

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



March 2025

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

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April 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 March 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 bvnl.org.uk or via links on the Bride Valley village websites.

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

The Bride Valley News is delivered 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.

Pastoral Skills Course

Delivered by Rev'd Andrew Rawding and with visiting speakers on a variety of topics, this course aims to help people understand what pastoral skills are and to develop new skills and perspectives.

Topics and dates:

17th March: Maintaining boundaries

24th March: Learning to Listen - guest speaker David Webb of Samaritans

31st March: Engaging with families - guest speaker Helen Horsley of Homestart

**7th April: Being with those with illness or disability - guest speaker
Rev'd Philip Ringer, Hospital Chaplain**

**14th April: Valuing Later Life - guest speaker Felicity Warner, Soul
Midwife**

28th April: At a Time of Loss

These sessions will take place at 7.00pm in LATCH and include opportunities for reflection and discussion - and of course, tea and biscuits! You can attend the whole course OR selected dates that are particularly of interest, but Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) or prospective LPAs are expected to attend each session.

For more information or to book your place, before March 7th please, email: bvchurchesta@outlook.com

Lay Pastoral Assistants

We have 3 Lay Pastoral Assistants in our team and they are available for anyone throughout our community and can respond to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. Contact Jenny: 01308898768, Liz: 01308897451 or Cathryn: 01308897169 -or you can get in touch with your churchwarden or Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator on 01308897260. Home communion is available by arrangement. If you would like to become an LPA, please have a look at the Diocese of Salisbury webpage:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/news/is-god-calling-you-to-be-a-lay-pastoral-assistant->, and then chat with Rector Andrew.

From the Rectory

Dear friends,

We are blessed to have owls in our community: 'older-wise-leaders'. An owl asked me if I would write something in the BVN about 'people who bear grudges.' It reminded me of the 'Candlemas' story and the declaration of a Biblical owl called Simeon who declared: "Now I am ready to die in peace". If we're bearing any grudges, or if we feel others are bearing grudges against us, we will not be living in peace, let alone dying in peace. Search online for: 'research bearing a grudge'. You will find that holding onto anger and resentment can affect our physical and mental health, for example contributing to anxiety and depression, headaches, insomnia, heart disease, stomach problems, high blood pressure and weakened immunity. This is

because bearing a grudge is to carry stress. Stress robs us of peace in our body, mind and spirit.

Of course, we can bear a grudge against people we think bear a grudge against us, but often the only person suffering is us. If we hold onto the emotional pain, we may feel justified and, in the right, but ultimately, we are the ones who continue to suffer. Somehow, we need to find a way to let go, to free ourselves from the chains of bearing a grudge. It can be a lifetime's work. If we don't feel we have had justice or acknowledgement of our hurt, we may not ever feel able to let go. Some people call this 'unforgiveness.' The opposite is 'forgiveness'. Search on the internet for: 'research forgiveness' and you will discover the psychological and physiological benefits of being able to let go of resentment, unforgiveness and rumination on past hurts and emotional pains. You will discover new life, and better health.

When I reflect on all this, I often wonder why more people don't come to church. Every Sunday we take time to confess our 'sins' that is our emotional wounds and pain and be open to the power of forgiveness for ourselves and others. We confess, not because we deserve condemnation, but because we deserve love. It has taken me decades to let go of the unforgiveness I have held against people who have hurt me in the past. The truth is that all these people probably don't give it a moment's thought, and the ones I have confronted in the past have claimed it never happened or even blamed me. Sometimes the person we need to forgive most is ourselves; empathising with ourselves, letting go of past guilt, shame and regrets.

Personally, I have found the opportunities to kneel in church, powerful opportunities to take steps on my journey to no longer have intrusions in my mind of bitterness and unforgiveness. I have offered my pain to the power of sacrificial divine love, received holy communion with that love, and then tried to take steps for more peace for myself and others. It's the journey towards Easter and resurrection new life. Anyone can join the journey at any time. Ash Wednesday is a good time to start. The end game is being able to say: "Now I am ready to die in peace."

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

Sandra Marshall 17th January, Puncknowle
Linda Bongers 23rd January, Burton Bradstock
Martin Sharland 10th February, Burton Bradstock
Simon Martindale 13th February, Burton Bradstock

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.

Walking Church

We are planning a couple more 'Walking Church' sessions. Walking church is about walking together, appreciating our surroundings, sharing life's journey, with pauses for reflection and thinking about faith while we are outdoors! These walks are intended to be suitable for everyone - and dogs (on leads please) are also welcome.

There is to be a circular walk, starting at Abbotsbury on April 13th at 2.00pm. And on Good Friday, 18th April, there will be a 'there and back' walk starting at Holy Trinity, Swyre at 10.00am, dropping in on Puncknowle and Litton Cheney Church. You can join that walk at any point on the route and do as much or as little as you would like - and there will be coffee and rest stops.

More details to come in April's BVN - but please put these dates in your diary!



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.

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I am delighted to share the report from our Ofsted inspection which took place on Tuesday 10th December 2024. The inspection process in schools is rigorous and wide reaching with a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes. I am incredibly proud of our school and really pleased that our report recognises the significant work that has happened over the past few years, especially on the curriculum and our school vision and values.

The outcome of the inspection was: *Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.*

Through discussions with children, parents and carers and staff the inspectors recognised the importance that we put on ensuring that the school is happy and welcoming for all pupils and the high expectations we have for children's behaviour. They said:

- *'Pupils are proud to attend this happy and welcoming school. Pastoral support and pupil well-being is high on the agenda. This means pupils feel listened to and well cared for.'*
- *Pupils are well mannered and courteous.*

The strength of teaching and our curriculum were recognised:

- *The school has created an ambitious and well-sequenced curriculum.*
- *The local area is integral to the curriculum.*
- *The school is a calm place to learn.*

For children with SEND, the inspection team took into account responses from parents, observed children in lessons and spoke with leaders. The report states:

- *The school is ambitious for each pupil.*
- *Pupils with SEND are well supported to successfully learn the curriculum.*

Our ethos and vision also shone through:

- *Pupils live out the school's vision statement, particularly of 'doing justice'.*
- *Pupils know how to support their own well-being*

The exceptional practice in Early Years is also recognised. Inspectors said:

- *In early years, staff encourage children to make predictions about how to make shapes and 'have a go'.*
- *Children from early years are highly inclusive of each other and show maturity.*

In feedback to leaders, governors and trustees they also mentioned:

- *The strength of our whole staff team*
- *How well modelling was used to support pupils*
- *That it was a 'joy' to be in EYFS!*
- *That the school had prioritised the 'core subjects' and this was helping children to develop their subject knowledge in these areas.*
- *The positive environment in all classes.*

Overall, this is a very positive report that the whole school community should be really proud of. (The link to our Ofsted report is: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50267360>)

In other news:

Our recent Christingle Service was a great success!

A huge well done to our cross country team who did well at the recent event at Beaminster School.



If you would like to come and see our school in action, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We have places available in our preschool for children who are 3 - contact us on office@burtonbradstockprimary.org to book in a tour.

*Adam Gough
Headteacher*



Thorners CE VA School

The children are looking forward to their half term break and finished term with a lovely trip to the Electric Palace to watch this year's pantomime, plus a laser clay pigeon shooting day and a fairy tales tea party for the little ones. After the break, we will all be back ready to start new topics such as Computer Programming, Landscape Painting and Sikhism to name but a few. The older pupils are also training hard for forthcoming sports competitions such as a dance festival and a handball tournament alongside our usual weekly clubs.

In the coming term we will be visiting some local churches to develop our understanding of stained glass - with a view to the children creating a collective design that we then hope to install at school in the summer holidays.

Having recently visited a super RE conference in Bristol, we also look forward to updating our RE curriculum this year - to ensure that our pupils have a richer understanding of all faiths and other world views. We are planning visits out, and visitors to, our school to help the children develop an understanding of religion in the modern world and the big questions it raises for all.

Lastly, In March, we will be undertaking some CPD training to improve the way in which we help the pupils talk about their learning and how they talk to one another about their reasoning and debating skills - we hope this will lead into livelier assemblies in which pupils take more of a lead role and discussion sits at the heart of how they learn about the world around them.

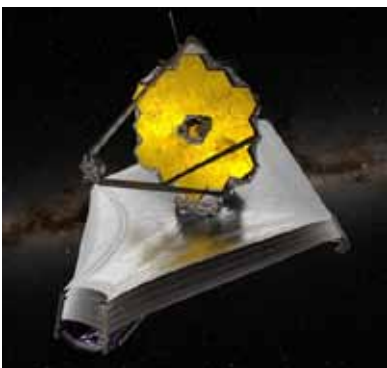
Mike Sitch
Headmaster

Our Night Sky in March 2025

Venus will be setting shortly after Sunset, but Jupiter and Mars will be setting much later, and both will be prominent in the southern sky for much of the night.



NASA's team operating the Parker Solar Probe have confirmed that it survived its scorching journey through the Sun's Corona, at 430,000 mph, having received a signal from its beacon transmitter that it is operating normally and able to transmit scientific details of its encounter.



Meanwhile, the James Webb Telescope (pictured left) is operating a million miles from Earth, and sending stupendous images back to us, all of which are freely available on the internet at <https://webbtelescope.org/home>

I do urge you to see them for their beauty, and to gain the information attached to them.

Bill Turnill

The Bride Valley WI

As mentioned in last month's BVN the Bride Valley WI started its 2025 programme with a very physical challenge. Country Dancing!! Tim and Angela Laycock put us through our paces with some relatively simple (to them!!!) dances. Angela explained every move very clearly. Did this help us? Well some members seemed to grasp the idea very quickly while others of us were not so quick to learn. Tim provided us with a tune that should have helped us with beat and rhythm. Again, not all were quick to get into the swing of things. Perhaps improvisation was the one thing we were all good at which ensured we all managed to enjoy ourselves, laugh a lot and we were certainly physical. Tim read to us, very eloquently, from the Thomas Hardy Novel, Under The Greenwood Tree, setting the scene for "The Triumph" a dance where Dick Dewey, Fancy Day and Mr Shiner carry out steps which represent the Hardy's love triangle. History, Dorset literature and dancing were all covered in our January physical excursion.

A cold but dry Sunday morning meant the first walk this year happened at West Bay. Starting in the Station Car Park the group went round to George Street and saw the West Bay WI hut. West Bay WI will be celebrating 100 years this year and have been based in the hut since 1952. The group then went through the 'Cut' to walk around the harbour, along the esplanade and piers - a level and dry walk avoiding the wet weather.

Our 'local' members told the group about changes at the Bay - fishing boats and stalls, swimming in the harbour, water polo matches and about some of the buildings. Breakfast, for some, and coffee was enjoyed overlooking the harbour.

Skittles for fun has restarted at The White Horse in Litton Cheney. By the time we go to press The Bride Valley WI team will have played their semi-final match against Shillingstone. Watch this space for the result. Good luck to the team.

The Bride Valley WI meets on the third Thursday of the month in Puncknowle Village Hall at 7:30. If you need any information about our Bride Valley WI please email Bridevalleywi@gmail.com

National Nutrition and Hydration Week 17 – 23 March 2025

PRINCE OF WALES & PORTESHAM
SURGERIES

Good nutrition and proper hydration are key components of a healthy lifestyle. During National Nutrition and Hydration Week, we want to raise awareness about how small daily changes can improve your health, prevent illness, and support recovery. Whether you're a busy parent, working professional, or retired, it's easy to forget the importance of eating well and staying hydrated. This week is the perfect reminder to focus on your wellbeing. Here's how you can make simple improvements that have a big impact:

- Drink 8 cups a day,
- Fill half your plate with vegetables at every meal
- Choose whole grains over refined ones
- Avoid sugary snacks and drinks; opt for healthy alternatives like fresh fruit or unsalted nuts

Older adults are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and dehydration. If you care for an elderly family member or friend, encourage them to:

- Eat small, frequent meals
- Keep water within easy reach
- Include foods high in protein and healthy fats to maintain strength

For more information, we have a display in Portesham Surgery and on our website for advice and support.

Staff Training Day: Both branches of the surgery and the dispensary will be closed from 13.00 on **Wednesday 12 March** for staff training. If you need urgent medical care during this time, please call 111 or in a medical emergency call 999.

Self-booking links: For many routine appointments we can now send out self-booking links via text message to your mobile phone. This means that you can use the link at any time within 7 days of receiving it to choose your own appointment day and time. Many patients have been finding this very helpful, especially if they are unable to call during our opening hours.

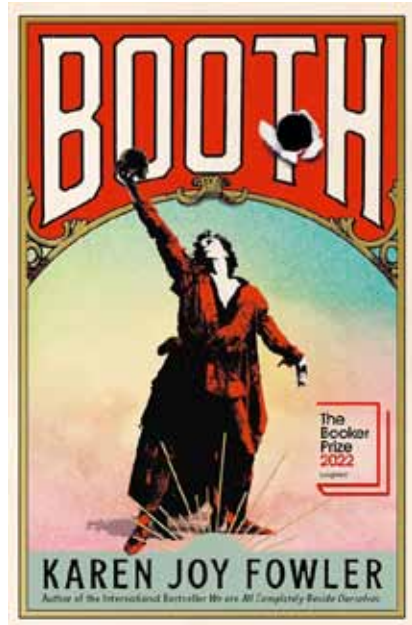
Contact details: Do we have your most up-to-date contact details and contact preferences? Maybe you no longer have a landline or maybe you changed your mobile number at some point recently, help us keep in contact with you by letting us know. You can also choose your preferred method for us to contact you. Many of our patient's prefer a text message as this is often the quickest and most accessible method for them.

Surgery website → www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk

On Facebook → Prince of Wales surgery and → Portesham Patient News

The Bride Valley Book Club

We had varying degrees of knowledge about the American Civil War which forms the background to **Karen Joy Fowler's book "Booth"**. Most of us enjoyed this novel woven around the true story of the Booth family. Booth Senior and three of his sons all worked as actors with varying degrees of success. However, readers begin this novel with the knowledge that in 1865 John Wilkes Booth will murder Abraham Lincoln in a New York Theatre just after the end of the civil war. There is a feeling of "the elephant in the room" as we follow the family's fluctuating fortunes and how John Wilkes Booth becomes an embittered supporter of the Confederacy - obsessed with getting revenge for the Southern States' humiliating defeat.



The Booth family initially settle on a remote Maryland farm. Ten children (six survived) are born in a bigamous marriage and Booth senior is notably absent for much of the year touring as a Shakespearean tragedian. No one in the family is really a farmer and they rely on help of ex-slaves to make the farm turn a meagre profit.

Fowler assimilates her own meticulous research with existing scholarly work on the family itself, the dreadful civil war and the issue of slavery over which many thousands of lives were lost. However, she fictionalises many gaps by imagining the thoughts and feelings of various family members. This novel has a complex canvas - it moves around various locations in America, crossing the isthmus before it becomes the Panama Canal and to London - all the while the undercurrent of tensions are described which erupt into civil war. John Wilkes Booth is the only member of the family to support the Confederate cause and he is presented as being manically unstable by Fowler. The assassination of Lincoln becomes a national tragedy for America and a personal enduring one for the Booth family.

Liz Pinfield



St George's Day April 23rd



Red Rose Trouser's Day for MEN!!



Slaying the dragon of isolation and loneliness!



Join us for a short St George's Day service to remember and think about men struggling with life, and to sing 'Jerusalem' in England's green and pleasant land!

8pm, April 23rd, St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock

Wear your red trousers and/or a red rose!

Events in the Bride Valley and nearby

Music for Cows

Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell

Last minute tickets may still be available

Thursday 27th February, 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. 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 for the event are £13, £7 (u18s) 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.

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).

<p>Come and sing with the West Dorset Singers</p> <p>Selected choruses from</p> <p>CARL ORFF's CARMINA BURANA</p> <p>St Swithun's Church Bridport 1.00pm Saturday 29 March £15 on the door <small>(free informal performance at 4.30, all welcome)</small> www.westdorsetsingers.org</p>	 <p>West Dorset Singers</p>  <p><small>Reg charity No. 1125032.</small></p>
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Come-and-Sing with the West Dorset Singers

Join the West Dorset Singers for an afternoon as they rehearse some of the best-loved choruses from “Carmina Burana”, Carl Orff’s choral masterpiece. On Saturday March 29th, West Dorset’s biggest choir, WDS, are hosting a “Come-and-Sing” in St Swithun’s Church, Bridport.

“It’s a great opportunity for people to experience singing extraordinary music as part of a big choir” says Matt Kingston, the WDS Musical Director. “We’ve been rehearsing Carmina for a few weeks and it will be exciting to share what we have learned with other singers”. Experienced singers, members of other choirs, and novices who want to give it a try are all welcome. WDS can provide scores for those who don’t have their own. They can also provide training aids for anyone who needs help to practise their part. The entry fee is £15, and rehearsals start in St Swithun’s Church at 1.30 pm.

An informal performance, also in the church, starts at 4.30pm and everyone is welcome. Entry is free, with a voluntary retiring collection.

(WDS will present their full concert performance on May 17, also in St. Swithun’s).

For more information, contact secretary@westdorsetsingers.org or see www.westdorsetsingers.org/

Bride Valley Gardening Club

It seems only yesterday that the notice board was packed away at the end of another season of garden club meetings, yet already it's coming out of hibernation for the start of another year. We meet on Monday March 17th to pay subscriptions and receive the programme card before the talk – a busy half hour for village reps and secretary Liz. It would help get the business side of things over with quickly if renewing members would please arrive with £8 per person in a named envelope. With this chore dealt with members will be able to meet up with friends, have a drink and settle down for the main event. I'm ashamed to admit that after 30 years of living locally I had not known we have an



award winning specialist nursery in Toller Porcorum. Proprietor David Ennals of Coach House Cacti will be talking to us about caring for cacti and succulents - and is bringing plants to sell. As a lover of succulents, I'm hoping he will have some that I need to add to my collection and can't resist! Gold medal winners at county shows over many years says it all and we hope to see a good turn-out for David at the start of our 2025 programme.

The club meets at the Litton Cheney Community Hall (LATCH) in School Lane. Doors open at 7.00pm. Visitors (£2) will be made very welcome. For further club information contact either me or Liz Gibbs – Secretary - on 07751 942588
Hope to see you there.

Ali (balletboots@live.com)

Littlebredy

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



At about the time this entry is read, we shall have said, or be saying, farewell – or au revoir we hope - to Anne Lambton, who departs No. 2 Yewtree Cottages for a new home in Corscombe, near Yeovil. She has divided her time between London and here for nearly eight years, but she and her diminutive canine companion(s) have been familiar sights when in the village, and she has been a supporter of a good number of Littlebredy events. We wish her well in her new home, and hope to continue seeing her from time to time.

Although nothing dramatic will mark the occasion, the end of March will witness what may well be the single most significant event in the life of Littlebredy for over 225 years. It will still remain one of the last virtually intact “estate villages” in Dorset, but about half the land area and most of the residential properties will pass out of the ownership of the Williams family, seven generations of whom have held the Bridehead Estate since 1797. It is not for this writer to comment on the overall quality of the stewardship during that time, but we must all hope for a continuity which will respect the sense of community here, whilst acknowledging that various changes are bound to come.

One small visible manifestation will be that at about the same time, signs will appear at the entrances to the Bridehead amenity grounds, giving advance notice that the permissive access to the lakeside and waterfall which many hundreds, if not thousands, of families have enjoyed “for quiet recreation” ever since Sir David Williams, Sir Philip’s late father, opened the grounds to the public in about 1960 will shortly have to be withdrawn. Many people will be disappointed at this, but it is understandable that the new owners of Bridehead should expect vacant possession of what is after all part of their private garden when they assume ownership of the house and its surrounding lawns and grassland at the end of June. Final severance of the Williams family from the rest of the estate will not then follow until the autumn of 2026, by which time we hope that many friends and neighbours will have been made welcome at Philip and Catherine’s new home in Martinstown, so not too far away.

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/>

SHIPTON GORGE
VILLAGE DIARY

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 and the Parochial Church Council.

St Martin’s Church

March Floodlight Sponsors:

Janet Epplestone, Caroline & Faith in memory of their parents, John for his birthday on 4th and Bee’s on 9th

*Roy Symes in memory of Nesta’s birthday on 8th
and the Chip Van customer!*

Lizzi Forte in memory of Emma Poe & Scott Forte for Elizabeth’s birthday last month

Thank you to our sponsors. We are most grateful to you for lighting up the church. The floodlit church certainly cheers up the village during these cold winter months. If you have any special occasion coming up during the year, 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 rather short of sponsors so please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

St Martin's APCM: Monday 17th March at 2.00 pm, in Church

This meeting is an overview of how things are going for the church and also when important decisions are made. If you are on the church electoral roll, you are able to vote at this meeting and we need people's input about the future. We will need to vote for treasurer, secretary - and maybe someone might like to take on the Churchwarden role?! You can also join the PCC and share your ideas going forward, about all things to do with church.

Church Electoral Roll

The time has come for the Church Electoral Roll to be renewed. This means completing a simple form if you wish your name to be included. You will then be eligible to vote at the APCM when there are decisions to be made regarding your Church.

If you would like to be enrolled or wish for further information, please contact Linda Buck on 01308 898278.

Breakfast Church

Everyone is very welcome to join us at Breakfast Church, adults and juniors, at 9.30am on 9th March in the Village Hall - enjoy a tasty breakfast and socialise, before a bible story, activities, singing and prayers.

We really value everyone's input and adults, can either join in with the crafts or think about the messages in the story for the day.

Dates to Note:

Breakfast Church	9.30am	9 th March with Vicky leading
Holy Communion	11.00am	23 rd March with Rev'd Philip Ringer
APCM	2.00pm	17 th March

Parish Council

A reminder that our next meeting is in the Village Hall on Thursday 13th March; please note the revised start time of 7.00pm. Please do come and join us for an update on faster broadband provision and mobile phone connectivity.

Another date for your diary is Thursday 10th April for the annual Parish Assembly when you will be able to hear activity reports from the various village organisations.

If you want any information about the Parish Council please contact our clerk, Debbie Hollings, at clerk@shiptongorge.co.uk.

Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Trust will be held at the hall on Thursday 27th March, starting at 7.30pm. Please join us beforehand for a glass of wine.

This is an opportunity to hear what the Trust has accomplished during the year and to learn what lies in store. It's also your opportunity to become a Trustee. If this would be of interest to you and you'd like to know what's involved we'd love to hear from you. Please talk to any Trustee or call Richard Hewlett on 897278.

February 2025 100 Club Draw results

1st No.57 £25 Tony Rogers
2nd No.6 £10 Lyn Spiller
3rd No.155 £5 Lesley Windsor

Congratulations to all winners

Lilian Stone Trust

The Trust exists in order 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 towards a range of items such as assistance with utility bills, schooling (including school trips), higher education, transport or household equipment, in fact most day-to-day issues where some financial support is needed and would be welcomed.

Your application can be sent to lilianstonetrust@gmail.com or contact the Rector or any of the Trustees for further information:

The Rector - Andrew Rawding 898799

Paul Thimont - 07770 381579

Heather Puttock - 898355

Richard Hewlett - 897278

If you know of someone who you think would benefit from some assistance please encourage them to contact the Trust.

All requests are kept in strictest confidence and only shared between the Trustees and the Rector.

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the February draw was Jill Parsons – congratulations Jill.



Saunders Richardson Wood

In early February a small group of us planted up some hedging whips - including Hawthorn, Guelder Rose and Dogwood - along existing hedge lines in Smacombe Lane, to both thicken and provide diversity. Also some Wild Honeysuckle has been planted in strategic places where walkers will smell the flowers. Spotted in the wood, were Scarlet elf cups, *Sarcoscypha coccinea*, bright spots hidden in the woodpiles. Thousands of yellow Hazel catkins are ripening with the pollen being dispersed on the breeze, foxes are barking and tawny owls have been seen. We will be doing some maintenance work in the wood on Wednesday 5th March 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

Most of the trees in the Orchard have now been pruned, we just need to wait until early spring to see how they have fared over the winter. Meanwhile we can enjoy the primroses and daffodils in the borders and around the trees

and the crab apple blossom should be starting to emerge. We will be doing some work in the Orchard on Monday 17 March at 11.00am. All residents are welcome to come along – either to help or even just for a chat if you prefer. Spending time in nature or green spaces can have a profound impact on our well-being – so even more reason to come along.

A reminder that 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. These can be of anything or anywhere around the village. If you have any you think would be good to include, then please email annecrowe21016@hotmail.com or speak to any of the trustees.

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>

Photo Competition Winner

In the Shipton monthly photo competition Laura Ferrett took the prize with this photo, taken at the top of the farm at North Hill by the dew pond. This was the first time she has won! If you are reading this on the printed edition then please note that it looks even better in colour, so do have a look at the on-line edition of the BVN where all the photos are in colour!



Drop-in Café at the Village Hall

The last two sessions of the season for the Drop-in Café take place in March on Friday 14th and 28th from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

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



The Seed Exchange is back in the Book Exchange Phone Box. Please help yourself to anything you want and leave any spare seeds you may have.

Litton Cheney

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



St Mary's Church

Floodlit St Mary's

Grateful thanks to the following who sponsored the floodlights over Christmas, New Year and beyond – Peter Strange, Hugh and Mary Lantos, John and Lesley Salvetti, Adrian and Sally Stone, Lyn Lacey, Pete and Beverly Dennis, Nigel and Tricia Gates, John and Wendy Firrell, Philip and Sally Dyke, Paul and Elizabeth Kingston and Jennie Prentice.

The lights can be switched on for any night in the year, for a small donation of £5, in memory of someone or to celebrate an event or just because you like to see the floodlit church.

On **Mothering Sunday, 30th March**, there will be a special United Benefice Service at LATCH at 10.30am, with coffee and croissants served from 9.45am and crafts available for all the family. Should be fun - do come!

The **Annual Meeting** is coming up on Sunday **6th April** after the morning service. At St. Mary's we are getting to a critical stage where the PCC is

beginning to run out of steam. Last year our Churchwarden retired and has not been replaced, the Secretary is retiring in April and all of us are sadly getting older.

If you value having a church active in our village then *please* consider whether you might be able to offer fresh input to the PCC to enable St Mary's to continue as a lively part of our village life, relevant and welcoming to all. Contacts: Wendy Firrell (retiring Secretary) 01308 482532 wtlitton@gmail.com, John Vercoe (retired Churchwarden) 01308 480768 vercoe@btinternet.com, Freddie Spicer (Treasurer) 01308 482617 fandspicer@gmail.com

Litton Cheney Parish Council

Next Meeting Tuesday 11th March – 7.30pm

We can't quite promise you the excitement of Prime Minister's Questions but very often we can provide greater clarity should you have a question you would like answered – you do however need to attend the meeting where you would be made most welcome.

The village precept is being increased this year to £12,000 as it needs to take account of a reduction in funds being available from other sources such as the unitary authority (Dorset Council). This means that around £65 of your total council tax (it will vary dependent on what band your property is in) is returned to the village to pay for its general upkeep, administration (Parish Clerk) and ongoing expenses. No councillor receives any form of remuneration whilst serving.

New Parish Clerk Debbie Hollings has just been awarded her CiLCA qualification which is effectively an "A" level in local council administration – well done, Debbie!

Our thanks to the Premier Crew who cleaned up at the bottom of Whiteway after several deluges, and also to the Dorset Council team who removed the considerable spoils after the clear up.

VE Day - 80th Anniversary

Plans are afoot to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe on Thursday 8th May. We are hoping to involve the school, and the pub, although not necessarily together! More details as they become available, but stand-by to celebrate, and commemorate.

Full Fibre

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.

What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in March		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	3.30 – 4.30	Big Q (term time only)
Tuesdays	4.45 – 5.45 7.00 – 8.30	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661) NEW Dance Connection (4 th and 18 th)
Wednesdays	4.45 – 5.45 7.00	Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 482661 or Paul Kingston 482162) Mindful Movement (Jane Hutchins 07882 527697)
Thursdays	9.15 – 11.15	First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)
Fridays	10.00 – 12.00	Art Group (7 th and 21 st) in Meeting Room
OTHER EVENTS		
Thursday 6 th	7.30	Film Night "The Critic"
Tuesday 11 th	7.30	Parish Council Meeting in Meeting Room
Monday 17 th	7.00 7.00	Gardening Club meeting (Main Hall) Pastoral Skills Course (Meeting Room)
Monday 24 th	7.00	Pastoral Skills Course (Main Hall)
Sunday 30 th	10.30	United Benefice Service for Mothering Sunday Coffee/Croissants and family craft from 9.45
Coming up in early April: Thursday 3rd Film Night. Saturday 5th Village Café run by the W.I.		
Village Cafés: The hall is available for hire free of charge on Saturday mornings for a Café to raise funds for any group. It's a good social event for the community and always popular. Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 wlitton@gmail.com		

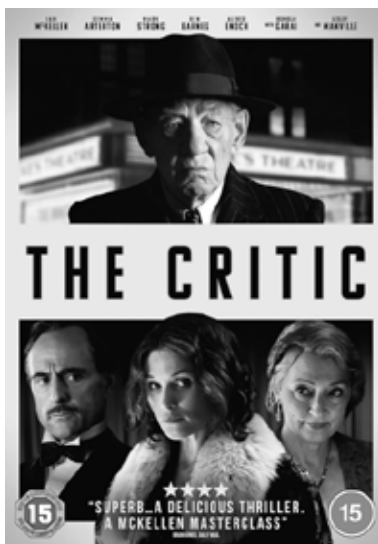
Bride Valley Films

Next films at Litton Cheney Village Hall

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"



THURSDAY 3rd APRIL CONCLAVE – *'brilliantly shot and extremely atmospheric'*

Conclave is a masterfully crafted thriller that delves into the clandestine world of the Vatican, offering viewers a gripping portrayal of the papal election process. Directed by Edward Berger and based on Robert Harris's 2016 novel, the film boasts a stellar ensemble cast, including **Ralph Fiennes**, **Stanley Tucci**, **John Lithgow**, and **Isabella Rossellini**. Cert.12+ 2hrs.

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)



Mothering Sunday

30th March from 9.45am



Come to LaTCH on 30th March for coffee, croissants and a variety of crafty activities for families, followed by an informal service, starting at 10.30am.

We'll have a guest speaker and lively music led by the specially formed band:

Everyone is welcome along!




Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

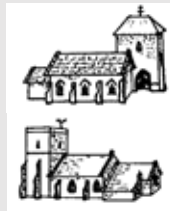
Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

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>



Candlemas

Many of the local Churches were represented at the Candlemas service held in Puncknowle Church. It was a beautiful, quiet, candlelit service of meditation. Thank you to Heather Goffee who led the service, and to David Burles who played the organ. At the end of the service everyone took their lighted candles across the road to the Crown Inn for refreshments. Thank you Lyn, at The Crown, for preparing such a welcoming buffet.

Lady Day

On Sunday 23rd March we will be holding our Lady Day service in Puncknowle Church at our Café Church service at 11.00am. Lady Day is the feast of Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. It is the first quarter day of the year. We will be celebrating all the women of the world and their contribution to our society and the Church. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special day.

The Antiques Road Show Comes to Puncknowle!

Have you ever wondered what that spoon Granny left you, or that old chair in the corner of the bedroom is worth? Then bring them along to St Mary's Church, on Thursday 3rd April, between 5.00pm and 7.30pm and get an valuation by Dukes specialist auctioneers.

They will be holding a Charity Evaluation Evening in Puncknowle. All are welcome to bring items to be valued by Duke's specialists at the cost of a small donation. The event will last approximately 2-3 hours and all proceeds will go to the Church.

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in March		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
Wednesdays	10.00am – 12.00pm	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Wednesdays	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Table Tennis Contact John on 07557 963618
OTHER EVENTS		
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

Monday 10th	7.00pm – 9.00pm	History Group: contact Debbie on deborahlegge2@gmail.com
Tuesday 18th	1.00pm – 2.30pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Thursday 20th	7.00pm – 9:30 pm	Bride Valley WI Contact: bridevalleywi@gmail.com
Monday 24th	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Benefice Meeting
Thursday 27th	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Neighbourhood Planning Meeting Open to the Public. More information: https://puncknowle.net/neighbourhood-plan/
Friday 28th	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 on 01308 898492 for more details. Lunches cost £6

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

Future dates 2025:

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

May 20th Lasagne with salad & garlic bread, Surprise Pudding to follow

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

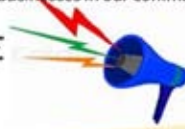
Vegetarian option can be provided.

**The Neighbourhood Plan
for Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington**

We need to hear more of your views about issues that affect your daily life in the Villages

Our surveys are designed to gather information from residents, young people and businesses in our community

**YOUR VOICE
MATTERS**



Further information about the surveys will be available online and posted through your door in March

This is your last chance to influence The Neighbourhood Plan for our community

Closing Date: March 31, 2025



SCAN
ME



3Villages
Your vision our future

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

**SAVE THE DATE
for
PUNCKNOWLE
FÊTE**

Held in Puncknowle Manor Gardens
By kind permission of Sarah Wild

**SATURDAY 26 JULY
2:00-4:00 pm**

**Everything a proper Village
Fete has and more.**

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club January Results

£30.00	No. 65	<i>D. Andrews</i>
£15.00	No. 34	<i>K. Horsley</i>
£5.00	No. 30	<i>B. Holmes</i>

Church news

Ruth Cullingford donating a cheque for £200 to Helen Naerger from The Three Ells Trust. This money was from the Church collection at the Live Nativity.

The Three Ells Trust is a local charity who support families and children with life changing conditions.



Highways

With all the lovely weather we've been having recently our roads have really taken a battering!

Did you know that the easiest way to report issues with our roads (highways) is by using the Dorset Council Highways "Portal".

The link below will take you through to the portal where you can then select the box that best describes the issue you wish to report:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

The Parish Council continues to welcome residents to share with them issues they have with our highways but also support the use of the portal.

Once reported on the portal we would welcome you to share with the Parish Council the reference number of your report and a very brief description of what you have reported. This also enables the Parish Council to monitor issues in the village and escalate if not addressed satisfactorily.

The Parish Council's email address is krlb@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Coming up in March ...

Coffee Break

The March Coffee Break will take place **Saturday 8th March** from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the Village Hall.

Long Bredy Defibrillator fundraiser – ‘Would I Lie To You?!’

There are still a few tickets available for this year's Long Bredy Defibrillator fundraising event "Would I Lie to You" on Friday 14th March, at 7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm) in Long Bredy Village Hall. Tickets are £10 each and include a light supper. The Come Along Inn bar will also be open for all your refreshment needs.

Due to the possible "blue" content, this is an evening for over 16's and open minded people.

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

Come Along Inn

The March opening for the 'Come Along Inn' will be on the **Friday 21st March from 5.30pm to 9.00pm** at the Village Hall and a hot supper will be available. To book supper ring 01308 482270 or email aking44634@aol.com, we do try to confirm each supper booking, so please contact us again if we haven't got back to you. Do come along and welcome in Spring with friends and neighbours.

Annual Village Spring Clean

This year's **Annual Village Spring Clean** will be on **Saturday 22nd March**. Please **meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am** for your route and litter picking equipment.

Stout shoes or wellington boots, and warm (and waterproof!) clothing is also highly recommended.

Children are very welcome, and indeed encouraged, but due to the nature of the event, they must be supervised by a responsible adult.

The roads through the village remain open to traffic during the event.

There will be light refreshments available in the Village Hall from 10.30am so you can enjoy a well-deserved drink and piece of cake afterwards.

Not only does this help to keep our village looking lovely, but it is also a fun event and a good chance to meet up with neighbours and make new friends.

Any questions please contact the Parish Council on krlb@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Note for your calendars

Coffee Break Plant Sale

The annual Long Bredy Plant Sale will take place **on Saturday 10th May**. As usual, we are asking anyone who is sowing seeds, taking cuttings or splitting plants to put one or two aside to donate to the sale if possible.

We usually have an excellent range of lovely plants which especially attract those just starting a garden as well as seasoned growers, thanks to the generous contributions we receive.

We will also accept good tools which are no longer needed but not books or magazines.

Please contact Sue Dyer (01308 482882) for any details.

Saturday 29th November at LATCH - Cafe / Table Top Sale

Anyone wishing to have a table to sell their own items can rent a table for £10 and keep the profits from what they sell. Any crafters can start planning now!

Contact Jackie Cain if interested - Email cainjackie@btinternet.com

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton
patgraston43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264
Village web-site: www.burtonbradstockvillage.org.



Notice of Preparation of a New Church Electoral Roll for Burton Bradstock

Notice of the preparation of a New Church Electoral Roll, prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 13th April, is displayed the church porch. Every 6 years a new roll is compiled and if you wish to have your name on the roll it is necessary to **complete a new application form**. The forms are available in the church. When complete please return it either to me or to one of the churchwardens by 16th March.

Jane Stubbs, Electoral Roll Officer

Notice Of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin Burton Bradstock with Chilcombe will be held in the Church on Sunday 13th April after the 11.00am service. The meeting should start at approximately 12.15pm. You might like to consider service to the Church and Parish as a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). There are several vacancies and we would be happy to discuss membership with you at any time before the APCM. There is also a vacancy for a Churchwarden. For information about this interesting and important role, or to apply, ring Ian Ibbotson (01308 898484).

Thanks to Pat Broomhead

Pat Broomhead has for many years done a marvelous job of organizing the floral displays in the church, for festivals and running the rota of flower arrangers for services. Unfortunately, due to a spell of poor health Pat feels she is no longer able to continue. The flower arrangers all send their thanks to Pat for all the help she has given them and their best wishes for her speedy recovery. Rebecca Bryan has agreed to take over from Pat and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join the team of flower arrangers. No experience is needed and the team are happy to give some basic training to anyone who thinks they would enjoy helping. Please contact Rebecca on 01308 898455 or 07827 374087

Tots Time

It was kind of the Burton Bradstock School to invite the Tots and their families to the School Christingle service at the Church on January 31st. It was good to be all together.

On another week Tots made 'rocky road' biscuits when we read the story about Jesus, Mary and Joseph escaping from bad king Herod and living as refugees in Egypt. Then we got out the tools from the Tots' tool kit as we thought about young Jesus helping Joseph in his carpenter's workshop. Our clever 4-year-olds knew all the names of the tools and how to use them. Panic not!! There are no chairs with one leg missing in the Lady chapel. We plan to do 'junk-modelling', designing boats on the day the story is about Jesus calling his first followers, who were fishermen. Then there will be heart-shaped biscuits to ice on Valentines Day. Any excuse for sticky fingers and naughty nibbles. Probably there will be wool-winding too.



We are looking forward to getting outdoors as soon as possible to enjoy fun and games in the church garden. We are really grateful to have that space for older Tots to run around on the grass (with or without pushchairs) and, when the weather is hot, for babies to sleep in their prams in the shade of the tree. Hopefully, after half-term, we shall be able to start venturing out again.

All pre-school children, toddlers, babies and bumps are welcome with their parents/carers. We meet every Friday in term time from 2.00pm to school pick-up time. For further information contact Audrey (897227), Heather (897780) or Helen on BVchurchesTA@outlook.co.uk

+++Exciting new experiment! +++

Part 1 of the Family Breakfast Church went well. Eight family groups came, and all seemed to enjoy it. Hopefully in part 2 other families will come too. There will be variations as we try to assess the best format and practical set-up. Plans are already afoot for a Family Breakfast on March 23rd at 9.30am.

Is Mothering Sunday difficult for you?

On **Saturday 29th March**
from **2-4pm**

in **St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock**

we are offering a safe space for those who find Mothering Sunday difficult.



Whatever your story, whether you're grieving the loss of a mother, the loss of a child, or a baby through miscarriage, whether you're struggling with infertility or childlessness, singleness or a difficult relationship, whether you never even knew your mother or any other reason why you might find Mothering Sunday painful, this quiet, reflective space has been designed with you in mind. It will be an informal gathering, either to sit quietly, to light a candle, say a prayer or to chat over a cuppa.

For further info please contact bvchurchesta@outlook.com or phone Liz on 07799333205

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.

Wednesday 12th March Burton Bradstock School
Wed 9th April St Mary's Church

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 co-starring 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.

Diary dates

The Village Hall Spring Quiz is planned for Saturday 26th April. Teams of 8 will automatically get their own table. Smaller groups will be put into teams by the organizer.

Tickets will go on sale at the Post Office on Wednesday 9th April at £1150 a head which will include a jacket potato supper with filling of your choice. In December, the tickets were all sold by 10.30am on the day, so be warned!

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club”

February 2025 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1st	£32.60	No 142:	Mrs Lianne Mealing
2nd	£16.30	No 99:	Mr Phil Gabriel
3rd	£8.15	No 9:	Helen Rodier

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the March 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £10 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Supper Club

The March Supper Club will be held on Monday 17th March.

Anyone wishing for further details please phone Mags Chue on 07790 811905

Burton Bradstock Village Society

Village Society Outing

One of the annual pleasures for many Society members is our outing. This year Richard Ferre has arranged for us to enjoy the “Spirit of Water” Flower Festival in Salisbury Cathedral followed by a visit to the Shillingstone Railway Museum and a Cream Tea on the way home. A lovely, relaxed day with easy walking. Details are announced at our meetings and advertised in the Newsletters.

The cost is yet to be finalised at the time of going to press but will be around £45.

Date changes:

There are changes of dates for your Diaries. For administrative reasons the dates of the April meeting (Race Night), the AGM and Plant & Cake Sale have been changed from those published in your programmes. The new dates are April 4th, May 16th & May 17th respectively. We will keep publicising these but please update your diaries.

The Flower & Produce Show:

The two 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. The Limerick will be entitled **“Electric Cars”**.

The Society talk on Friday 14th March

This is titled **“Walking the pilgrimage trails in Spain”** and is given by Ian Buchanan and Laura Savina (Ian & Lolly).

For over 1000 years pilgrims have walked 100s of miles to visit the shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Ian and Lolly have walked the 600 miles it takes to cross the width of Spain from the Pyrenees to Santiago and onto the ‘End of the World’ at Finisterre more than once, and they keep going back for more!

Come along and share the experience with them. Find out why nearly half a million people of all ages and from all corners of the globe made the trip last year alone. Many, like the pilgrims of old, go because of their faith, others simply enjoy the long hike in beautiful countryside, rich in cultural and architectural heritage, history, music and well-earned food. Whatever their motivations, they fall in love with the independence, simplicity and friendship they find along the way.

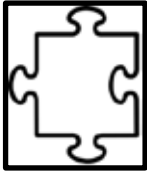
Doors open at 7.00pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your friends.

Race Night 4th April

This is a new venture for the committee and plans to be a lot of fun. Doors will open at **6.30pm and the 1st race at 6.45pm**. There will be 4 races overall. Each race has 8 horses and payout will be win only. Entrance fee £1.50 for members, £5 non-members for which you will receive a token for a £1 bet to use whenever you want, all extra bets £1. There will be a bar and refreshments between the 3rd & 4th race but no raffle.

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

It is good to be able to report that we get weekly visits from the children at Burton Bradstock School, generally on a 4-week rota. It is so heartening that they seem to enjoy their visits and being able to borrow books. Many thanks to our volunteers who open the Library early for their visits.



Jigsaw Challenge: From the beginning of March we invite you to come and join in adding pieces to a jigsaw on the central table – as many pieces as you can or want!

We have restarted receiving rotation of stock from within the Community Libraries group which, along with a number of brand-new books, means that our book selection is being regularly refreshed. There is much on offer through the Library service and Libraries West's large stock of books and e-services. You can order on line from the catalogue from your home computer or use the libraries app on your phone or tablet. 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).

Date for your diary: our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Burton Bradstock Community Library opening times are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

Burton Bradstock WI

I think the members who came to our January meeting will have soon become super fit, in a very relaxed way, if they have continued to follow the exercises in the Chair Yoga session that was run by a very encouraging and enthusiastic Barbara Cohen. It was a most enjoyable and informative evening and a good start to the New Year. Keep it up ladies!!



February found us thinking about environmental issues as part of our Green Hearts Day and our talk by Doug Skinner on the "Health of our Seas" linked in well with this. I can't say more as, once again, our meeting falls after the

deadline for this report, but I am sure we will be all the wiser about the situation afterwards and I will tell all next time.

The lunch club will have enjoyed a meal out at the Crown Inn in Uploders by the time you read this and the Busy Bees group will have enjoyed an afternoon tea.

Unfortunately, we had to withdraw from the Dorset Federation Kurling competition this year for various reasons, but we shall keep practising hard during our twice-monthly sessions in the hall and hopefully will participate again next year. No doubt, it will soon come round!!

At our meeting on 11th March at 2.15pm, Mark Bugler from Groves Garden Centre will be coming to give us a demonstration on preparing hanging baskets for Spring. I'm sure we shall all be suitably inspired to have a go afterwards and that the village will be a riot of colourful baskets sometime soon. Also, in March it will be time for our annual Spring Lunch – this time at the Three Horseshoes pub in the village, which we are all looking forward to. (The committee have also booked a sneaky lunch there at the beginning of the month to celebrate another year of hard work and planning, before a new committee is elected at our Annual Meeting in April.)

Janet Pearson. 01308 898346

Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

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

Burton Coffee Mates

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

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

Greenfingers Club Edible Acre

Nicky & Lily, (mother/daughter) from *The Edible Acre* will be our next speakers at 7.30pm Thursday 13th March, sharing with us details of their local, no-dig market garden.

Please remember to bring any spare plants (proceeds to Weldmar Hospice) & and as always there are refreshments and a raffle!



Entry: £1

Cilla's March Checklist - Lift & divide overgrown clumps of perennials & herbs. Prune bush/shrub roses, hardy fuchsias, buddleia & late-flowering clematis. Take stem cuttings from new growth on pelargoniums, salvias & fuchsias. Plant gladiolus corms & start dormant canna rhizomes into growth.

Start sunflowers in plugs, begonia tubers in pots/trays indoors. Sow short rows of beetroot, broad beans, carrots, lettuce, peas, spinach & radishes; plant onion sets, shallots & first early potatoes if conditions fair. Sow hardy annual seeds. Protect vulnerable plants with fleece/cloche if cold weather forecasted.

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!

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



On the perils of parking near church

The Rectory, St James the Least.

My dear Nephew Darren

I cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes, and as your services often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular - although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practising Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St James the Least of All was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Mattins is over.

I did once encourage people to walk to church across the fields, but after we had nearly lost the present Earl in that swampy bit near the brook, I decided the idea was best dropped.

For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park

just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up to the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before - I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, bringing the entire town to a halt until your Sunday morning Service is over.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Burton Bradstock	11.00am Morning Worship	11.30am Holy Communion with ashes (followed by a light lunch)	11.00am Holy Communion with baptism	9.30am Café Church	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Breakfast Church	United Benefice service at LATCH – a special service for Mothering Sunday 10.30am
Liton Cheney	9.30am Morning Worship		9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Matins	9.30am Morning Worship	Coffee/crossants and family crafts from 9.45am
Punchnowle	Morning Praise 11.00am		9.30am Holy Communion		11.00am Café Church	
Swyre	3.00pm Evening Prayer			11.00am Holy Communion		
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	
Portsmouth		5.30pm Holy Communion with ashes	10.00am Family Praise	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am BCP Holy Communion	9.00am Solo Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion		9.00am Holy Communion		10.00am Family Praise	
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP		11.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Family Praise		

