

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



February 2025

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

Contents

From the Rectory	4	Long Bredy	27
Valley Notes	7	Burton Bradstock	29
Shipton Gorge	17	Littlebredy	37
Litton Cheney	21	St James the Least	38
Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington	24	Services in the Valley	56

March 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 7th February for the March 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 bvsn.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.

Cover picture kindly provided by Gill Mayo, for details see later in the magazine!

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,

I decided to go on a 'Prayer Run' after a day imprisoned by emails. I consulted the map, got trainers, shorts, jacket, gloves and hat on, and headed for the sea. The sun was shining. It was high tide. Chesil Beach stretched out in front of me and lured me. Running on the shingle I prayed for all those who were finding this New Year hard-going, like every step of every day was exhausting. I headed inland to find softer ground and a path which became mud and flood, and I prayed for all those looking for direction and safety, wading through grief and loss, flooded with tears. Through stiles and gates, then faced with a lake, I was back on the unforgiving beach, then comforted by a car park, until I turned north, and started up the hill. I prayed for all those who even after temporary relief were finding life an uphill struggle.

I leaned into the hill and discovered 'Labour-in-Vain' lane. My heart sank, but my determination rose, and I prayed for all those feeling undervalued and taken for granted. As I ran, 'Marco Polo' cheered me on. A robin emerged in the hedgerow, red breast forward, inspiring me on with a flurry of flight, until I reached a tree laden with orange marker buoys. I gave thanks for the guidance and prayed for victims of raging seas and tsunamis. I found the way to a path through a field of root vegetables. Were they turnips? I didn't know. But they were purple, and I remembered Advent, looked forward to Lent, and gave thanks for sacrificial love.

As I ran from field to lane, I could hear the waves pushing me forward. The sun was setting behind me. The gravitational pull of the moon was in front of me. I leaned into another hill and found myself in paradise: blue sky above, green rolling fields left and right, and I prayed for all who had died recently. I reached the brow of the hill and saw endless possibilities as the landscape extended towards Portland and beyond. I prayed for the Chesil churches and turned left. Abbotsbury Hill welcomed me into her arms. Motorists slowed to match my laboured breathing as I prayed for all those struggling with the daily grind of commuting to and from work, before I turned again, and slid, literally on snow and ice, into the Bride Valley. 'Private'. 'Private'. Notices on gateways prompted prayers for all those who felt excluded in our communities. A deer ran to my left. A high wire fence appeared on my right. I prayed for all those behind barbed wire, in prisons, in refugee camps. Then

I stopped. I found a wood, and a gate. I followed a dark wet path. A bridge over a brook. Along a snake of dead decaying leaves. Under a canopy of sleeping trees. Over another bridge. Into a snow covered clearing; until I found it. The King of Love welcomed me with outstretched arms, in this bleak mid-winter. I reached into my pocket and took out some fruit loaf. I unwrapped it, broke it and gave thanks: 'Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer.' I chewed. My weary muscles rejoiced: 'It will become for us the bread of life.' I reached into my other pocket for the 'fruit shoot' bottle. 'Blessed are you Lord God of



all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer.' I drank. I was revived: 'It will become for us the cup of salvation.' I stretched out one hand to the fading sunlight in the west; the other to the moon in the east. I triangulated myself, in holy communion with creation, and I prayed for love and for joy and for peace in the Bride Valley in this New Year. Then I left the King of Love, reigning over ruins, and I ran towards the safety of darkness, and a route illuminated by puddles and shadows, reflecting on the words of a ninety-year-old from the valley below: 'You can pray as much as you want but nothing will change without humans.'

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

Funeral: Malcolm Lawrence at Burton Bradstock 20th December

World Day of Prayer (A Women Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement)

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation for everyone which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast, the service begins with the writing country and theme being chosen a number of years earlier. This year, you are invited to gather St Swithun's Church on Friday 7th March to celebrate with the people of The Cook Islands for an hour of joy. Allington 10.30am until 11.30am on Friday 7th March 2025. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Sue Bird, on behalf of the Bridport World Day of Prayer Group

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.

All the children have come back to school well rested after the Christmas break. Since we have returned, we have started new topics in our classes and we are looking forward to our Christingle service and visiting pantomime at the end of the month.

This year, we are fundraising for Weldmar Hospicecare through their Stampede by the Sea project which will see a herd of elephants appear along the Jurassic coast! We have been decorating our own elephant with a mural of our school and church and I look forward to sharing pictures of the finished design in my next article.



Before the holiday we held our Nativity performance at Freshwater. It was a magical evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by our whole school community. We told a version of the Christmas Story imagining that the emotions, 'Fear', 'Panic' and 'Doubt' were able to speak to the different characters. The children did themselves and the school proud with amazing singing, dancing and acting shown by all.

*Adam Gough
Headteacher*



Thorners CE VA School

Although we have only been back a week, the recent flurries of snow sent the children giddy with excitement - at both the chance to play out in the cold weather and the possibility of a snow day at home! As it proved, school was able to remain open as usual

and many thanks to parents and teachers for coming in through some very difficult driving conditions.

The children have begun term with the usual mix of new Christmas gifts on show - ranging from new coats and bags to smart new shoes and shiny pencil cases. It is clear all had a lovely time at home with parents and extended family and returned ready for a short but busy half term. Our trip to church at the start of term went well with a set of new bell ringers trying their hand up the tower for the first time and also we welcomed the chance to sing and perform some new hymns.

Our working party in our wildlife area were brilliant and powered on despite the sub-zero temperatures - many thanks in particular to Oisín and Eoghan - for all their hard work in clearing so many areas and ensuring the area is available for use this coming term when the weather allows!

We have much planned for this term with 6 trips and activities across the school and we look forward to sharing details and pictures of these in the March issue.

Mike Sitch
Headmaster

Our Night Sky in February 2025

The sun will be setting at about 1730 at the middle of the month, leaving Venus and Saturn to dominate the western sky. Saturn will set about 1900, while Venus will be brilliant until she sets at 2100. Meanwhile, Jupiter will be the next brightest object in the southern sky from Sunset until it sets in the west at about 0200hrs followed by Mars at about 0600hrs. Orion and Taurus continue to be among the most recognisable constellations of the winter sky, and are fascinating to sweep with binoculars.



Two for two! A duo of interacting galaxies commemorates the second science anniversary of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, which takes constant observations, including images and highly detailed data known as spectra. Its operations have led to a "parade" of discoveries by astronomers around the world. In just two years, Webb has transformed our view of the universe, is providing insights into longstanding mysteries about the early universe and ushering in a new era of studying distant worlds. The

telescope's specialization in capturing infrared light — which is beyond what our own eyes can detect — shows these galaxies, collectively known as Arp 142, locked in a slow cosmic dance. Webb's observations, which combine near- and mid-infrared light from Webb's NIRCam (Near-Infrared Camera) and MIRI (Mid-Infrared Instrument), respectively, clearly show that they are joined by a haze represented in blue that is a mix of stars and gas, a result of their mingling.

Their ongoing interaction was set in motion between 25 and 75 million years ago, when the Penguin (individually catalogued as NGC 2936) and the Egg (NGC 2937) completed their first pass. They will go on to shimmy and sway, completing several additional loops before merging into a single galaxy hundreds of millions of years from now. Do visit the NASA James Webb web site and enjoy the fabulous images it contains.

Bill Turnill

The Bride Valley WI

The Bride Valley WI got in the mood for the festive season with our usual Christmas Social. Held this year at Long Bredy Village Hall, we had food, mulled wine, a Christmas quiz and of course a party game. Great fun was had by over 30 members. We continued in festive fashion with another visit to Made and Found in Abbotsbury where again Karen hosted a group of us in her shop for Christmas goodies including mince pies and hot drinks. It was a particularly welcome treat after a walk around the village which for once was in the dry!

The skittles team ended the league with a full house of wins so now await who they will be playing in the quarter finals, and more excitingly where in Dorset they will be visiting to play. Due to the White Horse being closed for their annual holiday we are having a break from skittles but return on Tuesday 4th February for our fortnightly social games and catch up.

As I write this on a glorious if chilly January day the Bride Valley WI look forward to a varied, interesting and physical 2025. Watch this space in the next BVN to see how good our Country Dancing skills are.

Should you want to come and see if the WI is for you, February's meeting will be in The Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall on Thursday 20th at 7:30pm.

Please contact us on Bridevalleywi@gmail.com

The Bride Valley Book Club

Act of Oblivion by Robert Harris.

Harris's novel is named for the Act of Parliament passed in the early days of the monarchy's restoration and Charles II's coronation. Following the English civil war, the interregnum of Cromwell and the execution of Charles I in 1642, this Act was intended to offer clemency and "oblivion" to those who had fought on Cromwell's side. The exceptions were the regicides who had signed Charles's execution warrant. The story follows the fortunes of two regicides who abandon their families and flee to Massachusetts, then a dependent British colony. They are hunted by a loyal Royalist with both personal and ideological grievances who makes it his mission to capture them alive and bring them to justice. Harris has done his research diligently and we learned much about not only this period in history but also the conflict in religious belief which dominated 17thC England and America.

Harris covers a great deal of ground: reflections on the privations of the civil war, Charles I's beheading in Whitehall, the lives of the early American colonists, the collapse of Cromwell's Commonwealth, the fortunes of the regicides' families who are left behind, and the decadence of Charles II's restoration court. Most of us enjoyed this novel and for those unfamiliar with this turbulent period in our past - it was an interesting history lesson - after all other countries waited much longer for their anti-monarchist revolutions!

We agreed it would make a good film

Liz Pinfield

Events in the Bride Valley and nearby

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?

Touring Dorset with Artsreach, the county’s rural arts charity. Suitable 14+

Tickets are £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.

Artsreach



***Angel Heart and
Rattlebox Theatre: Sam
O’ Shanty***

Tuesday 18th February 11.00am
Litton Cheney Community Hall

A nautically inspired comic show for families and children aged 4+, with spellbinding stories of mermaids and pirates, sea beasts, treasure and tales of the sea. There will be puppets, singing of shanties and general ‘silliness’.

Adults £8, Children £6 Family £25.outlin

1 hour show

Information and booking Patricia
07799 612941 / 01308 482514
or on-line with Artsreach.co.uk

PANTO 25
BURTON BRADSTOCK PLAYERS

Presents

AVAST BEHIND

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

THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY - 2.30PM & 7.30PM

**BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE
HALL**

BAR (Cash only) - EVENING PERFORMANCES ONLY
ICE CREAM, RAFFLE

ADULTS £10 UNDER 16'S £5

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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

Music for Cows

Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell

**Thursday 27th February 2025,
Shipton Gorge Village Hall 7.30pm**



Arthur & Kerran are carving out a name for themselves with their unique style, rooted in Quebecois traditional music fused with songs from around the British Isles and North America. Their creative choices and syncopated melodic rhythms are a testament to their talent and great synergy. These multi-instrumentalists and vocalists are making music that is thoughtful, conscious, and driven. They excite, motivate, inspire, comfort, and spread love and joy to all those that hear them.

Together, Arthur & Kerran produce a versatile mix of sound through instrumentals and song featuring various instruments, including Fiddle, Guitar, Bouzouki & Feet Percussion. They create a sound that is often surprising to the ear but still remains true to the roots of traditional music. New Album 'Music for Cows' (2024)

Tickets are £13, £7 (u18s), available via Ticket Source at www.artsreach.co.uk or 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.

The Bookshop Band

7.30pm, Saturday 22nd March,
Burton Bradstock Village Hall



The award-winning Bookshop Band write and perform songs inspired by books.

Formed in September 2010 they released their first album two months later and have since released 13 albums collaborating with over 100 authors, including Philip Pullman, Louis de Bernieres and Margaret Atwood.

The Bookshop Band have toured extensively around the UK, Europe, Canada and America, and are equally at home in a bookshop, an arts centre, in a folk club or on a festival stage. They have been commissioned by the BBC, The V&A, and most recently by Aardman Animations to compose the music and songs for the Oscar and BAFTA Nominated musical *Robin Robin*, with the band picking up an Ivor Novello Award nomination for their score.

Between them Beth Porter and Ben Please bring the books to the stage along with a multitude of instruments, including cello, harmonium, glockenspiel, guitars and ukuleles which. Their distinctive voices draw the audience in to a highly intimate performance, at once touching and mesmerizing, heart wrenching and funny. No previous knowledge of the books is required as the band guide the audience through the stories behind each song's inspiration.



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).

Bride Valley Gardening Club

The club is gearing itself up for another busy year, welcoming old and new members to its monthly meetings from March – more about that next month. After reviewing the responses to a questionnaire we believe we are on the right path in meeting members' wishes and that our programme for 2025 reflects this.



It offers varied garden topics, a chance to socialise with like-minded people and, often, plants to buy. Probably the best advertisement for any club is word of mouth from members and if you are new to the area it probably won't be long before someone invites you along to a meeting if they think you might be developing, or already have an interest in plants and gardens. We are fortunate to live in an area where so many “experts” choose to call it home and that many of them prove to be such good speakers. From expensive media personalities to thoroughly knowledgeable nurserymen and botanists we hope they will tempt you out this year when they speak at one of our meetings. Such topics as fuchsias, clematis, succulents and the kitchen garden are on offer as well as welcoming in May the always engaging Tim Walker, an internationally renowned speaker and ex-Director of Oxford Botanical Garden. To round off our year in October we will be holding a Gardener's Question Time and social event at which we will be inviting members to put their questions to the diverse knowledge of our distinguished panel of three.

We meet in the Litton Cheney Village Hall on the 3rd Monday in the month and if you'd like to know more about the club do talk either to me, or to Liz, the club secretary (07751 942588).

Meanwhile keep warm!

Ali Halliday (balletboots@live.com, 01308 482314)

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all the patients who sent us cards and gifts for Christmas. The kind messages and support from our patient community is appreciated beyond measure, so thank you.

Congratulations: Our practice Nurse Rachelle Pearce is part of a team who have been conducting a study on Hydration. The study involved improving patient's hydration in care homes and hospitals, the findings were remarkable!



There was a marked decrease in falls and urinary tract infections during the period of the study. As a result, the team won a coveted Nursing Times Award in November 2024. You can read more about the study on the website <https://staywelldorset.nhs.uk/campaigns/hydration/>

Infection prevention and control: Here in Dorset, we are experiencing increased levels of respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses such as Influenza, RSV, COVID-19 and Norovirus. There are some simple things you can do to try to help protect yourself and others:

- Washing your hands with soap and warm water (don't rely on alcohol-based gels)
- If you have symptoms, stay at home to help protect others and don't visit people in hospital or care homes
- Norovirus spreads very easily so use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces
- Don't prepare food for others if you have Norovirus symptoms
- Wash bedding at 60°C, with detergent, to kill Norovirus, and handle bedding with disposable gloves

If you are aged 75 – 79 you are eligible for a free NHS RSV vaccination. For more information about RSV visit our website www.princeofwalesurgery.co.uk or to book in to your usual branch call our Patient Services Team on 01305 871468.

Volunteers needed: Following the success of our wonderful Portesham Branch Health Champions, we are currently looking to recruit volunteers to join our Dorchester Branch Health Champion Team. Full instructions and training will be provided. For more information or to register your interest you can email Mo Parish at maureen.parish@dorsetgp.nhs.uk or call the surgery

on 01305 871468 and leave a message for her with our Patient Services Team.

Dispensary opening hours

The dispensary is open for collections and medication queries from Monday to Friday 8.30am-12.00noon and 4.00pm-6.00pm. You can also speak to the dispensary on the phone between 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm by pressing option 3.

Daily Information

You can keep up-to-date day to day by visiting our website or find us on Facebook.

www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk

Facebook pages: Prince of Wales Surgery and Portesham Patient News

News from the Farm

Following on from the rams escaping in August this is the result - unexpected lambs but very welcomed to the flock! The first one was born backwards but now seems fine.

Jobs for this month are to get the cows in and wean the calves as the mothers are hopefully due again in May/June we will be having them PD (which is pregnancy tested) to check they are in calf.





In February we also scan the ewes to see who is having what i.e., singles twins and triplets (not too many of those hopefully) so we can sort them and feed them accordingly.

Also by now we may well have started lambing the hogs (first time mums) so hopefully lots of pictures to follow in subsequent editions of the BVN.

Gill & Pete Mayo, Maydown Farm.

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'll 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: February Floodlight Sponsors:

Roy Symes for Olivia whose 1st birthday was on 28th January

Sally Parker – thinking of Steve

Roy Symes in Memory of Dad, Percy, It would have been his 89th birthday on 22nd February

Les Downton for Roy Symes 70th birthday on 10th

Andrew, in memory of his mother Mary George

John & Diane Bredemear remembering their parents

A chip van customer!

Thank you to our sponsors for lighting up the church during these cold winter months. If you have any special occasion coming up in March, you can sponsor the floodlights for a suggested donation of £5 and have your occasion mentioned in the BVN and on posters on the notice board. We are very short of sponsors for the months ahead so please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

December is a distant memory now, but thank you, David and Kate for providing the splendid Christmas tree again and to the team who decorated the church so beautifully. Thank you also, to the bell ringers for ringing at the Christmas services and throughout the year.

The Lillian Stone Trust

The Trust exists to assist any resident, young or old, living in the parish of Shipton Gorge who find themselves in need of financial assistance. A grant can be given for a range of items such as assistance with utility bills, schooling (including school trips), higher education, transport or equipment . . . most day-to-day issues where some financial support is needed and would be welcomed. Your application can be sent to any of the following, or contact them for further information:

The Rector – Andrew Rawding - rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com

Paul Thimont – paulthimont@hotmail.com

Richard Hewlett – richardhewlett419@gmail.com / 01308 897278

Heather Puttock – heatherputtock.60@gmail.com

All requests are kept in strictest confidence and only shared between the trustees and the rector.

Parish Council

We held a weather delayed meeting on 13th December, which was well attended with a key discussion on surface water inundation during heavy downfalls. As agreed at the meeting, to fully understand where the problem areas are, can you please send any relevant information, including photos and videos, to Martine Simmonds at martinesimmondssgpc@gmail.com. This includes field run-off, drains where there are persistent problems, and any impact on properties, gardens etc. From this information we will be able to work with Highways, the Environment Agency and those impacted within the village, to look at potential solutions.

On a sad note, we accepted Christine Huxtable's resignation from the PC as Treasurer, and we thank her for many years of invaluable service. We also said goodbye to our clerk Lucy Beasley, whom we shared with Litton Cheney, and again thanked her for all her hard work and expert guidance to the Parish Council over the last years, and for helping us as new councillors. And finally, we welcomed our new clerk Debbie Hollings, who has many years of experience, mentoring many clerks across the valley. She has taken over the Treasurer role and has ably worked with us on reviewing our financial position, prior to, and at our Parish Council Meeting on the 9th January.

Our next meeting is on 13th March at 7.30pm, so do please come along. Among other items on the agenda will be an update on broadband and mobile phone connectivity. The two meetings after that are 8th May and 10th June. If any parishioner would like to join the council, or feels they can offer assistance without a formal appointment, please contact Debbie Hollings at clerk@shiptongorge.co.uk. There are only four of us, and we all have other commitments, so are stretched very thinly.

Village Hall

January 2025 100 Club Draw results

1st 29 £25 Vicky Thomas
2nd 54 £10 Robert Bradshaw
3rd 35 £5 Heather Puttock

Congratulations to all winners

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the January draw was Diane Nixon – congratulations Diane.

Saunders Richardson Wood

It appears that we are having another wet and windy winter. At least we don't need to worry about watering the little trees and saplings recently planted.



We will be doing some maintenance work in the wood on Monday 3 February at 11.00am – midday. If you would like to come along and help, that would be wonderful. 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

Hopefully, weather has been kind and we have been able to hold the pruning session in the Orchard. David Squirrel will have passed on some of his knowledge and expertise – then we should feel a little more confident to follow up with some of the other trees in the Orchard. We hope to book him in for a further session in the summer when the stone fruit trees should be pruned – and we can also check on progress of the apple trees.

We will be doing some work in the Orchard on Monday 17th February at 11.00am. All residents are welcome to come along – either to help or even just for a chat if you prefer. By this time, the primroses and snowdrops should be looking splendid.

Research has shown that spending time in nature or green spaces can have a profound impact on our well-being – so an added incentive to come along.

We intend to produce a calendar for 2026 which will be on sale late Summer/early Autumn – we are therefore looking for some photos to feature in it. If you have any you

think would be good to include, then please email annecrowe21016@hotmail.com with a note of location and approx. time of year. We will let you know deadlines etc. nearer the time. 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>

The Drop-in Café at the Village Hall: The Café will be open in February on Friday 14th and Friday 28th between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Drop in for free hot drinks and a chat in a warm, welcoming space. We look forward to seeing you.



Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell
jfirrell20@gmail.com Tel: 01308 482313
Village web-site www.littoncheney.org.uk



St. Mary's Church

It was wonderful to welcome so many to our Christmas services, both locals and visitors. The collections raised a total of £552.60 for Julia's House, for which they were hugely grateful. Added to that figure, also donated to Julia's House, was a further £212.22 raised by the valiant carol singers who turned out on a cold and wet evening yet managed to get round half the village before retreating to the warmth and very welcome refreshments provided by Bev and Chris Robbins. Many thanks to them.

In spite of the supermarkets already displaying Easter eggs, Easter is late this year – not until 20th April, with Lent starting on Ash Wednesday 5th March. There will be courses to join and special services, with details in Source to Sea nearer the time.

Litton Cheney Parish Council

January's Parish Council meeting was held on the 14th January. The meeting minutes can be found on the village website (littoncheney.org.uk). At this meeting the roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman were exchanged with Chairman Bill Orchard becoming Vice-Chairman, and Vice-Chairman John Firrell becoming Chairman. This is part of a plan to manage succession with both Bill and John standing down at some point in the future, and new incumbents being elevated into the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. We also formally welcomed our new Clerk, Debbie Hollings, who will also apply her clerking skills to Shipton Gorge Parish Council, and thanked outgoing Clerk Lucy Beasley for her sterling work during her relatively short period with us.

Bill Orchard has served as Chairman since September 2015 when he took over from previous Chairman, Steve Kourik. We will save our best plaudits for Bill for when he finally steps down from the Parish Council but suffice to say we are extremely fortunate to have the services of such a worthy individual who has given, and continues to give, such valiant service to the administrative affairs of Litton Cheney. During Bill's time we have lost the

District Council (not Bill's fault), losing a vital layer between Parish and the unitary authority, Dorset Council. It is to Bill's eternal credit that during his term as Chairman few toys have been thrown out of prams, and decisions have been arrived out via sensible debate and common sense. There is clearly a future role for Bill at the United Nations! Thank you, Bill, for everything!

Considerate Car Parking – It is appreciated that cars are an essential part of living in rural Dorset and villages such as Litton, not helped by the lack of public transport servicing outlying areas. Notwithstanding, there is still the need to give careful consideration to where you park your vehicle, ensuring access is maintained for your neighbours, bin collections and emergency vehicles. Thank you in anticipation of your consideration.

Full Fibre

Openreach have almost completed their works in the village, just a stretch of Chalk Pit Lane to be finished off. A gentle reminder that if you registered via the voucher scheme then you are obliged to follow through with the commitment to sign up for Full Fibre broadband. You do not have to stay with your existing provider if you are out of contract and in some instances if you are towards the end of your existing contract then you may find the remainder could be bought out by whoever you choose to sign up with. Please check your availability via www.openreach.co.uk and then speak to whichever provider you wish go with. Be aware that some providers will no longer offer a landline and some will not transfer your existing landline number, so please check with them first. If you have any queries regarding broadband provision, please contact me via robertmatthewslcpc@gmail.com

Rob Matthews

Bride Valley Films

Next films at Litton Cheney Community Hall.

Reminder: THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY

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”

THURSDAY 6th MARCH - THE CRITIC ‘British film at its best’

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.

Cert.15 1hr.40”

Doors Open: 7.00pm. Films start 7.30pm. 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)

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

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

What’s on at Litton and Thorner’s Community Hall (LATCH) in February

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

Thursday 6 th	7.30	Film Night “ The Holdovers ”
Saturday 15 th	10.00	Deanery Synod
Tuesday 18 th	11.00	Artsreach Children’s Show
Monday 24 th	7.30	Allotments AGM

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

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

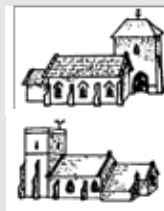
liz@ruddle.org.uk Tel: 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

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

Village website:

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



Christmas at Puncknowle

Puncknowle, Swyre and even as far as Litton Cheney were visited by the Heavenly host in the form of angels in the Advent windows around the villages. It was a real welcome for Christmas. Thank you to Sue and Tina for organising this. The church was full for the Carols by Candlelight Service. It was a happy time, preceded by teas in the Village Hall. It was organised thanks to Liz and Geoff. The Carols at the Crown was hugely enjoyed by all, with rousing renditions of all the favourite carols. £103.72 was raised for the Alabare charity. The Christmas Praise Service was held in the church on Christmas Day with refreshments at the Crown Inn afterwards.

Candlemas

On Thursday 6th February at 7.00pm 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.

Lady Day

On Sunday 23rd March we will be holding our Lady Day service in Puncknowle Church at our Cafe Church service at 11.00am. Lady Day is the feast of the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. It is the first quarter day of the year. We will be celebrating all the women in the

world, and their contribution to our society, and to the church. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special day.

Plough Sunday

The local farming community came together to celebrate farming at the Plough Sunday service held on 12th January. More than 70 people joined in the Grain Store on Puncknowle Manor Farm where, with prayers and cheerfully adapted hymns – ‘Old McDonald had a Farm!’ - there were blessings for the plough, the soil, the seed and the churn, each symbolising different aspects of the farming life. Afterwards tea, coffee and delicious golden syrup biscuits were enjoyed. A collection of almost £350 was raised for RABI – a charity set up to help the farming community cope with the specific difficulties of a farming life. A big thank you to Andrew and Margaret who, as the clergy team, gave such a meaningful service, to Geoff Fry who organised the event, and to Sarah Wild for the use of the barn.

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in February		
REGULAR EVENTS		
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 John on 07557 963618
OTHER EVENTS		
Monday 3rd	5.00pm – 7.00pm	Neighbourhood Planning Meeting Open to the Public. More information: https://puncknowle.net/neighbourhood-plan/
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm – 10.00pm	Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-2/
Thursday 6th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Craft Club Contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
Thursday 6th	7.00pm – 10.30pm	Whist Drive Contact Jenny on 01308 897863

Tuesday 18th	1.00pm – 2.30pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Thursday 20 th	7.00pm – 9.30pm	Bride Valley WI Contact: bridevalleywi@gmail.com
Friday 21 st	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning Community Event Feedback from Housing Needs Survey Open to the Public. More information https://puncknowle.net/neighbourhood-plan/
Thursday 27 th	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Neighbourhood Planning Meeting Open to the Public. More information: https://puncknowle.net/neighbourhood-plan/
Friday 31st	10.00pm – 12.30pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987

Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club

Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy

Puncknowle Village Hall 12.30pm for 1.00pm

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

Lunches cost £6

February 18th Beef Hotpot with dumplings, Surprise Pudding

Future dates 2025

March 18th Gammon with Pineapple, Surprise Pudding to follow

April 15th Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Surprise Pudding to follow

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

Julian Group

We are a small group who meet each month at Holy Trinity Church. The session starts with a reading or text and is followed by about 20 minutes of silent prayer. We then share a time for chat and a cup of coffee together. We are always happy to see new people who might like to join us; even if only

wanting to give it a try! The dates for 2025 are as follows; always on the third Wednesday of the month.

15th January, 19th February, 19th March, 16th April, 21st May,
18th June, 16th July, 20th August, 17th September, 15th October
19th November. There is no meeting in December.

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club December Results

£30.00	No. 94	B. Peppiatt
£15.00	No. 99	M. Swain
£5.00	No. 136	J. & F. Farley

Long Bredy 100 Club December Super Draw

£170.00	No. 71	R. Maltby
£120.00	No. 9	A. Bailey
£60.00	No. 89	S. Dyer

Congratulations to all the winners!

Church news

Thank you to everyone who made Angels to decorate the Church for Christmas – a magnificent display of all kinds, with one even flying across the aisle! You can visit *A Church Near You* to see photos and a mini video.

Thank you also to everyone who participated in our Live Nativity. A large congregation joined us to celebrate alongside Gerald, Hettie, and our Holy Family.

Another thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising Raffle and Christmas Coffee Break. Your generosity helped us raise over £500, which will go towards the much-needed funds to maintain the Church.

Before Christmas, a delegation from Salisbury visited to assess the repairs needed for the Church Tower. The work has been approved, and we hope it will begin later this year.

Coming up in February ...

Coffee Break

January Coffee Break will take place **Saturday 8th February** from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the village hall.

Come Along Inn

The 'Come Along Inn' will be open this month on **Friday, 21st February from 5.30pm to 9.00pm** in the village hall. As always, a warm welcome awaits. If you would like a supper, please remember to book in advance by ringing 01308 482270 or email: aking44634@aol.com.

Note your calendars

Long Bredy Defibrillator fundraiser - "Would I Lie to You?!"

Following the postponement of last year's Long Bredy Defibrillator fundraising event "Would I Lie to You", we are pleased to announce that it has been rebooked for **Friday 14th March at 7.00pm** start (doors open 6.30pm) in Long Bredy village hall.

A fun evening involving 3 men, 14 strange objects and guessing who is telling the truth and who is lying. Due to the possible "blue" content, this is an evening for over 16's and open minded people.

Tickets are £10 each and include a light supper. The Come Along Inn bar will also be open for all your refreshment needs.

Tickets can be purchased from Charlotte Kinghorn, 07917 182337, charlottekinghorn@hotmail.com or Ruth Cullingford, 01308 482562, ruth.cullingford@btinternet.com.

At the request of the Would I Lie to You team, donations on the night will also be gathered for the Dorset Air Ambulance.

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton
patgrifton43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264
Village web-site: www.burtonbradstockvillage.org.



St Mary's Christmas Collections

The Christmas collections for Charity organised by St Mary's Church raised the following:

The round the Village Carol Singing (£326.15) and The Crib Service (£250.04) produced a total of £576.19 for the Children's Society. The Carols by Candlelight Service (£378.08) and the Christmas Morning Service (£323.90) produced a total of £701.98 for the Bridport Food Bank

A big thank you to all who took part and made these very enjoyable events happen and to all who generously donated.

*** NEWS *** An Exciting New Experiment

On Sunday January 26th and February 23rd at 9.30am at Burton Bradstock we shall try out a Family Breakfast Church with a free breakfast, a craft activity, a Bible story, a song and a few prayers. ALL families are welcome!

Tots' Time

Revd Andrew joined us for the last session before Christmas and told the story of the first Christmas using a 'pop-up' picture book. Tots also had fun decorating cup cakes with icing, chocolate drops, cherries and apricot pieces, marshmallows, etc. What sticky fingers!! Previously Tots prepared 'angels' to hang on their Christmas trees, so Audrey was in her element with glue and glitter.



At Tots even the babies get involved. One week the two Hollys taught us a song about rabbits (not everyone's favourite subject) which involved jumping up and down. The babies were bounced vigorously up and down by their mothers - there was such a lot of laughter.

There is always so much going on, therefore plenty of equipment to get out and pack away. We are very grateful for the help of our willing volunteers. During last term Elaine U, Caroline, Steve, George, Peter, Susan and David, Ian and Irene, and Mary and Ian have all helped along with parents and grandparents to enable Tots' Time to run smoothly. Thank you all so very much.

For further details contact Audrey (897227), Heather (897780) or Helen on BVchurchesTA@outlook.co.uk

Altar Hangings and Liturgical Colours

During my time as Sacristan people have from time to time asked me about the reason for changing the altar frontal for one of a different colour. So, what is the significance of this?

Each colour is for a special season in the church's year, or a celebration.

White, or sometimes Gold, is for festivals of our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary, such as Christmas and Easter, and also for Saints (excepting Martyrs) and All Saints' Day.

Red is for Martyrs, and Whitsuntide as it symbolises the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Purple symbolises penitence and is for Advent and Lent, (although in Lent it is often the practice to leave the altar bare).

Green, as being the commonest colour of nature, is used for Ordinary Days which do not fall into any of the above categories.

Jane Stubbs
Sacristan, Burton Bradstock

The Tuesday Life Group

We all want to express a heartfelt 'Thank you' to Ian and Irene Halsey for hosting this group for another year. A regular 12 men and women meet each week (others come from time to time) at Manafossen Barn where we always have a warm welcome, especially on cold days when we have had the added pleasure of a roaring fire. We enjoy coffee and delicious nibbles, study the Bible, share in lively, friendly discussion, then have time to pray for the needs of the world and our communities.

During Advent we have studied different passages in the Old Testament where the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are prophesied. Different people lead the sessions, and we have listened to excerpts from Handel's Messiah each week linked to the topic. Ian has also given us some pithy and humorous snippets from one of Canon J John's books.

We wish Ian and Irene a happy and healthy 2025.

The Life Group

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 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 10:00 to 12:00 and all are welcome.

Wed 12th Feb
Wed 12th March

Village Society (Bacon Rolls)
Burton Bradstock School

Burton Bradstock Films

'The Critic' will be shown on 28th February. Academy Award Nominee Sir Ian McKellen (The Lord of the Rings, The Good Liar) stars as a powerful London theatre critic who lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme with deadly consequences. A suspenseful thriller, it co-stars Gemma Arterton (Quantum of Solace), Mark Strong (Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy) and Lesley Manville (Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris).

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.

'The Critic' will also be shown at Litton Cheney on 6th March.

Pantomime

Tickets for the Burton Bradstock Players pantomime "Avast Behind" are on sale at the Post Office. Production runs from 20th to 22nd February.

Diary Date

For the regular Village "Quizzers" the Spring Quiz in the Hall will be on Saturday 26th April. More details in the BVN nearer the day.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall "200 Club"

January 2025 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1st	£32.00	No 100:	Mrs Jan Clarke
2nd	£16.00	No 38:	Mrs Susan Moores
3rd	£8.00	No 141:	Mrs Karen Venn

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the February 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £11 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock Village Society



Our talk this month, on Friday 7th February at 7.30pm is by Dr Kevan Manwaring PhD, Senior Lecturer in creative writing at Bournemouth University, entitled: “The Literary Landscapes of Dorset”. Kevan is a professional writer, teacher, and storyteller. He is the author of Bardic Handbook, The Long Woman, Oxfordshire Folk Tales, and Windsmith.

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.

Wednesday 12th February 10.00am-12.00noon the monthly “Coffee Stop” is hosted by the Village Society where we would love to entertain you all with lovely things to enjoy and great company.

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Burton Bradstock Community Library opening times are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

Our volunteers keep this regular service available to everyone, are much appreciated and look forward to seeing you there.

There is much on offer through the Library service and Libraries West’s large stock of books and e-services. Don’t forget that you can order online from the catalogue from your home computer or use the libraries app on your phone or tablet. Books can be delivered to Burton Library and there is no charge for the service. 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.

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com
www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library
01308 897563

Sue Brown
Chairman of Trustees

Greenfingers Club

We started off the year with a super session from *Sea Spring Seeds*.

Thank you to all who attended on a cold & frosty evening.



Our next meeting is 7.30pm Thursday 13th February, just before Valentine's Day, with 'Pam the Jam' Corbin on the sweet subject of 'Citrus Preserves'.

Please remember to bring any spare plants (proceeds to Weldmar Hospice) & there will be refreshments & a raffle!
Entry: £1

Cilla's February Checklist - Prune shrub roses before any growth. Feed rhododendrons. Cut back ivy, Virginia creeper & overgrown hedges before birds start nesting. Clematis that flowers after June can be pruned hard back to healthy buds just above base. Trim winter-flowering jasmine & heathers once finished flowering. Remove dead stems at base & trim back to healthy buds on over-wintering fuchsias. Prune old stems from ferns. Sow hardy annuals under cover to plant out in spring. Prepare veg seed beds & warm the soil with cloches. Sow broad beans, Brussels sprouts & lettuces under cover. Continue to sprout early potatoes in warmth & light to produce strong shoots. Feed & provide fresh water birds; regularly clean feeders & bird tables/baths.

Burton Bradstock WI

First of all, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and exciting New Year.



I cannot report on our January meeting yet, as it is not due until after the deadline for this article, however I can say that we have had our first committee meeting of the year and we have got some exciting plans for the forthcoming months of 2025.

We are planning to go and admire the snowdrops at Compton Valence in early February, followed by lunch in their Village Hall. Hopefully the weather will have warmed up a little by then.

Also in February we are entering the Dorset Federation Kurling Competition, as we have done several times before. The first round is to be held at Portesham Village Hall so hopefully our team will do well enough to go through to the final. Watch this space!

Every February WIs around the country celebrate "Green Hearts Day" in line with the red hearts of St. Valentine's Day. On this occasion we think about our environment and what we can do to maintain it. In the past we have thought about using less plastic, recycling more of our rubbish and saving on heating bills. This time our speaker will be giving a talk entitled "The Health of our Seas", which we thought to be appropriate for where we live. For our members at previous meetings we have made green felt brooches, given out seeds in a papier-mâché green heart to be planted and enhance our environment, made biscuits with green hearts on, sewn green heart-shaped lavender bags to name but a few. I am not going to give away our plans for this year, but just to say that all these little tokens help to keep us focused on what we can do to safeguard and enjoy our immediate environment.

Janet Pearson 01308 898346

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Website: Our website is the best way for you to know what is going on and communicate your views. You can

- read the minutes of our meetings
- subscribe to our newsletter and get automatic updates by email
- read the agenda
- get latest planning applications
- communicate your views and concerns

Sign up today at burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk and be an active member of your local community.

Allotments



Interested in growing your own fruit and vegetable? Now is the time to secure an allotment as we will soon be coming into growing season. We have allotment plots available of various sizes to suit your needs. Please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk to find out more information.

Flood Warden Recruitment: Do you want to play a key role in helping your community prepare for, respond to and recover from flooding? We would like to increase the number of wardens we already have in the village. Training and support will be provided. Please visit burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk or email clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk to register your interest and find out more information.

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! Please come and make some new friends. For more information please contact Kathy on 01308 485626.

Supper Club

This month's Supper Club will be on 10th February. Any enquiries please ring Mags Chue on 07790 811905

Littlebredy

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



This edition will definitely look backwards and not forwards – mainly to the various enjoyable and successful celebrations of the 2024 Christmas season in Littlebredy, although they will be six weeks or so in the past when these notes are read.

A lot of work by a lot of people went into preparing the candle-lit carol service on December 22nd, in terms of Church decorations, the form of service and the hospitality offered afterwards. It was all enjoyed by a large congregation, as was the Christmas Day Communion itself, again with many candles augmenting the December daylight. Paul Cheater came up the valley to play the organ at short notice, which was also much appreciated.

Many villagers and others congregated again on Boxing Day, when the keenly contested duck race from the waterfall to the walled garden took place. One poor duck never even made it past the foot of the waterfall and was rescued from being jammed upside down in the rocks the following day, but most bobbed along to the finish, with the winning owner and trainer Alex Giulioni, a visitor. The standards were as high as ever for the best-decorated ducks too. The event raised £450 for the British Heart Foundation (nominated by last year's winner), which is the latest sum in a total of nearly £3,000 raised overall for different charities during the ten years the race has been held (plus of course the “free” defibrillator in the village hall, which has been called upon once during the period too). None of this would have been possible without the initiative and energies of Edgar and Jacqui Moxom especially, to whom enormous thanks and congratulations are due.

The flurry of snow and subsequent freeze in early January were again sufficient to make White Hill and Longlands Lane “interesting”, but at least the difficulties were shorter than those caused by the November snowfall, and let us hope we have now seen the last of nasty conditions this winter.

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



My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained - even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had

done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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!

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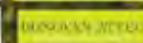
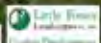
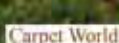
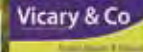
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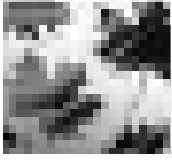
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Litton Cheney	9.30am Holy Communion		8.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Matins	9.30am Morning Worship
Punchinville	11.00am Morning Praise	Candlemas service 7.00pm	9.30am Holy Communion		11.00am Café Church
Swortz	3.00pm Evening Prayer			11.00am Holy Communion	
Shipton Gorge			9.30am Breakfast Church		11.00am Holy Communion
Long Brady	9.30am Holy Communion			9.30am Morning Worship	
Littlebrey			11.00am Holy Communion		11.00am Morning Worship
Ponessham	3.30pm Chisingle		10.00am Family Praise	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.00am Family Praise
Abbotsbury	11.00am Candlemas Holy Communion		9.00am Holy Communion		
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP and Candlemas		11.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Family Praise	
Dorton			3.00pm Sewing Service		
Burton Bradstock, Mid-week Holy Communion	5 th Feb at 11.30am (followed by a light lunch)				

