

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



January 2025

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

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February 2025 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 10th January for the February issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact 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 bvn.org.uk or via links on the Bride Valley village websites.

Cover illustration: On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany – the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them ‘Magi’, and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn’t until the third century that they were called kings – by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three – to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing – and even embalming. Certainly, Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

**The Bride Valley News is delivered 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

You can also use www.acny.com for Baptism and Marriage enquiries. Contact Rev'd Margaret Preuss Higham by phone (see above) or

email revmph@gmail.com for enquiries in the Chesil Churches of Abbotsbury, Portesham or Langton Herring.

Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)

Within the Bride Valley Churches there is a small team of Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's) who are available for anybody throughout our community. responding to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. If you need help please contact the Churchwardens, Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator (01308 897260) or one of the Lay Pastoral Assistants who are:

Cathryn Johnson 01308 897169, 01308 898327, Jenny Malyon 01308 898768 and Liz Orza 01308 897451.

Home communion is available by arrangement. Please contact any of the LPAs.'

From the Rectory

Dear friends,

When it snowed in late November, enough for our children to go into the garden and make snow bunnies and a snow man, our seven-year-old son Arthur said to me: 'Dad, do you know Santa?' 'Yes' I replied, wondering where this was going. 'Well,' continued Arthur, 'do you think Santa gave us this snow because it's our first winter here and he wants to make our journey amazing.' I smiled and congratulated Arthur on such lovely thoughts. Not far down the road, motorists were stranded in Swyre, and others related car insurance nightmare tales of their car sliding uncontrollably into another car. One person's heaven can be another person's hell I thought. But then out of the despair and frustration presented by the snow to motorists in Swyre came compassion and hope as the local community provided shelter and a warm drink to complete strangers. Hearts were warmed and the power of Arthur's Santa was made known in the Bride Valley.

I'm writing this for an early December deadline so there might have been more heavy snow or even a 'white Christmas', but as I consider a message for January and the New Year I was inspired by other messages from local children. 'Do not be afraid' is the title of Burton Bradstock School's Christmas show. Also, at a recent assembly at Thorner's School a child in the youngest class told us all how she got cold at night, got out of bed and didn't know what to do, but then thought to snuggle up to her teddy, and get back into bed and was able to fall asleep. We had been talking about Advent and opening our hearts to Jesus and heavenly love being with us. It was a wonderful story of faith in action from a young child, trusting in the darkness that all would be well.

Could this be a way to enter the New Year, with hearts open to the possibility of a divine mysterious gift, or the kindness of strangers in times of despair, or faith in the darkness to keep going, trusting all will be well? We are blessed to be part of caring communities. We are blessed to have children in our communities that teach us much about being open hearted and open eyed to wonder and awe. 'Santa' (divine generosity), and love and hope is not just for Christmas; it's for every day. I pray that you will know that and be open to heavenly love every day of this New Year, so that even if you find

yourself in darkness and despair you will hear the message 'Do not be afraid' and have faith to know that all will be well and 'Santa wants to make your journey amazing'.

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

Funerals

Gillian Forbes, Litton Cheney, 18th November

Gordon Anderson, Litton Cheney, 22nd November

Malcolm Lawrence, Burton Bradstock, 20th December

A Big Thank You

Thank you to all who donated to the *Christmas Greetings* in the Bride Valley News. In total, £1185 was raised and half of it will be sent to the charity, Heart Response.

Helen Fry

Thanks To All Involved in Distributing The BVN

This monthly magazine doesn't drop through your letter box by magic! Behind the logistics of delivery of almost 1600 copies every month is an army of volunteers. We're very grateful to all those involved in ensuring that it reaches every house in the Bride Valley every month:

Delivery Drivers

A rota of drivers representing most of the Villages collect the many boxes from the central delivery point in Puncknowle and drive the length of the Bride Valley to drop off the allocation for each Village at agreed central locations for the local distributors.

Local Distribution Organisers

Each area then has its own detailed delivery plan, which often involves bagging up smaller numbers of copies (and sometimes adding inserts!).

Street or Small Area Deliverers

An army of street delivery 'posties' ensure that every house receives its copy ahead of the beginning of the relevant month.

As we begin a new year, we pay tribute to all those who are involved in these varied ways to ensure that information about the wide-ranging activities across the Valley communities reaches everyone who needs it.

THANK YOU!

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.



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

**'Do justice; love kindness; and walk humbly with God
(Micah 6:8)**

We are inspired by this verse from the bible and how it shapes all we do. We all believe that fairness, kindness and being humble are the key to flourishing for all. The links between this and our school values of Happiness, Friendship, Hope, Love, Courage, and Respect are clear.

What a busy end of term we have had at Burton Bradstock Primary! The term has flown past and, although we still have a couple of weeks left as I write this, I am still not quite sure how we will fit everything in!

Preparations continue for our Nativity this year which is to be held at Freshwater during the last week of term. Our version of the story includes the characters 'Doubt', 'Panic' and 'Fear' who, in a similar fashion to the 'Inside Out' films, play the role of those niggling thoughts inside the characters' heads. All of the classic nativity characters are portrayed, each with their own worries and reasons to be unsure about what's ahead. It's been great to see it come together over the past few weeks and I know it will be a huge success on the night!

Children in the Nest had a magical and special morning at Groves as part of their learning about celebrations. They had a wonderful time looking at all the Christmas decorations and lights. The tree netting machine was a hit and so was the hot



chocolate and biscuits in the Ivy house. A huge thank you to Charlie Groves and all his team for making us feel so welcome and festive.



Our school choir sang carols at Morrisons on Friday 29th November to raise money with our Friends of School, raising over £290. We also sang at the Bridport Christmas Cheer which was really well supported by our children and staff alike.

As I write this, we are preparing for our Christmas Fair although we have had to postpone due to Storm Darragh. Hopefully we will get to run it as there is so much planned and so much time and effort has already gone into it; I know the whole community are looking forward to this popular event. Thank you as always to our Friends of School who give up lots of their time behind the scenes to pull these events together.

Happy New Year from all at Burton Bradstock Primary.

Adam Gough
Headteacher



Thorners CE VA School

This Term we look forward to an action-packed term ahead! Currently planned are a *Stone Age Survival Workshop*, a *Puppet Theatre*, watching and making session for the younger children, *Dance and Yoga* sessions across the school as well as some *Clay Pigeon Shooting* Tuition for the older pupils to finish off the half term.

EV Car Charger

As many of you may now know we are delighted to confirm that our EV Car Charger is up and running at school! Readers of the BVN are most welcome to come and use the charger (out of school hours).

The charger is faster than typical domestic supply (22kw as opposed to 7kw) and is considerably cheaper (approx. 20-25% cheaper) than other local chargers. Crucially - it will be taking power directly from our own solar panels on the roof of school so when the sun is out the electric will be as renewable and local as it is possible to be! Details of the charger can be found here and it will operate via the "tap" e-charger app which can be uploaded onto your phone or use the QR code on the charger to get started.

<https://www.tapelectric.app/>

At present we will limit and control use to only local users so if you want to use the charger - please email me your details (full name, car registration and email address) and I will add you to our closed group of users. If you know of others locally who would like to make use of the charger at weekends and during the holidays - then please do forward their details and I can add them to the group of approved users. The charger is located in the school staff car park on the side of the Victorian classroom.

LATCH Solar Panels

I'm delighted to share the news that we were successful in our bid to Low Carbon Dorset for a grant to have solar panels installed on the south facing roof of LATCH.

LCD were impressed with both the details of our bid as well as the support of local residents and the school's own Eco-committee - all of whom wrote letters of support which made clear how much of a joined-up effort the application was. Huge thanks also to the LATCH committee who worked very hard to prepare all the details and projections as well as its sub-committee who worked to identify local contractors for the project. With the grant (as well as contributions from School, LATCH, Parish Council and other local sources), installation was possible over the summer holidays - with huge thanks to those on site for the works.

As you may know, LATCH is unique as a shared site between the school and the village, and it is fantastic to see this new addition which, alongside its current heat pump, will make it completely fossil-fuel free to run for large parts of the year. There will also be financial savings for both school and LATCH which will help us put more of our money into school resources for the children. Although we are a very old school and some of our site buildings go back to the 1700's, it is wonderful to show the children that we can make these new, green, upgrades and how they are possible because of

the lovely way school, village, LATCH, governors and pupils all worked together.

Swimming Pool

Huge thanks to The Litton Trust, Litton Cheney Parish Council and local residents who have responded so generously to our Swimming Pool Restoration Fund. As I write, alongside parent and school fundraising, we have now secured enough funds to be able to proceed in the spring so that the children will be swimming in a completely refurbished pool by the start of the summer. Thank you so much again to all who have made this possible for both this current group of children at the school and all those who will attend in the years ahead. The children cheered loudly when we said we had hit our target!

Happy New Year to all!

Mike Sitch
Headmaster

Our Night Sky in January 2025

Venus will be lighting up the evening sky until about 2030, followed closely by Saturn, while Jupiter continues to dominate the night, rising just before Orion and looking uncomfortably close to the horns of Taurus the Bull. He will not be setting until about 0430hrs, leaving Mars on its own in the night sky, and setting about 0800hrs just as the Sun rises in the East.



In my last article, I described Europa, one of the coldest environments in the Solar System. This month, we look at the other extreme of heat exploration. On a mission to “touch the Sun,” NASA's Parker Solar Probe became the first spacecraft to fly through the corona – the Sun's upper atmosphere – in 2021. With every orbit bringing it closer, the probe faces brutal heat and radiation to provide humanity with unprecedented observations, visiting the only star we can study up close.

NASA's Probe will revolutionize our understanding of the Sun. The spacecraft is gradually orbiting closer to the Sun's surface than any before it – well within the orbit of Mercury. Flying into the outermost part of the Sun's atmosphere for the first time, Parker will perform its unprecedented investigations. The Solar Probe and its instruments are protected from the

Sun by a 4.5-inch-thick (11.43 cm) carbon-composite shield, which can withstand temperatures reaching nearly 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,377 Celsius).

The Probe is collecting measurements and images to expand our knowledge of the origin and evolution of solar wind, while it also makes critical contributions to forecasting changes in the space environment that affect life and technology on Earth.

During its mission: -

- Parker will fly more than seven times closer to the Sun than any spacecraft.
- Over seven years, the spacecraft will complete 24 orbits around the Sun.
- At its closest approach, the spacecraft will come within about 3.9 million miles (6.2 million kilometres) of the Sun.

I hope to bring you details of this heroic spacecraft in later issues

Bill Turnill

The Bride Valley WI

The November Bride Valley WI meeting was held on a very rare, snowy evening, however many of our members braved the elements to come and listen to the story of Dorset Buttons. Natalie, one of our members gave us an insight into the history of the buttons. They were first commercially made in 1622 in Shaftesbury by Abraham Case and continued to be made until the mid 1800's. Natalie then demonstrated the process and our members produced a varied selection of buttons.

The Bride Valley WI skittles team has now completed all its round robin matches, with a clean sweep.

They look forward to playing against teams from slightly further afield in the next round after Christmas.

The weather yet again scuppered our Sunday morning walk.

We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month in Puncknowle village hall at 7:30pm. Contact us on bridevalleywi@gmail.com

The Bride Valley Book Club

The Power by Naomi Alderman

This novel caused quite a stir when first published a few years ago. It is set in an alternative present and fits into the dystopian fiction genre - it has elements shared with more famous novels such as 1984 and Brave New World plus countless others, such as Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, which follow in this tradition. This novel reverses the male v female dynamic when adolescent girls acquire an ability to channel a strong electrical current from their fingertips. This power can be used defensively or aggressively and it is passed on from teenagers to older women. As this phenomenon spreads globally, it results in civil unrest and in previously repressive (to women) parts of the world - full scale revolution occurs and women develop the upper hand politically and militarily. Alderman tells her story through a handful of key characters, all of them female except a young male photojournalist from Nigeria. Initially it seems that this enormous upheaval will be a force for positive social change but before long it becomes clear that this is a false hope. There was a mixed response from us as a group but it resulted in a lively discussion. Alderman was mentored by Margaret Atwood during her writing of The Power and we could detect her influence throughout.

Liz Pinfield

National Coastwatch

National Coastwatch are pleased to report a very good year. During the organisation's 30th year the Anniversary Flag (see September issue for local details) was successfully delivered to Trinity House, London and received by HRH The Princess Royal, the organisation's royal patron, in September. The objective of raising the NCI profile nationally was achieved through the use of various forms of novel transport both old and new on land and at sea being reported on radio, television and in the press. Photographs of the Anniversary Flag passing through West Dorset can be found on Facebook by searching NCI Lyme Bay. Follow the page now to view future postings as they occur.

Locally, NCI Lyme Bay, situated at Hive Beach, has reported a much quieter year with 8 incidents recorded, as at the end of November, compared to 15 for 2023. Unfortunately, it has not been a good year for wildlife with 3 of the reports to HMCG involving dead dolphins being washed ashore in the area.

NCI Lyme Bay's satellite station at Charmouth similarly reported a quieter year with 12 incidents, down from 22 last year.

There are concerns, though, for visitors to the coast being ill prepared and not taking into account the conditions at sea, especially the wind direction. An offshore breeze can give the impression of a calm sea, but the further offshore you go not only can the sea become rougher but the wind can blow water users further away from the beach. A number of the incidents at Charmouth have involved paddleboarders, kayakers and wind surfers. Fortunately, on these occasions all persons have been returned safely to the shore.

Training continues apace with many trainee Watchkeepers passing their assessment during the year. Anyone wishing to join the happy group of Watchkeepers can make contact via email on lyme.bay@nci.org.uk or send a text to Judy Clarke on 07786 354403.

Events in the Bride Valley and nearby

Havisham

Sunday 19th January 7.30pm

Burton Bradstock's first Dorset Artsreach event of 2025 is another fascinating insight into the world of Charles Dickens. Join us for a journey into the psyche of Miss Haversham from *Great Expectations*. Written and performed by Heather Alexander this offers a fresh perspective of Dickens' greatest work of Gothic characterisation, Miss Haversham from *Great Expectations*.

The logo for Artsreach, featuring the word "Artsreach" in a stylized, red, handwritten font with a red underline.

Miss Haversham is the embodiment of stuck trauma and malignant rage, but how did she arrive at this place and what are the tragic secrets of her calamitous past?

Heather Alexander is an award-winning actress, writer and producer with a prodigious list of stage, TV and film credits. She is also the creative lead of the Hastings Fringe Theatre Festival. More information about Heather and

her performances of Haversham can be found at heatheralexandershows.co.uk.

See posters around Burton Bradstock and on village notice boards elsewhere in the valley.

Accompanied children aged 12+ are welcome. Tickets are £12.50 for adults, £6 for U18's and £35 for a family group of 2 adults and up to 3 children. Available online via artsreach.co.uk where you will also find details of the entire Dorset Artsreach Spring programme. Or if you prefer call David Witham on 01308 897403. Licensed bar available (cash only).

BOJANGLES STRING QUARTET



LIGHT UP MIDWINTER BY COMING TO LATCH ON THURSDAY JAN 23rd

for an evening of music, comedy, storytelling and much more from the all-singing and dancing string quartet **BOJANGLES** (see www.Bojangles.org)

Litton Cheney Community Hall Thursday 23rd Jan 7.30pm

Tickets from Patricia 07799 612941 or on-line from Artsreach.co.uk.

Adults £12.50, <18s £6.00. Family (2 adults +2) £32.00, Suitable for >14yrs

Cash Bar open 7.00pm.

The West Dorset Singers' next concert

The West Dorset Singers present a concert of contrasting choral music in St Swithun's Church, Bridport on 25 January.

Mendelssohn's 'Hymn of Praise'

dates from 1840 and opens with the resounding "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the choir follows this instruction. Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens' was written a little later in 1889 by the composer of 'Jerusalem'. Recognised as "one of the outstanding English choral works", it's splendidly Victorian and featured in Kate and William's wedding in Westminster Abbey in 2011. The completely contrasting third piece, Poulenc's 'Gloria', dates from 1961. Poulenc was both devout Catholic and dedicatedly sinful party-animal. These didn't sit well together in the church's eyes and his music is similarly full of contrasts. He sincerely hoped his compositions might speed his final journey to heaven but worried that it might be to hell. As a part monk, part playboy, his music mixes deep spirituality with the sounds of jazzy dance hall bands. The choir, under its Musical Director Matt Kingston, is accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists and the concert starts at 7pm. Tickets (£15, u18s free) are available from Goadsby Estate Agents in Bridport and on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds



Mendelssohn
HYMN OF PRAISE

Parry
BLEST PAIR OF SIRENS

Poulenc
GLORIA

West Dorset Singers

St Swithun's Church Bridport
7.00pm Saturday 25th January
Tickets £15 (under 18s free) from Goadsby
or www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds

Reg Charity: 1125032
Musical Director
Matt Kingston

Bride Valley Gardening Club

What's in a name.....?

Although we won't be meeting together until March, I'm sure many members will be making the most of any decent weather to be out in their gardens, maybe lingering to admire an early snowdrop or even wondering about the name of something.



Do you know the names of the plants in your garden? If you do, or think you do, are they the names you learnt as a child – a local name probably or one handed down by friend or family? If you don't, where do you turn to find out? I remember the insignificant rectangle of garden from my own childhood. A narrow border on each side, grass between and a path down the middle: the narrow beds filled with blocks of just a few varieties and colourful only in summer. I picked up the names – rose, daisy, daffodil but not a lot more, reluctant to be too inquisitive in case there was work to be done!

It was only when we had our own overgrown patch that I discovered the diversity of plants about which I knew next to nothing. I don't know how it came to be in my possession but I became the proud owner of a book that was to become my plant 'bible'. 45 years later and on to my second well-thumbed copy of the Reader's Digest Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants and Flowers (still available, used) it is still my desert island winner. With it I set about identifying the humble assortment of plants discovered beneath the weeds. Looking at the pictures, trying to match them up opened a whole new fascinating world – mostly of Latin! Thousands of plants including ferns, mosses, lichens etc have been given Latin based names since in the 18th century the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus pioneered a botanical naming system. So, self-taught and pronouncing many of them incorrectly I began to learn botanical names. I have never regretted learning the names this way rather than adopting the more frequently used common names which so easily lead to confusion.

As I've progressed, both in experience and in study it has stood me in good stead. A common response is often “Oh I can't be doing with all those fancy names” and people often think of it as showing off but it is the only way we can be sure we're talking about the same thing. In any country, from books to nurserymen the same botanical name identifies the same plant. For instance the Harebell is known in Scotland as the Bluebell (both names refer to *Campanula rotundifolia*) and some, such as *Arum maculatum* have as many as 90 common names recorded – how confusing that is.

So next time you identify a plant or examine a plant label, read the botanical name as well. Don't be put off, learn its proper name - and if you remember it, try it out on your friends!

Best wishes for the New Year everyone, and happy gardening.

Ali (balletboots@live.com)

Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett
Greenways, Shipton Gorge
01308 787278 richardhewlett419@gmail.com
Village web-site: www.shiptongorge.org.uk



Welcome to our village diary

Just search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to:

<https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/> You will be able to find out all that's going on in the village from the Village Society, the New Inn/New Inn Support, the Village Hall, Shipton Gorge Heritage, the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and other event organisers.

St Martin's Church

January Floodlight Sponsors:

*Doreen for all those with a January birthday
Terry Hunt for his birthday on 24th
Anne Hunt for her birthday on 27th
In loving memory of Gary Warren
For dear friends Bob & Jean, May the year ahead
bring you health and happiness
Anne Crowe in memory of her Mum and Dad
Lesley Garner in memory of her mother Dorothy,
who would have been 94 on 13th.*

Thank you to our generous sponsors for lighting up the church this month. If you have any special occasion coming up in February why not light up the church? For a suggested donation of £5 you can have your occasion mentioned in the BVN and on posters on the notice board... Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

Dates to note:

Breakfast Club	12 th January at 9.30am
Holy Communion	26 th January at 11.00am

Village Hall

Artsreach presents



Luke Wright - Joy

Sunday 2nd February 2025,
Shipton Gorge Village Hall 7.30pm

Over twenty-five years, Luke Wright has built up a reputation for being one of Britain's most popular live poets, winning an unprecedented four Saboteur Awards, a Stage Award, and a Fringe First. He's sold out shows across the world and regularly tours with John Cooper Clarke and The Libertines. Following the smash hit success of his *Silver Jubilee* show ("the best thing he's done and that's saying something." Telegraph) Luke Wright returns with a new set of poems that get to grips with the idea of JOY. Is it possible, as a 42-year-old, to feel pure unbridled happiness, and what does it look like?

The French novelist Henry de Montherlant said that "happiness writes white" but Wright's not exactly starting with a blank page. The poet writes urgently and warmly about family, fatherhood, and the joy of language itself. We might have to go down to come up, but we'll get there in the end. Come let a little joy into your life with a raconteur and wordsmith at the top of his game. Touring Dorset with Artsreach, the county's rural arts charity. Suitable 14+

"A winning combination of honesty, humour, ire and wonder. He is at the peak of his powers." ★★★★★

The Stage

Tickets £13, £7 (u18s)

Tickets available via Ticket Source at www.artsreach.co.uk / from Mark on 01308 897649

Please note: A pre-event supper will be available at the New Inn, Shipton Gorge – 5.00pm–7.00pm, a 5 minute walk from the venue – please book direct on 01308 897302.

Drop-in Café at the Village Hall

The Café re-opens on Friday 10th January 2025, 10.30am-12.30pm and will welcome you twice a month for three months. Drop in for free hot drinks and a chat in a warm, welcoming space,

The dates for your diary are:

10th and 24th January, 14th and 28th February and 14th and 28th March – 10.30am-12.30pm.

Supported by the Parish Council, the Village Society and a private donation.

Xmas Super Draw

December 2024 Xmas Super Draw 100 Club results:

1 st	132	£100	Andrea Larcombe
2 nd	80	£25	Sally Parker
3 rd	71	£20	Table Tennis Club
4 th	138	£15	Caroline Raybould
5 th	63	£10	Anne Crowe

Congratulations to all winners

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Hope you all had a good Christmas – and we wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the December draw was Yen Bradshaw – congratulations Yen – hope you enjoyed your prize.

Saunders Richardson Wood

Despite the weather, a group of us planted up some trees and saplings into the wood and along the hedge line as part of National Tree Planting week. Due to the mild conditions a separate order of bare rooted ones was delayed, but they have now arrived and conditions and manpower permitting, we are hoping to get these planted up. Look out for posters and notices for any dates when we will be in the wood – perhaps come along and help and possibly work off the excesses of the Christmas season.



Shipton Gorge Orchard

Any apples not picked will be food for the wildlife in the orchard. A patch in the top border has been cleared of Rosebay willowherb and wildflower seeds

have been scattered. Hedges have had a bit of a trim to prevent them damaging the fruit trees. We have asked our local expert, David Squirrell, to hold a fruit tree pruning workshop in the Orchard on **Monday 13th January at 11.30am** – if weather lets us down, then we will try again the following Monday at the same time. All Shipton Gorge residents are welcome, just come prepared with gloves and your secateurs clean and sharpened.

Thanks to everyone who braved the stormy weather and came along to the Pre-Christmas get together – we started off the festive season with some lovely food and great company. It was also an opportunity for the Rev'd Andrew Rawding and his family to say hello to residents of the village.



A date for your diary, **Friday 17th January, Twelvey Night Wassailing**. Starting at 4.30pm in the Village Hall, with Wyld Morris dancers, toasting marshmallows and toast around a fire pit, then onto the Orchard for the Wassail with cider, toast and noisy instruments to ward off bad spirits and to ensure a fruitful crop of apples. Everyone welcome.

If you are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe on 07393 214635 or email annecrowe2016@hotmail.com

Details as usual on our website:

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 Tel: 01308 482313
Village web-site www.littoncheney.org.uk



St Mary's Church – for January

Writing this well before Christmas makes it difficult to report on events - that the church looked splendid and the music was wonderful are beyond question. A big thank you to everyone who decorated the church, prepared the services, lit many candles, rang the bells, provided warming refreshments and floodlit the church for many nights over the holiday period. May the New Year be peaceful for us all.

Carol Singing

Led by members of St Mary's church choir, carol singing around the village, in aid of Julia's House Childrens' Hospice, took place before Christmas. The results of the collection will be made known in February's BVN. Grateful thanks to Paul Cheater and the choir for leading us on this joyous traditional event.

Litton Cheney Parish Council

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th January, 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of LATCH when the PC will determine the village precept. We will also officially welcome our new Clerk, Debbie Hollings, who takes over from our sadly departing Clerk, Lucy Beasley. Thanks, Lucy.

Village Christmas Tree

Thank you to the merry band of festive folk, gnomes and elves, who erected the village Christmas tree at the Triangle, festooned it with lights and decorations and brought Christmas for all just a little bit closer. Happy New Year to all!

Litton Cheney Village Fete

At the time of going to press, we are happy to announce that plans are being put in place for a Village Fete in 2025, organised via a partnership of the LATCH committee and Thorner's School Association. Date and more details in February's BVN. Thank you LATCH and TSA for stepping up to the plate.

Litter Pick – Our grateful thanks to those valiant souls who armed with litter pickers, gloves and bag went in search of litter, found it and bagged it.

Full Fibre Update

Not a great deal to report this past month, Openreach did finally complete an installation that had been outstanding for a few months through complications around digging a trench across a well-used road, but, apart from that, fairly quiet.

We would like to remind those who signed up for full fibre via the voucher scheme and who have not yet switched over, then you might want to do so as soon as possible. By signing up to the scheme you have committed to making the switch. Should you not do so, then Openreach may enforce the terms of the voucher scheme.

You do not have to stay with your current provider and you may find that if you switch, your new provider may well buy out the remainder of your existing contract. For those who would like Full Fibre but are being told it is unavailable to you, please get in contact with me and I will investigate on your behalf. robertmatthewslcpc@gmail.com

Litton's Seven Benchmarks

Rome has its seven hills – Litton Cheney has its seven benchmarks, and in these early months of 2025 when resolutions are made, if you fully intend to be more active then our very own Mr Motivator aka Quentin Blacke has come up with a “tour” that if completed will not only get you sitting on all seven of the village's community benches, but offer a grand tour of the village as well. For details visit the home page of the village website – littoncheney.org.uk

What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in January

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays	3.30 – 4.30	Big Q (term time only)
Tuesdays	4.45 – 5.45	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)
Wednesdays	4.45 – 5.45	Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 482661 or Paul Kingston 482162)
	7.00	Mindful Movement Jane Hutchins (07882 527697)
Thursdays	9.15 – 11.15	First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)

OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday 14 th	7.30	Parish Council (in Meeting Room)
Thursday 16 th	7.00 – 9.00	Bride Valley W.I.
Monday 20 th	7.00	Benefice Safeguarding Training
Thursday 23 rd	7.30	Artsreach production - Bojangles

COMING UP.....

Thursday 6th February – 7.30 Film Night “The Holdovers”

Tuesday 18th February – 11.00 Artsreach production for children

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 – contact me to book a date.

Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 wtlitton@gmail.com

BRIDE VALLEY FILMS Next films at Litton Cheney Community Hall.

Our next film will be on THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY (2025)

THE HOLDOVERS *‘excellent acting, direction and cinematography’*

From acclaimed director Alexander Payne, *The Holdovers* follows a curmudgeonly instructor (**Paul Giamatti**) at a New England prep school who is forced to remain on campus during the holiday break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go. Eventually, he forms an unlikely bond with one of them, a damaged, brainy troublemaker (newcomer **Dominic Sessa**), and the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in Vietnam (**Da'Vine Joy Randolph**).

Cert.15 2hrs 13”

Doors Open: 7.00 p.m. Films start 7.30 p.m. TICKETS: £5.00 (to include a glass of wine) Tickets in advance from: Sally Dyke 482752, Elizabeth Kingston 482162, Bella Spurrier 482367 or on the door. (All nos. 01308)

On **THURSDAY 6 MARCH** we are hoping to show...

THE CRITIC Set in 1930's London, *The Critic* is a thrilling tale of ambition, blackmail, and desire with a dazzling anti-hero at its heart. When the most

feared and vicious theatre critic in town Jimmy Erskine (**Ian McKellen**) finds himself suddenly in the cross hairs of the Daily Chronicle's new owner, he strikes a Faustian pact with struggling actress Nina Land (**Gemma Arterton**) who is desperate to win his favour.

More films on 3rd April and possibly 1st May.

Look out for further details on posters, on the website and in the BVN.

Bride Valley Bingo Fundraising Group

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the Village Bingo at LATCH on November 29th to raise money for RSPCA Taylors Rehoming at Kingston Maurward. We were delighted to be able to hand over proceeds of £855.00. Our next bingo will be on FRIDAY 11TH APRIL. Also, thanks to the "A Team" - my wonderful and loyal co-hosts; without these wonderful people the bingo events wouldn't happen. They are the lynchpins of the whole operation. Thank you all. Jackie Horsley. Village Correspondent's Note - Thank you, Jackie, for your wonderful fundraising efforts.

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

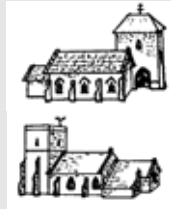
Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

liz@ruddle.org.uk Tel: 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

Jill.neill@live.co.uk Tel 01308 897479

Village website: <https://puncknowle.net>



Plough Sunday

On Sunday 12th January we will be celebrating Plough Sunday. It will be held in the Grain Store at The Manor Farm in Puncknowle at 3.00pm. There will be signposts to it in the village. This is an old tradition of blessing the plough at the start of the year. It will be a time for us to start the new year afresh after Christmas. All are welcome whether or not you plough the fields. Warm clothing is advised.

Candlemas

On Thursday 6th February at 7pm we will be holding a service for Candlemas in Puncknowle Church. This is a quiet candlelit service of meditation and music to celebrate “Christ – the light of the world”. Everyone is welcome to join us, and we hope at least two representatives from each parish in the joint Benefice will be able to attend. It will be a good time to all come together, and there will be refreshments afterwards at The Crown Inn

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in January		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	10.00am - 11.00am	Yoga Contact Francesca on 07990 514948 or by email yoga@francescayogini.com
Mondays	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
Wednesdays	10.00am - 12.00noon	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Wednesdays	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Table Tennis Contact Eonne on 07891 210739
OTHER EVENTS		
Tuesday 7th	7.30pm - 10.00pm	Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-2/
Thursday 9th	7.00pm - 10.30pm	Whist Drive Contact Jenny on 01308 897863
Wednesday 15th	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning Community Event Feedback from Housing Needs Survey Open to the Public. More information https://puncknowle.net/neighbourhood-plan/
Tuesday 21 st	1.00pm - 2.30pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492

Thursday 23rd	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Neighbourhood Planning Meeting Open to the Public. More information: https://puncknowle.net/neighbourhood-plan/
Monday 27 th	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Benefice Meeting
Friday 31st	10.00pm – 12.30pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987

Housing Needs Survey Results

Puncknowle (West Bexington) and Swyre Parish Council invite you to hear the results of the recent Housing Needs Survey at a public meeting on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00pm in Puncknowle Village Hall. Dorset Community Action will give a summary of the results and lead a discussion on what this might mean for our parishes. Our Dorset Councillor will also be in attendance.

Happy New Year -we look forward to seeing you on the 15th of January.

West Dorset Beekeeping Association

For 132 years members of West Dorset Beekeeping Association have been meeting to share their craft. The charity draws its members from across West Dorset and provides free advice and support regarding all bee-related queries to members and the general public. In the spring and summer members of the association are regularly called on to collect swarms and identify bee colonies that appear in local gardens. It's surprising where they choose to settle ... air bricks, post boxes, nest boxes, compost bins and chimneys are all popular.

The association has its own teaching apiary in Netherbury. Student beekeepers help to look after the bees and the honey harvest is sold to raise funds to maintain the colonies and provide equipment. There are bee-suits available to loan and both full members and friends of the association are free to visit when the apiary is open. In fact everything is provided except for wellingtons and a pair of rubber gloves! A monthly E-newsletter keeps everyone informed regarding the club events.

A key part of the club is the promotion and sharing of knowledge. Good beekeepers never stop learning and the bees always have something new to share. If you are looking for a new hobby the WDBKA annual course for new beekeepers is a popular, cost effective route into beekeeping. The next course is due to start on 4th February 2025. Seven evening theory meetings at the Christian Fellowship Hall in Bridport are followed by three tutored sessions in the club apiary. Further details can be found on the club website www.westdorsetbees.org.uk, West Dorset Beekeepers Facebook page, or by contacting Carole Brown secwestdorsetbees@gmail.com 01308 456210

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club

(Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy)

Puncknowle Village Hall 12.30om for 1.00pm

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

Lunches cost £6

January 21st: Lamb Tagine with Rice
Surprise Pudding

Future dates 2025

February 18th: Lancashire Hotpot with dumplings, Surprise Pudding to follow

March 18th: Gammon with Pineapple, Surprise Pudding to follow

***All meals include fruit juice to start and cheese and biscuits with tea
or coffee***

Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Rebecca Grove
01308 482882 bvn@longbredy.org.uk
Village web-site: www.longbredy.org.uk



Long Bredy 100 Club November Results

£30.00	No. 108	J. Greener
£15.00	No. 140	L. Hemsley
£5.00	No. 124	R. Maltby

Thank you to everyone for your support of the 100 Club during 2024. There are three cash prizes a month with a super draw in December. If you wish to continue to support the 100 Club, please re-join by Wednesday 15th January 2025. For further details contact Ruth Cullingford.

Church news

At the end of November, a group of thirteen ringers and their friends from the Purbecks visited St Peter's Church during their ringers outing. Along with rounds and call changes, they rang methods including Winchester Place, Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire, Plain Hunt

Coming up in January ...

Coffee Break

January Coffee Break will take place on **Saturday 11th January** from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the village hall.

The coffee breaks during 2024 have raised over **£1,545.00** for specific causes including the Poppy Appeal, the Parish Council, the village hall and Church. The remaining money raised will be given to local good causes.

As a thank you for continuing to support us January coffee break will be “on the house”. No donations. Come for a catch up by the fire and enjoy coffee and refreshments. Coffee Breaks are for anyone/any group to run either for

a particular charity or if you would like to help with this village event, the aim of which is not to fund raise every month, but to provide an opportunity for people to come together and keep a village spirit going. Please contact Ruth Cullingford.

Plough Sunday

This will take place on **Sunday, 12th January** at 3.00pm at Puncknowle Manor Farm Grain Store. Everyone is welcome to come and think about the coming year as the community work for and on the land. Refreshments will be available after.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Church throughout the past year. Wishing you a peaceful New Year.

Come Along Inn

Start 2025 the right way with a visit to 'The Come Along Inn' on **Friday, 17th January** from 5.30pm to 9.00pm in the village hall. Hot supper available along with a warm welcome.

Could you Write for the BVN?

We would like to extend our coverage of the Bride Valley into both more general and specific topics, and if you could contribute please let the editor know or contact your local village correspondent. Contributions between 250 and 300 words please, and we can include a picture of two as well. Now is the chance to get into print!

***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.*

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton
patgrafton43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264
Village web-site: www.burtonbradstockvillage.org.



Burton Coffee Mates

Burton Coffee Mates meet in the church on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30am-12noon. 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.

If you would like more information, please call Pauline. (898327)

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. We start the new season on Tuesday 3rd September. For more information, please contact Kathy on 01308 485626.

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 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 12.00noon and all are welcome.

Wed 15th Jan Village Hall Trust (Bacon Rolls)

Wed 12th Feb Village Society

Burton Bradstock Films

'The Holdovers' will show on 31st January. From acclaimed director Alexander Payne, the story following a curmudgeonly instructor (Paul Giamatti) at a New England prep school who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go.

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. This film will also be shown at Litton Cheney on 6th February.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club”

December 2024 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1st	£69.20	No 12:	Mr Derek Harrison
2nd	£34.60	No 70:	Mrs Sharron Bartlett
3rd	£17.30	No 24:	Mr Keith Ellis

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the January 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £12 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SLO080

Burton Bradstock Village Society

May we start by wishing all readers a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

At the start of Advent, the Society held an event to celebrate with the lighting of the Christmas Tree led by the Rector. With mulled wine, Stollen Cake, live music and some Carols, this was one of the most successful of these events so far. A big thank you to all who came and were involved.

A week later we had a stall at the Christmas Market where items made by members were sold in aid of Society Funds. This raised several hundred pounds and a special thanks to everyone who contributed.

As the year starts, the committee are planning the events for the year. The 2025-26 speakers programme, Plant & Cake Sale, the Flower & Produce Show and the outing as well as opportunities for new events. All of these we will advertise in the Newsletters, BVN the website and Facebook.

Mentioning the Flower & Produce Show, the subjects for the photography classes are “The Beauty of Trees” and “Reflections”. This will give everyone plenty of time to come up with something good. We will keep you in suspense on the limerick title while we come up with a pertinent subject for 2025.

Change of dates for your Diaries. For administrative reasons the dates of the **AGM & Plant & Cake Sale have been changed from those published in your programmes to 16th & 17th May respectively.** This will be further advertised nearer the time.

Friday 10th January, Village Society talk, “My Life & Times”, speaker John Stockley. Growing up in post war Dorset as a man of mixed parentage, John describes with humour and pathos his childhood and many careers including stories of his time as a Publican. Doors open at 7.00pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your friends.

January Supper Club

Trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas and all good wishes for 2025.

For those of you that don't know about the Supper Club, it is held USUALLY on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Bridport and West Dorset golf club, where a goodly crowd of villagers (usually between 40-50 of us) meet for a two-course meal. The cost at the moment is £21.

Anyone wishing to come along, please give me a ring and I can add your name to the list.

Mags Chue
07790811905

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Happy New Year to all our customers. There is much on offer through the Library service and Libraries West's large stock of books and e-services. New books are being added to our stock regularly so check out our 'New to the Library' shelf.

Would you like help with your tablet, laptop or phone? You can book a free session with our Digital Champion by calling 01305 221048 (mornings).

Our stock of jigsaws is very well used so come and see the selection. They are free to borrow.

Burton Bradstock Community Library opening times are:

Monday 2.00pm-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm-4.00pm

Note: We will be closed on New Year's Day.

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com

www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

Sue Brown

Chairman of Trustees

Burton Bradstock WI



I'd like to start by wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Having duly celebrated the end of last year with a delicious Christmas Lunch at Bridport Golf Club, a Christmas shopping trip to Haskins Garden Centre and a lively Christmas Party we now need to get down to some serious business !

Our first meeting of the New Year is when we always consider the short-list of Resolutions that have been agreed by the National Federation and each member then votes for the one which they would like to see go forward for further action.

The list of four is varied this year and cover important issues that need to be addressed:

- increasing the training of people to deliver CPR and to increase the number of defibrillators in communities
- the recycling or repair of clothing to reduce excess clothing production which has an adverse effect on the environment

- for the Secretary of State for Health to examine all areas of health and wellbeing that are affected by incontinence issues
- to eliminate landfill of medication packaging by increasing collection points for recycling and for manufacturers to consider alternative packaging.

It will be interesting to see how the voting goes.

I am sure our members will have made some New Years Resolutions of their own – eat less, exercise more? So what better way to begin our meeting on 14th January with a session of Chair Yoga to get us off to a good start and to help us on our way! Barbara Cohen will be leading us, so hopefully we will be encouraged to keep up the good work and feel the benefit. Our meeting starts at 2.15pm if you would like to join us!

Janet Pearson
01308 898346

Burton Bradstock Greenfingers Club

A Very Happy New Year to all.

Here's to 2025 being a wonderful year of gardening!

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th January, when Joy Michaud from *Sea Spring Seeds*, West Bexington will speak on 'Choosing the Right Variety'. Please remember any spare plants (proceeds to Weldmar Hospice). As always, there'll be refreshments & a raffle! Entry: £1



Cilla's January Checklist – Sow slowest growing annuals (e.g., petunias, impatiens, begonias and salvias) in modules, place somewhere warm to germinate. Protect camellia flowers from frost with fleece. Sow chillies in a heated propagator. Sow early carrot varieties, leeks, onions & summer cauliflowers under cover. Continue to winter prune apples and pears. Begin chitting (encouraging to sprout) first-early seed potatoes by standing them upright in an egg box in a cool, light place, they'll be ready to plant out in about six weeks. Use cloches to warm the soil for early seed sowing. Continue to ensure that birds have food and water, especially in frozen conditions.

AVAST BEHIND

The true story of Treasure Island - with kind permission of Vicky Orman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY - 2.30PM & 7.30PM

**BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE
HALL**

**BAR - EVENING PERFORMANCES ONLY
ICE CREAM, RAFFLE**

ADULTS £10 UNDER 16'S £5

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 8th JANUARY 2025

FROM BURTON BRADSTOCK POST OFFICE OR THE BOX OFFICE

ON 01308 898707.

**FOR MORE INFO OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED OR CAN
OFFER HELP, PLEASE CONTACT CAROLE HOUGHTON PRODUCER AND
CO-DIRECTOR ON 01308 898521 or 07764523182**

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

All residents are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings where there is always an opportunity on the agenda for you to bring any issues to our attention and express your views. All agendas and minutes are posted on our website www.burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk

As most residents are already aware, the playing fields in the village have a "dogs on leads" policy and has done for a very long time. The new signage put up is a reminder, especially to people visiting. As a council we are considering putting the same policy in place in the orchard, adjacent to the main Corncrake area.

Within this area, is an area for children, whether they be local or visiting on holiday. The village school also use this area for Forest School, which is in



their outdoor curriculum. For the safety of all children that use that area, we are considering that area to be part of the "dogs on leads" policy. This is to help prevent dog fouling where children play and also dogs approaching and jumping at children whilst playing and exploring the outdoors. We may look into fencing the area off if the new policy doesn't make a difference.

Speed Limits

After having our applications for a Pedestrian Crossing and Speed Indicator Device's turned down, we have been informed by Dorset Council we may meet the criteria of 20mph calming measures in the village. Please visit www.burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk to view a map of proposed areas or email clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk for further information.

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Philip Williams
pw@bridehead.com Tel: 01308 482232
Village website: <http://www.littlebredy.com>



There is a development under way at the east end of the village which will result in what is probably the most revolutionary house to be built in Littlebredy for over 200 years. Those passing along the road past the cricket ground will have become used to the levelled site at the foot of the Valley of Stones where Basket Hill Cottage (formerly the Longstaffs' home) used to stand. During December, groundworking there began, and Messrs. Howsons staff and machines will be present for some weeks. Thereafter, the new build will be of a modern Structural Insulated Panel design to be provided and erected by a firm called Ecologic, Ltd., and the result will be a real novelty to behold. We wish Bernie and Gina Lozowski with little Niko well as they watch the project unfold and then begin to move into the new house sometime later this year.

As in last month's message, we wish a very happy, prosperous and fulfilling 2025 to all readers of the BVN, whether in Littlebredy or from further afield.

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

The Rectory,
St James the Least.



My dear Nephew Darren,

Since you were the one to ask this parishioner of yours to act as PCC secretary, you have no reason to complain about the minutes of meetings she produces. You should never let anyone act as a secretary unless they cannot speak English or are hard of hearing, and preferably, both. The more significant the committee and the more contentious the issues being debated, the more you should nobly put yourself forward both to chair the meeting and take the minutes. In the majority of cases, that will spare the other members that awkward moment when you ask for a volunteer, and they all feel the sudden need to stare at their feet.

If you act as secretary, then you can be certain that accounts of what took place will only be what you had wanted to happen and that the decisions taken will be what you had already decided before discussions started. Any inconvenient observations from other committee members can be omitted entirely.

Admittedly, the more observant may notice that your accounts of the meeting may not wholly agree with their recollections, but the skill of being a secretary is not to produce the minutes of the previous meeting until the day before the next one. This will mean

that the great majority will have long forgotten what actually *did* happen two months previously, and that many will not have had the time to read them anyway and will avoid having to admit that fact by passing them.

Only the deeply committed will want to pursue apparent discrepancies. In that case, confess to the meeting that your hand-written notes were accidentally left on a bus and so you can no longer check the accuracy of what you have written. As a way of appearing helpful, you could even give the person challenging you the bus route number and time of day you travelled. Further challenges will rally the rest of the committee to your side, and soon someone will suggest you proceed to the next item on the agenda. Since you are also the chairman, you naturally bow to their request.

Just in the way that church rotas bear no resemblance to the people who actually turn up to do the jobs, minutes of meetings need not bear too much resemblance to what actually happened, especially if what did happen is inconvenient for you.

After all, democracy is all very well - provided a benign dictator is in overall control.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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- Office & Holiday Let Cleaning
- End of Tenancy Cleaning
- Dog Walking & Pet Sitting
- Administration Support



I have over 16 years of adult care experience supporting a range of individuals with varying health & social care needs. Being qualified to NVQ/ Diploma levels 2, 3, and 5 and having spent almost ten years working as a Registered Care Manager within both Residential & Home Care settings. I have a further 50+ adult care, lifestyle, and accommodation management related courses to which support me to offer you the above quality and professional services.

Being fully insured, referenced, and DBS checked: Please contact me for a free no obligation information pack issued via post or email and/ or a free informal home visit to discuss your home support needs.

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bride valley cleaning

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- * STEAM CLEANING
- * "REACH AND WASH" WINDOW CLEANING
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serving Bridport and the surrounding area



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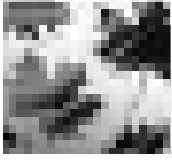
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Burton Bradstock	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church	8.00am HC
Litton Cheney	9.30am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Matins	9.30am Morning Worship
Swyre	3.00pm Epiphany Carol Service		11.00am Holy Communion	
Puncknowle	11.00am Morning Praise	9.30am Holy Communion 3.00pm Benefice Plough Sunday service at Puncknowle Manor Barn		11.00am Café Church
Shipton Gorge		9.30am Breakfast Church		11.00am Holy Communion
Long Bredy	11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Worship	
Littlebredy		11.00am Holy Communion		11.00am Morning Worship
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion		10.00am Family Praise
Portesham		10.00am Family Praise	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am BCP
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	11.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Family Praise	
8th January Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock 11:30am				

