

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

Online edition



June 2026

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

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Information for Contributors

July 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 5th June for the July 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 bvnl.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 Mary: Litton Cheney
St Peter: Long Bredy
St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle
Holy Trinity: Swyre

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,

I thought I would write this month about dementia.

It's been a factor in some past and recent deaths in the parishes, and increasingly I hear of a husband or a wife, less able to socialise or leave the home, as they take time to care for their wife or husband with dementia. I'm also prompted to write about dementia in the week of the anniversary of the death of my Auntie Rita, who lived in Bridport for over thirty years and died on 18th May 2025 in Dorset County Hospital. Auntie Rita had a form of dementia when she died as did her sister, my Auntie Vivienne. Both had a very strong Christian faith, which they expressed publicly and was at the forefront of their lives. They lived and breathed Jesus and exuded God's love for them. But by the end of their lives, through cognitive decline, it was how we remembered and celebrated their faith that mattered most, rather than how they were able to express it.

Some of the most rewarding times I had in my three parishes in the Church of Ireland, were in the care homes I visited each month, where I led hymn singing session with the residents, many who were affected by dementia. It was wonderful to see a transformation in people's demeanour and personality as they instantly remembered hymns and were able to join in with 'Jesus loves me this I know' or 'What a friend we have in Jesus.' Some of the most humbling times were when I was with loved ones who were finding it very difficult to come to terms with changes in personality and behaviour in a parent or were distressed by a beloved parent no longer recognising them. It would be easy to ask from a Christian perspective: 'Where is God in all this?'

In terms of Christian hope, neither dementia, nor any disease, nor any disability, nor any diagnosis can separate us from God's love (cf. Romans 8:38-38). Every person is created in the image of God (imago Dei), to love and be loved. Love is the mission of God (mission Dei), and that love is not conditional on cognitive ability. Loss of memory in a human does not equate to divine loss of memory. Loss of a human relationship does not equate to loss of relationship with the divine. The Christian faith offers the truth that the same holy breath of God that brings life is still at work through the mystery of divine love, as the Apostle Paul wrote: 'Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.' If we ever find ourselves with dementia, we can prayerfully take hold of this truth for ourselves. 'I will not leave you orphaned', Jesus told his disciples, 'I will leave you the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.' We might tell ourselves: "I may be finding it difficult to remember, but God's love has not forgotten me." I wonder how many of our loved ones, or our neighbours, may not have attended their local church as adults but as children learnt prayers or hymns which remain meaningful to them and would be positive memories with dementia.

We're still in the Easter season, and we might reflect that in the story of Jesus on the cross he cried out: 'My God, my God why have you forsaken me?' Jesus felt the pain of separation and abandonment, the turmoil of despair. In the service of Holy Communion, we hear the words: 'Do this in remembrance of me.'

Remembering Jesus yes but also remembering all those who no longer seem able to remember for themselves, sharing in this mystical enactment of brokenness, but not without hope, but with great love. It is our love, it is our memories of love, it is our making new memories of love which create holy communion in a way that can transcend dementia. My Uncle Malcolm, my Auntie Rita's brother and I were at her bedside in the hospital, and we held hands, and we sang hymns, and we celebrated the life, and the love that will never let us go.

Peace be with you,

Andrew

Would you like to join us on a Pilgrimage of Peace, marking St James' day?

St James was the dedication of the chapel, now just visible, at Kingston Russel House, the birthplace of Thomas Masterman Hardy, so we are marking St James' Day in and around that area. The walk will start at the telephone box junction in Long Bredy, taking in the magnificent countryside around that area and include the footpath to the north of Kingston Russel house. Everyone is welcome to come along! The walk will be about one to one and half hours. Dogs on leads please. Meet at 2.00pm on 26th July



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

It has been lovely to see some sunnier weather since returning to school after the Easter holidays. We have been making the most of our outdoor learning opportunities, including learning on the playgrounds, at our outdoor education site and at the beach!

We are so lucky to have the beach on our doorstep! The Nest went to the beach to film birthday wishes for Sir David Attenborough - have a look at our Facebook page to see their message for Sir David Attenborough. Robins are learning about Coasts in their topic and have visited the beach as part of their learning on coasts.

Kingfishers enjoyed a walk to the beach where they did some artwork and indulged in ice creams, thanks to The Hive Beach Cafe.

Running club have also been on some runs to the beach to enjoy the calm of the early morning by the coast. We also enjoyed an assembly with the RNLI (pictured on the right) - with our location it is so vital that we all know how to keep safe by the coast.



We have spaces available in our reception class for September and in our preschool for children who are due to turn 4 before August 31st 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. To stay up-to-date with all our news and events please follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BurtonBradstockPrimarySchool>.

Please note that additional pictures from the school, in colour, are in the appendix to the online edition.

*Holly Varndell-Paulley
Acting Headteacher*



Thorners CE VA School

Since returning after the Easter break the children have been getting stuck in to a huge range of activities.

The older pupils have been putting the finishing touches to their SAMBA and vocal performance - ready to share with parents and to also perform at the start of the Abbotsbury Tree of Strings Festival next month in the Tithe Barn. Younger ones are also strutting their stuff and will soon perform their dance routines to the school and their parents after their great sessions with Amy our Dance Instructor.

Our Book Fair was a triumph - many thanks to Mrs Biggins for organising and for Governors and Staff for manning the stall to enable children to select from a wide range of titles and authors. This also raised some most welcome funds for the school which we then used to refresh our school library.

In the same week the TSA held a brilliant disco for the children and it was a fantastic evening for all to dress up and have great fun together in the LATCH hall. Thank you to the TSA for all their hard work again in organising events like this for the school.

In the office we were pleased with the good results from our Health and Safety Inspection and can report that no major issues were identified and we have a short to do list to remedy some small snagging items and we are also pleased to report that the swimming pool was given a clean bill of health as we look to reopen that in the summer.

The eldest children are due to sit their SATs tests shortly and we wish them well with their assessments and then look forward to their last long (and hopefully sunny) half term of being at primary school!

Mike Stitch
Headmaster

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.

Bride Valley WI

The Bride Valley WI held its annual meeting this month. Once the business was complete Emily, a very talented singer and member of our WI, led us in choral singing. She put us through our paces with exercises in singing notes together, divided in groups. Singing high, low and somewhere in the middle. She eventually decided we were ready to tackle singing “in the round”. We managed three different songs and although we could only be the judge of our own abilities we were pleasantly surprised at our choral achievements.

I think Emily was pleasantly surprised as well. However, our small success was due to her patience and skill as a teacher. Emily ensured our routine Annual Meeting was not routine at all but a loud and very tuneful fun evening.
Thank you, Emily.

We fulfilled a wish of the writer of this column with a walk up Shipton Hill on Sunday 3rd May. We parked in Shipton Gorge and Kathy, one of our WI members and a very capable and experienced walker, led us through the village and up and up until we reached the top of the hill. The journey took us through lush green woodland with a beautiful blue blanket of bluebells keeping us company. The views, as we so often find on our walks, were stunning and we passed close by a

badger sett but sadly no badgers. The weather stayed dry and we completed the quite challenging walk through the orchard and around the church.
Thank you, Kathy.

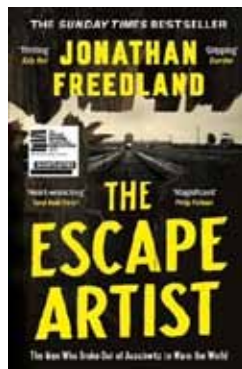
Our skittles for fun continues every other Tuesday at the White Horse. Litton Cheney. The Bride Valley WI "Craft Club" continues learning new and old crafts and is working hard on its Melplash Show entry.

If you wish to join the Bride Valley WI and enjoy its varied programme, come and meet us. We meet every 3rd Thursday at 7.30pm at Puncknowle Village Hall. Do come along and if you think you might like to become a member, please contact us at bridevalleywi@gmail.com

The Bride Valley Book Club Review

The Escape Artist by Jonathan Freedland

There was much to discuss about this extraordinary book. The Escape Artist is the true story of how two young men escape Auschwitz to inform the wider world of the Nazi's industrial process of mass extermination. An introductory chapter takes the reader immediately into the danger and tension of the escape bid and the confined hiding space under a woodpile of planks next to the rail tracks inside the camp. A key part of Walter and his friend Alfred's strategy was to hide inside the camp for three days and nights allowing the Nazi security guards to believe an escape had already taken place. Once the high alert and subsequent search had taken place it became easier to then breach the security fence under cover of darkness. Much of the first half of the book records in horrific detail what was happening in Auschwitz, the cattle truck transport, the separation on arrival into those who will imminently perish in the gas chambers and those who will labour as slaves, the systematic theft of Jewish property, the appalling conditions of the camp and the brutality of the Nazi officials. All this was a very tough read and we found it distressing. Against all odds and with tremendous endurance and plenty of luck, Walter and Alfred manage to make it over the border to occupied Slovakia. Here they are helped by the underground resistance and given forged (Walter becomes Rudi) identities.



The second half of the book documents the long and complex journey Walter/Rudi and Alfred's report - documented and verified legally - makes to reach the international audience who can take action. Walter/Rudi knew that thousands of Hungarian Jews were about to be sent to Auschwitz and he believed they had a right to know what fate awaited them. His report does circulate but initially it is met with disbelief, procrastination and excuses. Action is slow to materialise but eventually the Jews from Budapest were mostly saved from the camp. Walter/Rudi's story is continued post war, he becomes an organic chemist and

works in various universities before emigrating to Canada. However, he is a traumatised man and cannot sustain his marriage or responsibility for his two daughters. He is especially bitter about the allied failure to sabotage the camps earlier and the extent of compliance and collaboration which saw some Jews survive and others murdered. Those of us who did read this book through to the end could appreciate its worth as a testament to this unspeakably evil episode in 20th Century history. The timing of our reading seems very prescient in the light of current world events. Some of us just did not want to read about the abject misery of this period and we respected that choice. Our conversation was wide ranging with travel reminiscences and personal stories - a really good discussion about a difficult book.

Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley Gardening Club

At long last it looks as if summer is on its way! I can't believe we're saying that, when I'm writing this at the beginning of May, we need rain, but the ground is already so difficult to dig into!

We are very much looking forward this month (Monday 15th June) to welcoming David Hurrion as our Celebrity Speaker for 2026. David is Associate Editor of BBC Gardeners World, Gardening Journalist, Tutor, Lecturer and RHS Judge. He is knowledgeable, experienced and entertaining. He will be talking about "Creating a Jungle Garden". This should be an excellent evening.

Tickets in advance are £5 each from Liz at bridevalleygc@gmail.com. All welcome. The meeting will be at LATCH (Litton and Thorners Community Hall) DT2 9AU. Doors open at 7.00 for drinks, nibbles and chat and the talk will start at 7.30pm.

In April we held our AGM with an excellent attendance followed by a very interesting talk by Bryan Madders on Dahlias. David brought along tubers for sale which were quickly sold. Unfortunately, no volunteers came forward to help on the Committee. We are still looking for a Chairman and Programme Secretary (this latter position could be done by two people working together to organise next year's programme if that would be easier). Please come forward if you feel you could help out as without a committee this long-standing local club will have to fold in October.

In the meantime, we have some excellent speakers lined up. Meetings are held on the third Monday evening of every month at Litton and Thorners Community Hall, DT2 9AU. Doors open at 7.00pm for drinks and chat, and the talk/demonstrations begin at 7.30pm. Guests always also welcome for £2.

We are looking forward to (and will have had by the time this drops through your letterbox) our May meeting, when we have James Cross, Head Gardener at the Bishop's Palace in Wells.

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

Portesham Surgery

In May we welcomed two new members to the Prince of Wales team. Dr Felicia Iqpat re-joins us as a salaried GP. Dr Iqpat is not completely new to the surgery, she completed some of her registrar training with us a few years ago. She has worked across both branches since starting with us but will normally be located at Dorchester on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We also welcomed Kelvin to our Patient Services Team. Kelvin will be primarily based at the Dorchester branch but may answer your telephone call and be behind the Portesham desk on occasion.

Samples

Please remember that any samples need to be brought into surgery before 1.00pm. We are unable to store samples overnight, therefore if it is brought in after this time it may need to be discarded and re-requested.

Surgery website → www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk

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

Our Night Sky in June 2026

I am sure that any of you who have looked to the west after Sunset will have seen Venus shining brilliantly, and climbing higher every evening. It will reach its highest point in August before sinking back towards the horizon. Meanwhile, Jupiter, which has been a constant companion to us during the winter months, is now gradually moving westwards to sink behind the Sun, and eventually reappear in the dawn sky.



Jupiter

Jupiter's diameter is 11 times that of Earth and a tenth that of the Sun. Its atmosphere consists of 76% hydrogen and 24% helium by mass, with a denser interior. The outer atmosphere is divided into a series of latitudinal bands, with turbulence and storms along their interacting boundaries; the most obvious result of this is the Great Red Spot, a giant storm that has been recorded since 1831. Binoculars will reveal the daily dance of the 4 Galilean moons, which I will describe in next month's article, and a small telescope will be able to see the band and the Red spot, as the planet revolves in its ten hour day.

Bill

Events in the Bride Valley



We are launching something exciting for our community

The Not So Youth Club⁺ fun for the over 50s

Starting at 11am to 2pm on Wednesday 20th May £3 per session
and on the 3rd Wednesday of the month thereafter:
17th June, 15th July, 19th August, 16th September,
21st October, 18th November, December 16th

A brand-new social group designed for people who want to connect, create, laugh, move, learn, share skills... and most importantly shape something special together.

This club will grow with your ideas, your experiences, and your imagination.



Activities in the sports hall

Table tennis, badminton, netball, or have you a sport you would like to introduce?



Newspapers, Books. Puzzles etc.

Bridport Library Team will run a short story reading group, catch up on the newspapers talk over the current affairs of the day, share a crossword clue.



Community Room

Gentler exercise and health and wellbeing information from Jurassic Social Prescribers PCN, Live Well Dorset.



Cafe and shared cooking sessions

Live alone? need a bit of motivation and confidence in the kitchen? The Friendly Food Club and Bridport Food Matters will be providing short cooking courses or pay £5 for a shared lunch.



Art and Textiles in the studio

Creative projects art with, Sarah Jane Ross and textiles with Bridport School of Regenerative Fashion or come with your own ideas.



Bridport Youth and Community Centre,
Gundry Lane, DT6 3RL
bridportycc.org
email community@bridportycc.org



Funded by
UK Government



Dorset
Community
Foundation

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton

Email: patgrafton43@gmail.com 01308 898264

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



Bride Valley and Chesil Benefice – Bring & Share Lunches 2026

Thank you to everyone who supports these events when we share a delicious lunch and enjoy the chance to chat and meet new friends and old. As always, everyone of any faith and none is warmly welcomed.

The dates for the rest of the year are: Sundays 5th July, 6th September and 1st November in Burton Bradstock Village Hall. Food may be dropped off after 10.00am or brought with you, ready to serve up at 12.30pm.

If you need further information about this event, please call 01308 897273, leave a message with your name and number and we will call you back.

We hope to see you there!

Tots' Time

April has been a lovely month at Tots' Time, with plenty to celebrate and enjoy together. As part of our Easter celebrations, the children planted a beautiful Easter Garden which has been proudly displayed in the church porch for everyone to see. We also had a very special VIP visit from Grandad Jim and his lamb, Lesley, a charming black-nosed Valais sheep, who was a huge hit with both children and adults alike! With the warmer weather arriving, we have been delighted to spend more time outside enjoying Tots Time in the sunshine. It has also been wonderful to welcome several new families this



month, and there is always room for more. Everyone is very welcome to join us every Friday afternoon during term time at St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock, from 2.00pm–3.15pm.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall

Village Hall Bookings

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

Coffee Mornings

The popular monthly coffee mornings where you can get a sensibly priced coffee/tea and cake plus a chat with friends will be held on the dates below. They run from 10.00 to 12noon and all are welcome.

Wednesday 10th June Village Society

Wednesday 8th July W.I.

Burton Bradstock Films

Burton Films now takes a break for the Summer. At this time we are seeing falling attendances and a shortage of appropriate films for our audience, so may not resume after the Summer break unless very special films come along. If you have an opinion on this, please let us know.

General Information

Following our successful Spring Fayre in May, there is a break from Hall organised events during the Summer. A lot happens in the Hall organised by others and these are advertised separately. Meanwhile the Hall Committee carry out routine repairs and enhancements during a slightly quieter period.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” May 2026 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£32.00	No 13:	Mrs Gill Mayo
2 nd	£16.00	No 109:	Mrs Sue Ouseley
3 rd	£8.00	No 99:	Mrs Lynne Wheatley

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the June 2026 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £7 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw. WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock 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

Burton Coffee Mates

Coffee! Cakes! Chat!

Come and join us in the Church from 10.30am -12noon 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 Village Society

After the busy month of May with the AGM and the very successful Plant and Cake sale, June is quieter in terms of Village Society events.

Village Society Secretary

Those who attended the AGM, where a good time was had by all, will know that we have a new Secretary, Hutch Curry. We are in the process of transferring information and activities from Roger Ashman to Hutch. Meanwhile, if you need to contact the Village Society for any reason, please email bbvillagesociety@gmail.com.

Village Society Coffee Stop, Wednesday 10th June 10am-Noon

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

Village Society Outing Wednesday 16th September

This year we are going to the Flower Festival at Winchester Cathedral. There will be time in Winchester to do other things, then on the way back we will stop at Haskins Garden Centre where you can get yourself a tea or shop (or both). Cost is £40 a head. Numbers are limited to 39, so it is on a first come first served basis. To put your name(s) down for the trip email rwferre99@gmail.com. Payment will be requested June time.

Village Society subscriptions

Our thanks to members who have paid their subscriptions of £5 per member for 2026-7 season. We have approximately **75 payments outstanding** and it would be a big help if members could settle their dues before the delivery of Membership cards in July. If you are uncertain how to pay, check your emails, contact Derek Thomas on 07809642667 or email bbvillagesociety@gmail.com.

Flower & Produce Show

Our planning is well underway for the Flower & Produce Show on 11th July where we hope for a bumper number of entries from Villagers and children at the school. There are schedules in the Post Office and Library and on the village website in the Village Society section under Flower and Produce Show. Photography subjects are "The Colour Blue" and "Happy Memories"; the limerick topic is "Potholes".

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Allotments

Allotment plots are available. Please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk for further information.

Openreach

The future rollout of better internet will be guided by demand, with priority given to areas that receive the most registrations. To help improve the chances of it coming to the village, please take a moment to register your interest – it only takes two minutes.

1. Go to openreach.com
2. Enter your post code in the Fibre checker box at the top, click "Check postcode"
3. Select your address in the dropdown, click "Check availability"
4. In the "Full Fibre Broadband" row, click the "Keep me updated" button
5. Enter your information and click "Submit"

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

It was good to welcome 23 Friends to our recent AGM. The meeting heard an update on library activities in the past 12 months and how the Trustees are going to start the process of getting quotations and permissions for replacing the main sash windows next year. Fund-raising has started and we ask you to watch this space for information about a variety of fun ways we are going to get the money together to pay for the work, the library being Grade 2 listed. This will include building a complete library and stocking it with people's favourite books – children can do this for free but adults will need to make a contribution. That should get you thinking!

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent coffee stop and book sale which together raised £279. Great cakes and good company.

Finally, if you are in need of a new red bag to put your batteries in for recycling, we have a stock on the hold shelf. Just ask a volunteer to find you one.

Our opening hours are:

Monday 2.00pm - 4.00pm,
Wednesday 10.00pm - 12.00noon
Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Feel free to visit and have a look round.

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

Sue Brown, Chairman

Burton Bradstock WI

May has been a very successful month for BBWI. We had a lovely evening seeing the high & low lands of our Celtic cousins in a 'Sojourn of Scotland' by Brian Pettitt. For me it was just a delight to see Scotland without rain or midges! Keeping with the theme, the shortbread was well received, along with Tunnocks wafers... who says we don't know how to have a good time!

25th May saw our hand-made craft stall and the Cakes and Bakes stall very well attended and a huge THANK YOU to everyone who made, baked, crafted and created. There were lots of new items, plus some old favourites (Lemon Drizzle cake!) which all proved too much to resist to those attending the Spring Fayre. It was a tiring but well supported event.

27th May was a visit to the Abbotsbury Swannery & lunch at Cherries. It's lovely to go out as a group and car-share. Having never been to the Swannery, it was so educational and informative, plus a lovely lunch at the end made for a great day-out.

Looking to June, Burton Bradstock says 'Hello to Summer' & welcomes Ford Farm (Ashley Chase) for an evening on 'Champion Cheddar'... and all their other cheeses. As you can't have cheese without wine, we're all looking forward to a tasty, sparking evening, if you'd like to come along & see what the WI is all about we're meeting at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Our 4Bs craft group continue to make items for the church fete, knitting, painting etc. We welcome anyone who would like to join us and any new ideas for our craft projects, too. Thursdays, 1.30pm – 4.30pm in the Village Hall on 11th & 25th June.

If you want to find out more, or would like a copy of our programme for the coming year, contact Carol Higho on 07806898361/email: carol.higho@yahoo.com

Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art 2026

Festival Spring Concert Friday June 5th 2026

A reminder that tickets are available at the Bridport Tourist Information Centre at £16 each for this year's Spring Concert. With a programme devised by the Festival's Artistic Director, David Juritz, it offers a whirlwind musical tour of 400 years making from England to Russia, with Spain and Turkey in-between. There is open seating as usual in an intimate setting. Do come and enjoy the journey.

Call for Festival volunteers to cook, bake cakes and to provide accommodation

Meanwhile the organising committee is working hard on the plans for the main Festival (15th -23rd August 2026) together with many volunteers in a range of capacities. However more would be welcomed, particularly for cake baking for the usual Rectory Gardens Tea Party on Sunday 16th August as well as general catering for musicians and the lunchtime picnic. Additionally, possibly 2 -3 visiting musicians are in need of local accommodation so if you have a spare room for 1

or 2, please get in touch asap. Contact Jennifer Malyon on 07932 192908 or email on jennifermalyonbbd@gmail.com

Laura Nottingham
07710 466876

Supper Club

This month's Supper Club will be held on Monday 8th June. Any enquiries please phone Mags Chue on 07790 811905

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: t.laycock70@gmail.com 01308 482443

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



'Let The Light Shine In!'

A lovely well-attended service was held on Sunday 26th April to celebrate the completion of the church windows project.

We were delighted to welcome back Ben Pentreath and Charlie McCormick, who had travelled all the way from Orkney for the occasion! The church was beautifully decorated with apple blossom, lilac and wild flowers- thanks to:

Nic, Mandy, Angela and Tim,
Kai, Brooke and Rose.



Simon Crumbleholme (builder), Dan Humphries (stained-glass window restorer) and Daniel Cantrell (architect) in front of one of the restored windows in St Michael and All Angels, Littlebredy

Afterwards we all enjoyed another spectacular village picnic/lunch at the Walled Garden café, courtesy of Liz Eaton. The sun shone, and a very good time was had by all. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to make this day such a joyful success- and special thanks to the team that restored the windows and the church fabric- architect Daniel Cantrell from Crickmay Stark,

Skittled!

The recent discovery of an old poster is a reminder of a sporting and social event that used to take place in the village, which must have taken a considerable community effort to organize. No doubt many readers will remember the days of Littlebredy Skittles, formerly held at Bridehead to raise money for the church and village hall. The faded red-printed poster in front of me shows that it was quite a thing, held over four nights with two alleys 'under cover', and a nightly prize of £5. There was a bar, and good refreshments, with the added extras of cheese and wine on one evening, and bingo on another. No doubt a very good time was had by all!

Finally, many congratulations to Josh Wilkinson and his mate Etienne Peach who ran the Brighton Marathon in 3.21 and 3.26 and raised £800 for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Well done indeed!



The Walled Garden: Here are the dates of this year's openings for the NGS:

Tuesday 23rd June and Tuesday 30th June, open from 2.00pm - 5.30pm

Normal opening on Sunday and Wednesday, 2.00 – 5.00pm, until mid-September. No longer open on Bank Holiday Mondays. Entrance £6, children free, dogs welcome on leads. Teas in the barn or outside seating area. Plenty of parking.

Liz

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 June

Kate Kent for Lily Hobby's birthday on 11th

Dod Rogers for all those June anniversaries

Harry & Lily in loving memory of their daughter Beverley

Yvette & David for the safety of their grandson

Terry & Christine in memory of Doreen, Terry's mum, who passed way 6 years ago on 29th

Graham & Lesley celebrating their wedding anniversary on 28th

Thank you all for sponsoring St Martin's floodlights. Everyone loves to see the church lit up so it is much appreciated. For a suggested donation of £5, you can help to keep the lights shining over Shipton Gorge. Please contact Phyl on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage, (Chapel Street), letter box. To ensure a mention in the Bride Valley Magazine's July edition, please let me have your sponsorship no later than Friday 5th June. At this moment we have no sponsors for the next few months. However, should you miss the deadline, the lights will still shine for you and your name will be included on the posters on the notice boards.

Services in June:

9.30am 21st June: Breakfast Club in Village Hall with Vicky

11.00am 28th June: Holy Communion with the Rev Andrew

An Evening of Opera

The opera evening on the 13th promises to be a fabulous event. Doors open at 6.00pm for a 7.00pm start. Some outside seating will be provided for the picnic interval. There will be a paying bar serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Opera Hampers

A polite reminder that if you would like a hamper for the opera evening, please ensure that you contact Kim directly:
bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com 07754 245691/01308 346007

Parish Council

We had two meetings in April, the Annual Parish Assembly at which the different village organisations gave an update on what had happened in the past year and plans going forward, and our Annual Parish Council. Our thanks to all those who presented and also to all the attendees for coming.

Broadband

We have been pursuing this through Dorset Council and Wessex Internet. We have found out that Openreach plans to upgrade the Burton Bradstock exchange to fibre broadband, but it's unclear when or even if Shipton Gorge will benefit. Can everyone please register their interest at <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-checker> to give us the best possible chance of bringing fibre to the village; the more people who show an interest the greater the likelihood of success.

Cyber security

There have been a few instances recently of residents being hacked. If you would like some advice in how to protect yourself online there is a very good resource at Get Safe Online: www.getsafeonline.org. There is also a course provided by Nimble E-learning which costs £15.

Website

We are beginning the process of creating a new website and will keep you updated on progress.

Playground

A new waste bin has been installed and the equipment has all been repaired and refurbished. By the time you read this the gates will have been repainted as well. Please let us know if there is anything else you would like to see in the playground.

The next Council meeting is on 16th July at 7.00pm in the Hall and we look forward to seeing you there.

Village Society

Hanging Baskets

We would love to decorate the New Inn's wall with hanging baskets. This always looks fantastic and complements the welcome at the pub.

Would you care to put a basket together? Sally Parker has baskets waiting for you to collect. We just need your green fingers to produce a colourful display. Pride is at stake here for your basket to be judged the best on display.

Village Show and Fete – Saturday 8th August

We're sure most of you already have your flower and vegetable plants underway to go into this year's show; if not, it's time to get those fingers green! The programme will be coming out very soon detailing what the categories will be. Entries will include home-grown flowers, fruit and vegetables. From sweet peas to the wackiest vegetable. Trophies are awarded for the best presented in each class. More categories yet to be revealed. Watch this space.....

There will be something for everyone at the Shipton Gorge Show and Fete.

If you won a trophy last year, please return it to Sally Parker.

Happy growing and good luck.

Village Hall

May 100 Club Draw results

1st 81 £25 Bill Beeton
2nd 25 £10 Jo Clatworthy
3rd 131 £5 Ashley Harrow

Congratulations to all winners

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the May draw was Chris Marshall - well done. If you have not already had a visit from us, we will be round very soon selling tickets. Let me know if you definitely want one (or more!) and we will make sure you are on the priority list.



Saunders Richardson Wood

We did our bit to celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day at the beginning of May. A small group met at the Wood around 5.00am – sat quietly, wrapped up warm with our phones and Merlin Apps at the ready. Over the next hour we recorded more than 20 species with Robin and Chiffchaff starting the chorus – others included Song Thrush, Blackcap, Tawny Owl plus a few unusual ones (not picked up on all phones) - Hawfinch and Golden Oriole! Dawn had definitely broken by the time we wended our way home. We are planning to open the Wood on **Saturday 27th June at 2.30pm**. Checking on the new trees, clearing nettles for our fertiliser enterprise and hoping that there is sufficient water in the stream to collect. Members only, but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

We have tried to clear Rosebay Willow herb from some areas in the borders – and have put down some wildflower seed where we have cleared. Also, one of our residents donated some yellow rattle seed from her own garden – so we have put that down in a few spots around the Orchard. Yellow Rattle is a semi-parasitic wildflower that plays a crucial role in enhancing biodiversity. We had hoped to get this done much earlier in the year, but weather was too wet. We just need a bit of that rain now! We will be in the Orchard on **Monday 8th June at 11.00am** for a tidy up session – all Shipton Gorge residents are welcome, just come prepared with robust gardening gloves and see if we can make it an even more special place to enjoy.



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! We will be running the Tombola this year; therefore, any donations of bottles will be very much appreciated – just let me know and we can arrange collection.

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 Church

There's a change to our service schedule in June – Evensong will now be on the first Sunday, the 7th at 6.00 pm. Holy Communion will be on the second Sunday, the 14th at 9.30am, with Morning Worship at 9.30am on the 21st and Community Fellowship at LATCH on the 28th at 4.00pm. Do hope you can join us!

If you would like the church to be floodlit any day for a special occasion for £5, please contact John Vercoe 07973781019.

Flagpole Appeal: St Mary's Church flagpole is the only place in Litton Cheney where national flags can properly be flown, making it an important symbol for Remembrance, national occasions, and community celebrations.

After years of exposure to the elements, the flagpole now needs specialist refurbishment. With the church tower standing 18m high, this is not a routine repair job. It will require expert contractors and specialist equipment to carry out the work safely. We need to raise £3,600 to restore the pole and keep the flags flying proudly over our village for years to come. Photos can be found on the village website www.littoncheney.org.uk

If St Mary's has ever been part of your story – or you'd simply like to support an important part of village life – please consider donating any amount. Bank Transfer: Sort Code: 30-92-69 A/C: 00397579 Reference: Flagpole Cheque: payable to PCC St. Mary's

Should we find ourselves in the fortunate position of raising more than we need, we'll put the money towards repairs to the stained-glass windows which we know will need doing in the not-too-distant future. Thank you from PCC St Mary's. Contact John Vercoe 07973781019

Parish Council

The Parish/Village Annual Assembly was held on Tuesday 12th May, several days after the BVN deadline. More details on this event will be included in July's BVN, and in early June the draft minutes will be available on the village website.

Can you offer up a maximum of three hours a week for the benefit of your community? That's pretty much what it takes when you are a parish councillor. If you would like to contribute to the well-being of your community and fellow residents, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our Clerk, Debbie, at clerk@littoncheney.org.uk

Parish Plan – This was never going to be dealt with in quick time, and neither should it. Our last plan was formulated in 2005, over 20 years ago, and what was relevant then, may have shifted somewhat to this point. We have therefore decided to revisit, revise and re-issue. If you consider yourself a forward thinker, and believe that you, in concert with others of a like-mind, could come up with ideas as to how our village and the community might develop over the next ten/fifteen years, then, at your earliest convenience, please contact John Firrell – john.firrell@littoncheney.org.uk

Litton Cheney Trust

There have been recent changes to the trustees of The Litton Cheney Trust. If you wish to apply for a grant from The Trust, please could you make your application to Madeleine Hickling, secretary. Email mandghickling@btinternet.com

What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in June

REGULAR EVENTS

Tuesdays	4.45 – 5.45pm	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)
Wednesdays	4.45 – 5.45pm	Table Tennis (Paul Kingston 482162)
	7.00pm	Yoga with Jane (Jane Hutchins 07882 527697)
Thursdays	9.15 – 11.15am	First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday 7 th	10.00 – 1.00pm	Restorative Yoga with Nadiya Wynn
Thursday 11 th	6.45pm	W.I. Craft in meeting room
Monday 15 th	7.00pm	Gardening Club meeting
Sunday 28 th	4.00pm	Community Fellowship

Village Cafés: The hall is available for hire free of charge on Saturday mornings for a Café to raise funds for any group. It's a good social event for the community and always popular.

Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 wtlitton@gmail.com

At the recent LATCH AGM, Chairman **Ron Davidson** stood down after twenty years in the role of Chairman. Ron has been involved from the very beginning when LATCH was just a drawing on the back of a beer mat. Thank you Ron for your perseverance, patience and diligence – a true LATCH Original! At the AGM Andrew King was voted in as the new Chairman, and Sarah Matthews as Vice Chair.

The White Horse

We've run out of time this month to write more than this! All been a bit hectic with all the bank holidays. Had a great time though. Still here, still going. Look forward to welcoming you when you can. Thank you. *Liz and Andy xxx*

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

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



The Crown Inn, Puncknowle

April's Quiz was won by '48 dropouts', who generously donated the £54 prize money to Dorset Air Ambulance

Another lively bingo night was had, where the flyer round raised £60 also for Dorset Air Ambulance

Here's what's coming up in June:

- **Breakfast** – Saturday 6th, 9–11am
- **Quiz Night** – Thursday 11th at 8.15pm
- **Bingo** - Saturday 20th, eyes down at 8.30pm
- **Father's Day** - Sunday 21st
- **World Cup Football** - we will be open for all England games

Choice of roast every Sunday from 12.00noon

We look forward to welcoming you,

Lyn & Paul

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in June		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Every Monday	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
2 nd Monday each month	19:00 to 21:00	History Contact: Paul on paul.bullen@me.com
1 st Tuesday each month	7:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/
3 rd Tuesday each month	1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Every Wednesday	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Every Wednesday	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Table Tennis Contact John on 07557 963618
1 st Thursday each month	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Craft Club Contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
3 rd Thursday each month	19:30 to 21:30	Bride Valley WI Contact Bridevalleywi@gmail.com
Last Friday each month	10:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987

Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington village hall 100 club

April Winners:

1st number 55 Martin Buckland, 2nd number 15 Kathy Murton

BARDFEST: a Celebration of the Bardic Art

Puncknowle Village Hall

28th -31st August

Bardfest is an annual celebration of the Bardic arts (poetry, storytelling, and song), now in its 7th year, and is coming to the Bride Valley. It is the initiative of author and academic, Dr Kevan Manwaring, who has recently moved to the village. In recent years Bardfest has taken place in venues in Bridport (including the town hall), but this year it will be mainly held in Puncknowle village hall over the August bank holiday weekend, 28th - 31st August. The main programme starts on Friday evening with a Welcome Concert featuring poetry and live music. On Saturday and Sunday, a Goblin Market (selling local crafts) and Small Press Fair will be held in the Village Hall, with lunchtime concerts – including the renowned sitar player, Ricky Romain.

On Saturday evening a Bardic Cabaret, featuring a brilliant selection of poetry, singers, and storytellers, will take place in the beer garden of The Crown on Church St, with donations going to the Dorset Wildlife Trust. The programme in the village hall concludes Sunday 4.00pm with 'Kings and Giants' – a commission by the Cerne Abbas Festival, featuring Bards of Dorchester, Peter Roe and Rebecca Katya Danicic.

On Monday a folk song walk will be led in the area by local singer Alastair Braidwood. A programme will be released later in the summer and Eventbrite links created for booking the respective events. Looking out for more details in the next issue. FFI: manwaringkevan@gmail.com





**PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE AND
WEST BEXINGTON FETE**

**Saturday 25 July 2 – 4pm
In the grounds of Puncknowle Manor**

**Back by popular demand!
Human Fruit Machine – 3 volunteers needed
Bric-a-Brac stall - Donations welcome (not electrical
unless tested) Contact Liz Slater on 07977413625**

**We are gathering momentum arranging this year's fete and
are looking for volunteers to help get the fete ready on the
Saturday morning and once the fete has finished, help clear
the site and get everything back to the village hall
Volunteers are also required to help keep the refreshments
stall running smoothly**

**Please contact
Andrea on 07990 596 382 or Claire on 07875 762 760.**

**Prizes are also needed for the Auction of Promises and the
Grand Draw
Sponsorship provided by Vicary & Co. estate agents**

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

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

16th June: Vegetable Risotto with Chicken. Dessert to follow.

Future dates:

21st July: Leek and Mushroom Quiche, salad, new potatoes. Dessert to follow

Please contact David Buckland 01308 898492 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 – April 2026:

£25	No.94	B Peppiatt
£15	No.06	B Peppiatt
£5	No.56	J Cain

Drawn on 29th April 2026 at Manor Cottage, by Andrew and Eve Bailey & Ruth Culingford

Village News and Updates

We would like to welcome Chris and Becky Eckersley and their children to number 6 Bedford Cottages. I have been informed they are looking forward to being part of the village, so please do introduce yourselves to them, possibly at the Coffee Break, Come Along Inn or another village event.

Coffee Break and Plant Sale



Oh, my goodness! A huge thank you to everyone who grew and donated such lovely, quality plants and then to everyone who purchased them and donated for delicious refreshments. It was another social, sunny village event and the support given is much appreciated. We raised £1032.35.

Proceeds go to the maintenance of St Peter's Church, the grounds of which will be looking beautiful with ox eye daisies in June and well worth a visit. If any of your plants don't 'do what it says on the tin', contact Sue Dyer 01308 482882
Some plants that were purchased were not collected, if you got home and realised you had left them behind, please contact Sue.

Come Along Inn

April saw another successful evening at the Come Along Inn despite the weather not being so helpful. Thank you to all who attended keeping a welcome atmosphere and plenty of cheer.

Two jackets were left behind, one a padded jacket the other a light weight waterproof. To organise their return, phone 01308 482270.

Parish Council

“Free Range” Dogs

There have been several reports recently of dogs enjoying a little too much freedom around the village without their owners in sight.

Just a gentle reminder to all dog owners: while we all love a friendly face, not everyone is a fan of unexpected visitors wandering into their gardens. Some dogs aren't always keen on making friends with others, not every child wants to share the climbing frame with a furry friend, and cars unfortunately don't have the quickest reactions when a four-legged explorer appears out of nowhere.

Please help keep our dogs safe, happy, and a little less adventurous when it comes to solo village tours. Thank you.

St Peter's Church

The 3rd April service taken by Rev'd Andrew was a joy. His sermon was about finding yourself 'a special place' to feel calm and reflective 'in this world'.

He then sang a solo for us - 'There is a place for us' from Westside Story, an amazing voice - very moving - especially as we were in such beautiful surroundings.

Future Events

Coffee Break: The next village Coffee Break takes place on Saturday 13th June, 10.30am – 12.00noon at Long Bredy Village Hall. The loved cakes and refreshments will be available as usual. We look forward to seeing you there.

Come Along Inn: The next Come Along Inn will take place on the 19th June 2026, 5.30pm – 9.00pm. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Open Gardens: Sunday 7th June, 2.00pm – 5.00pm, Chris and Caddy Sitwell will be opening their garden at Long Bredy House, (next to Long Bredy Village Hall). Entrance fee will be £5 per person, free entry for children. Sorry **No Dogs** allowed. Tea and Cake will be available. Funds raised will go to support Long Bredy Village Hall.

Sunday 21st June, 1.00pm – 5.00pm is the NGS open afternoon at Langbride. The Church will be open and Churchyard full of Oxeye Daisies to view. Parking will be behind the Church. Refreshments will be served and the profits from these will go to St Peter's Church.

St Peter's Church: Monday 29th June is St Peter's Day, (he was a fisherman). A Pilgrimage walk is planned around the village, do look out for further details on how to join in. There is a Fun Quiz in the Church involving looking at St Peter's Church more closely. There are also craft activities to make a paper boat or a fish to hang up in the Church.

Playing Field Volunteer Morning : Don't forget! Our next Playing Field Volunteer Morning is on Saturday 27th June between 10.00am and 1.00pm. Refreshments will be provided for all volunteers. Long Bredy is very fortunate to have such a valuable community space, and this is a great opportunity to come together to help maintain and improve it.

A message from the Editors Wife

Okay, there was an unexpected ½ page to fill in this edition of the BVN. Before doing my sub-editing bit, it seemed appropriate to share with readers some of my valley experiences in the past week. All the villages in the Bride Valley are different in size, topography, population, etc. but they also demonstrate a wide variety of generosity and imagination. It started with the magnificent plant sale and coffee morning in Long Bredy on Saturday. There was such a warm welcome, friendly atmosphere and lots of interesting plants (did I really need all I bought?).

Then on Wednesday I was involved in hosting Burton Bradstock Library's Coffee Stop and Book Sale. We had lots of helpers and many villagers came to offer their support – who wouldn't with such lovely cakes? During the week a friend was able to get to a hospital appointment thanks to the kind volunteers of the Bride Valley Car Service – not everywhere in this country has such a useful asset.

Finally, today (Friday) we made our first sourdough loaf using a starter given to me by a friend in Shipton Gorge. It is magnificent and the accompanying plant stall for the Fortuneswell Ward had provided more tempting plants in the previous week!

You should all be very proud of yourselves.

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

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat *in*. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in a 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port.



But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting - with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



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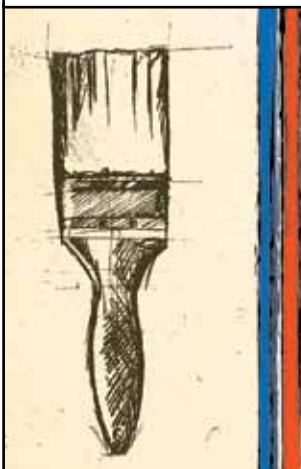
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Burton Bradstock	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Breakfast Church
Chilcombe		5.30pm Evensong		
Litton Cheney	6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	Community Fellowship at LATCH 4.00pm
Puncknowle		9.30am Holy Communion		11.00am Café Church
Swyre	9.30am Holy Communion		6.00pm Evening Prayer	
Shipton Gorge			9.30am Breakfast Church	11.00am Holy Communion
Long Bredy	11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Worship	
Littlebredy				11.00am Holy Communion
Portesham		10.00am Morning Worship		
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion		11.00am Holy Communion	
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	11.00am Morning Worship	10.00am Morning Worship	6.00pm Outdoor Service
Mid-week Holy Communion			Burton Bradstock 10 th June 11.30am followed by light lunch Portesham July 2 nd 11.30am followed by light lunch	



Appendix to the online edition: Additional pictures from Burton Bradstock School



