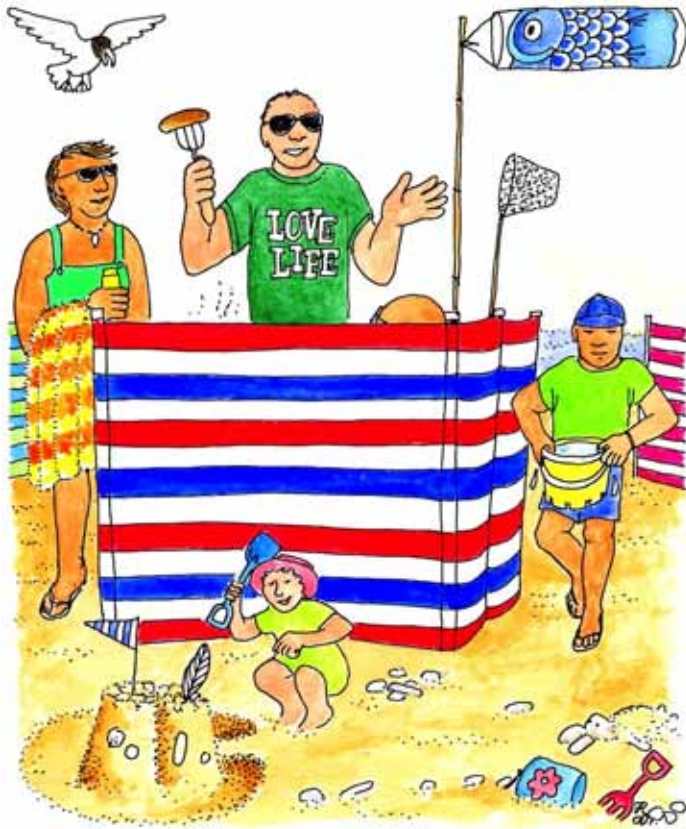


BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



August 2026

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

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Information for Contributors

September 2026 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 7th August for the September issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley can be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy must 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, often with additional items which could not be fitted into the printed version, can be found at bvn.org.uk or via links on 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 Michael & All Angels, Littlebredy
Chilcombe (dedication unknown)
St Martin, Shipton Gorge
St Nicholas's, Abbotsbury
St Peter's, Portesham

St Mary, Litton Cheney
St Peter, Long Bredy
St Mary The Blessed Virgin, Puncknowle
Holy Trinity, Swyre
St Peter's, Langton Herring

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Rawding

To enquire about Baptisms, Marriages or Funeral arrangements in the Bride Valley & Chesil Benefice Churches please contact Rev'd Rawding by email: 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: 07932192908, and 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.

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 Rectory

Dear friends,

Are you getting the most out of your village parish church building? If not, why not?

During the heat wave your parish church has likely been the coolest place in the village, unless you have air conditioning. Your parish church is kept open during the day every day of the year and is a place where all are welcome to find a seat and sit quietly, to reflect, to remember, to recharge.

Your parish church is also a local and prominent tourist attraction visited by tourists from all over the world, who leave messages of appreciation in our visitor books. You may not realise, but it is a small number of people who keep these historic, cultural and sacred jewels shining brightly in our villages. Whilst each parochial church committee can apply for grants for some repairs and re-ordering, your parish church does not receive any money from central Church of England funds, nor from the Government. We are all indebted to the generosity of the faithful few and those others who support financially through Friends groups, for the fact all our parish churches are still standing and still open.

We want all our parish churches to add value to their local community and to be valued by their local community. Anyone who attended the 'Tree of Strings' concerts in early July, with world-class musicians playing in St Nicholas's Church, Abbotsbury, will recognise what beautiful buildings we have with an incredible 'acoustic'. The same can be said of St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock where the Burton Bradstock Music Festival is taking place this month. It's not too late to book tickets. I know there have been Guitar concerts in St Peter's Portesham, and we had an Opera Night at St Martin's Shipton Gorge recently, but I'm wondering whether your parish church could be the venue for the next amazing concert or event. You don't have to be a regular church-goer to come up with a creative idea that will benefit your local community.

We're very excited that we will have sheep, yes real-life sheep, in the exquisite church at Chilcombe on Saturday 15th August. The Bible is full of stories about looking after sheep, so no better place for Bredy Vets to have a day talking about parasite management and sheep medicine than in a church. I'm sure churches held cattle and sheep in the past and were likely used at marketplaces, which is what we have planned for St Nicholas's Abbotsbury in the future; well, a 'community market' not a cattle market.

I'm also excited that we now have planning permission to install a professionally made soft play structure for pre-school children in the south aisle at St Mary's

Church Burton Bradstock. It's going to cost £18,600, but we think it is worth it to give parents and children, including children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), somewhere indoors which is safe and fun to play. Jesus prioritised and stood up for children, so should we.

Next year we are planning to hold a 'Church Kneeler Exhibition' at St Mary's Church Litton Cheney from 21st April to 5th May. This will be an amazing opportunity to rejoice in all the artistry and skills in our churches, as people will be invited to bring kneelers or other pieces of embroidery from their own parishes. We plan to also have exhibits from farther afield, and celebrated authors as speakers.

All our parish churches belong to their community and should serve their community. We don't have all the creative energy and ideas, nor know what all the local needs are, so we want to work collaboratively and in partnerships. With thanks again to anyone and everyone who helps maintain and keep our church buildings safe and open. I genuinely appreciate everything you do.

Peace be with you,

Andrew

From the Registers

Funeral: Mary Toms, 14th July, at Burton Bradstock

BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

The BVCS is a volunteer scheme offering residents of the Bride Valley transport to and from medical appointments when they are unable to drive themselves or be driven by relatives or friends. Clients are charged a mileage fee (currently 50p per mile) plus a standard charge (currently £2.00 per journey). Because the service depends on the availability of volunteer drivers, clients are asked to give as much notice as possible – we are unlikely to be able to respond to requests within 48 hours of an appointment.

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

We always welcome new drivers.



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.

A message from our headteacher

I write this as we come to the end of another very busy school year. Our Year 6s have come to the end of their years at primary school. They have celebrated in many ways, including a trip to Salisbury Cathedral for the Diocese Leavers' Service and lunch at Prezzo, activities' week with a sleepover at school. We are sad to say goodbye to our Year 6s, we will miss them lots but wish them well as they move to secondary school.

Our Year 5s and 6s had a fabulous activities' week which included Pilates, bowling, a dance workshop, a bushcraft workshop, sailing at Portland and much more! Animal Explorers club has been a huge success with a visit from some crabs and a lobster one week and a tortoise another week! Our Friday morning running club have enjoyed many sunny runs to the beach this term.



Earlier in the term, a group of Year 6s went to County Hall in Dorchester as part of a Youth Voice event. They enjoyed visiting the old Crown Court and the Council Chambers. Our pupils spoke very eloquently about the benefits of community to young people and how our community spaces could be improved.

At the end of term, not only do we say goodbye to our Year 6s but also to some of our staff: Mrs Proudfoot, Mrs Andrews and Ms Rigby. We are very grateful to each of them for their huge contributions to our school. We wish them all the best in their new adventures.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who makes our school such a wonderful place - our dedicated staff, the Friends of the school, all of our supportive families, our volunteers and everyone else who supports us.

By the time you read this, I hope that all of our families and staff are enjoying a restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Thursday 3rd September.

To stay up-to-date with all our news and events please follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BurtonBradstockPrimarySchool>

Holly Varndell-Paulley

Acting Headteacher

To see more pictures from the school please look at the online edition where they are available, in colour, in the appendix.



Thorners CE VA School

Term has ended with the usual whirlwind of trips, activities, plays and sports events!

The weather has been wonderfully warm and many thanks to all staff for helping the children cope with some of the intense temperatures we have all experienced. By using the swimming pool and thanks to Rachel Ellman and her Forest School team, we have managed to keep the children active and relatively cool/shaded by rotating round the different classrooms (our older buildings are thankfully cooler).

We are also looking into the addition of some air conditioning units should, as seems likely, this hot weather pattern become more common each year. Our solar panels are producing many times the electricity required by the school during these heatwaves and therefore we can run air con units at no charge from this completely green source of electricity.

When the weather has permitted, school has hosted many great activities such as our wonderful sports day as well as trips to Melbury Bubb, a fantastic SAMBA performance in Abbotsbury by the Year 5 and 6 children as well as our usual sailing at Portland, windsurfing, maypole and swimming in our pool. The year 6s are soon to head off to a range of secondary schools and we wish them well in their new settings. We know they have worked



very hard even if forces beyond everyone's control have meant their SATs results are still not published yet!

We have had some wonderful photos to capture their last moments at Thorner's and we now also begin to look forward to welcoming 16 new pupils in Reception in September as the cycle starts all over again and we help new pupils and parents settle in to life at school.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Mike Sitch
Headmaster

Bride Valley WI

Flower Social in Puncknowle on a pleasant, cooler evening. This is a non-profit community interest, social enterprise, growing beautiful seasonal blooms with care to promote well-being. Jules Hammon, who set up this flower farm, showed us around the growing areas and explained the different types of plants and flowers needed to construct the perfect arrangement. Focal, spikey, disk, filler and airy blooms are all required and are grown here in a 'no dig', chemical-free environment.

The Flower Social also opens its door to various groups who are able to spend time in the outdoors surrounded by bird song and beautiful blooms. Thank you, Jules, for letting us learn about your business and help with the picking of your spectacular, super scented sweet peas.

Our Thursday evening walk consisted of a gentle stroll down to West Bexington beach where our members relaxed and enjoyed the seascape on a beautiful, warm, sunny evening. A not quite so gentle stroll brought them back up the hill to Puncknowle.

Skittles for fun continues every other Tuesday at the White Horse.

Craft Club members continue to work towards the Melpash Show entry. Only 7 weeks away!!!!

If you wish to join the Bride Valley Women's Institute please come and meet us all. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month in Puncknowle Village Hall at 7.30pm. Should you wish to contact us our email is bridevalleywi@gmail.com

Indoor Play Area

for Pre-School Children

IN BURTON BRADSTOCK



We want our church building to serve the needs of our local community and so we are raising funds to help install a professionally constructed **soft play climbing frame** with a **slide**, and **interactive play features**, in the south aisle of St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock — believed to be one of the first projects of its kind in a Grade 1 Listed village church.



There is currently **no indoor play provision** for young pre-school children in Burton Bradstock, and with the church located next to the primary school it will help parents and carers dropping off and picking up older children at the school.



We particularly want to provide opportunities for children with **special educational needs** to play, and to foster opportunities for parents to create mutual support.



Our aim is to create a **safe, fun, and inclusive** indoor space for pre-school children and families within the village and local community.

This is an ambitious and innovative project, and we need your help to make it happen.

Every donation, big or small, will help us move closer to creating something truly special for Burton Bradstock and beyond.



♥
A UNIQUE
PROJECT
IN A GRADE 1
LISTED VILLAGE
CHURCH



Building a
brighter future
for our children
and our
community



Help Make This Vision a Reality
Scan the QR Code to Donate Today

Every donation, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to creating a safe, fun, and inclusive indoor play area for the children of Burton Bradstock.



Thank
you!



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURTON BRADSTOCK
Working together for our community

The Bride Valley Book Club Review

“Diary of a Somebody” by Brian Bilston

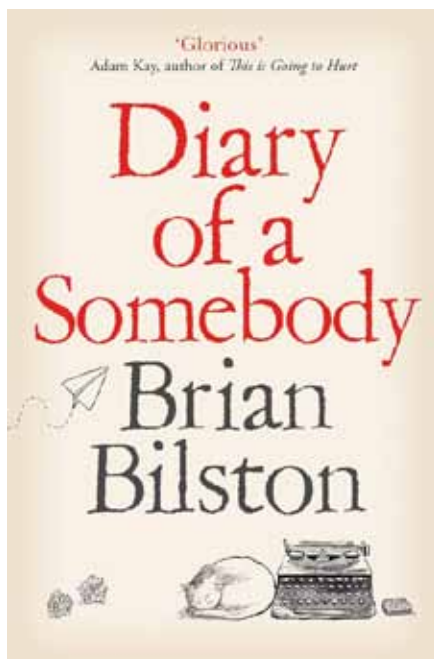
There was a positive response to Brian Bilston's novel with most of us enjoying his mix of prose and poetry. However, some of us thought that the poems were more successful than the prose! He honed his career as a poet on Twitter and became known as the Banksy of poetry. He is now published and tours the country - including Bridport's Electric Palace this coming November.

Bilston uses famous poems and lyrics as starting point for his inspiration and his title “Diary of a Somebody” is a parodic echo of George and Weedon Grossmith's “Diary of a Nobody” (the Pooter family). Brian's life is not happy, he hates his job and its “managerial speak”, his ex-wife has hooked up with a new man, his son needs more support during his exams and Brian's neighbours are not making his life easy. The premise is that he tries to get himself out of a rut by writing a poem for every day and possibly get published. Most of us agreed on the comedy elements of the novel, the irritatingly pretentious rival poet, Toby Salt, the man from No 29 who can never put out the right bin combination, Brian's ex-wife's new partner in lycra always doing sponsored sporty challenges - I could go on. However, Brian's rather hopeless ability to take charge of his own life did become exasperating for some of us. It was fun being able to recognise the pre-echo of well-known poems and songs - but this was not essential in order to enjoy the narrative. This was a light-hearted and easy read although some of us felt that Bilston's more memorable poems had been left out.

Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley Reading Group Vacancy

We have a vacancy and would welcome expressions of interest from readers in our valley. We source our books from Dorset Library Service and meet on every first Wednesday of the month. The only requirements are that you can attend meetings regularly, have an open mind and enjoy reading. If this sounds like you then please email lizpinfield@btinternet.com



Bride Valley Gardening Club

We held our Celebrity Speaker Event in June which was a huge success. We welcomed just under 50 members and guests (some travelling from other clubs in the far reaches of Dorset). David Hurron is a knowledgeable, entertaining and fascinating speaker and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. Our raffle also did extremely well with some excellent prizes. Thank you to Angie for organising this.

We do not have a meeting in August so please look out for the BVN September issue with details of our September meeting (on 21st) when we welcome a very local speaker from West Bexington, Joy Michaud of Peppers by Post and Spring Seeds, who is going to be telling us about Winning a Gold at Chelsea. It will be fascinating to learn about the hard work that goes into preparing for Chelsea.

Meetings are held at LATCH (Litton and Thorners Community Hall) DT2 9AU and take place every third Monday evening of the month (except August). Doors open at 7.00pm for drinks and the talks start at 7.30 pm. We serve wine, soft drinks, teas and coffees. Guests are always welcome for a £2 entry fee.

For further information please contact Liz, Secretary, bridevalleygc@gmail.com

Portesham Surgery

Protect Yourself This Winter – Save the Date for Your Seasonal Vaccinations

As we approach the winter months, Prince of Wales Surgery is preparing for our annual vaccination campaign to help protect our patients and the wider community from serious winter illnesses.

This year, we are pleased to be offering Flu, COVID-19 and Pneumonia vaccinations to all patients who are eligible under NHS guidance.

Following the success of previous campaigns, we have listened carefully to your feedback. Many patients told us they appreciated a calmer, more organised experience, so we have increased the number of vaccination clinics available this year. By spreading appointments across several dates and locations, we aim to make the process as smooth, efficient and comfortable as possible for everyone. Eligible patients will receive an invitation nearer the time with details of how to book their appointment.

Please wait for your invitation before contacting the surgery

Date	Location
1 October 2026	Dorchester Branch
2 October 2026	Dorchester Branch
3 October 2026	Portesham Village Hall
6 October 2026	Dorchester Branch
8 October 2026	Portesham Branch
10 October 2026	Dorchester Branch
12 October 2026	Burton Bradstock Village Hall
27 October 2026	Litton Cheney Village Hall

Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to protect yourself and those around you from serious illness.

We would like to thank our patients for choosing to have their vaccinations with Prince of Wales Surgery. By booking your appointment with us, you are helping to support your local GP practice and enabling us to continue providing high-quality care for our community. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to welcoming you to one of our clinics this autumn.

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

Our Night Sky in August 2026

Venus will be disappearing in the western sunset but the Milky Way will make up for it, as well as the Pleiades and Hyades pointing towards the reappearance of Orion, our night Constellation. The bright star in the South East is Capella.



NASA's latest major comet discovery is 3I/ATLAS, the third confirmed interstellar object to pass through our solar system. Discovered on July 1, 2025, by the NASA-funded ATLAS survey, data from the James Webb Space Telescope indicates it is between 10 and 12 billion years old, making it potentially older than our solar system.

With thanks to NASA and The Times.

Bill

Events in the Bride Valley



Music From Eden

The renowned Othona summer concert is back! A week after playing Ronnie Scott's in London, jazzy singer-songwriter Joanna Eden and bassist Andrés Lafone return to Othona with Joanna's heart-warming original songs, and those of her heroes like Joni Mitchell, Stephen Sondheim and Burt Bacharach. A spell-binding evening in the Othona Community chapel, and one or two guest artists as well. Interval drinks – cash donations welcome.

Wednesday 19th August. Doors open 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets £11 in advance or £13 on the door (£5 and £6 for under 16s). For details and to book in advance: <https://bit.ly/44n6r6U> or 01308 897132. The Othona Community is on the B3157 Coast Road, DT6 4RN.

Writing with Spirit

Monthly from 5th September 10.00am-4.00pm, Othona Community, DT6 4RN



Writing with Spirit is a series of writing dayschools with a spiritual focus in a stunning, inspiring location. Each dayschool (monthly on 1st Saturday, except October) will have a theme we will explore together through a series of contemplative, reflective writing activities. Using breathwork and silence, movement and stillness, we will invite inspiration and vision to craft poetry and prose of profound beauty. Guided by the words of great writers and thinkers through the ages, and our own innate bodily wisdom, we will hone strategies of reflection, recovery, and resilience that will benefit both our own mental health and wellbeing and that of our communities.

Led by Dr Kevan Manwaring. £55 per dayschool (incl. tea and cake). 10% discount if more than one booked. FFI: contact: kevanmanwaring@yahoo.co.uk

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

Puncknowle. mail: liz@ruddle.org.uk 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

email: Jill.neill@live.co.uk 01308 897479

Village websites: [www.https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk](https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk)

www.swyre.org.uk www.westbexington.org.uk



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. The events will run for four weeks starting on Sunday 2nd August. On 23rd August there will be drinks and nibbles afterwards. No tickets but your support and donations are most welcome.

Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall 100 Club

June Winners:

13 Ross Wallace
6 David Buckland

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Every Monday	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
2 nd Monday each month	7.00pm - 9.00pm	History Contact: Paul on paul.bullen@me.com
1 st Tuesday each month	7.30pm – 10.00pm	Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/
3 rd Tuesday each month	1.00pm – 2.30pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Every Wednesday	10.00am – 12.00noon	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Every Wednesday	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Table Tennis Contact John on 07557 963618
1 st Thursday each month	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Craft Club Contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
3 rd Thursday each month	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Bride Valley WI Contact Bridevalleywi@gmail.com
Last Friday each month	10.00am – 12.30pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987

4-day festival of the Bardic Arts to comes to the village

Over the August bank holiday weekend (28th-31st August) Bardfest '26 will be taking place, mainly in the Village Hall. Curated by Puncknowle resident, Dr Kevan Manwaring, Bardfest is an annual celebration of the 'bardic arts' - poetry, storytelling, singing, music and theatre. The programme features a welcome concert on Friday night, lunchtime and teatime concerts on Saturday and Sunday, a Bardic Cabaret raising funds for the Dorset Wildlife Trust in the beer garden of The Crown on Saturday evening, and a folk song walk led by traditional ballad singer Alastair Braidwood on the Monday. A book fair will also be held in the hall all weekend. Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite (search 'Bardfest') or can be purchased on the door. FFI: kevanmanwaring@yahoo.co.uk

Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club
Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy

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

August: No Meal

Future dates 2026

16th September: Beef Cottage Pie, Dessert to follow.

Please contact David Buckland 07597038141 for more details

Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley

Email: bvn@longbredy.org.uk 01308 482586

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



Long Bredy 100 Club Results – June 2026

£25	No.63	C Kinghorn
£15	No.51	D Andrews
£5	No.119	L Palm

Drawn on 30th June 2026 at Corner Cottage by Sue and Colin Dyer and Ruth and David Cullingford

Village News and Updates

Long Bredy Telephone Box

The telephone box in the village is on the BT list to be painted, unfortunately we have no detail as to when this will take place. Long Bredy appears to be the only working payphone left in the Bride Valley and it is used. Despite the size of the spiders' webs, the occupants are very small and obligingly disappear when you enter.

As we have a BT cashless Payphone, calls are free to UK landlines starting 01, 02 and 03 and most UK mobile numbers. Calls to standard helpline numbers (such as those starting with 0800 or 0808) and emergency services (999/112) are 100% free from all BT payphones. Should you find our payphone not working please call 0800661610.

Coffee Break

The usual coffee breaks took place on the 13th June and 11th July. These are a great way of meeting your neighbours over coffee or tea and a delicious piece of cake or something savoury. There is no charge but all donations made go towards helping the different organisations and facilities in the village.

Come Along Inn

Another wonderful evening was had at the come Along Inn in June. Although the weather on the evening wasn't as warm as in May, people enjoyed the warm welcome, good food, good company and of course a drink or two.

Playing Field Volunteer Morning

We wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to help at our annual Playing Field Volunteer Morning. It was a fantastic success and we managed to tick off every job on the to-do list. We even had time to enjoy a well-earned drink, a slice of cake and an early finish.

We really appreciate everyone's time, hard work and support. We couldn't do it without you or our wonderful regular volunteers, Adrian Harrison and Dave Cullingford. Thank you.

Open Garden

The garden at Langebride House was open through the National Garden Scheme (NGS) on the 21st June. On the day the weather was lovely and the gardens were looking beautiful. The Church was also open and looked splendid amongst the Daisies – giving a truly English country scene.

Everyone who attended enjoyed the afternoon which was helped with the delicious teas that were served. £450 was raised for the NGS and £355 for the Church through the sale of teas. We would like to give thanks to all those who helped in any way.

St Peter's Church

The bi-monthly services continue to take place and on the 5th of July we welcomed Archdeacon Penny who gave a lovely service. She helped us to think about how we manage to carry our burdens by sharing her own experiences of being newly ordained and working in Dagenham. By taking the things we can do, reflect/pray and continue, sometimes what seems impossible becomes achievable.

Parish Council

The Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Council recently posted that they were looking for a new Parish Councillor and we are pleased to welcome Cllr Gilly Milne, who joined the Council in May.

The Parish Council meets every two months at 7.00pm in Long Bredy Village Hall. Residents are warmly welcome to attend. For meeting dates, please visit the parish website, local network, or community Facebook page.

Your Parish Councillors are:

- Chair – Cllr Charlotte Kinghorn
- Vice Chair – Cllr Giles Maltby
- Cllr Ruth Cullingford
- Cllr Steve Evans
- Cllr Emma Orr
- Cllr Chris Wilmot-Sitwell
- Cllr Gilly Milne
- Cllr Colin Hillyer

The Parish Clerk is Debbie Hollings.

If you have any questions or would like to raise a matter with the Parish Council, please contact Debbie at clerk@longbredy.org

Future Events

Coffee Break

The next coffee break takes place on Saturday 8th August, 10.30am-12.00noon. If the hot weather has continued then the hall makes a nice cool place to meet. Come and meet your neighbours.

Come Along Inn

The Come Along Inn this month will take place on the Friday 28th August, 5.30pm-9.00pm. Come and join us and start the bank holiday weekend with this popular village event. You will receive a warm welcome and time to catch up with friends new and old.

St Peter's Church

The Church is open to visitors for craft/coffee and to cool off in this hot weather! The Church and Churchyard provide an oasis of calm.

Services continue to take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Please see the list of services at the back of the Bride Valley News for times.

Sunday 20th September at 9.30am will be our Harvest Festival Service. All are welcome and being a rural and farming community, the Harvest Festival is always an important day in the life of the village. After the service refreshments will be served. This year to celebrate this time of year we are decorating the Church with Watering Cans filled/decorated to represent the harvest. We would like as many people, young and old, in the village to get involved as possible. Any type of watering can be used, just leave it in the Church by Saturday 19th September; please put your name on it so it can be returned. These will be used to decorate the church for the Harvest Festival Service. It would be magnificent if we could fill the Church with as many different cans as possible. The children in particular may wish to do this. If we can get a good display we could then invite people to view them.

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton

Email: patgraston43@gmail.com 01308 898264

Village website: <http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org>



The Church Fete

Come along at 2.00pm on Thursday 6th August to enjoy a quintessential Village Fete in the Rectory Gardens and the Village Hall in Burton Bradstock. Fun for children, parents and grandparents alike. Adopt a Teddy, Rinse 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, feast on a burger and/or have a delicious tea. Proceeds will go to our soft-play facility and church funds, and your support will be greatly appreciated.

A village event like this relies on volunteers to manage the stalls and games and to help with the putting up and taking down of the marquees etc. If you think you can help, please contact the relevant person: Co-ordinator: Peter Tompkins 897043 peterjtompkins@hotmail.com Erecting/Dismantling.

Games: Alan Rawlinson 897554 arawlinson@hotmail.com For the bottle tombola game, we invite donations of Full bottles of Wine, Beer, Spirits, Soft Drinks etc please.

Please bring any donations to the village hall on Wednesday 5th August 2.00-4.00pm

White Elephant: Chrissie Bailey 07766 912403. Saleable items in good clean condition please to the village hall.

Children's Stall: Kate Shemildt 07808 730984 Adopt a Teddy

Book Stall: Mike Green 897215

Cakes & Preserves:

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

Plants & Garden: Cilla Jones 898473 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 6th July Liz Orza 897451 lizorza@hotmail.co.uk

The Village Hall will be open on Wednesday 5th 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 5th August from 5.00pm and on Thursday 8th August from 8.30am onwards 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 Summer Fete successful.

Church Fete Team

Raising Funds for Parkinson's UK

Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurodegenerative condition. This horrible disease is slowly progressive and there is no good outcome.

Alan, husband of Judy Clarke, had Parkinson's and this spurred the runner in Judy to enter The Great North Run to raise funds for Parkinson's UK. This year is the 45th anniversary of the GNR half marathon, run between Newcastle and South Shields and has attracted 63,000 - a record number of entries.

Judy recently participated in the AJ Bell Great North 10k, a mere 10 km but at least she stood on the Newcastle start line with the rest of the 13,000 entrants and experienced the beginning of what will be a huge undertaking this September.

Your help in raising funds for Parkinson's UK would be hugely appreciated. Donations can be made at: <https://events.parkinsons.org.uk/s/38401/49801> or scan the QR code on the right.



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.

*August: No Coffee Morning, summer break
Wednesday 9th September, The Rotary Club*

General Information

Following a busy start to the year with Coffee Mornings, Quiz and Spring Fayre there is a break from Hall organised events during the Summer. However, a lot happens in the Hall organised by others, and these are advertised separately. Meanwhile the Hall Committee carry out routine maintenance, repairs and enhancements during a slightly quieter period. Current plans include new kitchen flooring material and replacing the roof on the Chairs storage Shed.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” July 2026 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£32.00	No 123:	Mr Peter Broomhead
2 nd	£16.00	No 34:	Mrs Gay Sundt
3 rd	£8.00	No 80:	Mrs Margaret Thorpe

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the August 2026 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

Village Society Secretary

If you need to contact the Village Society for any reason, please email the secretary Hutch Curry at bbvillagesociety@gmail.com

General Information

Following our early year activities including the Coffee Morning, Plant and Cake Sale and the Village Flower & Produce Show last month, things quieten down for the Village Society during the Summer break.

Next Event

The first presentation evening of the new season will be on Friday 11th September. Full details will be in next month's BVN and on your membership cards.

Committee members

The Village Society is currently two Committee members down. We are looking for people interested in getting involved in Village activities to join us and help with the running of the various Village Society activities. We only meet as a committee about four times a year, not an onerous workload, so it is more about helping with our various activities. If you are interested and willing to help, please contact Richard Ferre on rwferre99@gmail.com or 01308897648 to find out more.

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Roadside Boundary Hedges

Over time, a number of roadside hedges have gradually extended beyond boundary walls and banks into the highway. During the past 18 months we have received several complaints that these overgrown hedges are restricting motorists' forward visibility, creating a potential danger for pedestrians as well as other road users. We would therefore like to ask all residents to check their roadside hedges and, where necessary, cut them back so that they remain within their property boundaries. The areas of greatest concern at present are the lower part of Shipton Lane and both sides of Annings Lane as far as Northover Close.

At this stage, we are not contacting individual residents regarding specific hedges. Instead, we are relying on the goodwill of everyone in the village to recognise the importance of maintaining clear sightlines. Cutting back overgrown hedges not only improves safety for pedestrians and motorists but also provides better visibility for residents when entering or leaving their own properties. Your support in helping to keep our roads clear and our village safer for everyone will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation.

 A Fun Afternoon for All the Family! 

THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY APPLE PRESSING

 Saturday, October 3rd 2026

 From 2:00pm

 Rectory Garden

(By kind permission of our Rector, Andrew Rawding)

Come along and join in the fun as we press fresh apples the traditional way!
Enjoy a relaxed afternoon with activities for all ages, seasonal treats, and great company.

Organised in conjunction with **Friends of the School.**

Any offer of apples will be appreciated and collected/picked one evening before.
Bring your own bottles for the juice!

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

The Summer Reading Challenge is already in progress on the theme of 'Read to the Beat'. Registration forms are available in the Library and children will be given a leaflet for stickers when books are returned, and a small booklet which explains the scheme, how to accept the challenge in a number of ways and provide short stories to inspire them. We hope that parents/carers will come in to register and then continue to encourage their children to keep reading, whether in the scheme or not! All for free!

Then on the morning of Tuesday 4th August, from 10.00am to 11.30am, Charles Fuge, the writer and illustrator who lives in Burton Bradstock, has kindly agreed to show young children what his books are about and how he creates the many animal characters. The children will be given the chance to create their own creatures. Please book a place in the library for your youngster and remember that they must be accompanied by an adult to the session. Donations are invited.

From 4th August until the late Bank Holiday, we will be hosting Alison Leahy's exhibition of photographs and biographies of established Burton residents, which featured in the Dorset Arts Weeks' show in the Church recently. For those of you who missed it, Alison, another Burton resident, has produced portraits which are stunning and enriched by everyone's life stories. Or perhaps you want another chance to study them. This will be possible during opening hours:

Monday 2.00pm-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm-4.00pm

We have also had visits from walkers doing the SW Coast Path recently – for a chat, a rest, to charge their phones. We assume this has been sparked by social media but it is interesting to find out where hikers are from worldwide and for them to talk about their experiences and what they have learned on their way. Libraries provide a quiet form of refuge for weary travellers and are there for all!

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

www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

Sue Brown

Chairman

Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art 2026

The 44th Festival is soon upon us. The volunteers have been working flat out to ensure a flawless event and are looking forward to the opening of the Art Exhibition on Saturday 15th August, and the Music Festival on Tuesday 18th August. Do come to the tea party in the rectory gardens on Sunday 16th August at 3.00pm, and enjoy tea, cakes, and live music. Ticket sales for this season's nine concerts are well underway at the Bridport Tourist Office. Thanks to the great success of the TV screens last year, they are back again so there is an upgrade to some seating resulting in few very restricted view seats.

David Juritz, the Artistic Director, has once again packed the programme full of variety; a Folk Night with Amelia Coburn who is really making her mark, inspired by her north-eastern roots and gothic literature. One critic described her songs as "flickering in the moonlight, looking longingly through the mist". In contrast, Spanish sunshine features at Wednesday's noon concert with a picnic platter, while the Jazz Evening promises swing, Chris Garrick's violin mastery, alongside Lucy Dixon, who not only sings but tap dances! Young Anya Zhislin who charmed us on the piano last year with her parents, Natalia Lomeiko, violin, and Yuri Zhislin, viola, is staying up late this year to perform at the 9.45pm late night recital on 19th August. If you missed The Atea Quintet playing Arnold's *Sea Shanties* last year, be sure to come to Thursday's 12.00noon concert. After a wonderful Wagner 'Vorspiel and Liebestod' from *Tristan and Isolde* last year, we have another treat in store this year with the beautiful 'Siegfried Idyll' from the 'Ring' at the Gala Concert.

For all the up to date information including art exhibition opening times and concert programme details please look on the website www.burtonbradstockfestival.com

Meanwhile the art organisers have selected about 40 artists exhibiting up to two paintings each, as well as prints. There will be a table each of woodwork items, fused glass ornaments, and a wide selection of ceramics. Silver jewellery featuring locally sourced sea glass should be of considerable interest. In an entirely new step, the organisers have invited participants in the Burton Bradstock School's after-hours art group to mount a display, themed 'Birds'.

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. I certainly can't wait for the Festival to get underway.

Jennifer Malyon
jennifermalyonbbd@gmail.com

Burton Coffee Mates

Coffee! Cakes! Chat!

Come and join us in the Church from 10.30am -12.00noon on the second Thursday of the month for Coffee Mates. Catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Transport is available. For more information contact Pauline 898327.

Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

We are a very friendly group who meet 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

Supper Club

There is no Supper Club this month, but we will be back in September.

Mags Chue 0779081299

Knitting for Ukraine

For those who like statistics, we have sent off, from here, so far, 399 strips, 46 blankets, 62 squares, 7 hats, and 7 sets of baby hats, bootees and mittens, plus 10 hand puppet teddies. All these comprised 36 parcels, including one which was a carload!

This project has spread widely. Unfortunately, the war continues apace, with great distress to so many. We pray that the 13 hospitals and maternity units in Ukraine (who receive our knitted goods) remain functioning during these harrowing times. Whatever happens, please keep sending your strips and blankets (knitted or crocheted of any size) and baby hats, bootees and mittens. A reminder regarding

the strips: - use no.8s / 4 mm. needles, double knitting wool of any colour. Cast on 30 stitches and knit (no purl) till work reaches 30 inches / 75 cm.

A big thank you to Peter, Gill and Gill at the post office who accept any strips etc. till I can collect them.

For further information contact Heather Rogers on 01308 897780

Collecting for Ukraine

Thanks to friends and the pupils and staff at Portesham Primary School, who provided 15 bags, Jool was again able to deliver goods to Ukraine. This was his twenty-seventh trip and he took a wonderful collection of children's clothes, including some practically new anoraks. He drives across Europe, delivers his load, leaves the car for the army and returns to England by bus, train and plane.

Medical supplies in Ukraine are in extremely short supply, so even simple over-the-counter things like pain killers would be very welcome, or bandages, plasters and the like for the hard-pressed Ukrainian soldiers. Walkers and camping equipment are also needed and you may have some redundant items of this kind that you could donate. There is a box by my front door at 31 Barrowfield Close for smaller items or Heather is willing to collect larger pieces. Please phone 01308 898165 to arrange this.

Thank you, Barbara

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: t.laycock70@gmail.com 01308 482443

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



Position Vacant!

Our church treasurer will soon be retiring, and we need a new person to take care of the finances of St Michael and All Angels. If anyone is able to help, please contact the churchwarden Tim Laycock for a chat about what is involved on 01308 482443. Thanks so much!

Weddings Old and New

Many congratulations to former residents Julie and Brian Barrett, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in July; and congratulations also to Andrew Foot and Siobhan Davies on their impending nuptials this month. We wish them joy and happiness on their very special day.

Dry Shoes!

Finally, a happy ending to last month's report about part of the river re-routing itself to run down the lane to the Walled Garden. Lee Quincey came to the rescue with a large slab of stone, and now the river is back in its accustomed channel, and road is very dry. We won't be turning into amphibians after all!

Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett

Email: richardhewlett419@gmail.com 01308 897278

Village web-site: www.shiptongorge.org.uk

Welcome to our village diary.

Just search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to

<https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/>

You'll be able to find out all that's going on in the village from the Village Society, the New Inn/New Inn Support, the Village Hall, Shipton Gorge Heritage, the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and other event organisers.

St Martin's Church

Floodlight sponsors for August

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

Ann & Stephen for Helen & Chris' anniversary on 6th

Paul & Ann Thimont for their mother Joy's birthday on 29th

John & Diane Bredemear celebrating their 61st anniversary

For Steve Duckworth and his Dad

And for all our hardworking Farmers

Thank you all, for your sponsorship. If you have a special memory or an occasion and would like to light up St Martin's Church, please contact Phyl on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage, (Chapel Street) letter box. A suggested donation of £5 is very much appreciated.

Village Hall

July 100 Club Draw results

1st 111 £25 Marina Hamilton

2nd 72 £10 Robert & Lyn Pettit

3rd 53 £5 Rosemary Greasby

Congratulations to all winners!

Parish Council

Our last meeting was on 9th July, when we received updates on the various matters currently underway.

Mobile reception: Having drawn a blank with Atlas, we are now in discussion with the Dorset Council Connectivity Team who are working with Vodafone and NET-CS on the possibility of using local churches. It will take a couple of months for their investigations to be completed.

Broadband: if you haven't already done so, please register your interest at <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband>

Playground: the equipment has passed its annual inspection. There are a few small jobs left to do: repainting the slide, refurbishing the picnic benches and repairing the cushioned area circling the roundabout. We will be asking for volunteers to help us one day over the summer.

Website: work is ongoing on the new website, in conjunction with the other village organisations. We are aiming to have it operational in the autumn.

We will be at the Village Fete on 8th August so do come over and say hello. Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Village Society

Village Fete and Show - 8th August

We are blessed in our village with so many excellent bakers. With this in mind, can I request on behalf of the Village Society a cake contribution for the tea/coffee stall. This would be greatly appreciated as we know how you want to see the fete succeed on behalf of the village. Your bakes can be handed to Sally Parker or myself, Graham Garner, before the event or on the actual Saturday morning.

Thank you, *Graham*

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winners in the July draw were David & Rosemary Greasby – well done. If you have not already bought a ticket for the year starting August there might be a few available at the Village Show.



Saunders Richardson Wood

We have been keeping a lower profile in the wood, letting the wildlife have a bit of peace and allowing them to take advantage of the shade (and lower

temperatures). The Nettle fertiliser should be ready and bottled in time for the Village Show. If you would like to purchase some in advance, drop me an email. We are planning to open the Wood on **Saturday 29th August at 2.30pm**. Checking on the trees and hoping that the stream is still flowing! 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

A few of the varieties of apples should be ready to eat in August – particularly the Beauty of Bath. This is a dessert apple, which needs to be eaten almost as soon as it is picked. It does not store, which is why you are unlikely to find it in the shops. The grass has been scythed in the Orchard – the cut grass being used as mulch around the bases of the trees. We think scything plus leaving it longer in the spring is helping with the biodiversity as we have seen Pyramidal Orchids and Dark Mullein among the grass. Ox Eye daisies, Selfheal, Corn Marigold and Hedge Woundwort have spread around too. Ragwort - although a problem for livestock, is a hugely beneficial plant for insects – particularly Cinnabar moth caterpillars. We will be in the Orchard on **Monday 17th August at 11.00am** for a tidy up session – all Shipton Gorge residents are welcome.



The Big Butterfly Count runs through to 9th August. It seems to be a better year for them so why not set aside some time to look out for them and report your count

on the The Butterfly Conservation Trust website

<https://gardenbutterflysurvey.org/> – this all helps to build a much more accurate picture of how they are faring.

We will be at the Village Show on **Saturday 8th August** if you want to come and meet us, see what we have been up to, and if not already a member, we will very happily sign you up!

Thinking ahead, if you are a keen jam maker, pickler or preserver – why not make a few extra jars with the abundance of summer fruit and vegetables. We would be very happy for donations to sell at our Apple Day event on Saturday 24th October.

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

Details as usual on our website:

http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton_Gorge_Heritage__16417.aspx

and in the Shipton Gorge Diary <https://www.shiptongorgediary.co.uk>

Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell

email: jfirrell20@gmail.com 01308 482313

Village web-site: www.littoncheney.org.uk



St Mary's

Village Café – Saturday 5th September

The village café in aid of vital church funds will be held at LATCH on Saturday 5th September from 10.00am -1.00pm. There will be the usual delicious bacon butties, cakes, etc to stave off mid-morning hunger pangs, plus a variety of stalls to tempt you including: bottle tombola, cakes, fresh produce and jams etc, local artists, children's card game, and of course the prize draw, with cash prizes. Tickets for the draw will be available shortly. Donations for the bottle tombola would be very welcome and can be collected from you at a convenient time in the week before the café. Please contact Litton.Bottles@gmail.com to arrange collection. Produce donations should be brought to the Hall on the morning please, or contact us to arrange collection. Any questions please call 01308 482548 or email kbrookslcpc@btinternet.com

Thank you and we do hope to see you there. Fete springs internal!

Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride – Saturday 12th September

What is the first thing that you often see as you approach a town or village? A church spire or tower standing above the other buildings, as it has for centuries? Our churches are part of the fabric of our communities and have a huge amount of history associated with them. The Dorset Historic Churches Trust looks after church buildings, both those still open and those which are no longer used. The annual Ride and Stride will take place on Saturday 12th September and half of all monies raised will come back to our own village church. Could you help by taking

part this year? Perhaps a family stroll between Litton and Puncknowle, or up to tiny Chilcombe with its timbers possibly from the Spanish Armada? Or cycle round as many churches as you can manage, with refreshments laid on to keep you going!

For more information about the event see

https://www.dhct.org.uk/m/ride_and_stride.ph. If you are interested in taking part, please email Kathryn Brooks on kbrookslcpc@btinternet.com or call 01308 482548. If you would prefer to sponsor somebody else, details will be available in next month's BVN. Thank you.

Litton Cheney Parish Council

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th September, 7.00pm at LATCH

The minutes of the July PC meeting will be available on the village website, as we now look to September for our next meeting. Once again we remind you we are looking for residents to step up to the plate, and join the Parish Council where there are now three vacancies, the latest vacancy being due to Rob Matthews stepping away for personal reasons.

Although Rob served for a relatively short time, he very quickly made his presence felt on joining by taking on the IT brief when full fibre was being made available in the village. He moved to Highways & Transport when Andrew Price withdrew, and will be sadly missed. We wish him well, and hope that at some point in the near future he will return to the fold.

Parish Plan Update – An inaugural meeting took place towards the end of July, with a group of interested residents prepared to meet and discuss how they see the village evolving in the decade or so years to come. More opinions and thoughts are required, as are more members. Why not give some thought to the future of your community. For more information contact Mary-Jane Powell or John Firrell at jfirrell20@gmail.com

Considerate Parking – Like most villages in Dorset, and anywhere else for that matter, parking can so often be a problem, or should we say, considerate parking, because numerous times people don't quite get the considerate bit. When

deciding where to park, please consider what you are forcing other drivers to do in order to get around or pass you. Forcing them out onto the other side or middle of the road, on a bend, therefore facing the risk of meeting another car head on, indicates you have made a bad decision. The area in and around The Paddocks is a perfect example of where this happens. PLEASE – BE CONSIDERATE!

Shortmat Bowls

We will start the season at LATCH on Tuesday September 1st at 4.30pm, so plenty of time to flex those muscles! Everyone is welcome to take the opportunity and

show their skill. Bring a friend along and surprise yourself!
Feel free to ring Ron Davidson for more information01308 482661.

The White Horse

The sun has come back in abundance as we write this! What better place to come to in the hot weather than your local pub, with plenty of food on offer, ice cold drinks and the stream to cool off in! It's had a lot of use lately! Very grateful to all of you who continue to support our Sunday music at 4.00pm. It's still Happy Hour at 6.30pm on Friday evenings, fish 'n chips from 5.30pm to 8.30pm (please book if you can) and Pizza truck on Monday nights, otherwise we are concentrating on the day job until September - open the doors and serve food and drink! We look forward to seeing you over the summer.

Andy & Liz

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

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I was delighted to hear that you have been made chairman of the Missionary Sub-committee; it should help you to hone your skills in appearing to encourage committee members to contribute while ensuring that they only say the things you want to hear. It is a skill that needs a little practice; democracy only works if all the important decisions have been made beforehand.

However, do remember that sub-committees are only formed in order either to kill an idea stone dead, or to give the chairman of the main committee some time to decide what he wants, since he isn't sure how to handle the issue at that moment. I formed a sub-committee in 1999 to discuss Miss Fothergill's suggestion of creating a 'water feature' on the Rector's Glebe land, as a way of celebrating the Millennium. More than



25 years later, we are still actively discussing the idea.

I noted at the time that no one wanted the thing on their *own* land. It's significant that whenever people suggest some imposing edifice, they always think it will be most appropriate either in the Rector's Garden, or in some public place, well out of sight of their own homes.

While the Water Feature Group has been working away tirelessly, and endless masons and architects have been approached, a suitable design has yet to be presented. It looks as if a suggestion will eventually be considered by my hundredth successor as we enter the third Millennium. That is the customary rate of progress for St James the Least, which I find entirely satisfactory.

The procedure for decision-making is always the same: after enormous effort, the sub-committee will produce a carefully worded report, which will be circulated round all members of the church council. At the next meeting, they will be thanked profusely for all their hard work, and the matter will be discussed at great length. It will then be proposed that the final decision will be taken at the next meeting, after everyone has had time to consider the matter more thoroughly.

Come the next meeting, the item will somehow fail to appear on the agenda, and when it is raised in Any Other Business, it will be pointed out that it is now far too late in the evening to tackle such an important issue. From then on, you can be assured, it will sink without trace.

Always remember the golden rule: a church committee meeting consists of a body of people waiting to go home.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Calling all Aga Owners!

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Bardfest '26

A Celebration of the Bardic Arts
Puncknowle & Swyre Village Hall (except *)
28th-31st August bank holiday weekend

Friday 28th August

- **Welcome Concert**, 7pm-10pm. Featuring music, poetry, and storytelling by James Hollingsworth, Simon Andrews, Izzy Darkwood & Monica Ciriani. Refreshments by donation. Book & CDs for sale. Bring cash. £15 advance ticket, £20 on door.



Saturday, 29th August

- **Wessex Book Fair & Art Exhibition**. 10am-1pm; 2-4pm. Free entry.
- **Lunchtime Concert: The Fairies' Bazaar**. Storytelling & Poetry by Izzy Darkwood. 1pm-2pm, £10.
- **Teatime Concert: Healing Waters**. Storytelling & Poetry by Kevan Manwaring, 4pm-5pm, £10.
- ***Bardic Cabaret*** Music, Storytelling & Poetry in aid of the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Beer garden of The Crown, Puncknowle, 6.30pm-10.30pm – Donations (bring cash).



Sunday, 30th August

- **Wessex Book Fair & Art Exhibition**. 10am-1pm; 2-4pm. Free entry.
- **Lunchtime Concert: Ricky Romain**, 1pm-2pm, £10.
- **Teatime Concert: Giants & Kings with Peter Roe and Rebecca Katya Danicic**. 4pm-5pm, £10.
- ***Sunday Sing 'n' Strum***. Beer garden of The Crown, Puncknowle, 5-7pm. FREE



Monday, 31st August

- ***A Folk Song Walk (Puncknowle) with Alastair Braidwood***, 11am, Meet outside The Crown, 2 hr walk, wear suitable footwear and clothing. Bring water and a packed lunch. £12. Accompanied children go free. Well-behaved dogs on lead are welcome.



Discount advance tickets only:

- **Gold Weekend Ticket: £50 – entry to all events.**
- **Silver Ticket: £25 – entry to 3 events.**
- **Bronze Ticket: £10 – entry to 1 event.**

Book direct via Paypal: kevanmanwaring@yahoo.co.uk

For individual bookings, book via Eventbrite (booking fee). Scan QR codes for details.

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At Symondsburry Estate

by kind permission
of Julia & Philip Colfox



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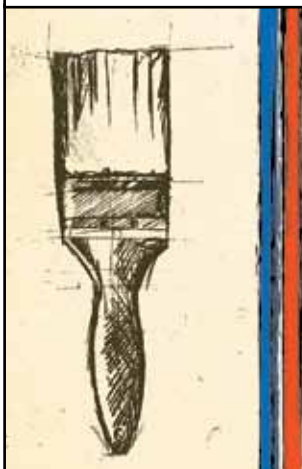
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Litton Cheney		9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Worship	
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Swyre	6.00m Songs of Praise	6.00pm Songs of Praise	6.00pm Songs of Praise	6.00pm Songs of Praise	
Shipton Gorge		9.30am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	
Long Bredy	11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Worship		
Littlebredy				11.00am Holy Communion	
Portesham		11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion		
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion		10.00am Morning Worship		
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	6.00 pm Outdoor Service	



Appendix: Additional pictures from Burton Bradstock School

