

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



June 2025

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

Contents

From the Rectory	4	Littlebredy	32
Valley Notes	7	Shipton Gorge	33
Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington	16	Litton Cheney	38
Long Bredy	19	St James the Least	42
Burton Bradstock	21	Services in the Valley	60

July 2025 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by 6th June for the July issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact bvctc@outlook.com for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, can be found at bvn.org.uk or via links on the Bride Valley village websites.

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.

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: 01308 898768, Liz: 01308 897451 or Cathryn: 0130 8897169 - or you can get in touch with your churchwarden or Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator on 01308 897260. Home communion is available by arrangement. If you would like to become an LPA, please have a look at the Diocese of Salisbury webpage:

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

From the Rectory

I have a correction to make to my pub quiz question last month, about the number of saints linked to churches in the Bride Valley. I've discovered that there was a chapel dedicated to Saint James at Kingston Russell House, Long Bredy, where Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy (of Hardy's Monument), was born in 1769. It seems the chapel did not survive much beyond the 16th century. The last Rector's name was 'Bond' (Roger Bond), appointed in 1531 to both Saint James's Chapel and Saint Peter's Church, where Admiral Hardy was later baptised. What a fascinating area we live in, so full of spiritual depths; not just Christian, but also pre-Christian.

I've also discovered the 'Kingston Russell Stone Circle', south of Littlebredy. It contains eighteen stones, is the largest in Dorset, and is late Neolithic or early Bronze Age, from about 4,000 years ago. Whoever built the stone circle had not heard of Jesus and never did, but they almost certainly had a sense of the divine, and transcendent powers beyond their control and understanding. A mysterious place of community, and a location to visit on one of our future 'Pilgrimages of Peace.'

We've had some great 'Pilgrimages of Peace' recently in both the Bride Valley and Chesil area, the land of 'Jurassic Saints and Sailors.' But I wonder how your own life pilgrimage is going right now. You may be figuratively travelling through life on foot in valleys, mountain tops and plateaus, or navigating your boat through streams, and rivers, or trying to stay afloat in ocean waves. We recently had the story of Noah's ark read out in church. You know the one about all the animals going in two by two. It's a great story for children, who love the pictures of the grinning animals being safe, the dove with the olive leaf, and the colourful rainbow as a sign of hope. They don't question the idea of God deciding to kill every human being and animal and tree and plant, except the ones that make it into the ark. Perhaps by the time they get to be teenagers or adults they decide it's all made up, the Bible clearly is not the 'Word of God', and even if it is they don't want anything to do with this God of wrath and indiscriminate destruction. Think about it, which two pet cats, or guinea pigs, or dogs would have made it into the ark? Too distressing to contemplate.

Some people may think that God should blot out a few people right now, but actually I think the point of the story, and to me it is a story, is that when it

feels like our world has ended, like we're hanging on for dear life in the debris of broken relationships, broken hearts, broken dreams and loneliness, we can find safety in an 'ark'. That safety is a loving, caring, understanding community. It may be in a church, after all the main part of a church building is called a nave (from 'navis' – Latin for boat). It may be in a pub, in a club, in a village hall, in a school, in people's homes. Like the people who built the 'Kingston Russell Stone Circle' we don't need to believe in or even know about Jesus or religion, we just need faith; faith in the 'circle of life', the 'circle of love' and the power of caring community.

We in the churches want to do all we can to promote and build caring community. We acknowledge that some people find it difficult to believe in God, and certainly not an 'all knowing' and 'all powerful' God when there is so much suffering and pain. Our prayer is that wherever you are on your pilgrimage of life, that you will know that the Saints and the saints are with you, and that with you we will all continue to build and sustain rainbow communities of hope, through faith in the power of love, and with olive branches of peace.

Andrew

Pilgrimage of Peace, starting at Chilcombe Church, 8th June

Before Evensong at Chilcombe on 8th June all comers are welcome to join a circular walk starting and finishing at the church. The walk will be 5km on footpaths and bridle ways but fairly rough and "up and down" with a bit of track and 1/2 mile on Chalk Pit Lane above Litton Cheney and will last approximately 90 minutes with time to pause.

Bring stout shoes, maybe a stick and some water. Dogs on leads please. Tea and a biscuit at the end before the service at Chilcombe which starts at 6.30pm!

Meet from 4.00pm with a prompt departure at 4.30pm.

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:

Hilary Mousley 7th April at Burton Bradstock

Bob Ayers 6th May at Shipton Gorge

BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

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

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

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

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

We always welcome new drivers.



Thorners CE VA School

The sun shone, the smiles were broad and the bunting glistened as we commemorated VE Day on Thursday the 8th of May!

Staff and children dressed in 1940s clothing for the day and started off by being escorted up to church by a WW2 replica Willy's Jeep, driven by one of our parents, Lee Turner. The older ones took



the youngest pupils' hands as we walked up behind the Jeep to church waving to villagers who had kindly come out to cheer us on and wave flags as well as decorate the route with bunting on hedges, houses and cottage walls.



In church, the older pupils took turns in the pulpit to read eulogies of some of the men of Litton Cheney - and of their own family members - who sadly did not return home nor live to see victory in Europe secured. Some wonderful singing of *O God Our*

Help in Ages Past and *Jerusalem*, along with the more usual school hymns of *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *When a Knight Won His Spurs*, filled the church as the Rector led the pupils through a service of both celebration and commemoration. After returning to school, the pupils were able to have photos taken and then (after some particularly strict arithmetic tests) settled down to a street-party style VE Day lunch with cucumber sandwiches and

Victoria Sponge for pudding. The children have also completed the village history trail and many thanks to Paul Kingston for all his work in setting this up for everyone to follow. Whilst the war is well covered in both primary and secondary history curriculum topics, it is marvellous to see events such as this being well supported as it really enables the children to both glimpse the magnitude of this seismic moment and period in time, as well as trace the effects it still has in their lives today.

It is lovely also to see that the familiar pattern of village school life continues to thread itself through the calendar this month with the usual round of examinations for the older children - prior to heading off to secondary school, preparations for the summer fete stepping up week by week, the swimming pool being refreshed and made ready for next term, as well as my particular favourite annual job; wrestling the maypole down from the school attic - apart from Christmas lights - nothing it seems compares to the Gordian knot that greets me every year when I seek to untangle the ribbons! Alongside country dancing, the children are looking forward to cricket coaching, forest school sessions as well as sailing at Portland when they return after the half term break and we look ahead to the last part of the summer term with the usual bittersweet mix of leavers' assemblies, residential trips away, final school reports, climbing to the top of the church tower and all the other little traditions of the remaining few weeks at primary school. I hope that, in quietly maintaining the rhythm of these small, familiar elements, year in, year out, that we celebrate them too, perhaps unconsciously, the fruits of a hard-won peace secured some 80 years ago.

Mike Sitch
Headmaster



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.

Before the Easter holiday, we had our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) which took place on Tuesday 25th March 2025.

The SIAMS inspection focuses on the school's foundation as a church school and how the vision enables children and adults to flourish. The inspection concluded that our school is effectively living out its Christian vision, centred on 'Do Justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6:8), and this vision is central to enabling both pupils and adults to flourish.

Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

The report highlights several key strengths:

- **Living out the Vision:** The school's Christian vision is strongly embedded in its daily life, fostering an ethos of care and kindness.
- **Wellbeing and Support:** the wellbeing of pupils and adults is prioritised, ensuring a safe and happy environment where everyone is supported to thrive. This includes strong support for vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), enabling them to experience a strong sense of success and belonging.
- **Values and Responsibility:** Pupils demonstrate the school's core Christian values of justice, kindness and humility. They learn about equity, show respect, and take responsibility for others and their environment.
- **Collective Worship:** Collective worship is well-designed and effectively enhances the spiritual development of pupils and adults, promoting inclusion and reflection.

The report also identified some areas where the school can further develop:

- **Religious Education (RE):** Enhance pupils' understanding of a broader range of religious and non-religious worldviews in RE to better appreciate the diversity of beliefs.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Develop further opportunities for spiritual growth across the curriculum, enabling pupils to better articulate the impact of these experiences.

The whole community should be proud of this report which captures the ethos and vision of our school. The development points will continue to be a focus for us as these were highlighted before the inspection in our own Self Evaluation process. The full report can be viewed on our school website. At the beginning of May, the children at Burton took part in the TCS Mini London Marathon, supporting the MS Society which affects a member of

staff at our school. The children did fantastically well on what was a hot afternoon with many running at least 1 mile around Corncrake. Our fundraising efforts added to Rev'd Andrew's London Marathon fundraising which has now surpassed £3000!



Finally, on the 8th May, children at Burton remembered VE Day, 80 years on. They took part in a service in St Mary's church and visited Coffee Mates to share some of their learning. We also held a poster competition, the winners of which can be seen below.

We have spaces available in our Pre-School from September for children who will turn four that academic year. If you would like to visit our happy and friendly village school, please contact the school office to arrange a tour: 01308 897369 or office@burtonbradstockprimary.org
To stay up-to-date with all our news and events please follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BurtonBradstockPrimarySchool> or the hashtags #LoveWhereWeLearn #TeamBurton!

Adam Gough
Headteacher

Our Night Sky in June 2025

Mercury will be setting at 10.00pm followed by Mars at midnight. Saturn will be rising at 0230 in the East followed by Venus at 0400. Deneb Altair and Vega will be rising in the East but will soon be lost in the early morning twilight.



NASA's Juno mission has gathered new findings after peering below Jupiter's cloud-covered atmosphere and the surface of its fiery moon, Io. Not only has the data helped develop a new model to better understand the fast-moving jet stream that encircles Jupiter's cyclone-festooned north pole, it's also revealed for the first time the subsurface temperature profile of Io, providing insights into the moon's inner structure and volcanic activity.

"Everything about Jupiter is extreme. The planet is home to gigantic polar cyclones bigger than Australia, fierce jet streams, , the most powerful aurora, and the harshest radiation belts. While Io is the most volcanic body in our solar system," said Scott Bolton, principal investigator of Juno at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

I hope to bring you more information about the fascinating Senior member of our Solar System.

Bill Turnill (One of the Senior inhabitants of Burton Bradstock!)

With Thanks to NASA for its information on Jupiter

Bride Valley WI

This month the Bride Valley WI had a very interesting presentation from Judy and Pete who work for the National Coastwatch Institution at Burton Bradstock, Hive Beach Station. There are 60 stations around the English and Welsh coastline. The watchkeepers role is to be the 'eyes and ears' of the coast listening via radio channels for anyone in distress and alerting the HM Coastguard of any concerns This service is all run by volunteers. We were informed of the training provided and the commitment required. The coast watch Volunteers welcome visitors to their bases and would encourage anyone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer to visit and see how things work. Info@nci.org.uk

Following this presentation our annual meeting took place. We have a change of Treasurer going forward. After 8 years in the role, Meryl has decided to step down. All present thanked Meryl for all her contribution but are pleased she is staying as a committee member. Our new Treasurer is now Karen Hodgeson.

After the euphoria of The Skittles Team's win last month things have settled down but 'skittles for fun' continues at The White Horse, Litton Cheney, on a Tuesday evening. Please email the Bride Valley WI if you think you might like to be part of a champion skittles team!!!

Our first evening walk took place on Thursday 1st May. We took a gentle amble around West Bay searching out the beautiful Weldmar Elephants. Twelve splendid, colourful elephants were spotted in the warm sunshine reminding us all of the excellent care The Weldmar Charity provides to Dorset.



If you are interested in joining us, we meet every third Thursday at Puncknowle Village Hall at 7.30pm.
Contact us at:-
Bridevalleywi@gmail.com

The Bride Valley Book Club Review

“We Need New Names” by NoViolet Bulawayo

Most of us found something to admire in this Booker shortlisted novel told through the voice of Darling, a ten-year-old girl, who lives in a tin shack shanty town. The context is Mugabe’s Zimbabwe when victory against colonialism turns very sour. Schools have closed, teachers have fled, houses have been bulldozed, there is real hunger, parents are working elsewhere or dying of AIDS and the children run feral inventing their own games. Alongside the exuberant mischief of guava stealing we see evidence of real darkness and violence. One of the gang is Chipso, a silent girl of barely 12 and already pregnant. The children’s games reflect an ambition to leave their country and live somewhere rich and prosperous.

This comes true for Darling in the second part of the novel when she is sent to Detroit Michigan to live with her aunt. America does not live up to her expectations but she quickly assimilates as she grows into her early teenage years. She begins to understand that Americans see all immigrant Africans as “the same” failing to grasp their cultural and linguistic differences. Darling does not feel as though she belongs in America and phones home in a moment of homesickness. Ironically it is Chipso who answers the phone - and she has found her voice. She wastes no time in castigating Darling for having abandoned her birth country - it seems that having left - Darling no longer belongs in Zimbabwe either. This is a coming-of-age story and we felt at least

part of it was autobiographical. It is eloquent about the plight of refugees and the betrayal of their people by some African leaders. There are some very hard-hitting set pieces in the novel but Darling's voice sings loud and clear throughout.

Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley Gardening Club

Writing this during a worryingly unseasonal heatwave I can only hope the weather settles into a more gentle pattern – if only for the sake of our gardens. Organisers of various plant sales will want dry weather on the day but less hot conditions for the plants they are preparing to offer.

One noteworthy event is the Summer Plant Fair held in association with Plant Heritage at Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens on Sunday 8th June (10.00am-3.00pm). There will be up to 30 plant and craft stalls offering lots of rare, exotic, interesting and unusual plants and the £7 adult entry to the Fair includes admission to the garden - a great offer as the usual garden entry is £13, an opportunity not to be missed. A busy weekend for gardeners wanting to buy plants as the Litton Cheney Fete is the afternoon before, on Saturday 7th June (1.00pm-4.00pm) where there will also be an excellent plant stall.

After all the hard work of planting out our new acquisitions it will be time for some well-earned relaxation. What better way to do this than by coming along to the talk on Clematis to be given by Charles Chesshire on Monday the 16th June in the Litton Cheney Community Hall (LATCH) at 7.30pm. Charles is an international garden designer with his design business based alongside his rare plants nursery in Symondsburry.

Doors will open at 7.00pm for the chance to buy plants and chat with a welcome glass of wine. Visitors very welcome as always at £2.

Alison (balletboots@live.com)

Liz Gibbs, Club Secretary, (liz_gibbs@hotmail.com)

Littlebredy Walled Garden opening

The walled garden in Littlebredy will be open to the public from 2.00pm-5.00pm on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons until September. Everyone is welcome to visit!



PRINCE OF WALES & PORTESHAM SURGERIES

New Staff at Portesham

We are very excited to welcome to the team a couple of new faces. Mel Spencer-Veale is our new Practice Nurse and will be working across both branch sites. Mel is an incredibly experienced Practice Nurse and will be working on a Monday Tuesday and Thursday.

Jodie Owens is our new Social Prescriber having received the baton from Kendal. She will be working across both branch sites on a Tuesday.

Fundraising for FeNO

As you will have read last month, we are currently fundraising for a FeNO machine. This is a piece of equipment which more accurately diagnoses asthma. We currently borrow a FeNO machine one day a month for use in both surgery branches. As part of our fundraising, proceeds from the monthly Coffee Break at Long Bredy Village Hall on Saturday 14th June, from 10.30am -12.00noon, will go towards the FeNO fund and more information will be available during the break. There will be other fund-raising events throughout the year so we will keep you posted.

Wellbeing event for carers of Dementia patients

Dorchester PPG are holding a wellbeing event for carers of Dementia patients. If you are an unpaid carer for someone with any form of Dementia you are very welcome to attend. It is being held at the Prince of Wales Surgery, Frederick Treves House, St John Way, Poundbury on Wednesday 18 June from 16.00-19.00. No booking is necessary. We look forward to welcoming you.

Men's Health Week

Men's Health Week 2025 in the UK will take place from Monday 9 June to Sunday 15 June, aligning with Father's Day to highlight the importance of men's health and encourage open conversations about wellbeing. The week also aims to focus on the following themes:

- Men are less likely to seek support for mental health issues.
- Healthier lifestyle choices, including balanced diets, regular exercise, and reduced alcohol consumption, can significantly improve men's health

For support, please see our display in the surgery. You can also visit these sites for further support, information and resources.

<https://andysmanclub.co.uk/> <https://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/>

New equipment

We have a new blood pressure machine and weighing scales in Portesham Surgery waiting room. Pop behind the privacy screen and use the facilities to measure your blood pressure, then measure your weight and write this on the back of the printed slip from the BP machine. Hand this to the clinician you are seeing or to a member of Patient Services at reception.

Surgery website → www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk On Facebook → Prince of Wales surgery and → Portesham Patient News.

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>



Puncknowle Church Flower Festival

What an amazing display! Despite the hot weather and the lack of rain reducing the number of flowers available, the church was still full of colour and provided a backdrop for our 80th Anniversary VE Day celebrations. Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to this occasion.

May Garden Party

As it was a Bank Holiday, the sun which had shone gloriously for weeks decided to have an afternoon off. The clouds rolled in and a cold northerly wind blew, but Puncknowle and it's neighbours were determined to enjoy themselves. A good number of people came to the Garden Party held at the Crown Inn and spent their time consuming cream teas, splatting rats, racing pigs, and buying raffle tickets. The cake stall sold out in 20 minutes and there was an interesting Neighbourhood Plan display. With "Lost Souls" providing a musical accompaniment it was a very enjoyable time, and when people began to get cold they retired to the comfort and warmth of the Crown. A huge thank you to all the stall holders and everyone who contributed to the event, especially to Lyn and Paul at the Crown for allowing us the use of their garden and for all their support. A magnificent sum of £438 was raised (added to by a donation of £34 from the winnings from the Quiz Night) giving a grand total of £472. This will be equally divided between Puncknowle Church and the Weldmar Hospice.

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in June		
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 3rd	7.30pm – 10.00pm	Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/
Thursday 5th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Craft Club Contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
Thursday 5th	7.00pm – 10.30pm	Whist Drive Contact Jenny on 01308 897863
Tuesday 17th	10.00pm – 2.30pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Thursday 26th	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Neighbourhood Planning Meeting Open to the Public. More information: https://neighbourhoodplan.puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/
Friday 27th	10.0 pm – 12.30pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987



PUNCKNOWLE AND SWYRE COMMUNITY FÊTE

**Held in Puncknowle Manor Gardens
By kind permission of Sarah Wild**

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

**Any offers of help either with the
organisation of the fete or running stalls
on the day would be most welcome
Full support given to any newcomers**

Please contact Liz Slater 07977413625

Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club

Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy

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

June 17th Sausages Mash & Gravy, Dessert to follow

Future dates 2025

July 15th Ham or Beef with salad & new potatoes, Dessert to follow

August: No Meal

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

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

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club April Results

£30.00	No. 27	J. Milne
£15.00	No. 66	S. Dyer
£5.00	No. 52	D. Bailey

Plant Sale and Coffee Break



A huge thank you to the many people who helped to make this our most successful plant sale to date. We had many compliments on the 'value for money' of our plants and their quality and on the relaxed atmosphere... helped by perfect weather. So, thank you very much to **all** the growers, bakers, helpers, donors and purchasers from all round the valley and beyond who helped us to raise nearly £1,000 so far.

With continuing sales of plants from Corner Cottage, Long Bredy during June, we hope to meet the target of £1,000 towards the repairs to St. Peter's Church

tower. If you bought a plant and it isn't happy in its new home, please contact me if you think I could help; we want happy customers who will return next year on the second Saturday in May.

Sue Dyer 01308 482882

Coming up in June...

Plants for sale

A range of good quality plants including vegetable plants, will be on sale from the drive gate of Corner Cottage, Long Bredy DT2 9HU until the end of June. All proceeds will go towards the repair of St. Peter's Church tower.

Come Along Inn

The 'Come Along Inn' will be open again on Friday 20th June, 5.30pm – 9.00pm in the Village Hall. Hopefully the evening will be fine enough to sit outside and enjoy the first BBQ of the year, but whatever the weather a warm welcome awaits you. (Booking is not necessary for the BBQ but if you are a largish group a heads up would be appreciated. Please email aking44634@aol.com or ring 01308 482270).

Long Bredy's Playing Field Needs You

Long Bredy is very lucky to have a playing field and play equipment, but it requires a lot of care and maintenance that our two wonderful volunteers cannot do alone, so we need your help!

We are seeking volunteers to join us on Saturday, 28th June between 10.00am and 1.00pm in the playing field (behind The Rookery) to help with some basic maintenance of the play equipment and the playing field. Refreshments will be provided.

If you would like further information and/or have a question, then please email the Parish Clerk on krlb@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

St Peter's Day

This will take place on Sunday 29th June at 10.00am.

To celebrate our church's saint, we are having a family morning service led by Rev'd. Andrew. There will be a live band, crafts and refreshments. Do come along—either to the service or just for the refreshments afterward—and sit in the beautiful churchyard, which offers a stunning view. Everyone is welcome.

We had hoped that the tower repairs would be visible at this time, but there has been a delay. We hope the work will be completed soon.

Burton Bradstock

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



Tots' Time

Joseph is hanging up in the church porch at Burton Bradstock as promised. All the Tots had a part in painting his amazing, colourful coat, and created really good paintings to take home. They had nearly dried in the sunshine, and I don't think the church lawn suffered in any way. Edith's portrait of her

sister was especially lovely, and all the boys created their own very expressive art work.

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief when, at last, the weather was good for Tots' Time outside. We hope and pray for many more sessions outdoors though, when necessary, we are grateful for the shelter of the church building. We now have more scope for being energetic, exploring and discovering 'all creatures.....small!'. We have such fun doing messy things such as water play, bubbles, being creative with food and drink, along with old favourites like play-dough!



Please invite anyone you know who has a baby, a toddler, a pre-school child or even a bump to give Tots' Time a try. We meet at 2.00 p.m. every Friday during term-time and finish at around 3.00/3.15pm to enable parents to collect older children from school. Each time we have healthy snacks for Tots and parents/carers, and there is no charge. For further information contact Audrey on 01308 897227, Liz on 01398 897451, Heather on 01308 897780 or Helen at BVchurchesTA@outlook.co.uk

Burton Coffee Mates

Our move to an afternoon tea for V.E. Day proved to be a great success which everyone enjoyed. Children from school came in and showed us the flags they'd made and some interesting drawings about their ideas of the war.



On 12th June we shall be back at our usual time of 10.30am in the Church for our coffee morning. For further information or transport please ring Pauline (898327)

Please cut out this page as required.

Become a Friend of the Festival

The Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art is a highlight of the summer season. The Art Exhibition features works by local artists and the Music Festival features world-class musicians. It draws in both locals and visitors, many of whom plan their visit to coincide with the Festival.

By becoming a Friend you will not only be supporting the Festival and helping to secure its future, but will also receive regular newsletters, invitations to Friends only events, advance purchase of tickets, etc. Simply make a donation of at least £10, (more would be welcome

Complete the form below (with a cheque or cash or the Standing Order form *overleaf*), and put it in an envelope and leave it at the BB Post Office Please include your email address as it is a much cheaper way of sending newsletters and other correspondence

Name	£.....
Name	£.....
	Total
Address	
.....	
Email	Tel.
Please make cheques payable to 'Burton Bradstock Festival'	

Many Thanks. Chris Sundt Email: bmf@echini.co.uk Tel: 01308 898 531

You can make your donations to us worth 25% more at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK taxpayer please fill in this Gift-aid form, sign it and return with your donation. We will then be able to claim back 25p for every £1 you donate.

The Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art	Gift Aid Form
I am a UK taxpayer. Please treat all donations made from the date of this declaration to The Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art as Gift Aid donations until further notice.	
Title.....First Name Surname.....	
Home address.....	
.....	
Postcode.....	
Signature..... Date.....	

Bank Standing Order Form

To.....**Bank plc**
Address.....
.....

Please pay Barclays Bank, Sort Code 20-26-62 Account Number
00928003

the sum of £.....

Immediately and ANNUALLY on 1st April to the credit of "**Burton
Bradstock Festival**"

quoting reference.....(YOUR FULL NAME[S])

And debit my account accordingly

Account No.....Sort Code-.....-.....

Signature.....Date.....

Your Address

.....
.....
.....
Post Code.....

Please **DO NOT** send this form to your bank

The Form will then be recorded and passed to your Bank

This personal data is collected to record your donation, and to keep you informed of Festival & Friends activities. Contact Chris Sundt on bbmf@echini.co.uk or 01308-898531 if you no longer want to get such information. You will find our Privacy Policy on the web site.

www.burtonbradstockfestival.com

Registered Charity Number 1148898

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 01308 897648.

Coffee Mornings

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

Wed 11th June, Village Society

Wed 9th July, W.I.

Burton Bradstock Films

BB Films takes a summer break and will resume in September. Look for details of the films in the BVN nearer the time.

During the break a comprehensive review of the projection system will take place to eradicate the recent glitches.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club”

May 2025 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1st	£33.00	No 101:	Mr Colin Clark
2nd	£16.50	No 159:	Mrs Tina Huggins
3rd	£8.25	No 100:	Mr Malcolm Peach

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the May 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £7 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Bench Sponsorship

Are you interested in sponsoring a bench to help enhance Burton Bradstock's public spaces? This will help create inviting places for residents and visitors to relax, connect and enjoy the surroundings.

For further information please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk

Reporting Collisions

Did you know you can report all collisions or near-misses online to Dorset Council, even if there is no injury or little damage and no police involvement?

Having information about damage-only, non-injury incidents and near-misses helps Dorset Council identify where road improvements are needed.

Please report to the following link:

<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report-a-non-injury-collision-or-near-miss>

Burton Bradstock Village Society

After the busy month of May with the away day to Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival, the AGM two days later and the Plant and Cake sale the day after that, June seems quiet in terms of Village Society events. An update on these will be in July's BVN as they all occurred after June's deadline.

Village Society Coffee Stop, Wednesday 11th June 10.00am-Noon

We are looking forward to a bumper turnout for our Coffee stop with the usual beverages, delicious cakes and good company. Just drop in, all welcome.

Village Society subscriptions

Our thanks to members who have paid their subscriptions of £5 per member for 2025-26 season. We have approximately one hundred payments remaining, and it would greatly assist our collectors if as many members as possible could settle their dues before the delivery of next year's Membership cards in July.

If you are uncertain how to pay, check your emails or please contact Roger Ashman on 07971 649020 or bbvillagesociety@gmail.com

Our planning is well underway for the Flower & Produce Show on 12th of July where we hope for a bumper number of entries from Villagers and children at the school. There are schedules in the Post Office and Library and this is also on the village website in the Village Society section under Flower and Produce Show.

Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art 2025: update

Spring Concert

By now you will have been able to obtain your tickets for the Spring Concert on Friday June 6th in Burton Bradstock Village Hall at 7.00pm. All tickets are £14, available at the Bridport Tourist Information Centre, South Street, Bridport DT6 3LF at the counter, by post, by phoning 01308 424901, or online at <https://bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets/>. Do come and support what should be a lovely early summer's evening of classical music. For those who are Friends you will have had an advance ticket purchase opportunity for a couple of days. The same goes for the main Festival. There will be more information about that in the next issue of BVN. In this addition is included a Friends of the Festival application form in case you would like to join but don't have the paperwork to hand.

Keep up to date with this summer's Festival through www.burtonbradstockfestival.com

Friends of the Festival

Currently there are about 100 Friends – including some couples. About half are village residents. Some others come from quite far afield. The benefits include the recent arrangement for Friends to get advance bookings for seats for Festival week – notified to Friends through the newsletter. Other benefits include an invitation to the private Art Exhibition preview, and a discount on CDs bought during the Festival.

Why have a Friends' scheme? Its purpose is simply to encourage those who love the Festival to make a relatively modest (minimum £10) annual gift to help secure the future of the Festival financially. Currently the Friends are providing over 10% of the income which is a vital contribution. Some Friends

progress to becoming sponsors and give donations to support specific concerts and events. The Festival is a wonderfully vital and distinctive feature of the Burton Bradstock year and a small donation goes a long way to ensuring its survival.

The Art Exhibition 2025: Village Hall, Burton Bradstock DT6 4QS

In my previous article there was an error about the length of this year's Art Exhibition. Please note for your diaries that it will open from 10.00am to 7.00pm on Sunday, August 10th, then weekdays 10.00am to 9.00pm, Saturday August 16th 10.00am to 4.00pm, and 10.00am until 12.30pm on Sunday August 17th.

As in earlier years a selected group of West Country artists will display their work for sale in this popular and friendly exhibition. Admission is free, and browsing definitely encouraged. Well behaved dogs are welcome too!

The beauty of the countryside and dramatic coastline around and about us is reflected in many works of art on display. You will find vibrant landscapes and bold abstracts in various media, as well as ceramics, glassware, jewellery and woodwork. For the smaller budget, paintings, crafts and cards are available at affordable prices. There is also the chance to have a chat with artists who steward the exhibition. Information on this year's exhibitors will follow next month.

For more information please visit--
artinfo@burtonbradstockfestival.com
www.burtonbradstockfestival.com/artexhibition.html

Volunteers

It goes without saying that the success of the entire Festival rests to a very large extent on an army of volunteers. However there remain gaps that need filling for this summer, so please respond to the call if you feel you can offer enthusiasm and commitment. The range of vacancies is too wide to list here. Whatever talents you have, from being a computer wiz to cooking for a large crowd, rest assured they can be used-- from catering to stewarding to fundraising. So please contact Jennifer Malyon for the Music Festival, and Wendy Hart for the Art Festival by email shown below-
jennifermalyonbbd@gmail.com
bbaexhibition@gmail.com

It's worth remembering that the Festival is a registered charity supporting the advancement of the arts for the public benefit and to promote appreciation of music and art of the highest standard. This includes music and art education for both adults and children. Do get in touch about volunteering for such a good cause!

Laura Nottingham

Greenfingers Club



Thank you to everyone who has attended our meetings. We're taking a break for the summer (June, July, & August) so we can all work on our gardens/allotments/pot plants. Keep an eye on the BVN for the date & time of our next meeting.

Cilla's June Checklist - Plant out pot-grown dahlias & cannas; tender summer bedding; half-hardy annuals & tender perennials in containers. Sow foxgloves in pots. Support young sweet pea plants; train clematis and climbing roses. Cut back herbaceous perennials early this month to make them sturdier and stockier. If you have several plants leave some uncut to stagger flowering. Put houseplants outside in a shady spot for the summer – succulents, however, need a lot of light.

Plant out runner beans against supports, courgettes, pumpkins, squashes & sweetcorn. Save space by growing trailing varieties of squash up a sturdy frame. Transplant young leeks. Keep sowing salad vegetables & French beans. Earth up the stems of brassicas & protect from birds and caterpillars. Harvest garlic when the leaves turn yellow. Sow annual herbs like basil, parsley & coriander.

And finally... Q: Why did the fruit from the garden rally round Little Plum?

A: Because she was a damson in distress!

Enjoy the summer.

Supper Club

This month's Supper Club will be held on Monday 9th June. Any enquiries please phone Mags Chue on 07790 811905.

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

I am pleased to report that 21 Friends of Burton Bradstock Library attended the AGM on 24th April. The Chairman's report for the past year covered quite a range of new challenges for the Library, which included Dorset Libraries' staffing changes, a new computer management system adopted by Libraries West, and alterations to the stock control system. It has meant that although all our volunteers have had to cope with a number of computer issues, I am glad to report that they are all still with us and have been extremely patient. We are all required to do online training on a variety of topics (as do all Dorset employees) but we are getting there! Many thanks go to all our volunteers for their support.



All seven Trustees were willing to stand for re-election, and Keith Britton and I were elected Treasurer and Chairman respectively. Keith Marriott kindly continues as Buildings Officer. All Trustees have supported the Library in various ways and we look forward to continuing to act as a hub for the village and the valley.

The number of Friends of the Library has dropped during the year but I thank all who have supported us. Please encourage any new residents to get a free library card and consider becoming a Friend for as little as £5 a year. Forms are available in the library. We offer a variety of services thanks to Libraries West and locally we host our Digital Champion, and provide photocopying, laminating, jigsaws to borrow, public computers and of course, a friendly atmosphere!

Normal opening hours are:

Monday 2.00pm-4.00pm
Wednesday 10.00am-12noon
Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm-4.00pm

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

Sue Brown
Chairman

Burton Bradstock WI

On 8th May, we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day by having an afternoon tea in the Village Hall. The ladies arrived, resplendent in their red, white and blue outfits, to the familiar sound of the Glenn Miller Orchestra. Once settled down there was an old-fashioned Beetle Drive – very reminiscent of the era! There followed a delicious tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and scones with jam and cream all of which had been prepared by a small group of members and was very much enjoyed by all. There was also some fond reminiscing from our older members, who had experienced the excitement of the day back in 1945 and the afternoon concluded with a sentimental rendering of “We’ll Meet Again”



Tying in with this historical event, we arranged for our Speaker the following week, Chris Stevens from Bridport Museum, to talk about The War Effort in Bridport but as I am writing this before that May meeting I shall have to leave the details about it until next time.

Also in May the Lunch Club had an outing to the Admiral Hood pub in Mosterton and on Bank Holiday Monday several members will help to run stalls at the Village Fayre, or contribute by baking cakes and making items for the craft stall.

On 4th June is the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of the WI and one of our members, Mary Ibbotson, is to be the delegate for the group of WIs in this area and will be watching via Zoom. We look forward to hearing all about it at our June Meeting.

Also in June, two of our members - Barbara Pursey (one of our longest serving members) and Carol Rawlinson will be representing us by attending the 100th Birthday Celebrations of West Bay WI, whom we congratulate on achieving their Centenary!

At our next meeting on 10th June at 7.30pm Susan Outhwaite from Snooks hat shop in Bridport will be giving a talk entitled “Hats, Hats, Hats”. This speaker has been booked by popular demand and hopefully we will have another opportunity to try on some posh hats, as was the case when she came to talk to our Village Society a few years ago. Watch out for some photos next time.

Janet Pearson 01308 898346

Littlebredy

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



Well, nobody can possibly claim that the ongoing changes in the village are taking place under the radar. There have been extensive reports in the national as well as local media recently, especially over the suspension of permissive access into the Bridehead grounds (focussing mainly on the “Broadchurch” waterfall, naturally), though it has to be said that fortunately most of the coverage has been balanced and fair to all concerned.

A recent visitor to the village – and especially the grounds – has been Edwin Stickley, coming “down memory lane” with his camera. His father was head groom and his mother the cook at Bridehead in the 1940s and 50s. He and his old friend and contemporary Rosemary Allchin (stepdaughter of Fred Burt, for many years the estate blacksmith and handyman) now live at opposite ends of Devon, but have vivid memories of their childhood days here, when the grounds were strictly out of bounds to all, but naturally formed a wonderful playground for the village children to roam in – though they scattered like rabbits, Edwin recalls, when “authority” in the form of the head gardener (“Mr. Forsey”) or the butler (“Mr. Ingram”) were spotted approaching. “Autre temps, autre moeurs” as the pithy French saying has it.

Another development in the village was first covered in January’s edition, when the site was being cleared for the new and revolutionary replacement

for Basket Hill Cottage. The suspense continues, but the area is now covered with a mass of scaffolding, so all will start to be revealed quite soon.

We say farewell to two families shortly. At about the time this edition appears, Rachel Arey leaves No. 1 River View to return to Maiden Newton, where she lived before moving here three years ago. Longer-term residents depart in June as well, when Edgar and Jacqui Moxom, with Spencer and Bertie (and the two black labs) move from No. 2, Stonehills Cottages, to Edgar's parents' home north of the A35. All concerned will certainly be missed in the village, especially on Duck Race Day – if it happens again – and we certainly wish them all well in their new homes.

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

Church Services:

Breakfast Church (in the Village Hall) 9.30am on 8th June

Morning Worship 11.00am on 22nd June

June Floodlight Sponsors

Andrew: in memory of his mother, Mary George, on 14th

Harry & Lily Myers: in memory of their daughter, Beverley

John Bredemear: remembering his mum, Elsie, who died 26th June 1955

For Phil & Sheena, our lovely neighbours
Chris & Ruth Nunn

Thank you to our sponsors for lighting up St Martin's Church.

If you can help to keep the lights shining by sponsoring the floodlights for a special occasion, it would be very much appreciated, as sadly, we have very few sponsors for the next few months. For a suggested donation of £5, your occasion will be listed in the Bride Valley News and on posters on the notice boards. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657, or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

'Big Bob'

On Tuesday 6th May, St Martin's Church was filled to capacity with family, friends and past colleagues, with many having to stand outside to say their last farewell to Bob Ayers, fondly known as 'Big Bob'. The sun shone whilst the bells rang out across the Valley and were tolled for every year of his life. He was a big man, full of mischief, hardworking and very kind. We will all miss him so very much.

Village Hall

May 2025 100 Club Draw results

1 st	125	£25	Mark Welman
2 nd	64	£10	Martin Lerner
3 rd	163	£5	Michael Bradley

Congratulations to all winners.

Parish Council

Unfortunately, we had to postpone the meeting scheduled for 6th May. This is our Annual Parish Meeting, which will now take place on Friday 30th May in the Village Hall at the earlier time of 6.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Village Society

Shipton Gorge Archive Event

The Village Society are putting together an archive event to be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 14th June and Sunday 15th June. Please come along and see the change in the village from years ago to present day. We think you will be surprised at the history that is available in picture form. Everyone is welcome to come along, chat to any of the society members and see all our yesteryears.

Doors will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Refreshments will be available.

Sunflower Competition

Due to the success of the hanging basket competition held at the New Inn last year, we have decided to continue with a competition, but in a different format. This year it will be how tall you can get your sunflowers to grow. Hopefully you will have already started them off, but there is still plenty of time if you have not. Judging will take place on the day before the village show and fete. A prize will be awarded to whose ever can reach the sky. Open to all, young and more senior. Good luck!

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club

The winner in the May draw was Rebecca Clarke. Well done, Rebecca.



Saunders Richardson Wood

The new trees will have been checked and watered and a few dead hedges created to slow down any run off from the top field. The wood will be open on Wednesday 11th June and also 25th June, 11.00am to midday. One or both of these sessions will involve collecting nettles for our nettle fertilizer enterprise. If you would like to come along and either help, or have a walk round, 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. The fertilizer takes around six weeks to



get to its smelly best and be ready for bottling – look out for notices for when it will be ready and on sale!

Shipton Gorge Orchard

The wonderful blossom season is now over, just need to hope the fruits have set, assuming our many pollinators have been busy. Grass is getting longer, with the meandering mown path becoming ever more useful. The bases around some of the trees have been cleared and mulch mats put down to suppress weeds, etc. We are aware that we have a few trees which are not looking very healthy – previously ring-barked by rabbits and not helped at all by the dry spring. Some may need to be removed if they don't recover. We will be doing some work in the Orchard on Monday 16th June. All residents are welcome to come along – to help, or just for a chat if you prefer.

If anyone has a particular interest in wildflowers, insects, etc. and would like to get involved in a citizen science project, please let us know.

A reminder regarding our calendar for 2026, which will be on sale late summer / early autumn. Deadline for submission of photos will be 15th June, to allow time for collation and printing. If you have any you think would be good to include, then please email annecrowe21016@hotmail.com.

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

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>.

Friends of the New Inn

We need your help NOW!

Imagine having no pub in the village to meet up in on a Christmas morning, to watch the rugby together, or to save cooking an evening meal or a Sunday lunch!

Users of the New Inn and local residents are keen to help where they can to ensure the village pub remains open for us to enjoy. We are soon to welcome new tenants at the New Inn, who will do their best to ensure our

village pub is viable, comfortable and a pleasure to visit. However, in this very challenging time for pubs, it will be hard work to get the business going again and to maintain its viability. If we don't support the pub now, it is difficult to see a future for the business.

The pub is currently being managed by New Inn Support Ltd, consisting of six village residents as Directors; they deal with legal issues, brewery contract/liaison, and other management and maintenance roles, as volunteers. The brewery owns the building and the tenants run the business. However, additional volunteers are much needed to carry out activities which are outside the remit of the brewery and to assist the tenants.

There are five areas where you can help NOW:

Maintenance Odd jobs, paid tradespeople will be used as appropriate

Gardening Grass-cutting, borders, flower baskets, etc.

Cleaning Internally, ready for the handover

Painting and decorating in advance of the arrival of the new tenants, and in consultation with them

Fund-raising Event-organising and raising money for paid work and larger projects



As a resident in the village, or as a user of the pub, we are sure that you will enjoy participating in this really worthwhile mission to keep our pub open. Let's work together to keep the village alive, give us a place to socialize, to connect with each other, and have some fun together. Please get involved now and help where you can, physically or financially.

To offer your support in principle, please contact Tony Rogers at fonishipton@outlook.com or via the Shipton Gorge social network, or speak to any NISL board member.

Litton Cheney

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



St. Mary's Church

VE Day was celebrated in style with a wonderful service attended by Thorner's children and teachers dressed in 1940's outfits and accompanied by flags and a war-time jeep. It was not only a fitting commemoration and remembrance but also a great celebration for the school and village.

We are hugely grateful to our Lay Worship Leaders who enable us to have an inspiring and thoughtful service at St. Mary's every Sunday when a priest is not available. Thank you all!

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

Litton Cheney Parish Council

At the time of writing the Parish Meeting/Village Assembly has not taken place. There will be more details in July's BVN, and the village website littoncheney.org.uk

The May meeting is also the Annual Meeting when elections are held for the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the past year is reviewed. During the course of 2024/25, our long-serving Clerk, Maggie Walsh retired, and her responsibilities were taken over by Lucy Beasley. Due to personal circumstances, Lucy stepped down at the beginning of 2025, her duties being assumed by our present Clerk, Debbie Hollings, who is settling in well. Like Lucy, Debbie also clerks for Shipton Gorge, and the set-up seems to work well for all parties.

Again, at the time of writing, we remain one short of our full complement of councillors, and it is hoped this vacancy can be filled in the coming months. Could you be that person?

80th Anniversary of VE Day

Celebrations and commemoration of this significant anniversary began with a village picnic at LATCH on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May. The Litton Cheney Community Choir under the directorship of Paul Cheater sang their hearts out with all the old favourites, with around 80 attendees joining in – a truly joyous occasion. On Thursday 8th May, the actual anniversary date, it was the turn of Thorner's School to take centre stage, and they did it with great aplomb – See Thorner's School Report in Valley Notes for much more detail, plus photos. It has to be said, we are so lucky to have such a dedicated team of teaching and associated staff – Thank you!

Elsewhere in the village, our historian-in-residence, Paul Kingston, had set up a history trail indicating areas and places in the village that played a part in Litton's wartime history. Thank you, Paul, and thank you Beverly and Pete Dennis, Tricia and Nigel Gates, plus many others who festooned the hall and many places in the village with appropriate bunting. Litton Cheney, young and not so young, truly remember those who brought victory, many with their lives. Thank you!

On occasions like this, things don't just happen – it needs someone or some people to step up to the plate, and we are fortunate to have such people here in the village. Many thanks to our band of **village litter pickers** who during the week leading up to Easter delved into the bushes and verges and removed the detritus within.

Easter Sunday Duck Race in aid of Julia's House produced proceeds of £750 which were promptly sent off to the children's hospice charity. A Thank you letter can be found on the village website and at the White Horse. A huge thank you to Sam and Ralph Daubeney, and Andy and Liz at the pub for organising the whole shebang.

Full Fibre Update

Not much extra to report this month as OpenReach have almost completed the works in the village, apart from properties on Chalk Pit Lane. The planned road closure of Chalk Pit Lane on the 23rd June is to facilitate cabling routing works to the properties in Litton Hill.

As I have said before, if you have signed up for Full Fibre via the voucher scheme then that is an obligation to contact your provider and do so.

I will also recommend to anyone who asks, yes, the upgrade to Full Fibre is well worth doing, not only because of the performance, but also for the

connection benefits (fewer dropouts). If you have any questions or problems then please contact me robertmatthewslcpc@gmail.com

What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in June		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	3.30pm-4.30pm	Big Q (term time only)
Tuesdays	4.45pm-5.45pm	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)
Wednesdays	4.45pm-5.45pm	Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 482661 or Paul Kingston 482162)
	7.00pm	Mindful Movement (Jane Hutchins 07882 527697)
Thursdays	9.15am-11.15am	First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)
OTHER EVENTS		
Saturday 7 th	1.00pm-4.00pm	Thorner's & Litton Cheney Summer Fete
Thursday 19 th	6.00pm	Mellulah Yoga (w.mellulah.co.uk)
Thursday 26 th	5.30pm	Pupils' concert
COMING UP		
Saturday 5 th July		Garden Club Show and social
Village Cafés: The hall is available for hire free of charge on Saturday mornings for a Café to raise funds for any group. It's a good social event for the community and always popular. Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 wtlitton@gmail.com		

BRIDE VALLEY FILMS at Litton Cheney Community Hall – LATCH

Thank you to the great team who manage the film club - looking for possible films, checking licence availability and making sure the bar is always well stocked! Also running everything on the night including the projector (which can be somewhat nerve wracking if others have been using it!)

We do our best to make good and varied choices within what is available. There has been an excellent turnout for the last two films so thank you to our audience – please keep coming!

We are taking a summer break now, but will be back in the autumn (Thursday 2nd. October) - probably again sharing some titles with Burton and also showing some titles just at Litton. There are some interesting films coming up so look out for details in August and September's BVN or on the website <http://www.littoncheney.org.uk/bridevalleyfilms.htm>

Sally Dyke

**Thorner's
Litton Cheney
Summer
FETE**

SATURDAY 7th JUNE 2025 1-4PM

**THORNER'S SCHOOL
LITTON CHENEY DT2 9AU**

DOG SHOW

BBQ & BAR

**1PM OPEN! 1.15PM MAYPOLE DANCE
2PM DOG SHOW (1.45 Entries close)
3.30PM RAFFLE DRAWN**

CASH ONLY

ADULTS £2.00 UNDER 18's FREE

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



From The Rectory
St James the Least of All
My dear Nephew Darren

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras here at St James the Least of All. Thank goodness the suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroy's garden next door, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, was narrowly defeated - though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance every time she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

I have at last found the several hiding places where Mr Prentice secretes his bottle of whisky every week when he comes to wind the tower clock.

Colonel Wainwright, who served for some time in the security services, is now worried that photographs of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he imagines - to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures and so whenever they are in church together, all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items - and even the nest where they have hidden it. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.

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 or two as well. Now is the chance to get into print! There follows a contribution recently received following up an issue raised in last month's issue.

More on the Community Library

I share An Aged Owl's enthusiasm for our community of Burton Bradstock (May BVN). May I add some more background to the achievement of our community library?

Elected members and officers of Dorset County Council always took great pride in the extent and quality of the county's public library service. Some twenty years ago, an audit of County Council services showed that Dorset had a more extensive library network and was spending more per head on it, than almost any other County Council. While other services, such as those

for the protection of vulnerable children, were under extreme financial pressure. The challenge this presented was how to preserve the extent of the library service, but at lesser cost.

Measures such as trimming staffing and opening hours could only go so far, without seriously diminishing the overall service.

The approach that was eventually developed was to make clear that the County Council could no longer continue maintaining all of the 34 then existing local libraries, and to encourage local communities to become more involved in the running of them. After long and detailed discussions, a network of eight community libraries, including ours, was achieved, where the local community accepted the responsibility for the maintenance of the building and the staffing of the library, while still using the books, facilities and resources of the county library service. In March 2016, a case study of Community Libraries in Dorset appeared on the Gov.Uk website (it is still there) as a model for other library services and communities to follow.

So rather than a defeat for anyone, I see the continuance of our local library as a matter for pride and celebration for all concerned.

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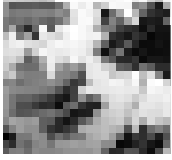
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