocal style.

### **Litton Cheney**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 11.00am. A half-term treat for all the family from age 3 upwards. Fideri Federa present “Franky”, a story filled with fun, comedy, songs and dance.

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm. The Not Now Collective present Pepper & Honey, a play about Ana who arrives in the UK from Croatia and begins a journey of change haunted by the voice of her Grandma. Traditional Croatian pepper biscuits are baked during the performance.



### **Portesham**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm. John Etheridge and Christian Garrick. British guitar legend John Etheridge and virtuoso violinist Christian Garrick have played together over many years and make a welcome return to Portesham with a wide-ranging and eclectic repertoire from Peter Gabriel to Richard Rogers, Rheinhardt and Grappelli.

*Artsreach is an award-winning registered charity based in Dorchester supported by the Arts Council England and Dorset Council. Its purpose is to bring a wide range of high-quality performing artists from around the UK and overseas to rural venues across the county. The venues are predominantly village halls which promote and manage their events via a team of local volunteers. Here in the Bride Valley we have been successfully promoting Artsreach locally for quite a few years, attracting large audiences from across the area and making a significant contribution to Artsreach and to our respective village halls. We hope that the new season will be similarly enjoyable and successful.*

As a reminder we place posters and other promotional material around the villages as we get closer to each event.

All tickets will be available via the Artsreach website from September. We look forward to seeing you at our events.

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| David Witham – Burton Bradstock     | 01308 897403 |
| Mark Sexton – Shipton Gorge         | 01308 897649 |
| Patricia Scholfield – Litton Cheney | 01308 482514 |
| Julie Mason – Portesham             | 01305 871117 |

## **Bridport and District u3a Singers**

**Bridport and District u3a Singers' Group** are inviting people to come along and sing with them!

**First session** is on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am.

Our group meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month (with some exceptions) from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the WI Hall, North Street, Bridport.

This friendly group sings primarily for fun and to enjoy the well documented benefits of coming together in friendship and to have a really good sing. We sing a wide variety of songs from folk to popular and this term will include Christmas music, of course. There is no audition and it's not necessary to be able to read music. We always have plenty of space for newcomers and the fee for this term is just £20.

Anyone who is not a U3A member would need to join the organisation but is welcome to give the Singers a try with no financial commitment on the first visit.

More information is available from group leader Heather Harvey on 01308 425219 or take a look at our comprehensive website at [www.bridport.u3asite.uk](http://www.bridport.u3asite.uk)

## **Wimborne Minster Flower Festival**

We know that some people travel many miles to visit a Flower Festival and so we wonder if readers might be interested to visit the forthcoming Flower Festival in Wimborne Minster. This takes place from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September and with the title of “The Delights of Dorset” there will be over 60 Tableaux and many other arrangements depicting interesting highlights of Dorset from the Jurassic

Coast to the modern-day traditions. Featuring a 16ft Dinosaur, the Shrine of St. Wite, Mary Anning, Isaac Gulliver and much more all made from papier mache. A dozen Flower Clubs from across Dorset are taking part. The Festival will be open each day from 10.00am to 6.00pm apart from Sunday when its 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

Advance tickets costing £7.50 each can be purchased by contacting 01202 888703 or by e-mail: witsend@familyoliver.org.uk. Coach Parties and Groups are welcome.

## Farming News

Louise and Charles of Hammiton Farm in Shipton Gorge were delighted to win the small farm conservation and environmental management prize at this year's Melpash Show. They have been transforming what was once a small dairy farm to the production of genuinely carbon negative beef with the help and advice of other Bride Valley farmers. 2025 is the first year that their exclusive Light Beef is available to buy and the judges were impressed by the innovative efforts being made to bring a small farm back into production. Did you know that as part of their transformation the Bride Valley is now home to Dorset's first ever commercial manuka meadows? The hope is that in time we might even see the Valley producing manuka honey. You can find out more at [www.hammitonfarm.co.uk](http://www.hammitonfarm.co.uk)



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### Prince of Wales and Portesham Surgeries

**Flu and Covid Vaccinations (Covid vaccination available subject to eligibility and vaccine availability)**

This month you will start to receive your invitation texts or emails, depending on your contact preferences. If you receive a self-booking link via text

message, please do try to use this link first to keep our phone lines free for urgent calls. If you think you are eligible and have not received an invitation or your link doesn't work, or you received your invitation by email then please contact the Patient Services Team on 01305 871468 after 10.00 am.

If you are eligible for a Covid vaccination and would like it when you come for your Flu jab, please just let the team know when you check in. There is no need to tell us beforehand.

|                                    |                            |                          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October  | Morning only               | Dorchester               |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October   | Morning only               | Dorchester               |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> October   | Portesham Village Hall     |                          |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October    | Late afternoon             | Dorchester Under 65 only |
| Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> October  | Dorchester                 |                          |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October   | Late afternoon             | Dorchester Under 65 only |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October | Litton Cheney Village Hall |                          |

**Some of you may not wish to have your Covid jab with your Flu vaccination. If this is the case, you can still book to have this at a Covid vaccination centre by calling 119 or via the NHS website. Please see the NHS website for all up-to-date information about Covid vaccination eligibility.**

We are very pleased to announce that, like last year, there will be another Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October in Portesham Village Hall. This will give you a chance to purchase a delicious Tea or Coffee and a sweet treat whilst donating to such a worthwhile cause. Cash preferred but card also accepted.

### **Econsults**

At the end of September, we will be saying goodbye to eConsults and hello to SystmConnect. This works in pretty much the same way for all non-urgent enquiries and can be accessed via our website, your NHS app or SystmOnline.

If you need support with this or anything else digital, please consider booking in with our Digital Champion, Mike, who is at our Dorchester branch every Monday afternoon. Please book via the hotline: 01305 221048

Surgery website → [www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk](http://www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk) On Facebook → Prince of Wales surgery and → Portesham Patient News.

## Bride Valley Gardening Club

Whether for gardening needs, a gift or to enjoy the restaurant, sooner or later newcomers to the Bride Valley will find themselves at Groves Nursery and Garden Centre. From 1886 in Piddletrenthide to the current site in Bridport, Groves has passed from father to son and is now in the good hands of Charlie Groves. Once a normal occurrence to see Clive, his father, much in evidence at the nursery, it is now something of a rare treat to see him and say hello. A bigger treat is in store on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September when the club will be delighted to welcome Clive as our speaker that evening. Having lured him out of retirement his main concern was that people will have heard him before. Those that have will be more than happy to listen again and for others it will be a new and fascinating talk about Clive's trip to the Himalayas, with his excellent slides.

In the next week or so members will receive an email inviting them to submit a question that might be put to our panel at the October Gardeners' Question Time (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October). The committee will need time to sift and choose the questions which need to be received no later than 15<sup>th</sup> September. Before then do make a note in your diary to come along to LATCH, the community hall in School Lane, Litton Cheney, for Clive Groves' talk "Trekking in the Himalayas". As usual doors will open at 7.00pm for refreshments and chat before the talk at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome at £2.

*Ali Halliday ([balletboots@live.com](mailto:balletboots@live.com))*

### Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: [t.laycock70@gmail.com](mailto:t.laycock70@gmail.com)

Tel: 01308 482443

Village website: <http://www.littlebredy.com>



Every village has its unsung heroes. Here in Littlebredy its time to acknowledge and applaud the huge contribution that Sandra March has made to the musical life of the church. She has been our organist for no less than 44 years and consequently has played for key celebrations and

commemorations for generations of villagers. Bravo Sandra, and thank you so much for your dedication and musicality.

## Harvest Celebrations

This year our harvest festival will be a Service of Holy Communion in the Church at 11.00am, followed by a bring-and-share lunch in the Walled Garden Café. Please contact Mandy Wilkinson to let her know how many will be in your party, and what you would like to bring. We are also planning to do some apple pressing during the afternoon, commencing about 2.30pm. We'll need helpers of all ages to chop the apples, operate the apple crusher and winch the apple press! Bring apples and plastic bottles.

## Farewell

We bid a fond farewell to Julie and Brian Barratt, who are leaving dairy cottage to move over the hill to Martinstown.

## Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett  
Greenways, Shipton Gorge  
01308 787278 richardhewlett419@gmail.com  
Village web-site: [www.shiptongorge.org.uk](http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk)



Welcome to our village diary. Just search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to <https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/>.

## St Martin's Church:

### September Floodlight Sponsors

*A Shipton Gorge gentleman...*

*Murphy for Diane James*

*Jackie & Gerry*

*Anon, Thank you to Phyl & James for organising the floodlights for the village*

*Heather Puttock for family & friends who have helped since her accident.*

*Paul - In memory of Jane Thomas, my wife, a Bridport girl, gone 10 years this month*

Thank you so much for your generosity this month. We are still short of sponsors for the winter months ahead so your sponsorship is much appreciated to keep those lights on. For a suggested donation of £5, you can light up the Church and the Village. Your occasion will be mentioned in the Bride Valley News, and on posters on the notice boards. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

### **Our Church Services**

|         |                            |                  |
|---------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 9.30am  | 14 <sup>th</sup> September | Breakfast Church |
| 5.00pm  | 21 <sup>st</sup> September | Harvest Festival |
| 11.00am | 28 <sup>th</sup> September | Holy Communion   |

### **The future of St Martins**

As you are no doubt aware, there are significant funding pressures on churches nationwide and here at St Martins they are particularly acute. We have a small congregation and unlike some churches there is no significant endowment to help with repairs. There are some urgent works which need doing to maintain the fabric of the building, such as repairing the windows. Continuing deterioration threatens the long-term future of the church.

The PCC has therefore decided to hold a public meeting to find out how the village views the church, what additional uses it could be put to and how the ongoing upkeep of the building could be financed. The meeting will be in the church on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm and we would love to see as many people as possible.

### **Parish Council**

The next PC meeting will be on Thursday September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm in the village hall. Do come along, let us know if there is anything you would like to discuss, and maybe even join us on the council - we are still on the lookout for additional councillors. One of our current projects is to refurbish the gates into the playing field and also some of the equipment.

We have also arranged for a defibrillator training session to be run by Chesil First Aid Training on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am in the Hall. The last training session, held a few years ago, was very well attended, so to reserve your place for this important event please contact our clerk Debbie on 07840401786 or [clerk@shiptongorge.org.uk](mailto:clerk@shiptongorge.org.uk)

# Village Hall

August 2025 100 Club Draw results

|                 |     |     |              |
|-----------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 6   | £25 | Lyn Spiller  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 121 | £10 | Nigel Fisher |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 57  | £5  | Tony Rogers  |

Congratulations to all winners

## Community Choir

We are starting a community choir! Everyone is welcome and it is not necessary to be able to read music.

Sessions, which include a break for refreshments, will be held at Shipton Gorge Village Hall every Thursday 2.30pm - 4.00pm starting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October with a free trial session (£5 per session thereafter, with concessions)

We aim to sing a mixture of songs and a few Christmas favourites. In December we will have some fun in St Martin's Church Shipton Gorge and give our lungs a festive airing. Please do come along and join us.

*Ian and Kim*

*bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com 07754245691. 01308 346007*

## Coffee Morning

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, we will be joining in with a nationwide coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. From 10.00am - 12.00noon, please come and join us in Shipton Gorge Village Hall for tea, coffee, cakes and more. Everybody is welcome and proceeds will go directly to Macmillan Cancer Support registered charity no: 261017. Below is their mission:

Donations from thousands of Coffee Mornings, big and small, help raise vital funds to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer, from the moment they are diagnosed, throughout treatment and beyond.

## Shipton Gorge Heritage

**Heritage Gin Club** – Thank you to everyone who has supported us by buying tickets for the year ahead. The winners in the August draw will be announced next month as the draw needed to be done after the Fete.



## Saunders Richardson Wood

Nettle fertiliser has brewed nicely with 176 litres being bottled this year (about twice as much as last year). There was a lot of interest in buying it as soon as ready, with some orders coming in from outside the village - the rest being sold at the Village Fete. We are always looking to improve and thicken the hedge along Smacombe Lane. If you find any mature hazelnuts on your walks around the village, perhaps collect a few then drop them into the hedge line on the edge of the wood. If you can press them down so they have good contact with the soil – even better. You never know, given time, they could germinate. We intend to open the wood on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 11.00am to midday. If you would like to come along and either help or have a walk round, that would be great. This is a members' only event but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.

## Shipton Gorge Orchard

Remember that you are welcome to pick the apples in the Orchard. There are different types and varieties, including, Dessert, Cookers and Cider. Look out for the named plan on the notice board – or labels on the trees. Three which are likely to be ready in September are James Grieve (Dessert/Cooker), Tom Putt (Cooker/Cider) and Court of Wick (Cooker/Juicer). The scythed grass has been tidied into piles – and if we have some rain, there could be another lot to cut in the autumn. We have been offered some very valuable Yellow Rattle seed and intend to broadcast both this and wildflower seed around the Orchard. We will be doing some work on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 11.00am to midday. All residents are welcome to come along.



Thanks to everyone who supported us at the Village Fete in early August – by buying fertiliser, Gin Club tickets, sweets and ice creams, and special thanks to those who made sweets for our stall.

For those who like to plan ahead – particularly if you intend to do any jam making or preserving - the **Apple Day Produce Sale** will be held this year on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall. Perhaps make a few extra jars for the sale? More details nearer the time.

If you would like to become a member, or are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe on 07393 214635 or email [annecrowe2016@hotmail.com](mailto:annecrowe2016@hotmail.com)

Details as usual on our website:

[http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton\\_Gorge\\_Heritage\\_\\_16417.aspx](http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton_Gorge_Heritage__16417.aspx)  
and in the Shipton Gorge Diary <https://www.shiptongorgediary.co.uk>

## Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell  
[jfirrell20@gmail.com](mailto:jfirrell20@gmail.com) Tel: 01308 482313  
Village web-site [www.littoncheney.org.uk](http://www.littoncheney.org.uk)



## St. Mary's Church

On **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** we will be holding a **Village Café at LATCH** in aid of St. Mary's. Grand Draw tickets are on sale around the village now, so do buy plenty! On the day there will be tombola, produce, cakes and local art as well as the popular bacon butties. Also see separate poster.

Buildings like St. Mary's need constant maintenance as well as loving care so please do join us on the day to help raise plenty of money for the upkeep of the church and churchyard.



Also coming up, a new initiative **“Community Church” at LATCH on 28<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm**. We hope families and others who would prefer a less formal approach to worship will come along and try it out. More details nearer the time.

If you would like the church to be floodlit any day for a special occasion for £5, please contact Freddie Spicer (482617)

## Parish Council

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm at LATCH. Local residents are encouraged to attend, and can ask questions during democratic time and make a point. There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council – could you be the person prepared to help administer your village? We would love to hear from you. Please contact Clerk Debbie, or Councillors – contact details can be found on the Litton website [littoncheney.org.uk](http://littoncheney.org.uk)

### Irresponsible Driving

There have been numerous comments made on Facebook regarding irresponsible driving through the village, including speeding. This issue has been taken up with Dorset Police who will be siting speed traps at various times and points in the village and surrounding areas.

It is said that a sign of maturity is discovering that the accelerator lifts off as well as being able to be pressed down. Are those who are likely to be guilty of tearing through our villages likely to be reading this august publication? Perhaps not, but there may be family members who know who the culprits are who can have a quiet word in their shell-like ear before the police come calling, and come knocking they will if it continues.

This issue has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council and will be discussed at the next meeting in September (9<sup>th</sup>). If you have concerns, come along and discuss how best you can assist us in addressing this matter.

**CPR/Defib Training** – Many thanks to Pete Dennis for setting up the CPR/Defib training session at LATCH in July. 18 people attended who are now much better briefed should there be a need to provide first aid which, in many cases, is so often the reason a person survives. Pete has suggested further training in about a year's time, but will arrange something earlier if there is a demand. 18 people also attended a Long Bredy event, overall offering up a further 36 people fully capable of administering CPR and a defibrillator.

**Riparian Ownership – Could that be you?** A 'riparian owner' is somebody who has a watercourse running through, beneath or adjacent to their land. If the watercourse forms the boundary with your land, you will usually own up to the centre of the channel. If in doubt, you will need to check your title deeds to confirm exact ownership. This can be done via the land registry.

It is the responsibility of a riparian owner to carry out the safe maintenance of the bed and banks of a watercourse to ensure the free flow of water, that falls within their property boundary. Further information can be found on the village website – [www.littoncheney.org.uk](http://www.littoncheney.org.uk)

**Full Fibre** – we believe that the final connections in the village are in the process of being completed. If you have access to full fibre, you are encouraged to get connected. Leaving it until later may mean a greater expense.

## **What’s on at Litton and Thorner’s Community Hall (LATCH) in September REGULAR EVENTS**

### **What’s on at Litton and Thorner’s Community Hall (LATCH) in September REGULAR EVENTS**

|            |               |   |
|------------|---------------|---|
| Mondays    | 3.30 – 4.30   | Big Q in meeting room (term time only)                  |
| Tuesdays   | 4.45 – 5.45   | Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661) Start date t.b.c. |
| Wednesdays | 4.45 – 5.45   | Table Tennis (Paul Kingston 482162)                     |
|            | 7.00          | Mindful Movement (Jane Hutchins 07882 527697)           |
| Thursdays  | 9.15 – 11.15  | First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)      |
| Fridays    | 10.00 – 12.00 | Art Group in meeting room (not 19 <sup>th</sup> )       |

### **OTHER EVENTS**

|                           |               |  |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00 – 12.30 | Village Café in aid of St. Mary’s Church |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>   | 7.00          | Parish Council in meeting room           |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>   | 7.00          | Garden Club meeting                      |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> | 7.00          | BV W.I. Qigong Session                   |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>   | 6.30          | Bingo Night                              |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> | 7.00          | Puncknowle History club – Film show      |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00         | Yoga with Nadiya Wynn                    |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>   | 4.00          | Community Church                         |

**Village Cafés:** The hall is available for hire free of charge on Saturday mornings for a Café to raise funds for any group. It’s a good social event for the community and always popular.

Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 [wtlitton@gmail.com](mailto:wtlitton@gmail.com)

## **BRIDE VALLEY FILMS at Litton Cheney Village Hall Looking forward to our Autumn Season...**

**THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER - “BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY” ‘a great fourth sequel’**

Bridget is back for one last chapter! Now a widowed single mother, she must juggle work, parenthood and romance. With the help of her loyal friends, Bridget navigates encounters with a younger man and a series of awkward interactions with her son's science teacher - as she strives to forge a new path toward life and love. Starring Renee Zellweger and Chiwetel Ejiofor. 2 hrs. Cert 15

**COMING NEXT:**

6<sup>th</sup> November: Maria.

4<sup>th</sup> December: The Penguin Lessons.

Look out for details in the **BVN** or on the website

<http://www.littoncheney.org.uk/bridevalleyfilms.htm>

## Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

[liz@ruddle.org.uk](mailto:liz@ruddle.org.uk) Tel: 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

[Jill.neill@live.co.uk](mailto:Jill.neill@live.co.uk) Tel 01308 897479

Village website:

<https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk>



## Puncknowle Church

### Pet Service

Calling all creatures great and small. There will be a Pet Service in St Mary's Church Puncknowle on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm. All are welcome to this service where we give thanks for the animals in our lives. There will be refreshments afterwards at the Crown.

### Harvest Festival

We will be holding our Harvest Festival Service in St Mary's Church Puncknowle on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00am. There will be a

'bring and share' harvest lunch afterwards in the Hall. All are most welcome to the service, the lunch, or both. Proceeds from the service will be given to the Bridport Food Bank.

### **Digital Giving at St Mary's**

Our centuries old church has reached the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! Following our church neighbours in the valley we have installed a digital giving box in the church and are able to receive card payments for donations and payments. We would like to express our enormous gratitude and thanks to Nick Tait for his time and expertise over the last few months for getting this set up.

### **Puncknowle Swyre and West Bexington Community Fete**

The rain stopped 10 minutes before the gates opened! We were all somewhat concerned about how well it would be attended. We didn't need to be, the sun shone and everyone came. The first Puncknowle Swyre and West Bexington Community Fete to take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July kindly hosted in the gardens of the Manor, Puncknowle. A joint venture between the three village communities and the two churches.

The event was well attended by families, friends, neighbours and visitors. The popular features of homemade cakes, scones and teas provided refreshments. Sales of produce and art drew people in as children enjoyed traditional and new games and activities. A fun occasion bringing our community and villages together. In excess of £3,500 was raised and will be divided between the Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall and the two Churches.

An enormous 'thank you' to everyone who helped in the preparation and planning and on the day and afterwards to make the event such a success.

### **22nd Dorking (Brockham) Scouts at Manor Farm, Swyre**

Brockham Scouts have just spent a fantastic week camping at Manor Farm, Swyre as guests of Yeates Family. We hope you noticed our red double decker bus. We have owned this bus for 50 years. Sixteen Scouts and eight leaders have enjoyed The West Bay Rib Blast, hiking in Hell Lane, swimming at West Bay, Hive Beach, Charmouth and walking down through the fields to the beach. We attended church at Puncknowle in a service led by Lay

Preacher Jethro. We were made exceptionally welcome by the congregation and the Scout District Commissioner. We have never been offered drinks and doughnuts at any other church! We have previously enjoyed camping at Little Bredy, on the edge of the Cricket Pitch, but collectively believe Manor Farm has offered us space, hospitality and panoramic views that none of the Leaders have witnessed before. Green Field, traditional cooking on open fires is what scout camping is all about. With the blessing of the Yeates family we hope to be back soon.

*Tony Hines MBE, Scout Leader*

## **Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club**

*Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy*

Puncknowle Village Hall 12.30pm for 1.00pm, Lunches cost £6

**September 16<sup>th</sup>, Cottage Pie, Dessert to follow**

**Future dates 2025**

21<sup>st</sup> October, Roast Loin of Pork Roast Potatoes Apple Sauce,  
Dessert to follow

18<sup>th</sup> November, Beef Bourguignon & Vegetables,  
Dessert to follow

All meals include fruit juice to start and cheese and biscuits with tea or coffee. Vegetarian option can be provided.

Enquiries – please contact **David Buckland**  
**01308 898492** for more details

## Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley

Email: [bvn@longbredy.org.uk](mailto:bvn@longbredy.org.uk)

Tel: 01308 482585

Village website: <http://www.longbredy.com>



*Please note that there is a new correspondent for Long Bredy, Helen taking on the role as from the beginning of September. Our thanks are due to our previous correspondent, Rebecca, for all her work in bringing the Long Bredy news together during her time in the job! The contact email remains unchanged.*

## Long Bredy 100 Club July Results

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| £30.00 No. 131. | L. Hemsley & S. Evans |
| £15.00 No. 124. | R Maltby              |
| £5.00 No. 66    | S. Dyer               |

## Church news

### Church Tower Repairs

By the time you read this, all the restoration work will be complete – and the Church will once again be open to visitors.

It truly is a beautiful building. The earliest parts date back to the 13th century, making it not only the oldest building in the village, but also a treasured part of our heritage – one that we must preserve for both past and future generations.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project. It has cost many thousands of pounds to complete, and we receive no ongoing funding. Everything is made possible through donations, fundraising, and grants we work hard to secure – and with only a small team to organise it all, every bit of help means so much.

Our fundraising continues, and with that in mind we will be holding a *Table Top Sale* at LATCH on **Saturday, 1st November**, complete with a welcoming Breakfast Café. Volunteers to help on the day would be very gratefully received.

We will also be running a *Christmas Grand Draw* with some wonderful prizes – so please do support us by buying or selling tickets.

### **Bell ringers**

Unfortunately, a planned visit from a team of bell ringers from the East Midlands had to be cancelled due to the ongoing work at St Peter's Church. Fortunately, we were able to offer them the use of St Michael and All Angels Church in Littlebredy instead. This church is home to an Ellacombe chime – a device that allows one person to ring all the bells in the tower at once. The system uses ropes connected to a series of hammers that strike the bells, and was invented by curate Henry Ellacombe, who (so the story goes) was keen to dispense with his discourteous and often inebriated bell ringers!

A group of fifteen ringers and friends arrived to try the Ellacombe chimes – a first for most of them. Some excellent and enjoyable tunes were played, and even the non-ringers were eager to have a go. While waiting for their turn, visitors enjoyed exploring the church, admiring the newly restored windows, and indulging in coffee and cake.

A big thank you to church warden Tim Laycock for making this visit possible at such short notice.

### **Saints and Sailors Walk**

On a warm July afternoon, eight of us from across Dorset joined Rev'd Andrew to explore the site of the ruins of St James' Chapel and pay homage to Admiral Hardy, who was born at Kingston Russell House.

From the hilltop, we enjoyed magnificent views of the valley before making our way down to the Church for a well-earned cup of tea.

We hope this will become a regular event in the valley. If you're interested in helping to plan future routes, please get in touch with Rev'd Andrew.

### **Village news and updates**

#### **New Long Bredy Correspondent for the BVN**

After almost two years as village correspondent, I feel it's time to pass the torch to new blood and fresh perspectives. It has been a real privilege to contribute to our community.

I'm delighted to share that Helen Horsley has kindly agreed to take on the role. Thank you all for your support over the past couple of years, especially to Bryan, Gwen, Ruth, Jackie and Andrew. Please join me in warmly welcoming Helen as the new Long Bredy correspondent.

### **Playing Field – Goal Posts**

The Parish Council has become aware that the goalposts in the playing field are, unfortunately, no longer in a safe condition. For safety reasons, they will need to be removed soon.

Please rest assured that we are already exploring suitable replacement options, and we would very much welcome suggestions from the community. In the meantime, it's back to the classic *jumpers for goalposts!* If you have any ideas or feedback, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at [krlb@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:krlb@dorset-aptc.gov.uk) or speak to one of your Parish Councillors.

### **Coming up in September...**

#### **Coffee Break**

This month's Coffee Break will take place **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September** from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the Village Hall.

#### **Puncknowle Lunch Club**

After the summer break the Lunch Club at Puncknowle Village Hall will be open again on **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September**, 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Lunches cost £6, are delicious and amazing value for money. (See page 28 for details).

The Lunch Club incorporates all residents over 50 from Puncknowle, Chilcombe, Littlebredy and most importantly Long Bredy. Please contact David Buckland to book your lunch or for more details on 01308 898492.

#### **Come Along Inn**

It is the start of Autumn and the 'Come Along Inn' will be opening its doors on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September** from 5.30pm to 9.00pm in the Village Hall.

Come along for an evening of good company, food and drink. For more information email [aking44634@aol.com](mailto:aking44634@aol.com) or ring 01308 482270. The team look forward to seeing you.

## Harvest Festival – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 9.30am

We hope to hold this year's Harvest Festival service outdoors, so we can fully enjoy the beautiful surroundings – weather permitting, of course. If the weather isn't kind, we'll gather inside the Church instead.

It will be an informal, welcoming service, followed by refreshments. This year we are supporting the Food Bank. Donations of non-perishable items can be left by the font before the service, or monetary contributions can be given to our Treasurer, Ruth Cullingford.

## Caught in a Web – Special screening of films of local interest

Two films made in 1982 by Toni de Bromhead (first shown on Channel 4 in 1986) are being shown on **Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September** at LATCH, doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm showing.

The first film 'A Village Heritage' is focussed on Bridehead and Little Bredy and the second 'Heart of the Village' is set in Puncknowle. Both films are intimate portraits of the land, landowners and the communities as they were in 1982. Tickets £5 (including a glass of wine or soft drink) available from Caddy Sitwell (caddysitwell@gmail.com). Proceeds are in support of Long Bredy Village Hall.

## Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton  
patgrafton43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264  
Village web-site: [www.burtonbradstockvillage.org](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org).



## St Mary's Church Fete 2025

Our thanks go to the many volunteers and visitors who helped to make St Mary's Church Fete such a success. On a cold and blustery August afternoon, our Rector, Andrew Rawding, good-humouredly took a soaking, the Human Fruit Machine brought a slapstick element to the general entertainment and the Magic shows were enjoyed by children and adults alike. The Shepherd's Hut Burger Van was a first for the Fete, doing a good trade in Burger and Chips, and the Cream Teas served in the Village Hall offered a warm place to sit and chat. Special thanks go to Andrew and his family for the use of the Rectory Garden, to all the volunteers who helped to

set up, run and take down the stalls and gazebos and to all our sponsors who supported us so generously with cash prizes and donations. The Church Fete was yet again a great village event and the money raised, circa £5,400, will go towards enhancing St Mary's as a valuable space for worship and community activities in Burton Bradstock. Once again very many thanks to all who took part in any way.

Our sincere thanks, *The Church Fete Team*

## Tot's Time

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there is no Tot's Time report this month, but it will return as soon as possible – watch this space!

## Burton Bradstock Village Hall

### Village Hall Bookings

Should you wish to use the Hall at any time, the booking officer can be contacted via email at [bbvht.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:bbvht.bookings@gmail.com) or by phone on 01308897648.

### Coffee Mornings

The popular monthly coffee mornings where you can get a sensibly priced coffee/tea and cake plus a chat with friends will be held on the dates below. They run from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and all are welcome.

*Wed 10<sup>th</sup> September: Friends of the Library*

*Wed 8<sup>th</sup> October: Bride Valley Car Service*

### Burton Bradstock Films

The autumn film season in Burton Bradstock starts off on 26<sup>th</sup> September by following the latest adventures of Bridgett Jones: **Mad About the Boy**. Renée Zellweger and Hugh Grant star in this charming romantic comedy which will be the final chapter in the Bridgett Jones book and is purported to be the best film since the original.

Tickets are £6 each and include a glass of wine or a soft drink and can be bought beforehand from Burton Bradstock Post Office or on the door if available. Doors open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm.

## General Information

The Hall now has a commercial dishwasher in the kitchen for those organising mass catering. Instructions for use are on the wall above it.

## Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” August 2025 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

|                 |        |         |                    |
|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | £33.00 | No 68:  | Mrs Alison Whitham |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | £16.50 | No 24:  | Helen Franks       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | £8.25  | No 125: | Susan Allan-Baker  |

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the September 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £4 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

*WDDC Licence no: SLO080*

## The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

This year’s Summer Reading Challenge on the theme of ‘Story Garden – Adventure in Nature and the Great Outdoors’ had already been taken up by several children at time of writing. Hopefully they and others will have enjoyed reading their 6 books and collecting stickers and a medal. Certificates will be given out at school in September.

We will be holding our usual Coffee Stop in the Village Hall and Book Sale in the Library on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, from 10.00am to 12.00noon. We hope that you can join us for cake and chat, and pop in to the Library to top up your reading supplies. All profits go to maintaining the Library and its facilities. If you would like to donate some clean, saleable books please leave them in the Library from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

We are sorry to report that Louis, our Digital Champion, will be unable to continue helping in the Library due to work circumstances. We have been so fortunate to have his help which has always been provided with the utmost patience and cheerfulness. We will miss you Louis. Hopefully someone else will be able to come forward – if you could help, please mention it to one of our volunteers.

We have had new Christmas cards and notelets printed recently and these will be available soon in the Library and the Post Office. The notelets and some of the Christmas cards are a smaller size but the prices will reflect rises in printing costs.

Subscriptions to the Friends of the Library will be due at the beginning of October and everyone is invited to become a Friend. We shall have a table at the Welcome Coffee Morning on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September where you can learn more about what services the library provides and pick up forms for applying for a free library card and to be a Friend. Along with books, we provide photocopying, laminating, jigsaws to borrow, public computers, and a friendly atmosphere!

Normal opening hours are:

Monday 2.00pm-4.00pm    Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm-4.00pm

[burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com)

[www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library)

01308 897563

*Sue Brown, Chairman*

## **Burton Bradstock WI**

We didn't have a meeting in August but that doesn't mean to say we weren't just as busy. Nine members enjoyed a visit to Burrow Farm Gardens, in spite of the disappointing weather. They arrived in time for coffee, had a walk around the delightful gardens and returned to the lovely little café for lunch. Before leaving there was time for a visit to the plant and gift shops, where much purchasing took place!

The Busy Bees Craft Group also treated themselves to an afternoon tea out – well deserved after all their creating and making for the Craft stall at the Church Fête. The WI also ran the cake stall at the fête, which as usual was a great success and sold out very quickly.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at which our President, Carol Higo will be giving a talk entitled "The Islands of Japan". We do like having travel talks where we can be whisked off to foreign lands, without even having to leave our seats!! Do come and join us – new members are always welcome.

*Janet Pearson    01308 898346*

## Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

We are a very friendly group who meet in the Village Hall every Tuesday afternoon from 1.45pm until 4.30pm to play duplicate bridge. If you have played bridge before but feel you are a bit rusty this would be ideal! We could find you a partner if necessary and you would be assured of an enjoyable afternoon with a break for tea and biscuits. Please come and make some new friends. For more information, please contact Kathy on 01308 485626.

## Burton Coffee Mates

Burton Coffee Mates meet in the church on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30am-12.00noon. Although everyone from the village is welcome, this is particularly suitable for older people and facilities are provided for wheelchair users. Do come and join us.

## Burton Bradstock Village Society

The first Village Society Meeting of the Season will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Village Hall. This will be a talk entitled "Quirky Bridport" given by Tegwyn Jones. Author and volunteer at Bridport Museum, Tegwyn has collated a large resource of stories of some of the more unusual moments in Bridport's history. Doors open at 7.00pm, £1.50 for members, £5 non-members. Wine and soft drinks for sale and inclusive tea or coffee and biscuit during the interval and of course the raffle. This is the perfect time to meet old friends and make new ones while having an entertaining evening.

**Membership:** If you have still not received your Membership Cards, it may be because you have yet to pay your subscriptions. If so, subscriptions will be gratefully received on receipt of £5 per member via Bacs. Below are the Society's bank details:

Bank: HSBC

Sort Code: 40 13 28

Account: Burton Bradstock Village Society

Account Number: 41433660

Upon receipt, we will then arrange delivery of your Membership Cards through your door.

**Should we not hear from you, we will sadly assume you no longer wish to be a member of the Society.**

At this stage of the year, we usually get a drop of about 20 in total membership due to folk moving and this year is no exception. The numbers tend to build up through the rest of the year. The most effective way of achieving this is through the welcome we offer newcomers to the Village and telling them of the many benefits that being a member offers but also how being a member benefits the village. The help of all our members in doing this is really appreciated by the committee and anyone interested just needs to contact the secretary, Roger Ashman on bbvillagesociety@gmail.com. Village Welcome Coffee Morning: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am-12.00 noon in the Village Hall. As some of our village's long-serving stalwarts are looking to stand down, this year we are particularly encouraging anyone who would like to get involved and volunteer with us or other village organisations to come along to find out more.

## Supper Club

The Supper Club resumes on 8<sup>th</sup> September. For anyone not knowing what it is, we meet on the second Monday of the month (whenever possible) at the Bridport and West Dorset Golf Club for a two-course meal. Any enquiries please ring me Mags Chue at 07790811905.

## Maydown Farm Shop and Burton Bradstock Post Office Important Notice about Opening Hours

Due to lack of support, we will be reducing our opening hours to **mornings only**. From 1<sup>st</sup> September this means that we will be open Monday - Saturday, 8.30am until 1.00pm. Closed on Sundays. We hope you will continue to support us so that we can keep this business open.

*Gill & Pete Mayo*

## Greenfingers Club

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Greenfingers Club. It has been a lot of fun but, with only limited numbers at our last few meetings, we have decided to give it a rest. Cilla's monthly list of 'To Dos' has been smashing & will provide a framework for the many gardening chores for years to come.

One final joke....

What did the sweet potato say to the cabbage... I yam what I yam

As Autumn approaches, we invite you to mingle in the Village Hall, enjoy coffee and cake and meet representatives of the village's organisations, societies, groups and Hall users

This is a wonderful opportunity for villagers (old and new) to learn about the various activities, sign up for classes and/or volunteer to lend a hand with future events and tasks.



10.00am-12.30pm  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Someone once said:

*"Ask not what your village can do for you, ask what you can do for your village".*

We particularly encourage anyone who would like to get involved and volunteer with a local organisation to come along to find out more.

PANTO 26  
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## The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from Uncle Eustace



My dear Nephew Darren,

So, your church does not bother with hymnbooks but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am not bothered, as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics. In my fortunately limited experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse, but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

When we decided to move from *Hymns More Ancient* to *Hymns Slightly Less Ancient* some years ago, our Sunday attempts to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord' threatened to get lost in the noise of battle.

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymnbook might even offer hymns written in the last 50 years. At this, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village (and church).

Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing. Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. But there was still a crisis to come: her young (and radical) niece decided to add a note in the front of every copy. It suggested that if the page for the hymn you wanted was missing, then you could share with the person sitting next to you. Of course, no one has done that yet; it would be an experience almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

And so, we struggle on with our *Hymns More Ancient*, whenever we can find the words. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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## Benefice Services

| September   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday<br>7 <sup>th</sup> September<br>Trinity 12 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br>14 <sup>th</sup> September<br>Holy Cross Day | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br>21 <sup>st</sup> September<br>Matthew the Apostle | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>28 <sup>th</sup> September<br>Trinity 15   |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Burton<br>Bradstock   | 11.00am Morning<br>Worship  | 11.00am Holy Communion   | 9.30am Café Church  | 8.00am Holy Communion<br>9.30am Breakfast Church   |
| Chilcombe<br>Litton<br>Cheney   | 9.30am Holy Communion   | 9.30am Morning Worship   | 6.30pm Evening Prayer<br>6.00pm Evensong                                    | 11.00am Bring and Share<br>lunch at church following<br>Harvest Festival<br><br>Community Church at LATCH<br>4.00pm<br>11.00am Café Church |
| Puncknowle  | Morning Praise 11.00am  | 9.30am Holy Communion<br>3.00pm Pet Service                            |   |  |
| Swyre   | Evening Prayer 6.00pm   |  | Holy Communion 11.00am<br>Harvest Festival 5.00pm                           | 11.00am Holy Communion   |
| Shipton<br>Gorge  |   | 9.30am Breakfast Church  |   |  |
| Long Bredy  | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion   |  | 9.30am Harvest Festival   |  |
| Littlebredy   |   | 11.00am Morning Worship  |   | 11.00am Holy Communion<br>and Harvest Festival   |
| Portesham   |   | 10.00am Family Praise  | 11.00am Holy Communion  | 9.00am BCP Holy<br>Communion<br>Harvest Festival 3.00pm  |
| Abbotsbury  | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion   |  |   |  |
| Langton<br>Herring  | 9.00am BCP  | 11.00am Holy Communion   |   | 7.00pm Outdoor service   |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock 11.30am followed by a light lunch. |   |  |   |  |

