

# BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



November 2025

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

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**December 2025 issue deadlines:** Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by 7<sup>th</sup> November for the December issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to [bvnburton@gmail.com](mailto:bvnburton@gmail.com). Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact [bvnadverts@bvn.org.uk](mailto:bvnadverts@bvn.org.uk) 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](http://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

To enquire about Baptisms, Marriages or Funeral arrangements in the Bride Valley Churches please contact Rev'd Rawding by phone (see above) or email [rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com](mailto:rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com)

## **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

We have 2 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,

Welcome to November: the daylight is shortening, the darkness is deepening, and we are reminded of loss and suffering through All Saints' & All Souls' days, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. I'm in the parishes for Remembrance Sunday but on All Saints' Day (1 November) I'll be at 'Ground Zero' in New York and on Armistice Day I'll be in Wittenberg, Germany, where Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of Castle church in 1517, starting the Protestant Reformation. The day before I will have visited the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin. I'm looking forward to reflecting on and praying for peace in these locations which are reminders of actions which changed and continue to change the world. When and how will we learn to make peace? When and how will we become wise? 'Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding...her ways are pleasantness, and all her paths are peace (Proverbs 3)'.

On 'All Souls Day' (2 November) I'll be running the New York City Marathon to raise funds for Weldmar Hospicecare, remembering those I visited in Weldmar, those I know who have received care at and from Weldmar, and all the loved ones who continue to suffer the deep pain of loss.

If you want to sponsor my 'All Souls' marathon run in New York for Weldmar you can donate online here: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-rawding-3?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-rawding-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

We're suffering our own loss in the Bride Valley and Chesil churches with the retirement of our Associate Priest Reverend Margaret Preuss-Higham, and the retirement of our Lay Worship Leader Heather Goffee. Margaret has been looking after the parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring single-handedly for over ten years. She has worked tirelessly to build relationships and support each of the local communities, well supported by her husband Roger. When the seven parishes of the Bride Valley were joined with Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring, Margaret worked even harder across all ten parishes and twelve churches during the time there was no Rector. We owe a great debt of thanks to both Margaret and Roger, sending our prayers to them both for good health and a peace-filled retirement in Bridport. We also give thanks for Heather's ministry in the parishes, for all the time, energy and commitment she put in to preparing and leading services over the last five years. We send our prayers to

Heather for more rest-filled and relaxed Sunday mornings (if the new puppy allows!).

As we enter and continue through November, I'll finish with the words of Jesus: 'Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" (Matthew 9:13)'.

Peace be with you, and with us all,

*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

## **Annual Memorial Service - Shipton Gorge November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3.00pm**

We shall be remembering our loved ones and lighting a candle in their memory at a simple service of prayer and recollection on Sunday 2nd November at 3.00pm, St Martin's, Shipton Gorge. We invite you, your friends and family to join us. If you are unable to join us, but wish your loved one's name to be read out at the service, please let Helen know: bvchurchesta@outlook.com

## **From the Registers**

### **Funerals**

Carol Poole - Burton Bradstock - 1<sup>st</sup> October

Humphrey Walwyn - Burton Bradstock - 11<sup>th</sup> October

Ed Coulter - Shipton Gorge - 28<sup>th</sup> October

## The poppies of Remembrance

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.



But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

It was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11<sup>th</sup> November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

## Last Chance - 2025 Christmas Greetings in the BVN

Now is the time to place your Christmas greetings to local friends and neighbours via the BVN. Names will appear on dedicated pages in the December issue. There is no fixed fee, and you are invited to make an appropriate donation of your choice. The donations will be shared between the BVN and this year's charity chosen by the Benefice which is The Three Ells Trust.



The Trust was formed in 2000 by David and Helen Naerger following the loss of their son, Lewis, aged 16 years from an Osteosarcoma (Primary Bone Tumour). The charity was set-up to make a difference to the lives of children, and their families, who have cancer or other life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses. We work closely with the Teenage Cancer Trust at Southampton General Hospital as well as the Kingfisher Ward at Dorset County Hospital. The Trust provides recreational and educational equipment at these hospitals and to families at home. We also assist with the often-overlooked financial impact of travel and accommodation costs involved in the care or treatment of a loved-one. For further details of the Trust please visit their website: [three-ells-trust.com](http://three-ells-trust.com)

Donations for your Christmas Greeting should if possible be paid directly into the Benefice bank account: sort code 30-91-21, account number 00074071. It is essential however, that these payments are referenced 'XG', and that the name or names for the dedication are included so that these are included in the magazine!

If you prefer to pay by cheque (made payable to 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council'), or cash, these should be in clearly marked envelopes which can be handed to Churchwardens, or delivered to Liz Orza (2 Bindbarrow, Burton Bradstock, DT6 4RG). Please make sure you include the name(s) for the dedication.

**Please ensure that your instructions are received no later than Monday 10th November, in order to meet the printing deadline for the December edition.**

## Community Church (and Community Cake!)

Please join us for our next Community Church events at 4.00pm on 16th November at Portesham Village Hall and at 4.00pm on 23rd November at LATCH. These are more informal church services that may include discussion and reflection as well as prayer and singing...and a cuppa with cake afterwards!

### 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.

Everyone is very welcome!



## Thorners CE VA School

Thank you to all parents and those connected with the school who donated so generously to our Harvest Festival collection for local food banks. It was wonderful to see and a credit to the school community that such a large donation was possible.

Alongside this annual collection, the children also treated parents and staff to a superb Harvest Assembly comprising songs, poems as well as a whistlestop history of farming through the ages. The children sang favourites such as Cauliflowers Fluffy and Autumn Days beautifully and thankfully drowned out my scratchy guitar accompaniment. It had been planned to hold the assembly in our Forest School area but sadly the service coincided with the arrival of Storm Amy and we retired to the warmth of LATCH instead. The change of location didn't seem to dim the children's enthusiasm however and they performed brilliantly - especially Litton class who performed Scarecrow's Wedding with a confidence that was lovely to see.

After the assembly and collection, pupils across the school took part in our annual apple pressing sessions, with little ones picking apples from our

small orchard and then the older ones helping me press these to create some apple juice for each pupil to try at lunch. It was great to see everyone get to grips with the old press and recognise how much hard work it is to get a reasonable amount of juice for everyone to try!

Once we had had our apple juice each class then loaded one of the 5 scarecrows they had created that week into various staff cars and these were taken to Groves in Bridport for their annual trail and competition. Thank you to Jasmine Miles, a parent here, who helped coordinate the scarecrow entries for us! It was a lovely way to round off Harvest Festival week.

*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.*

The term is well underway, and we are delighted with the progress and enthusiasm shown across the school community. We are so pleased to see our school community engaging fully with our spiritual life, and our Celebration Worship services have been well attended. It is wonderful to have so many families joining us to share in the achievements of all children. Our pupils continue to embrace all the opportunities school has to offer. In music, our Rocksteady bands are thoroughly enjoying learning their new songs, which are already sounding great and demonstrating the children's growing confidence. In sport, we have also taken our year 6 pupils to a team event at Colfox this term and we have cross country to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Academically, all classes have settled into the new term quickly and are diligently working hard on their topics for the term. The classrooms are buzzing with exciting learning experiences as the children delve deep into their new subjects.

We have been making the most of the glorious autumnal sunshine with Robins, Wagtails, and Little Chicks thoroughly enjoying Outdoor Learning. The younger children have been exploring, investigating, and connecting with nature in our wonderful local area.

As we look toward the end of the year, I want to share some personal news: as some of you may know, I will be leaving my post as Headteacher at Christmas as I am moving on to a new headship in Weymouth. It has been a privilege to lead this wonderful school and I am very grateful for the time I have spent here. Initio Learning Trust has appointed Mrs Holly Varndell-Paulley to serve as Interim Headteacher for the next two terms. She has been a valued member of our teaching team for a number of years and I know that she is excited to take on the role and I am sure she will provide strong continuity and leadership for the school during this period.

We would like to invite families and local residents to our upcoming Open Morning scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>. Whilst these are predominantly for those with children starting school in September 2026, local residents and current families are also very welcome to book a tour and see the school in action. We also have spaces available in our Pre-School for children who are due to turn 4 before August 31<sup>st</sup> 2026. 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](mailto: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 November 2025**

Mars will be setting in the West shortly after sunset, While Saturn will be rising in the East about an hour before sunrise, and will soon be lost in the glare. Jupiter will be the most prominent object throughout the night, and Sirius and Orion will fill the southern sky with interesting objects

Astronomers have confirmed one of the largest black holes ever measured – a 36-billion-solar-mass monster inside the Cosmic Horseshoe galaxy, 5 billion light-years away. Using stellar dynamics and gravitational lensing, researchers measured its size with unprecedented precision. This discovery challenges our models of black hole growth and hints at new cosmic limits.



A black hole is a region in space with gravity so powerful that nothing, not even light, can escape. This happens when a large amount of matter is compressed into a tiny space, often forming when a massive star collapses at the end of its life. Black holes are invisible, but their presence can be detected by observing how their gravity affects nearby stars and gas. My thanks to NASA for this information

*Bill Turnill*

## **Bride Valley WI**

### **Bride Valley WI**

The Bride Valley WI monthly meeting was spent learning about and practicing Qigong. These are exercises solely for health, based on the Chinese view of the body. The idea is to stimulate the body to improve the smooth flow of Qi (energy).

The exercises combine gentle, flowing movements, awareness of the breath, with a rhythmic combination of stretching and relaxation and mindfulness. All our group took part in the gentle exercises and everyone felt both energised and relaxed after completing the Ba Dian Jin set of movements which date back to the Song Dynasty 1127-1279.

Thank you to Michele, one of our members for her patience and knowledge in taking us through the exercises

Our last evening walk for this year was the "Trail and Tale" walk around Burton Bradstock. Even though the weather wasn't quite on our side we still enjoyed a stroll around the village learning about the history of different buildings and the village as a whole.

After our walk we enjoyed a well-earned drink in The Anchor where our walk took on more meaning, thanks to the historic photos that hung on the walls around the bar area. Our walks will continue through the winter, weather permitting, but on Sunday mornings.

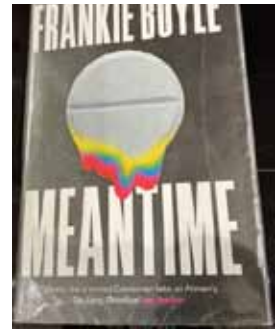
Skittle practice has been continuing in earnest ready for our first league match in October.

Should you wish to join the Bride Valley WI we meet on the third Thursday of the month in Puncknowle Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please contact us at [bridevalleywi@gmail.com](mailto:bridevalleywi@gmail.com)

## The Bride Valley Book Club Review

“Meantime” by Frankie Boyle

Frankie Boyle’s novel “Meantime” belongs to the Glasgow Noir crime fiction genre but it is written in the same style and deadpan delivery as Boyle’s stand up comedy act. Some of us could not read it without hearing his voice. His main character, Felix, is woken one morning by the police as a potential suspect in the murder of his friend, Marina. We learn that Felix is a serious drug addict but that he is innocent of this crime. Having been ruled out as a suspect by the police, he resolves to find out who is responsible for Marina’s death. Felix has



previously worked for BBC Scotland but a tragedy in his life has left him seriously depressed, narcotic dependent and unemployed. Much later in the novel we find the back story as to why Felix is currently blundering through life like a character from Irvine Welsh ‘s anarchic “Trainspotting”. This revelation is heartbreaking but it comes quite late in securing the reader’s sympathy. The plot was complex and the characters numerous and this did not make it an easy read. Nevertheless this book is shot through with funny observations about life in Glasgow. Some of us barely got started, some of us almost gave up but persevered on to the end. “Meantime” is an acquired taste - even for fans of crime fiction.

*Liz Pinfield.*

## A Story by Quentin Blacke

### “Shedding The Years”

Frank loved his old shed. It was his sanctuary, his ‘man shed’, as his sister Rachel called it. In it was the story of his life, well, what he could squeeze in anyway. Old items of motoring memorabilia after 30 years a sports car dealer and fanatic.

Only pictures of the cars now, cars he had cherished over the years and even one with his ex-girlfriend, Eva, his first love and lover – posed by the bonnet of his first sports car. Next to it, amidst all the dust and cobwebs, was the old

school photo, the school where he and Eva had met and where they had utilised the back-seat of the car many times over that long, hot summer.

It was Sarah, his long-suffering wife, who first suggested the shed. 'We both need our own space now we're retired', she said, 'you're in and out like a yo-yo and you're missing your cars; it's driving us both mad.' So off he'd trot to his shed where, somewhat dejected, he gradually created his own space too, re-living all those cars - 0-60 in 12.6 seconds! (OK, somewhat slow compared to today's motors but fantastic to the younger Frank).

When Sarah died, he spent more and more of his time there – the house seemed so empty without her, until Rachel, his sister, also widowed and childless, suggested she move in with him. 'We can look after each other in our old age,' she said, 'Companionship eh; that'll cheer you up' One wet autumn afternoon he was sitting in his old chair in the shed listening to Radio 4 on his smart speaker, when a sudden movement caught his eye.

A large house spider had built its web near the old school photo. He gazed wistfully at the faces of his school chums, caught forever in the web of time and there she was, Eva, his first love, his first lover too – the only one, until he met Sarah. 'Boy, did you break my heart,' he said out loud. Next to her, smiling smugly at the camera stood George 'Wally,' Wallace, the guy she had suddenly dumped him for. They married soon after and were apparently still together; successful, wealthy and proud grandparents according to Facebook. 'Thank God you can't see me now,' he told her, 'ageing fast, poor and childless; coming to the end of a not very successful life.'

Second and final instalment in December's BVN

## PRINCE OF WALES & PORTESHAM SURGERIES



### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Macmillan coffee mornings. We held two recently, one at our Dorchester branch on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

September and the other at our epic Flu vaccination clinic on Saturday 4 October, in Portesham. In total we raised more than £600! Thank you to all the bakers and to all the PPG and health champion volunteers.

### **Remembrance Day**

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am, our team will observe two minutes of silence to honour and remember those who served and sacrificed. During this time our clinicians and staff will pause all conversations and patient interactions. Normal service will resume immediately afterward. Thank you for your understanding. Lest we forget.



### **Respiratory infections**

With colder weather approaching, colds, flu and other respiratory viruses tend to rise. If you do get a respiratory illness, you can often treat it without seeing a GP and you should start to feel better in 1 to 2 weeks.

Don't forget the essentials:

- ✓ Get plenty of rest
- ✓ Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated
- ✓ For a sore throat or cough try a soothing hot lemon and honey drink
- ✓ Visit a pharmacist for advice on the best medicines to ease your symptoms
- ✓ We don't prescribe antibiotics for colds and flu - they won't help because these illnesses are caused by viruses, not bacteria
- ✓ If you are asthmatic, please check your personalised asthma plan for specific advice.

See the NHS website for lots more self-help tips.

### **First Contact Physiotherapist**

If you suffer from bone, joint or muscle pain you can make an appointment straight away with one of our First Contact Physiotherapists, Kerry and Christian, without having to see a GP first. They can assess the cause of the pain and diagnose what is happening. They will give you expert advice on how best to manage your condition and refer you on to specialist services, if necessary. Call the Patient Services Team to book your appointment.

Surgery website → [www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk](http://www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk)

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

## Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley

Email: [bvn@longbredy.org.uk](mailto:bvn@longbredy.org.uk)

Tel: 01308 482585

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



## Long Bredy 100 Club September Results

£30 no. 13	E Frost
£15 no. 31	S Dyer
£5 no. 88	Sir P Williams

Drawn on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at the Village Hall, after the Parish Council Meeting.

## Village News and Updates

### Enjoyable film night

Over 120 of us from the Bride Valley enjoyed seeing 'Caught in a Web', shown at LATCH in September, comprising of two films made by Toni de Bromhead in 1982. The films featured Littlebredy and Puncknowle, first shown on Channel 4. We are very grateful to the Windrose Rural Media Trust for allowing them to be shown and thanks also to all who made it possible including Paul Bullen, 'Higgy' Kingston and Caddy Sitwell without who it would never have happened! Also thanks to Morrish & Banham (Mark & Caroline) for providing and serving the wine and soft drinks.

If you missed the showing, it may be possible to show a repeat in the near future. If you would be interested in seeing the film, perhaps again, please email your contact details to [film@longbredy.org.uk](mailto:film@longbredy.org.uk)

### On the roads - "near misses"

The Parish Council and Dorset Council would like to encourage everyone to report any near misses or unsafe driving behaviour to Dorset Council. This helps them gather data on areas of concern and make informed decisions about where further investigation and improvements are needed. The more reports they receive, the better equipped they are to prioritize road safety improvements. Together, we can help make our roads safer.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/news/tell-us-about-small-collisions-or-near-misses-to-help-us-target-road-improvements>

## **Bin collections**

The change in when the bins will be collected through the village has caused much confusion and discussion. This has partly been because through the village the collections are on different days for different areas. If you are unsure, please check your address, do not just use your postcode, on the Dorset council site [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/my-local-information](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/my-local-information). You can also use this site to find out which bins are being collected each week and report broken and missing bins, requesting a replacement.

## **Welcome & Congratulations**

We would like to give a big welcome to, Ryan, Lauren, Brooke and Harvey who have recently moved into The Rookery.  
Many congratulations to Carol and Brian Lee who have recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.  
Well done Dan on completing the Bournemouth half marathon on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October in 2hours, 20minutes. At the time of writing Dan had raised £1,065 in memory of Rick Cook. Donations can still be made by visiting [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com), under Daniel Cain.

## **Social Events**

Come along Inn: September saw another successful evening with people enjoying the company, pasties and of course a drink!  
Coffee morning: It was lovely to seem so many people at the coffee morning in October. As always, wonderful refreshments were served and convivial chat amongst those attending.  
Thank you to all the volunteers that make these events happen in the village and enable us all to get to know each other a little better and reinforce what a welcoming village we are lucky to live in.

## **St Peter's Church**

Harvest Festival - A lovely gathering to give thanks for the Harvest was led by Rev'd Andrew. The Church was beautifully decorated and the congregation enjoyed delicious refreshments. Thanks to all those that helped, including those who gave donations to the Food Bank.

Churchyard - Thank you to all those who have contributed in any way to the care of the Churchyard this year. Many positive comments are received about its beauty. We especially welcome volunteers to help maintain it. The Lime tree to the left of the gate into the church yard has unfortunately died. It needs to be removed for safety reasons and to stop the disease spreading. The cost to complete this work is significant and will be paid for through donations and fundraising. This has come just as we have had the expense of repairing the Church Tower so renewed efforts will be needed to find the additional money required.

## **Community Church**

I went along to the first Community Church held at the LATCH, Litton Cheney not sure what to expect. The children attending enjoyed the activities available and with the beautiful weather they were able to run about outside. The service gave time on a Sunday afternoon to sit, reflect and enjoy the company of others. Songs from the 'Songs of Fellowship' were sung during the informal service. The afternoon was rounded off with tea and eating some community cake. The service at Portesham followed a similar format and it was lovely to meet up with people from all along the Bride Valley. Do go along, all are welcome and families are particularly encouraged.

## **Future Events**

### **Coffee Break**

The November 'Coffee Break' will be raising funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Open on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am to 12.00noon, with excellent refreshments and a raffle. Poppies will be available and are also in St Peter's Church and at the White Horse Inn.

### **Come Along Inn**

The 'Come Along Inn' will be open on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 5.30pm – 9.00pm. A warm welcome awaits with good drink, food and conversation. What more can you ask for on a dark and cold November evening! For more information or to book supper telephone 01308 482270 or email: [aking44634@aol.com](mailto:aking44634@aol.com).

## **A few reminders:**

Long Bredy are holding a Grand Draw which is in aid of St Peter's Church. Please support this if you are able. As listed last month there are some magnificent prizes. The Draw will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Christmas Coffee Break in Long Bredy Village Hall. If you require tickets, please contact Jackie on 01308 482379. Please can money, counterfoils and unsold tickets be returned to Jackie Cain or Ruth Cullingford by 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Long Bredy will be joining with Littlebredy on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am by the memorial in Littlebredy for a Remembrance Service. Everyone is welcome. St Peter's is beautifully decorated for the fallen from our village at this time and the Church will be open during the day for visits and time for reflection.

There will be a Live Nativity at St Peter's Church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, from 9.30am to view the animals, followed by the Family Service, with carols, at 10.00am.

## **Burton Bradstock**

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton

patgraston43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264

Village web-site: [www.burtonbradstockvillage.org](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org)



## **Tots Time**

Tots has started well, with a few new faces coming along which is lovely to see. We've had playdoh, paint pens and scone making, thanks to Audrey. There have been stories, nursery rhymes and snacks! Every Friday afternoon in term time between 2.00 - 3.00 pm. Everyone welcome, bumps, babies, tiddlers and their grown-ups. Come along for a chat and a hot drink while the children play.

## **Burton Coffee Mates**

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

# **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](mailto: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.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November: Burton Bradstock School

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December: St Mary's Church

## **Burton Bradstock Films**

### **Friday November 28th**

Adapted from Tom Michell's autobiographical book, 'The Penguin Lessons' is a light comedy based on the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. After rescuing a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside down.

Tickets are £6 each and include a glass of wine/beer or a soft drink and can be bought beforehand from Burton Bradstock Post Office or on the door if available. Doors open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm.

## **Christmas Market**

The Village Hall Trust Christmas Market and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00am to 12.00noon. There are normally a range of stalls selling Christmas craft items, decorations, and a range of items that make good Christmas presents.

## **Christmas Quiz**

The hugely popular Christmas Quiz will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December, with the Quiz prepared and run by Sue Moores & David Edwards. Doors will open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start. The ticket price of £13 per head will include a light supper, plus all the normal crackers, party poppers and balloons that add to the festive fun. There will be a sensibly priced bar, raffle and prizes for winners and last place. There will be teams of 8 (max) per table and the central aisle will be kept free.

Tickets will go on sale at the Post Office in blocks of 8 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November on a first come, first served basis. Please purchase all 8 of your teams' tickets at the same time. Once you have your team tickets contact Richard Ferre (details above) to confirm your table and any dietary requirements. Individuals or pairs wishing to join in should purchase tickets from the Post Office then contact Richard requesting a team place. If history is a guide, tickets will sell out in a few hours, so put the dates in your diary now.

## **Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” October 2025 Draw**

**Congratulations to the winners:**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>£33.00</b>	<b>No 155:</b>	<b>Mrs Linda Knapp</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>£16.50</b>	<b>No 112:</b>	<b>Mrs Lynnette Woodrow</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>£8.25</b>	<b>No 123:</b>	<b>Mrs Sharron Bartlett</b>

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the November 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £2 – 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**

The Village Society Committee has welcomed 3 new members in the last year but is still seeking someone to take over as Secretary from Roger Ashman when he retires next year.

The Role is primarily an administrative one, co-ordinating membership information, overseeing the annual renewal process and generally co-ordinating the dates of the various Village Society activities. Some basic PC skills would be useful (e.g., very basic Word and Excel) for the role. We can provide help learning these skills as necessary.

If you feel you would like to get involved with Village activities and could help, please contact the Chairman, Richard Ferre, for further information. Contact details [rwferre99@gmail.com](mailto:rwferre99@gmail.com) or 01308897648.

## **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Village Hall: “The legacy of the Romanovs”**

Sue Moores will give an illustrated talk on the art, architecture and artefacts which are the legacy of the Romanov Tsars of Russia. Since the 1980s, the Russian government has given millions of roubles to restore palaces and cathedrals and curate masterpieces of art and jewellery like the exquisite Faberge eggs collected by the Tsarinas. The political threads running through the talk will go some way to explain why the Ukraine and the Crimea are so important to President Putin. Sue has been a popular and highly informative speaker on several occasions on a wide range of subjects, always with beautiful illustrations and graphics thanks to David.

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

## **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Village Hall & Green 5.00pm-6.00pm**

The Society will be putting up and decorating the Christmas tree, kindly donated by the Parish Council, in the morning and in the evening hosting a lighting up celebration between 5.00 - 6.00pm. This is an event for all the village with mulled wine, soft drinks, Stollen cake and a small gift for the children, some songs from the Burton Bradstock Men's choir and carols around the Christmas tree. A lovely event, please come along and enjoy.

## **Sponsor a Christmas Tree ornament**

Once again, the Village Society is running a “Sponsor a decoration” programme. For £5 you get to choose a decoration (star or ball) of your choice and colour of your choice, plus we will add whatever words you wish on them. They will be used for 3 years and you can either put them on yourself this year or we will put them on for you. This is the fourth year of the programme, so the first subscribers lose their decorations this year.

The money raised is used to fund replacement lights, which in our area typically only last 2 years.

If you wish to get involved, email Richard at [rwferre99@gmail.com](mailto:rwferre99@gmail.com), he will send you a note on how to select your choice, plus options to pay. The Tree normally goes up at the end of November and they take time to make, hence the early warning.

Also watch the December BVN, Newsletter & website for details of the “Switch On” event.

## **Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the 2025 Festival of Music and Art will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. There will be wine and nibbles and all are most welcome to attend to hear about what was, by all standards, a most successful Festival. The Trustees and Organising Committee look forward to seeing as many of you as can attend what should be an informative meeting.

## **The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library**

Many thanks to all who have paid their subscriptions to the Friends – this is a vital source of income to keeping the Library flourishing. If you haven't got round to paying yet, it's not too late! Just leave your form and payment in the Library for our Treasurer.

Our new Christmas cards and notelets are now available in the Library and the Post Office and are selling well. The notelets and some of the Christmas cards are a smaller size which we hope will appeal, so pop in and have a browse.



Normal opening hours are:

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

[burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com)

[www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library) 01308 897563

*Sue Brown, Chairman*

## **People with digital and technical experience – Burton Bradstock Library needs you!**

Dorset Council is seeking someone in Burton Bradstock with digital and technical experience to help get more residents online. The Council runs a volunteer digital champion programme across Dorset to give advice about technology and digital to anyone who needs it, including here in Burton Bradstock Library. With nearly a third of Dorset's residents

digitally excluded in some way and with more essential services moving online, this help has never been so important. The council needs a volunteer who can offer face to face help at Burton Bradstock Library.

To be a volunteer digital champion you need to be patient and kind. A background in IT or digital would be ideal but anyone with a good all-round knowledge of software, website services, online services like shopping and banking, devices (laptops, printers, smartphones, tablets), social media and apps are also very welcome to apply. Full training and on-going support is provided for anyone who successfully applies to be digital champion.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer digital champion can apply here <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/digital-champion-application> or for more information email: [digitaldorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:digitaldorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

## **Burton Bradstock WI**

We are all geared up for our Early Christmas Market and Coffee Morning on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am. (See below for details).

Members have been very busy making Christmas decorations and gifts to sell, as well as a multitude of cakes and mince pies. There will also be books, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles for sale to brighten up the dark Winter evenings. Do come and join us and make a good start to your Christmas shopping as well as enjoying a tea/coffee and cakes alongside a chat with your friends.

With Christmas beginning to loom we have arranged a visit to Otter Nursery on 26<sup>th</sup> November, which is bound to be in full swing by then with all their Christmas decorations and gift ideas – plus they have a very inviting café!

Our meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November is actually not connected with Christmas. Bob Strange is coming to give a talk entitled “Looking for Lord Lucan”. Bob was a journalist on the case when Lord Lucan mysteriously disappeared after his children’s nanny was found murdered – 50 years ago now. Bob has been fascinated with the story ever since and not only written books but has personal items of Lord Lucan to show. We are looking forward to hearing some first-hand knowledge and inside information on the case, which will no doubt get us wondering again exactly what did happen to him.

Please note that from this month our meetings will be at 2.15pm until March, when they return to 7.30pm. At least we won't have to go home in the dark following this month's talk!

*Janet Pearson*



Burton Bradstock WI  
EARLY CHRISTMAS MARKET and COFFEE MORNING  
Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 – 12.00  
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
CAKES REFRESHMENTS MINCE PIES  
BOOKS, JIGSAWS, DVDs




## **Burton Bradstock Parish Council**


### **Community Apple Pressing**


Community spirit was in abundance at our annual apple pressing held in the Rectory Garden as has been the abundance of apples kindly donated for the event. Over 200 people attended with nearly 400 litres of apple juice produced some of which was consumed by the many energetic children on the day and the rest taken away to be enjoyed at home or possibly to be fermented for cider. The Friends of the School contributed greatly to the success of the day providing refreshments and organising games for the children who also gave a hand with the pressing. A great afternoon for the community with donations going to village facilities.

### **December Parish Council Meeting**

You're invited to join us at our December Parish Council meeting; after the meeting, please stay and enjoy refreshments and take the opportunity to chat with councillors and fellow residents. All are welcome – we'd love to see you there.

 Date: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

 Time: 6.30pm

 Location: St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock

## Burton Bradstock Players

In Burton Bradstock Village Hall on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30pm the Players will present an entertaining evening of amusing small playlets and a one act play performed in the old-fashioned style of radio plays script read by kind permission of the talented writers Jinny Devaux and Phil Butcher.

Burton Bradstock male voice choir will be performing during the evening.

There will be a bar and tea and coffee (cash only)

Tickets on sale from 27<sup>th</sup> October from Bridport tourist information centre on 01308 424901 or online [www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets)

£8 per ticket – includes hot sausage roll

For more information, please contact  
Carole Houghton on 01308 898521 or 07764523182

\*please note:- some plays contain adult themes/language\*

Also, an advance notice for your diaries:

CINDERELLA

By kind permission of Alan Frayn Stage Right Creative Ltd

Performances will be on: THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – 7.30pm FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup>  
FEBRUARY – 7.30pm SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY – 2.30pm SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup>  
FEBRUARY – 7.30pm

Bar – Evening Performances Only Ice Cream, Raffle

ADULTS £10 UNDER 16'S £5

## Supper Club

The November Supper Club will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Any enquiries please phone Mags Chue 07790 811905.



## **Firelight Trio**

**Burton Bradstock Village Hall**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30pm**

**Hailing from Scotland, Firelight Trio play European folk music that is evocative, inventive, and endlessly exciting.**

With over 25 years of experience as professional musicians in bands including *Moishe's Bagel*, *Gavin Marwick's Journeyman* and more, Firelight Trio's repertoire is built upon a bedrock of European folk music, strongly influenced by the band members' individual, diverse and broad musical experience. Combining accordion, fiddle and Swedish nyckelharpa, Firelight Trio weave a tapestry of Swedish polskas and Scottish reels, French waltzes, and toe tapping klezmer.

Running time: 90mins + interval

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 4.00pm-5.30pm**

### **Balfolk Dance Workshop**

Join Firelight Trio and their resident dance expert Ruth Morris for a lively and enjoyable Balfolk dance workshop ahead of the evening concert. Ruth will guide you through some wonderful European dances such as the Chapeoise, Mazurka, and Schottische, with live accompaniment from Firelight Trio.

Open to everyone, all ages, and no previous experience required!

Tickets for both events available via the Artsreach website [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk), or for more information contact David Witham on 01308 897403.

## **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.

## **Thank You for the Harvest Lunch**

Congratulations to Carol Brown for organising the shared lunch and a splendid Harvest Lunch! We had a hot dish, with jacket potatoes and salad, followed by creamy sweets, cheese and biscuits, plus grapes, a drink and coffee, all for £10. Dietary needs were catered for too. The flowers were donated by a kindly villager.

I find it very disappointing that more people do not take advantage of these lunches. We put the world to rights and meet people we do not always socialise with. In these days of Food Banks and Community Kitchens it makes one feel very fortunate to have such things arranged for us.

*Barbara James*

## **Colbert Crafters**

By popular demand we are holding our early Christmas Fair on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00am to 4.00pm in the Village Hall, Burton Bradstock, to enable you to purchase beautiful gifts, hand made by our local crafters.

Do call in for a browse and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

*Elaine Colbert*

## Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: [t.laycock70@gmail.com](mailto:t.laycock70@gmail.com)

Tel: 01308 482443

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



We've had a bountiful and memorable Harvest in our gardens and orchards this year, and we were able to celebrate in style in Littlebredy. The church was decorated with flowers, fruit and walnuts, and happy and colourful images of the village created by local children and their families were displayed above the altar.

The morning service was well attended, and Reverend Margaret kindly joined us and most of the village for a Harvest lunch in the Walled Garden café. We're very grateful to everyone who contributed to the feast. In the afternoon we pressed apples and enjoyed the autumn sunshine!

Littlebredy has had a strong link with the armed forces ever since World War One that continues to this day, with several young men from the village currently serving their country. Our next special service will be on Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, starting in the church at 10.45pm. Please join us in a brief commemoration of the men from Littlebredy and Long Bredy who lived here in the valley and gave their lives for us.

### **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!

## Shipton Gorge

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

Floodlights are shining this November for:

*Sue & Simon Melvyn's wedding anniversary on 4<sup>th</sup>.*

*John & Bee Epplestone's wedding anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup>.*

*Geoff & Carolyn's wedding anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup>.*

*Yvette whose sister died unexpectedly. May she rest in peace.*

*Doreen in memory of Frank.*

*Patsy Jacobs in memory of her brother Chris Cowley who they lost this time last year.*

*Christine & Terry in memory of her mum.*

Thank you all for your sponsorship and to our anonymous sponsors. If you are able to sponsor the floodlights for any occasion, we would love to hear from you. We are now looking for sponsorship for December and the new year. So please let me know and it can be included in the BVN and on posters. For a suggested donation of £5, you can light up the Church and the Village. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box on Chapel Street.

## Remembrance Sunday

There will be a Breakfast Church and a service in church. Breakfast Church at 9.30am and Remembrance starting in church at 10.30am. Additionally in November, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3.00pm, there is a Memorial Service - welcoming in

all who have lost loved ones and friends for a special service of remembrance. (Further details on page 5).

There's also Holy Communion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 11.00am.

### **What's the future for St Martin's Church?**

Recently, a community meeting was held to consider the future for St Martin's. We would like to thank all of those who attended and for the comments received. For those who couldn't come, these are some key points:

St Martin's is for everyone in the community - it can be used by anyone in the community for anything that brings joy, enhances wellbeing and health, as well for the traditional Sunday services. The building is listed and has some challenges as it doesn't have running water or a toilet, although the Village Hall is close by! It urgently needs some maintenance and repair work, particularly on keeping the building dry. This includes work on the windows and some external pointing. It's also cold and damp and this is affecting the condition of the building inside. The Diocese WILL NOT be paying for any of this work, it is down to the community, although we can apply for grants to support the work. If we value this building and would like it to be there in the future, then we need to act.

The PCC has held a follow up meeting as a result of which investigations are being made as to the best way to deal with the maintenance and repair issues. In the meantime, if anyone wishes to make a donation specifically for this purpose, either as a one off or via standing order please contact Paul Thimont: paulthimont@hotmail.com. Any funds received will be retained in a separate reserve and will not form part of St Martin's day to day income.

### **Heart Response Shoebox Appeal**

Heart Response's shoebox appeal supports disadvantaged and orphaned children in Romania. ([www.heart-response.org.uk](http://www.heart-response.org.uk)). Everyone is invited to take part in collecting items for the appeal this year - and if you make a shoebox, Helen Fry will take it to the collection point. The list of requested items will be on Facebook and sent around via email if you would like to take part, but there's also an opportunity to build a Community Shoebox. This means that you can commit to donating one or maybe a couple of items. There will be a sign-up list in church and a donation point.

## Advent Windows for Shipton Gorge

### How to join the village Advent Windows project

- Contact Kate Chomacki (see below)
- Kate will allocate you a date between 1<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December, or let you choose from those available
- On your allocated date, put up a Christmas-related window, gate, or garden display, which includes your number (i.e., the display for 1<sup>st</sup> December will include the number '1')



Please do invite people you know to join in, so we can get a trail of the full 24 advent windows around the village. Your display can be as simple or as complicated as you like! Do contact Wendy or Kate if you'd like more information. We're looking forward to seeing what you all come up with and to spreading some cheer this December.

Wendy George 07730 371500. Kate Chomacki 01308 897407  
or via the Shipton Gorge Community Facebook page

## Village Hall

Hall Trustees are very pleased to inform you that final preparations are now being made to commence the 'Access for All' building project early in the New Year. The project will provide improved toilet and washroom facilities, an extension housing a toilet and washroom suitable for the less able, an enlarged entrance lobby, step-free access throughout the building and a ramped emergency exit at the rear. Further details will appear in the BVN and regular updates will be posted on the village noticeboards.

## Pre-Christmas get together

The Village Hall Committee will be hosting this year's village get-together on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 12.00noon. We would like to invite you to join us as this is a wonderful event in getting to know your fellow villagers. All we ask is you come along with your favourite tipple together with a plate of food (sweet or savoury) to share.

We look forward to seeing you, enjoying good company and having a good time.

## Artsreach presents - JON DORAN & THE NORTHERN ASSEMBLY



This ground-breaking new collaboration seeks to capture the excitement that lies within traditional song and breathe new life into old stories from the British Isles by injecting the energy they feel these narratives deserve. Consciously moving away from the conventional folk song performance style, the trio rely upon their vastly dissimilar musical upbringings and experiences to conjure emotions and communicate a story far deeper than the words of the song. With striking vocals from Jon Doran (BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award Finalist 2019) combined with the virtuosic playing of instrumentalists Heather Ferrier (accordion) and Jordan Aikin (whistles and pipes), Jon Doran & The Northern Assembly never fail to take their audience on a journey that explores the full spectrum of human experience.

Friday 7th November 7.30pm. Bar.

Tickets £13, £7 (u18s) online at [artsreach.co.uk](http://artsreach.co.uk) or from Mark Sexton on 01308 897649

Pre-show meal at New Inn. 15% off food quoting 'Artsreach'.

### **Coffee Morning Thanks**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Shipton Gorge Coffee Morning on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Together we raised a handsome £800.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

**The Gin Time evening was a great success and raised £404.60 towards St. Martin's Church**

### **Parish Council**

We have commissioned some work on the playing field, which will be carried out as soon as the contractor has some availability: refurbishment of the entrance gates, the basketball post, the exercise bike and the goal posts. Our next meeting is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Do come along and find out about our work, especially if you are new to the village, and maybe join us, as there are only four councillors and our full complement is nine.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SHIPTON GORGE CHRISTMAS MARKET



Saturday 13th December, 12.00noon - 4.00pm in the Village Hall

Come and enjoy a festive afternoon full of Christmas cheer.  
Free entry.

*If you would like to book a stall or  
are able to make mince pies to sell on the day  
please contact Kim Bloomfield  
07754 245691 or 346007  
bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com*

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### Shipton Gorge Community Choir Concert



Our first concert will take place on  
Thursday 18th December  
at 3.00pm in St. Martin's Church, followed by refreshments.

All are warmly welcome.

### Shipton Gorge Heritage

**Heritage Gin Club** – The winner in the  
October draw was Sue Darvill –  
congratulations Sue.

#### **Saunders Richardson Wood**

This year is a mast year – it is when trees  
and shrubs produce an unusual  
abundance of fruits, nuts, and seeds,  
known as “mast.” Instead of a scattering of acorns or the usual crop of



berries, mast years bring thick carpets of nuts and seeds, heavy branches of fruit, and a feast for wildlife across our landscapes. National Tree Week runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November and is a time when tree lovers and volunteers unite to plant thousands of trees, enhancing green spaces and reminding everyone of the beauty and benefits trees bring to the world. To help celebrate this, we will be doing our bit by planting up some small trees in the wood on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (if weather is not good, then the following Saturday), 11.00am to Midday. 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**

By the time you read this, most of the apples in the Orchard will have been picked, with windfalls being left for wildlife. Some will have been taken off to Dorset Nectar Cider Farm to be turned into juice or cider, some will have been tasted or pressed at our own Apple Day event. We will be doing some work in the Orchard on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November – creating areas to sow wildflower seed and incorporating yellow rattle into the mix. This is an ideal time of year as it allows the seeds to take advantage of the cooler temperatures and moisture, promoting robust growth in the spring.



### **Shipton Gorge Heritage AGM**

This will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - Mince pies and Mulled wine will be provided for those keen enough to join us. You don't need to be a member (although only members can vote), so why not come along to hear what we have been up to during the year.

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](mailto:annecrowe2016@hotmail.com) Details as usual on our website: [http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton\\_Gorge\\_Heritage\\_\\_16417.aspx](http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton_Gorge_Heritage__16417.aspx) and in the Shipton Gorge Diary <https://www.shiptongorgediary.co.uk>



## **Tracey's Spectacular 'Pies for Peals'**

*An evening of fun and fabulous food for the whole village!*



**Shipton Gorge Village Hall on  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 6.30pm.**



Tracey will be serving her spectacular pies, followed by a choice of delicious desserts! (Vegetarian and gluten free options available.)

Please state at time of booking.)

Grand raffle and surprise entertainment.

**Tickets cost £20 and are available from**

*Jo Warren (07581050910) or*

*Elizabeth Ferguson (07799751130)*

Please bring your own drinks.

**This event is raising funds for  
St Martin's bell maintenance.**



## **Litton Cheney**

Village Correspondent: John Firrell  
jfirrell20@gmail.com Tel: 01308 482313  
Village web-site [www.littoncheney.org.uk](http://www.littoncheney.org.uk)



## **St. Mary's Church**

Many congratulations and thanks to Freddie Spicer and Diana Cheater who raised a total of £1,506 between them for "Ride & Stride". A major achievement! Half of this total will be returned to St. Mary's while the other half goes to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

The new Community Church at LATCH got off to a good start at the end of September and will continue on a monthly basis on the fourth Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup>) at 4.00pm. It is a chance to meet people and share some relaxed and informal fellowship together, followed by tea and cake. Why not come along and give it a try?

Our Remembrance Service is on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm, - a quiet reflection in words and music. Two minutes silence will be observed at the War Memorial on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am. Attendance is very much encouraged and everyone is welcome. As we commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII, seven wooden crosses representing the seven Litton Cheney inhabitants who lost their lives in that war will be inaugurated in St Mary's. These crosses, made by Russell and Chris Randall, will take their place alongside the nine crosses representing those lost in WWI – Always Remembered.

Later in the month on Advent Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm. our “Darkness to Light” service of music and readings will set the scene for the Advent season.

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**

**Next Meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm**

Come and see how local democracy works – yes, really, and perhaps it might encourage you to become a councillor. We meet at LATCH, strangely enough, in the Meeting Room, and there is often much to talk about. You will be most welcome.

Social media has its uses, but if you really want to know what's going on, the village website [littoncheney.org.uk](http://littoncheney.org.uk) and the Bride Valley News provides it often in finite detail.

Please remember – do not put your bins out too early, or leave them out after the collection has been undertaken – report potholes on the Dorset Council website – report anti-social behaviour on the Dorset Police portal – stand by for news of a litter pick in November.

## Whats on at LATCH:

<b>What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in November</b>		
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>		
Mondays	3.30 - 4.30	Big Q in meeting room (term time only)
Tuesdays	4.45 - 5.45	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)
Wednesdays	4.45 - 5.45 7.00	Table Tennis (Paul Kingston 482162) Yoga with Jane (Jane Hutchins 07882 527697)
Thursdays	9.15 - 11.15	First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)
<b>OTHER EVENTS</b>		
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 - 1.00	Village Café and Table Top Sale run by Long Bredy PCC
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	From 7.00 pm	Film Night "Maria" starts 7.30 pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Parish Council in Meeting Room
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 - 9.00pm	Wine Tasting with Morrish & Banham
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4.00pm	Community Church
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Artsreach Show for children
<b>Coming up in early December</b>		
*****		
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	Village Café in aid of "Stepping Out"
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Bingo Night
<p><b>Village Cafés:</b> 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 <a href="mailto:wlitton@gmail.com">wlitton@gmail.com</a></p>		

## The White Horse

At time of writing what a lovely Indian summer October turned out to be!

Here are some dates for your diaries for November and December.

2<sup>nd</sup> November 4.00pm - Big Joe Bone - High energy roots musician/one man band. New to us but looks to be great fun!

4<sup>th</sup> November 7.00pm - The famous Snowball Quiz by Liz! Teams to a max of 6 and £2 per person entry fee. Also great fun! Every other week.

9<sup>th</sup> November 4.00pm - Kitty Mazinsky - Remembrance Sunday Special. Kitty is a wonderful singer doing all your vintage favourites from the 1940's.

Perfect for the day.

16<sup>th</sup> November 4.00pm - Doctor Jazz - A group of retired GPs performing all your favourite Jazz tunes - Medicine for your ears!

18<sup>th</sup> November 7.00pm - The Snowball Quiz by Liz.

**DECEMBER:**

In the lead up to Christmas every Sunday Roast will be Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec - 7.00pm - The fortnightly Snowball Quiz.

6<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.00pm - Mummers play and fun. We welcome the Symondsburly Mummers again. If you've not seen it, you really do need to; if you have, we're sure you'll be back to see it again.

13<sup>th</sup> Dec - Change of plan here sadly (due to unfortunate illness) but at time of writing we are awaiting confirmation of an exciting charity event, something we, personally, have never done before. Hope to update very soon.

16<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.00pm - The Snowball Quiz. Will be the usual random quiz with a smattering of Christmas questions.

19<sup>th</sup> Dec 8.15pm - Grand Christmas Meat Draw!

20<sup>th</sup> Dec 5.00pm - White Horse Christmas Carol and sing along with Paul Cheater, mulled wine and cider followed by the Strictly Final!

21<sup>st</sup> Dec 5.00pm - Grand Christmas draw - Tickets now on sale at £1 each

25<sup>th</sup> Dec - Open 12.00noon till 2.00pm - Drinks Only

26<sup>th</sup> Dec - Coffee at 11.00 before a short walk then open at 1.00pm for snacks, a few drinks by the fire and as it's a Friday this year, the meat draw will continue at the earlier time of 4.30pm - promise no turkey!

30<sup>th</sup> Dec - Snowball Quiz of the Year at 7.00pm.

31<sup>st</sup> Dec - Low key party, choose your own playlist and light buffet. Auld Lang Syne at midnight.

We look forward to seeing you all over the festive season.

Happy Christmas everyone!

*Andy and Liz xxx*

## **Our Once-a-Year Walk-Around Wine Tasting Experience with Mark & Caroline Banham**

Join us to celebrate our 10th Anniversary at our annual walk-around wine tasting – a relaxed, informal evening where you can discover over 50 exceptional wines, meet the M&B team, and explore new favourites at your own pace.

Whether you're planning ahead for Christmas, looking for wines for a special winter event, or simply want to enjoy an evening tasting brilliant wines with friends, this is the perfect opportunity. Our expert team will be on hand at tasting tables across the venue, ready to pour, chat, and share their passion for great wine.

Event Details:

Date: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: LATCH, Schoolhouse Lane, Litton Cheney, Dorset DT2 9AU

Ticket Price: £15 per person (deducted from any 12-bottle order on the night).

<https://www.morrishandbanham.com/product/wine-tasting-event-november-2025/>



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LITTON & THORNER'S COMMUNITY HALL

SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

MATINEE 2.30PM

A timely & subtle play about change & cultural differences, performed by a Croatian actor. She will also bake Pepper biscuits (believed to bring a loved one back home), during the play - hopefully with the aid of the audience.



Adults £12.50, Under 18s £6,  
Family £35 (not suitable for young children)

There will be a bar/ refreshments available (cash only)

Sunday lunch can be booked nearby at the White Horse Inn (01308 482539)

Tickets are now available from Patricia, tel./text 07799612941 / 01308 482514 or book online via [Artsreach.co.uk](https://www.Artsreach.co.uk)

## Bride Valley Films at Litton Cheney Village Hall

Reminder...Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November "Maria" *'an incredible performance that is both moving and inspiring'* Starring Academy Award® winner **Angelina Jolie**, Maria tells the glamorous, moving story of the iconic opera singer, Maria Callas. Paris, 1977: Once the world's greatest soprano, Callas now hides in an apartment, having lost her voice and retreated from the world. She dreams of returning to the stage, but can her body and mind take the pressure? 2 hrs. Cert.12

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December “THE PENGUIN LESSONS”**

*‘a witty and moving film based on a true story’*

Set in Argentina during the mid-1970s, the film follows an English teacher who encounters both political unrest in the country and an unexpected aquatic companion. **Starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce.**

1 hr. 40” Cert.12

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February (2026) “THE SALT PATH”**

**Doors Open: 7.00pm. Films start 7.30pm. TICKETS: £6.00 (to include a glass of wine)** Tickets in advance from: Sally Dyke 482752, Elizabeth Kingston 482162, Bella Spurrier 482367 or on the door. (All nos. 01308)

**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**

September winners: 1st Dennis Murton £15.00, 2nd Clare Hart £9.00

**Holy Trinity Church, Swyre**

**Remembrance Day Service**

The Annual Remembrance Day Service will be held at Swyre Church on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45am. All are welcome to attend, when we remember those who have given their lives in past conflicts, and to pray for peace in the world. We will be going from the Church to the War Memorial for the two minutes silence.

## **St Andrew's Day COFFEE MORNING with cake and raffle**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am-12.30pm

All are most welcome

## **The Puncknowle Map**

A huge thank you to Brian Bowsher for co-ordinating the sale of the maps of Puncknowle. The original was painted by Terry Whitworth, and is a beautiful depiction of aspects of the village. It will be displayed in the Village Hall. Brian arranged for copies to be printed and sold, and has raised over £500 to be shared equally between the Church and the Village Hall. A copy is displayed in the Church.

## **All Saint's Barn Dance**

A Barn Dance will be held in Puncknowle Village Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.00pm (All Saint's Day). Tim Laycock will be providing the music. Tickets are £10 each for entry and includes a Cheese and Wine supper. They are available from Geoff Truscott (07800 893090) and Sue Lang (07557 951305) but numbers are limited due to the size of the hall.

## **Christmas at Puncknowle**

### **An invitation to Christmas Tea and Carol Service**

You are invited to the Village Hall Christmas tea in the Hall on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December** at 2.30pm. This is a community event at which refreshments will be provided, free of charge, making a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. The Hall will be decorated for Christmas and the fire lit to welcome you in. There will also be artisan stalls and a chance to win a home baked Christmas cake.

At 4.30pm all are welcome to join the candle lit walk to St Mary's for **Carols by Candlelight** and the reading of the Christmas story, where the children help to create the nativity scene. This will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Puncknowle Church and the Crown Inn invite you to "Carols at the Crown" on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. Come and join us for an enjoyable hour of singing carols together in the warmth of the pub.

On Christmas Day there will be a service of Christmas Praise at 11.00am in Puncknowle Church. Come and join us in this informal service to celebrate Christmas, followed by coffee in The Crown afterwards.

## Advent Window Trail 2025 Puncknowle, Swyre & Beyond

Following the success of last year's Advent Window displays around the villages we're planning a Kings and Camels trail for those who would like to get creative again.

Don't worry though, Stars and Angels are all part of the Christmas

story if you would just like to recycle from previous Advent events or just to keep it simple.



Join us to spread light across the Valley during the dark days of Advent with displays in windows or outside. Let us know if you would like to participate and we will give you a laminated number to have with your Advent display. As last year we will produce a map which will be available to enable you to follow this year's camel trail. The plan would be to have displays up from 1<sup>st</sup> December onwards. Please contact Sue Lang on 07557 951305 or email [sue.lang@hotmail.com](mailto:sue.lang@hotmail.com).

### **Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club**

*Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy*

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

**18<sup>th</sup> November. Beef Bourguignon & Vegetables, Dessert to follow.**

#### **Future dates 2025**

9<sup>th</sup> December: Turkey Wellington with Trimmings & Roast Potatoes  
Dessert to follow

20<sup>th</sup> January: Chicken Casserole Future dates 2025

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

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

The Rectory, St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,



It was kind of you to send your music group to us last Sunday morning while our choir had a Sunday off for its celebratory lunch. Miss Timmins' ninety-fourth birthday brought the combined choir's age to 1,000; which is quite a distinction for twelve people. Clearly, a Sunday commitment to 'Hymns Ancient & Modern', consumption of industrial quantities of peppermints and pleasant naps during sermons has a positive effect on longevity.

I had rather looked forward to hearing some Bach motets from your group, but now have learned that guitars, drums and choral Matins is not a marriage made in heaven. All your group lacked was a drum majorette leading the procession up the aisle.

It was quite obvious the music was going to be a little different when I arrived to see that the lectern, Lady Tadcaster's flower arrangement and the verger had all disappeared behind an amplifier. The only person not disconcerted by this was the verger, who realised it presented an excellent opportunity to do the crossword unobserved during Divine Worship.

Your display of the hymns on a screen was well intended, but did the screen have to be in front of the pulpit? I had to balance on several kneelers to be seen over it, and throughout the sermon could only think of how to look dignified should the whole pile collapse mid-sentence. The lack of hymn books also terrified the congregation - they had nothing to hold, and so resorted to clutching Kleenex or the pew in front of them.

But the worst moment was when the group gave its 'solo number'. (Couldn't it have been called an 'anthem'?) Half way through, dear Mrs Ffitch, who has always been somewhat excitable, felt called to do a spontaneous religious dance down the aisle. The congregation froze in horror. We all avoided catching her eye after the Service, but what do we say when we see her in the village tomorrow morning? Best to simply stay indoors for a few days.

Perhaps your music group could visit us again for our choir's 2000th anniversary - which I suspect it will consist of the same people, as they are all tenacious of note, opinion and age.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

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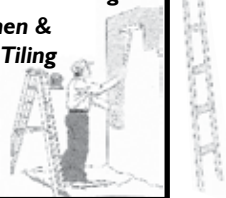




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## Benefice Services

Novem ber	First Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November All Saint's Day	Second Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November Remembrance	Third Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> November Safeguarding Sunday Trinity 22	Fourth Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November Christ the King	Fifth Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday
Burton Bradstock	11.00am Morning Worship	10.30am Burton Bradstock Remembrance Service	9.30am Carf6 Church and Baptism	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Breakfast Church	
Utton Cheney	9.30am Holy Communion	4.00pm Remembrance Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4.00pm Community Church at LATCh	4.00pm: From Darkness to Light, Advent Service.
Puncknowle	11.00am Morning Praise			11.00am Carf6 Church	
Swyre	3.00pm Evening Prayer	10.45am Remembrance Service	11.00am Holy Communion		
Shipton Gorge	3.00pm Annual Memorial Service	9.30am Breakfast Church 10.30am Remembrance Service		11.00am Holy Communion	
Long Bredy	11.00am Morning Prayer		9.30am Morning Worship		
Littlebredy		10.45 am Remembrance Service			11.00am United Benefice Service Holy Communion
Portesham		10.00am Act of Remembrance including the Royal British Legion	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am BCP Holy Communion	
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion	10.50am Remembrance Service	4pm Community Church at Portesham Hall		
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	9.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Morning Praise	10.00am Family Praise	
Wednesday November 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock 11.30am followed by a light lunch.					

