

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



August 2025

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

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September 2025 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by 8th August for the September 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 bvnr.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.

The team are: Jenny: 01308 898768, Liz: 01308 897451 alternatively you can get in touch with your churchwarden, or Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator on 01308 897260. Home communion is available by arrangement. If you would like to become an LPA, please have a look at the Diocese of Salisbury webpage: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/news/is-god-calling-you-to-be-a-lay-pastoral-assistant->, and then chat with Rector Andrew.

From the Rectory

Dear friends,

What is your good news? Where is your good news?

The good news from me, writing on 14th July, is that I/we have survived our first year living in the rectory, and I have completed my first year as Rector of the twelve Bride Valley & Chesil churches. Moving to beautiful west Dorset has been good news for us as a family. We want to continue to live in good news. But how will we, or can anyone, manage to live in good news when at times we seem to be surrounded by bad news?

When I attended for interviews prior to being offered the role as Rector, I was asked if I had any questions at the end of the each of the two interview panels. I had one question for everyone sat around the table: what is your good news? In this context I was really asking: what is your 'Gospel'? What is at the heart of your Christian faith? Or if we take Christianity out of it, what keeps you going when all else seems lost? What is the light in the darkness for you? Where is your hope? Where is your love?

When I'm struggling, I get out into the garden to find good news. It could be new growth beyond my control which reminds me of the life-giving power of creation, or it could be my ability to pull out a 'weed' which helps me feel in control. Or I go for a run, grateful that I can run, when many others can't. Or I reflect on the love of my family and give thanks for how blessed I am. These things I consciously reinforce as good news to bring a smile to my face. For you it might be different. Whatever could be good news for you, focusing on it, engaging with it, making time for it and being grateful for it could be good for you. In positive psychology or 'happiness research' finding the good news in our lives and being grateful for it can lead us to have more optimistic and healthier lives. The simpler the good news the better.

As Rector, I'm constantly reflecting on what the 'good news' is that I could or should be promoting in our churches. Some Christians are convinced they know what the good news is, but I'm not so sure. In fact, some of the so-called 'good news' makes me uncomfortable, particularly when the starting point is one where we're all supposed to be deserving of divine punishment because we're all 'miserable offenders' or 'sinners'. That's not good news at all. This type of being 'saved' just seems like a mechanism to keep people in their place, reinforce guilt and shame, and control lives. If it was such good

news our churches would be packed. They are not. The good news for many is that they don't have to go near a church.

Increasingly I'm now thinking the question is not 'what is my good news?' or 'where is my good news?', but rather 'am I good news?' When people encounter me do they encounter good news? Not because I'm constantly full of positivity and cheerfulness (which I'm not), but because there is something that connects with their bad news to an extent where at the basic level, they know and feel the good news that they are not suffering on their own, their pain has been acknowledged, love, gentleness and kindness is present. I don't always have that, but if I did it would be the good news of compassion, the willingness to share in someone else's suffering, climb into the darkness with them, and feel their pain. It would be love in action.

Is compassion the good news at the heart of Christianity? If it is, then a question for us in the churches is: are we compassionate? Is the way we are as individuals, and the way we are as church communities good news? Maybe it's a question for us all throughout our communities, in our pubs, schools, village halls, and WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages too. Could we through our kindness and compassion, and love in action be the good news, the lights in the darkness, the hope, and the love that we all need?

Andrew

Church Floodlighting

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

Safeguarding

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

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

From the Registers

Funeral:

Judith Stanford at Burton Bradstock 10th July

Burial of Ashes:

Jean Salisbury at Long Bredy 30th June

Neville Mason at Litton Cheney 4th July

Simon Martindale at Burton Bradstock 7th July

Wedding blessing

Nicholas and Carrie Lowe, Burton Bradstock 30th June

Anna and Alasdair Warren, Litton Cheney 5th July

Will you join us on a Pilgrimage of Peace?

Everyone is welcome to join one of our regular walks where we explore the amazing area that we live in and find out more about the Saints and Sailors of the Jurassic Churches. Dogs on leads are welcome. Please wear stout walking shoes and bring water to keep hydrated on the route.



24th August:

Starting and finishing at Corton Chapel. Meet at 3.00pm. Find out more about one of the Saints of the Bride Valley and Chesil Churches, St Bartholomew, on St Bartholomew's day! Enjoy a glorious walk and have a look at the wonderful chapel at Corton.

31st August:

Meet at the car park at West Bexington at 3.00pm for a walk that will explore the area and the link to the Jurassic Saints and Sailors. Will you find the site of the ancient church that was raided? This walk will last approximately 60 - 90 minutes. And to which Saint was it dedicated?

For further information, please contact the Rector.

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

Year 6 truly made the most of their last few weeks of primary school - packing the days with an array of activities and their usual commitment to everything.

With the help of Mrs Biggins, Mrs Darley and Mrs Shaw, the children put on a production of Romeo and Juliet out on the LATCH field for parents and the rest of the school. The sun blazed down on our star-crossed lovers and, in the heat, all felt whisked away to fair Verona. Well done to the children for learning their lines so well and for amazing signing, guitar playing and super sword fighting.

As well as this, Year 6 put on a SAMBA Drumming concert for everyone - after their 10 weeks of tuition on samba instruments from the Dorset Music Service. It was wonderful (if somewhat deafening) to see the children put so much into their music and it was lovely to see their confidence in front of an audience grow with each song they shared.



Year 6 have also been on a wonderful residential trip to Hooke Court - where they loved the mud run and bridging the moat. Although not much sleep was had, it was a fantastic way to cap off an amazing last year. We were also thrilled to see the Year 6s do so well in their SATs - they are looking forward to celebrating in the traditional manner next week by pushing me in the pool on the last day (given the weather I am also looking forward to it this year too!).



Across the school the children showcased their swimming skills in our swimming galas last week - with parents watching the progress their children have made as well as some closely fought races in the older classes. Thanks again to Cresta Leisure for all the help with the pool this year. The weather has been very kind of course but it is an utter joy to see the children gain so much water confidence. This year, thanks to Ms Atkin and Mrs Smith now qualifying as Level 1 swim teachers, alongside our visiting swim coaches Dan and Amy, the younger children have had all their sessions led by qualified coaches and it is clear to see the impact this makes on the children's technique.

Lastly, we look forward to our service in Church and final assembly with the leavers as they head off to secondary school - you have been an incredible year group and we wish you the very best as you head off this summer.

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.

It has been another busy and successful end to the term here at Burton Bradstock, with a wonderful array of trips, events, and celebrations taking place. We were delighted to hold our school Sports Day and it was fantastic to see such brilliant sportsmanship and enthusiasm from all the children. A huge thank you must go to our wonderful Friends of the School, whose help in organising the day and providing much-needed refreshments was invaluable.



It has been a particularly busy period for school trips. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils had a fantastic residential visit to Bristol, where they took part in a variety of cultural activities which culminated in an unforgettable trip to the Hippodrome to see the acclaimed production of 'Warhorse'. As is now a happy tradition, we took our Year 6 cohort to Salisbury for their leavers' trip to visit the stunning Cathedral and to enjoy a celebratory meal at Prezzo.

A small group of children also visited the celebration event following on from the highly successful 'Stampede by the Sea' art trail. We are really looking forward to our elephant, Burt, coming to live with us at school!



As I write, our Robins class are enjoying their end-of-year trip to Dorchester and Weymouth, which includes a train ride and a visit to the library! Our Wagtails class are also looking forward to their visit to Foxdown Farm before the end of term.

We recently held our whole-school transition day, where the children had a wonderful time meeting their new teachers for September. The class structure for the new academic year will be: Wagtails with Mrs Geraghty, Robins with Mrs Varndell-Paulley, Kingfishers with Mr Proudfoot, and Owls with Mrs Brown. The day was a great success and there is a real sense of excitement for the start of term.

Finally, we must say a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils for their amazing SATs results. We are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication they have shown, and we wish them all the best as they embark on the next chapter at their new schools.

A huge congratulations to our Junior Youth Speaks team who won the recent competition at Burton Bradstock Village Hall. Their motion - The school holidays are too long and should be shorter - was well received by the audience and they showed fantastic public speaking skills and teamwork. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Bridport for putting on this fantastic event and to Mrs Baker and Mrs Ward from The Sir John Colfox Academy for giving up their time to judge the competition.



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!

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

Have a great summer from all at Burton Bradstock School.

Adam Gough, Headteacher

Our Night Sky in August 2025

Saturn will be high in the sky throughout the night, while Venus and Jupiter will be rising in the East at about 0400. Orion will also be awaking from his long summer sleep, joining the two planets



The Times Newspaper recently contained an article claiming that recent studies suggest that the Moon's surface may hold a treasure trove of precious metals, including platinum, worth potentially trillions of dollars. These metals, part of the platinum group, are believed to have been deposited by asteroid impacts over billions of years. The Moon lacks an atmosphere and geological processes able to bury these deposits, making them potentially accessible on the surface.

However, unless you have the financial resources to take advantage of this wealthy deposit, I suggest you leave it to the USA and the Chinese to argue over who gets what. *Bill Turnill*

Bride Valley WI

As the wonderful weather continues the Bride Valley WI visited East Shilvinghampton Farm and their resident Alpacas. We were introduced to Alan, Chewbacca, Jerrico and the writer's favourite, Nimrod. The Alpacas were cared for by Henry. A personable, professional and very well-informed host. He told us about how he started at 13/14 and how as on most farms diversity is a necessity in the 21st century. The Alpacas were more than obliging in letting us walk them a short way up the shaded track and back. We were also treated to a close encounter with Colin and Colt only 3 weeks old. They were no bigger than an average goat and very cute indeed. The evening was complete when homemade flapjack and drinks were provided by Joby, Henry's mum, and we were able to enjoy the fantastic views

surrounding the farm.

Our June walk, again enjoyed on a beautiful summer's evening took us to Bridport. We walked along the river Brit, through the orchard and past St Mary's Church. Learning about various buildings on the way and hearing from our local, knowledgeable members. We made our way up to Conygar Hill and admired the view over to West Bay returning to our cars via the river Asker.

The skittles team are still playing for fun every other Tuesday and are gearing up, putting in lots of practice for the Dorset Federation league.

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

"The Garden of Evening Mists" by Tan Twan Eng

We were intrigued by this novel set in the Cameron Highlands tea plantation district of Malaysia. The narrator is Yun Ling, a Malayan but of Chinese heritage, who as a young teenager is interned in one of Japan's WW2 jungle internment camps. Her older sister is coerced into acting as a "comfort woman" for the Japanese troops. As the sole survivor of the camp, Yun Ling later works for the war crimes commission before completing her education and legal training in the UK. She returns to work as a prosecutor in Malaya but interrupts her career to become an apprentice to the mysterious ex imperial Japanese gardener, Arimoto. The time frame covered by this novel is complex - moving between traumatic memories of the camp, Yun Ling's time after the war when she works on the traditional Japanese garden close to the hill station/tea plantation where she has family connections - and finally Yun Ling as a 60+ retired judge who returns to the garden she has helped build. Many aspects of Japanese culture and Malay history are covered in this novel - the art and beauty of gardens, the communist guerilla insurgency of the 1960s, tea ceremonies, archery, the colonial legacy, the Japanese humiliation in defeat after the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a kamikaze pilot who survived by mere chance, the art of woodcut prints and how the interplay of forgetfulness and memory can conspire to both hide and reveal truths. This hardly does justice to this delicate but haunting tale. We agreed it was a rewarding book for anyone interested in Japanese culture and how war shapes the lives of those caught up in the tragedy.

Liz Pinfield

Weldmar Hospicecare is thrilled to announce the resounding success of its inaugural art trail, Stampede by the Sea, which has raised an incredible **£182,500** for the charity.



The highlight of the auction was the sale of "Sanctuary," a breath-taking sculpture designed and painted by Bridport-based artist Nicola Dennis. This stunning piece, which had been located outside the Weldmar Hospicecare shop in Bridport during the trail, featured an array of wildlife and fetched an impressive **£25,000**.

Nicola says, "I am absolutely delighted that Sanctuary raised that amount."

Long-time Weldmar supporter, actor Martin Clunes, also attended the auction, lending his support by assisting in the auctioning of "Round and About Dorset in Cartoons." This smaller sculpture, designed by artist Lyndon Wall and featuring caricatures of celebrities with Dorset connections and well-known local events, sold for **£20,000**.

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!





Creative Clay

Friday 8th August 10.00am – 12.30pm

*Make your own clay pot octopus
Dress for mess!*

Suitable for age 7+ - £6.00

Booking is essential as places are limited

The Mushroom Show

By Scratchworks Theatre

Monday 18th August 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Storytelling, physical comedy and
interactive games, exploring the
wonderful world of fungi.

Suitable for children age 5+

(must be accompanied by an adult)

Children £8, Adults £6, Family £24



Tickets for both events are available from Patricia, tel./text 07799612941 /
01308 482514 or book online via Artsreach.co.uk

PRINCE OF WALES & PORTESHAM

SURGERIES

New staff update

In July we welcomed several new faces to our ever-growing team.

Sarah McNulty joins us as the Site Operations Manager at the Dorchester branch.

Emily Sanders is our new practice nurse, working predominantly at Dorchester but you may see her around at Portesham too.

Julie Strange and Yasemin Guler both join our Patient Services Team.

Digital Support

👉 Do you need digital support?

👉 Do you want to build your confidence when using a tablet, smartphone or laptop?

👉 Do you want to learn how to use your NHS app?

👉 Why not get booked in for a FREE session with our Digital Champion Mike Watson?
Every Monday at 14.00, 14.45 and 15.30 at our Dorchester branch.

Please book using the Dorset Hotline 01305 221048

✓ Remember to Bring Your Own Device

✓ One-to-one sessions are Free

✓ Have as many sessions as you need

✓ Help is not limited to the NHS apps

✓ Support for all aspects of online safety

Flu and Covid Vaccination date reminder (Covid vaccination available subject to eligibility and vaccine availability)

Wednesday 1 October	Morning only	Dorchester
Thursday 2 October	Morning only	Dorchester
Saturday 4 October		Portesham Village Hall
Tuesday 7 October	Late afternoon	Dorchester Under 65 only
Saturday 11 October		Dorchester
Tuesday 14 October	Late afternoon	Dorchester Under 65 only
Wednesday 29 October		Litton Cheney Village Hall

Book your Flu vaccination, when you receive the invitation. If you are eligible for the Covid vaccine you can choose to receive this at the same time, subject to vaccine availability – just let us know when you turn up for your Flu jab!

Insect bites/stings

Did you know you can get treatment for infected insect bites via the Pharmacy First service? Pharmacy First services can provide prescription only NHS treatment for seven common conditions, including infected insect bites. You can just pop along to your nearest pharmacy, and you don't need an appointment.

For more information search NHS Pharmacy First.

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



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Creative Coast Club

at Hive Beach

Join us EVERY Wednesday this summer for FREE fun on the beach

30th July meet Oops Wow Messy Art & Thriving Wild for Art & Nature Exploration - 13:00 - 16:00

6th August - Yoga with Leah and Art with Rowan Beecham - 10:00 - 13:00

13th August join Pete Margerum and get creative with found & recycled materials and let your imagination run wild - 13:00 - 16:00

20th August Oops Wow Messy Art & Yoga with Leah - 10:00 - 13:00

27th August is Yoga with Leah & Art with Rowan Beecham - 13:00 - 16:00

3rd September meet Oops Wow Messy Art & Thriving Wild for Art & Nature Exploration - 10:00 - 13:00

These are all drop in sessions, booking is not necessary.

Everyone is welcome.

See our webpage for more details:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/hive-beach

Shipton Gorge

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



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

St Martin's Church

August Floodlight Sponsors:

Ann Thimont For Helen & Chris' Wedding Anniversary on 6th

Kim Bloomfield Happy Birthday to daughter Lucie & Son Alex.

Shirley Addison in loving memory of Peter & his parents Renee & Joe Addison.

Doreen appreciating her life in Shipton Gorge

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

We are very short of sponsors for the months ahead so your support is most important to the Church and is very much appreciated.

For a suggested donation of £5, you can light up the Church and the Village. Your occasion will be mentioned in the Bride Valley News, and on posters on the notice boards. Thank you, James, for replacing the old notice board on the church gate. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

Our Church Services

On 10th August: Morning Worship. 9.30am

(Breakfast Church is on holiday for the summer and will return on the 2nd Sunday of September, the 14th)

24th August at 11.00am. Holy Communion

Also a date to look forward to is 21st September. There is to be Harvest Festival at 5pm followed by a 'Bring and Share' supper in the Village Hall. It's a great opportunity to meet up with other members of the community!

And finally, thank you to the team who work so hard looking after the churchyard. This is much appreciated by everyone who visits, whether that be to the church or out on a walk!

Take part in the Big Butterfly Count

Enjoy the wonderful surroundings of St Martin's Churchyard and take part in the Big Butterfly Count in the churchyard between 18th of July and 10th of August? Search for Big Butterfly Count on the internet to see how to take part, or pick up an id leaflet in church and instructions! (There is a free app to download too.)

Photographing animals and wildlife in and around St Martin's

Photograph your dog on their daily walk, a deer in the field, butterflies, bees, wonderful webs, glow worms in the wall or maybe some of the birdlife! We'll create a display at church during this summer to celebrate all things animals and wildlife - send your photos to bvchurchesta@outlook.com or pin them to the display board in the Breakfast Church window.

Free Summer Holiday Activities for Families

Bring a picnic to the churchyard to enjoy the views and have a look for wildlife while you are there! There will be spotter's guides to borrow! Have a go at the free colouring activities or crafty activities in church!

Village Hall

July 2025 100 Club Draw results

1 st	48	£25	Emma Welman
2 nd	125	£10	Mark Welman
3 rd	85	£5	Tony Rogers

Congratulations to all winners

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winners in the July draw were Lesley and Graham Garner - well done both of you – hope you enjoyed the Conker gin. For info, there might be a few tickets available for the year starting in August - please let us know and you might be lucky.



Saunders Richardson Wood

Not too much to report in the wood – the undergrowth has managed to find enough moisture to carry on growing and the shade from the trees is very welcome while working in it. We have tried to keep areas around the gateways and tracks clear where possible. The nettle fertiliser should be bottled and ready for sale. We intend to open the wood on Wednesday 13th August from 11.00am to midday. If you would like to come along and either help or have a walk round, that would be great. This is a members' only event but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

The fruit trees in the Orchard are now bearing fruit with varying degrees of success. The Beauty of Bath and Devonshire Quarrenden – both dessert apples - are normally ready July/August – the rest will be ready to pick September onwards. A little surprise was our new little tree – Strawberry Norman – which has produced a single apple – small but perfectly formed! The ragwort has been pulled up and the scything chap has been round and cut large areas of the long grass – trying to avoid the patches of wildflowers which have seeded around the Orchard. We will be doing some work on Monday 4 August 11.00am to midday. All residents are welcome to come along.



We will have a stall at the **Village Fete on Saturday 9th August** and the fertiliser will be available then. We will also have a selection of old-fashioned sweets ready to be weighed and bagged. Please come along and find out what we do around the village – we are always looking for new members either to help out or just show an interest and support us.

You still have chance to help with the Big Butterfly Count which runs to 10th August. The Butterfly Conservation Trust website will give you more details.

Our impression is that numbers are better than last year – but firm data is needed to confirm this.

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

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

Details as usual on our website:

http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton_Gorge_Heritage__16417.aspx
and in the Shipton Gorge Diary <https://www.shiptongorgediary.co.uk>

Litton Cheney

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



St. Mary's Church

Our services continue as usual at 9.30am each Sunday except for the 17th when there is Evensong at 6.00pm – a lovely way to end a summer's day. On 31st, which is a fifth Sunday in the month, there will not be a service here, but there is a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion in Portesham Village Hall, followed by a Bring & Share Lunch.

Looking ahead to September, St. Mary's will be hosting a Village Café at LATCH on Saturday 6th September in aid of St. Mary's. Grand Draw tickets will be going on sale around the village shortly. On the day there will be a bottle tombola, produce, cakes and art stalls.

Buildings like our beautiful church need constant maintenance as well as loving care so we hope you will join us on the day to help raise plenty of money for the upkeep of the church and churchyard.

Also coming up, a new initiative “Community Church” at LATCH on 28th September at 4.00 pm. We hope families and others who would prefer a less formal approach to worship will be tempted to come along and try it out.

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

Parish Council – Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th September

Our September meeting begins at 7.00pm in the Meeting Room of the Community Hall. Do join us.

Vacancies – We currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are looking at some way in which you can serve your community, contact our Parish Clerk or a Parish Councillor to find out more. Those of us who have served many years can attest that the job is not arduous or overly time-consuming, but it does require some due diligence and an ability to pick up on local concerns.

IT News

Openreach carried works to the properties in Litton Hill in the latter part of June which should allow fibre connections to the properties, but as yet the website is not suggesting that supply is available, nor to the other properties along Chalk Pit Lane unfortunately. I have contacted Openreach, but am yet to hear back from them.

Further to my information on Windows 10 last month, I have had a few people contact me. In a couple of cases I was able to switch on the TPM 2.0 module in their PCs only to find that the space available on the hard drives was insufficient to install the upgrade, so a drive upgrade is needed first.

If you are unsure about what the Windows 10 retirement of support means for you, please contact your PC support company or email me on rob.matthews@littoncheney.org.uk and I will try to assist you. *Rob Matthews*

The Litton Cheney Trust

The Trustees invite applications for a grant from students resident in Litton Cheney who will be proceeding to higher education and those leaving school or college who will be commencing full time employment or an apprenticeship. Please apply in writing giving brief details of your plans on leaving school. Those who have already received a grant from the Trust and are continuing with a second or subsequent year of study are invited to

reapply for a further grant. Letters of request should be sent or delivered to the Secretary to the Trustees Mr Freddie Spicer, 8 Garden Close by 31st August.

Edward Morello – MP for West Dorset – Thursday 14th August – 3.00pm – LATCH

Edward Morello will be holding a Question & Answer session at LATCH on 14th August at 3.00pm. Further details to come so watch out for FB and posters closer to the date.

What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in August		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Wednesdays	4.30 – 5.45	Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 482661 or Paul Kingston 482162)
	7.00 pm	Mindful Movement (Jane Hutchins 07882 527697)
OTHER EVENTS		
Wednesday 6 th	7.30 pm	Book Club in meeting room
Friday 8 th	10.00 am	Artsreach Children's Workshop
Saturday 9 th	6.30 pm	NCI Dinner
Thursday 14 th	3.00 pm	Edward Morello MP Q & A
Monday 18 th	2.00 pm	Artsreach Children's Show
Coming up.....Saturday 6th September: Village Café in aid of St. Mary's Church		
<p>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</p>		

Bride Valley Vineyard – Invitation to a Picnic on Friday 15th August

Our picnic in the vineyard event in June was a great success with such a good local turn out - and people asking for us to put on another one before summer is over! So, we are going ahead with a final picnic in the vineyard event on Friday 15th August, 5.00-8.00pm for those who missed the one in June and for those who wish to enjoy the vineyard again.

Tickets are £5 per adult and include a glass of sparkling wine. Further wine by the glass and bottle will be available to purchase throughout the evening. Children are welcome and dogs on a short lead. There will be tables and chairs in our Tasting Tent to enjoy your picnic on and we encourage you to bring along a picnic rug.

Tickets can be booked here:

<https://bridevalleyvineyard.com/product/picnic-in-the-vineyard-1508>

BRIDE VALLEY FILMS at Litton Cheney Village Hall.

We hope everyone is having a grand summer and enjoying the amazing weather.

Here are some dates for our autumn season.

2nd October: Bridget Jones Mad About the Boy

6th November: Maria.

Look out for details in September's BVN or on the website

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

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

liz@ruddle.org.uk 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, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall 100 club results

March:

1st Meryl Edwards

2nd Nick Tait

April:

1st Lyn Jennings

2nd Marion Hurley

May:

1st Lee Taylor

2nd Ross Wallace

June:

1st Meryl Edward's

2nd Rosemary and David Lyth

Neighbourhood plan

We were disappointed to receive notification from the funding body (Locality) that grants for Neighbourhood Planning have been withdrawn as part of the recent government spending review. The option to produce a Neighbourhood Plan is still available but challenging without funding.

This is new, so the impact is still being assessed at both the local and national levels. Over the next month, we will review the progress made to date, what still needs to be done, and assess whether we can complete the plan. We are enormously grateful for the support given by the community and our stakeholders over the past three years. A further update will be issued when we have clarified our next steps.

John Marsh, Chair of the Parish Council

August Songs of Praise in Swyre

All are welcome to our 6.00pm Songs of Praise in August at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Swyre. They will run for four weeks starting on Sunday 3rd August. On 24th August there will be a cream tea in the church beforehand starting at 4.00pm. No tickets but your support and donations are welcome.

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club June Results

£30.00	No. 79	J. Greener
£15.00	No. 112	J. & F. Farley
£5.00	No. 15	J. Cain

Church news

Church Tower Repairs

The repair of the Tower has started at the Church - till further notice the Church will be locked. Services remain as normal.

St Peter's Day

A full Church enjoyed a wonderful service with a live band and dancing - a celebration for our Church and a farewell to Rev'd Liz Howlett.

Amazing refreshments were served in the Churchyard with everyone appreciating the glorious surroundings.

Fishes on lines and paper boats were made in the craft section - some hung on the display tree. Some attempting the St Peter's Quiz, which was challenging.

Once the Church is open (hopefully August) the craft and quiz will be in the Church for anyone to do - lovely way to spend an afternoon. Refreshments will be available.

Coming up in August...

Coffee Break

July Coffee Break will take place Saturday 9th August from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the Village Hall.

Come Along Inn

August's 'Come Along Inn' will be opening on Friday, 22rd August, 5.30pm – 9.00pm in the Village Hall. Please email aking44634@aol.com or ring 01308 482270 if you have any questions.

Burton Bradstock

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



St Mary's Church Fete – Thursday 7th August

Come along at **1.00pm** on Thursday 7th August to enjoy a quintessential Village Fete in the Rectory Gardens and the Village Hall in Burton Bradstock. Adopt a Teddy, Soak the Rector, play the Human Fruit Machine, watch Magic shows, take part in the many games or just wander among the Craft and Book Stalls. Grab a bargain on the White Elephant Stall, lunch on a burger and/or have a delicious Cream Tea.

A village event like this relies on volunteers to man the stalls and games and to help with putting up and taking down of the marquees etc. If you think you can help, please contact the relevant person below:

Co-ordinator: Peter Tompkins 897043
peterjtompkins@hotmail.com
Erecting/Dismantling Volunteers

Games: Alan Rawlinson 897554 arawlinson@hotmail.com
Bottles - Full and empty screw cap wine bottles needed prior to Fete for 'Water into Wine'

Stalls:

Co-ordinator Carol Brown 07470 090967 carolb0530@gmail.com
Bottle Tombola Carol Brown

Full bottles of Wine, Beer, Spirits, Soft Drinks etc.

Teatime Crockery Carol Brown

Happy to collect or bring to Hall on Wed 6 Aug 2 to 4 pm

White Elephant Chrissie Bailey 07766 912403

Ed Hubbard 07873 980534

Saleable items in good clean condition please

Children's Stall & Kate Shemildt 07808 730984

Adopt a Teddy Children's Toys and Teddies in good condition please

Book Stall Mike Green 897215

Cakes & Preserves: Gill Redford 897043

Please take cakes & preserves to the Village Hall on the morning of the Fete

Plants & Garden Cilla Jones 898473

Produce: Please clearly label and deliver donations to the Rectory Garden on the morning of the Fete

Grand Draw: Liz Orza 897451 *lizorza@hotmail.co.uk*

Tickets from the Post Office or Committee Members from Monday 7 July

Hampers: Liz Orza 897451 *lizorza@hotmail.co.uk*

A hamper is on the Font steps in Church for donations of assorted items including food and drink (non-perishable).

The Village Hall will be open on Wednesday 6th August from 2.00pm to 4.00pm to receive any donations, including items for the White Elephant and Book Stalls, Children's Toys, Teddies etc.

We would be grateful to have your help on Wednesday 6th August from 5.00 pm and on Thursday 7th August from 8.30am to set up marquees and gazebos and then to take down and clear up after the Fete at around 4.00pm.

Thank you in advance for your help and support in making this Church Fete successful.

Church Fete Team

Tots Time

By the time you read this, hopefully all the Tots and their families will be enjoying a relaxing summer break!

We did manage to make the Fantastic Fiery Flapjacks for Fathers (a week late for Father's Day!). Nice and gooey, gobbled up by all. They were made indoors in the church kitchen but most of our time this half term has been outside, which is so much appreciated. Tots have had fun painting, playing with play dough and using puppets with varying degrees of success, to enliven the Bible stories.

On 27th June we had a special Tots' Time when we presented the 'leavers' with their gifts as they start 'big school' properly in September. We wished Wilf and Edie every happiness in the future. The occasion was extra special because Mrs. Pam Atkinson (widow of our former Rector, the Rev'd John Atkinson) who started the 'Tiny Tots and Pram Service' in 1994, came to join us unexpectedly, along with quite a number of other unexpected guests, including our present Rector, Rev'd Andrew and Loveday. Amid all the glorious, happy chaos I made an attempt at telling the story of Peter and John healing the lame man at the temple in the Name of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Andrew waved the lame man puppet, children handled John and Peter and other characters, Ryder made 'Jesus' ascend into heaven (earlier) and then we sang 'Jesus' love is very wonderful'. Edie and Wilf spread cottage cheese on biscuits and served the adults and we all enjoyed a party with lots to eat.



Ryder and I were very touched by the gifts and lovely cards we received from the Tots' families and from the church, as we are ending our time with Tots' Time on 11th July. We have loved being with you all, and your kindness to us has been exceptional. We shall try to pray for you all into the future, and hopefully meet you around the village from time to time.

SINCERE THANKS are due to Audrey Smith and Liz Orza for all their hard unstinting work at Tots' Time over so many years. Their commitment and

support has been unwavering and we are immensely grateful. Thank you too to Elaine Upson for 'stepping into the breach' at emergency times when really needed. Caroline A-W has every week provided and prepared endless cucumber and carrot sticks, and satsuma segments and halved seedless grapes. Thank you so much. We are also grateful to Steve Smith and Mary and Ian Ibbotson for practical 'heavy-lifting' before and after Tots' Time in all weathers. What amazing team-work

We wish you all well, and for any future information please contact Audrey on 01308 897227, Liz on 01308 897451 or Helen on BVchurchesTA@outlook.co.uk or contact the Rector.

*God bless you all, with our love,
Ryder and Heather*

Burton Bradstock Village Hall

Village Hall Bookings

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

Coffee Mornings

The popular monthly coffee mornings where you can get a sensibly priced coffee/tea and cake plus a chat with friends will be held on the dates below. They run from 10:00am to 12:00noon and all are welcome.

No Coffee Morning in August.

Wed 10th September: Friends of the Library

Burton Bradstock Films

Takes a summer break and will resume in September.

Look for details of the films in the September BVN.

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

General Information

August is a quiet period for the Hall Trust, although the Hall is busy with the Music and Arts Festival, routine maintenance and repairs. Plans are in place for some roof repairs, hall floor refurbishment and a general clean up.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” July 2025 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£33.00	No 115:	Mr John Worsley
2 nd	£16.50	No 04:	Mr John Grantham
3 rd	£8.25	No 23:	Mr Richard Ferre

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the August 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £5 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock Village Society

August is a quiet month for Society events while the Committee recovers from the Flower and Produce Show. Membership cards will be with all members by now and if not please let the Secretary know.

Thanks to the kindness of the BVN editors who extended the deadline for us we can give you a short report on **the Flower and Produce Show**:

On a beautiful day the Village showed its true depth of talent in all age groups. The children’s exhibits were brilliant both from the school and in the cookery. We were particularly delighted with increased numbers of Open Floral exhibits while the number and quality of craft items goes up yearly making life demanding for the Judge.

Despite the drought, we were pleased with the standard and number of entries in the open classes where there was a fine exhibition of vegetables, fruit and flowers. There was a total of 232 entries over the 68 classes. In the afternoon the Hall was packed with Villagers for viewing and the Trophy awards despite the heat. This gave the whole event a lovely inclusive community atmosphere.

The trophy winners were:

Louis/May cup (Fruit & Vegetables): Richard Ferre (pictured below)

Bugler Cup (Roses): Annie Grantham

Cracroft Challenge cup (Flowers): Ian Halsey (pictured below)

Gordon Knight cup (Pot Plants): Val Grice

Flower Arranger Trophy: Pat Neale

Cookery & Home Produce: Joint equal, Marion Stewart-Smith, Linda Ashman

Grove House Cup (Best Woodwork/metal/etc): Roger Hall

Knightsmith Trophy (Preserves): Pat & Peter Broomhead

Mallinson Cup (Handicrafts): Janet Pearson

David Barnikel Cup (Photography): Linda Ashman

Millennium Trophy (Art): Linda Thomas



Our 2025-26 season of evening meetings starts in the Village Hall as usual on the 12th September at 7.30pm with a talk entitled "Quirky Bridport". This will be a good one for all with history, weird facts and humour about our favourite local town. Tegwyn Jones is an author, local historian and volunteer at Bridport Museum.

Doors open at 7.00pm, talk starts 7.30pm, £1:50 members, £5 non-members.

Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art 2025

When you read this, there will only be a couple of weeks to go before the Festival begins. Within a couple of weeks of ticket sales getting underway, quite a number have been snapped up. So, it's worth reminding everyone that this year the organisers of the Festival of Music are introducing TV screens into the Church on an experimental basis. There is no denying the architecture of a medieval church presents considerable challenges to a modern audience, so this will be a new experience for all those present, and especially those seated further back. It should enhance everyone's enjoyment and feedback will be very welcome.

The programme is packed full of variety; Americana and bluegrass from Jaywalkers; jazz from Ellington to Evans will feature a tribute to Oscar

Peterson whose 100th birthday falls on August 15th; The 'Vorspiel and Liebestod' from Tristan and Isolde marks a first for Richard Wagner in a festival programme. James Bond, Harry Potter and Dr Who will be heard in the village on the evening of August 14th. Don't miss them! For all the up-to-date information and concert details please look on the website www.burtonbradstockfestival.com

Meanwhile the art organisers have selected 45 exhibitors this year, of whom 12 will be bringing their works to display for the first time, across all categories. This promises to be a marvellous, colourful exhibition of works for sale in all price categories. Entry is free, and with long opening hours, you might want to make more than one visit, not to mention more than one purchase.

Jennifer Malyon
jennifermalyonbbd@gmail.com

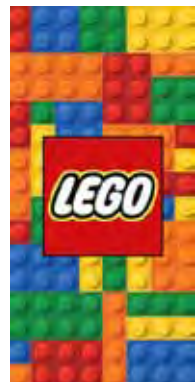
The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library



This year's Summer Reading Challenge started on 5th July on the theme of 'Story Garden – Adventure in Nature and the Great Outdoors'. It is open to all children aged 4 to 11 and encourages reading for pleasure during the summer holidays.

Children register at the library and receive a collector poster. They are asked to read 6 books over the summer (or more of course!) and are given a sticker for each book read which they can pop onto their poster. A medal is awarded in the library after all 6 books have been returned, plus a certificate will be presented at school or in the library. There will be books on display which relate to the theme so please encourage youngsters to sign up and take part.

We will be holding a Lego Morning on Thursday 21st August to which all children are invited. It is a free event from 10.00am to midday and we ask that children be accompanied by an adult. There is plenty of Lego to go round!



Everyone is welcome to choose books for the summer so call in or browse online. We also provide photocopying, laminating, jigsaws to borrow, public computers, help with digital issues, and of course, a friendly atmosphere! Have a good summer!

Looking ahead, our Library will be hosting the monthly Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th September and there will be a sale of second-hand books in the Library at the same time. All welcome!

Normal opening hours are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

.....but we will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August.

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com

www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

Sue Brown

Chairman

Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

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

Burton Bradstock Coffee Mates

There will be no Coffee Mates in August because the church is in use for the Music Festival.

Burton Bradstock WI

Well July was certainly a busy month!

First up it was Competition Time at our monthly meeting and there were many entries in the various categories.

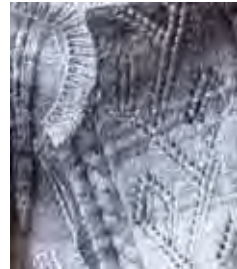
Congratulations to the winners, as follows, with some close-up photos of their beautiful work:



Watercolour by Linda Thomas



Other medium by Irene Halsey



Complicated knitting by Jean Filby



Any other craft item by Jean Filby



Photographic subject of Buildings
Salisbury Cathedral Cloisters by Marianne Husband

Well done to everyone who took part. It was nice to see what talented members we have! The evening was rounded off with refreshments and a quiz.

The following morning it was the turn of the WI to run the Village Coffee Stop morning, so the items were left on display for everyone to admire.

There is no meeting in August but a trip has been arranged to Burrow Farm Gardens and, of course, we shall be running the cake stall at the Church Fete on 7th August as usual. Hope to see you there!

Janet Pearson
898346



Greenfingers

Cilla's August Checklist

Prioritise watering, looking for those plants that dry out & wilt quickly in the sun. Keep deadheading spent blooms to prolong the flowering season of your border & pot grown plants. Deadhead lavender. Sow cornflowers. Pot up any self-sown seedlings to grow on & plant out next spring. Collect seed ready to sow in the autumn or keep until the spring.

Feed salad crops in containers with a high-nitrogen liquid fertiliser; use a high potash feed for tomatoes to encourage ripening. Continue to sow spring cabbages. Plant sprouting broccoli & protect them from the butterflies & pigeons. Prune summer raspberries as soon as all the fruit has been harvested. Harvest or pinch out basil frequently for bushier growth.

& finally...

One of my herbs told me I was doing a good job in the garden
...It was an encourage mint.

See you in September, with hopefully new jokes!

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.

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Village Clean-up

The annual village clean-up was a great success and very well attended, we had 'pickers' ranging in age from 1 year to 90 years old. Well done to all involved.



VJ Day

As a mark of respect, we will be lighting the beacon on Friday 15th August at 9.00pm.

Save the Date

Community Apple Pressing, Saturday 4th October, Donations of apples welcome!

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: t.laycock70@gmail.com

Tel: 01308 482443

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



The media circus has moved on, and life has started to settle down in the village. It now seems that access to the waterfall and park may be re-opened to the public at certain times, subject to the safety checks and risk assessments required nowadays, which will be good news to everyone who enjoys the peace and tranquillity of Littlebredy.

Meanwhile, the Past Participate team have been back, this time at the head of the Valley of Stones, where they have been excavating a brick kiln. During the eighteenth century clay was excavated on the site, shaped in wooden moulds and fired in the kiln. Eventually, perhaps when the arrival of the railway to Abbotsbury brought cheap, mass-produced bricks, the kiln ceased to operate, and was demolished. A clay pipe of the type common in the 1850's found amongst the broken bricks may be a clue to the time of demolition. An unexpected bonus was the discovery nearby of a previously-unknown sarsen stone, hidden under the topsoil. Further investigation will be needed to find out whether it was once standing at the head of the valley.

Down in the village, work has been going on in the church to restore the stained-glass windows, and to repoint some of the stonework and install new guttering. For two weeks the bells were silent, to allow the builders safe access to the tower, where their predecessors have left graffiti. When the roof was retiled some years ago, a message was found on the timbers dating back to the early years of WW2, saying 'Soon got to join the army to fight Hitler'.

The last window to be restored will be the great east window, which will be taken away in August by Dan Humphries and his team to their workshop in Glastonbury. The empty window frames will be boarded up, but we will be inviting children and their families to help to brighten up the boards with artwork until the glass windows return!

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

My dear Nephew Darren

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin growing competition.

Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence.

On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters' rights to that place, and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation.

I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence. That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick and accompanied by a golden Labrador does, however, raise doubts.



To award the Earl any prize at all does seem a little unfair, when the only time he ever gets mud on his boots is when he falls off his horse while hunting. I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate. But to give any credit to his gardening staff would be seen as bad form, so we all keep quiet.

It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but they would also have to face a 12-month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Letters would be strangely mis-delivered, and the butcher's boy would suddenly deliver lamb when pork had been ordered. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your loving uncle, Eustace



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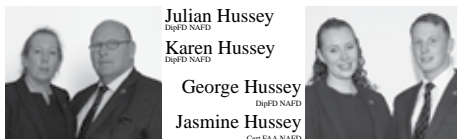
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Burton Bradstock	11.00am Morning Worship	8.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong choral to open music festival	9.30am Café Church	11.00am Holy Communion	Holy Communion Benefice Service at Portesham Village Hall shared with Methodist Church 10.30am
Lilton Cheney Puncknowle	9.30am Holy Communion Morning Praise 11.00am	11.00am Holy Communion and Baptism	6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Worship 11.00am Café Church	
Swyre	6.00pm Songs of Praise	6.00pm Songs of Praise	6.00pm Songs of Praise	6.00pm Songs of Praise preceded by Cream Teast	
Shipton Gorge Long Bredy	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	
Littlebvedy		11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship		Please see details of forthcoming Pilgrimages of Peace inside the BYN.
Portesham		10.00am Family Praise	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship 9.00am BCP Holy Communion	
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion			10.00am Morning Praise	
Lington Herring	9.00am BCP	11.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Family Praise	7.00pm Outdoor service	
Wednesday 6 th August Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock 11.30am followed by a light lunch.					

