

# BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

Online edition

## Easter Day in our churches

6.00am Easter Sunrise service at Hive Beach

9.00am Easter Communion at Langton Herring

9.30am Easter Communion at Burton

Bradstock and Long Bredy

9.30am Easter Worship at Litton Cheney



10.00am Easter Morning Worship at Portesham

11.00am Easter Communion Shipton Gorge,

Abbotsbury and Swyre



April 2026

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

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## Information for Contributors

**May 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 10<sup>th</sup> April for the May issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley can be emailed to [bvnburton@gmail.com](mailto:bvnburton@gmail.com). Handwritten or typed copy must be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact [bvctc@outlook.com](mailto: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 [bvsn.org.uk](http://bvsn.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,

Happy Easter at this wonderful time of year where new life is all around us, and in our churches we celebrate the incredible Easter story. It's a story of extraordinary love and self-sacrifice, where life triumphs over death, bringing hope, new beginnings and transformation. It's a story about the power of forgiveness. It's a story that reminds us that rejection, betrayal, a sense of failure, traumatic loss and grief are not the end but can be the beginning of new life with new purpose. It's a story that opens the door to 'eternal life', that is life that is not held back by selfishness, judgement, darkness and negativity and the pain of the past, but life that embraces the future not with fear but with expectation that the best is yet to come. It's a story that does not end with the desire for revenge but with the words 'peace be with you'. It's an exciting and inspirational story; a pathway for life. It's an invitation to live an 'Easter' life.

We've got exciting times ahead of us in our Bride Valley and Chesil churches as we commit to living the Easter life. For example, at St Peter's Langton Herring we are celebrating the amazing new Community Choir. At St Martin's Shipton Gorge 'Breakfast Church' is flourishing, and we are looking forward to an opera concert in June. At St Nicholas' Abbotsbury we are excited about the 'Tree of Strings' concerts in July and our plans for a new disabled access restroom facility and servery.

Across all the parishes we are developing new pilgrimage routes which we plan to promote through the British Pilgrimage Trust and locally. All our beautiful churches are places of deep spiritual and historical significance located in areas of outstanding natural beauty. We have already been enjoying 'Pilgrimages of Peace' on shorter pilgrim routes. We celebrated St Bride's Day (1<sup>st</sup> February) with a successful pilgrimage on a longer route to the Othona Community and we look forward to confirming a route which connects all twelve churches. Pilgrimages are a great way to journey spiritually in the cathedral of creation; an opportunity to leave the past behind and walk in faith and hope of an Easter life, to enjoy and find more peace. In St Mary's Burton Bradstock we are waiting for planning permission to install a soft play facility in the south aisle of the church. This will be a three-metre square soft play structure with two levels and a slide for pre-school children to enjoy. Whilst it will be based geographically at one end of the benefice, we pray that it will benefit families with pre-school children from all the villages, providing opportunities to reduce isolation, make new connections and foster mutual support for parents and carers. We are particularly keen to see if this facility can be a support to children with special educational needs.

We are also prayerfully considering how we can continue to develop 'community fellowship', centred on the LATCH in Litton Cheney. We know that many are put off by 'religion', find traditional church services strange and unfamiliar, and frankly don't see the relevance of church. But we also know that there are significant social issues in our villages, including loneliness and broken relationships, and that some people find it difficult to just get through each day. 'Unresolved issues' was a phrase that came up in a recent conversation. Unresolved issues are painful, emotionally, and physically. They can literally choke us, paralyse us with anxiety and break our hearts. If our coping mechanism is an addiction, then they can ruin our lives. This is where the Easter story can be such a powerful paradigm and potential gateway to new life and new purpose. We don't have easy answers and formulas, but we want to offer kindness and compassion, and have confidence in the heart of our faith, that is the Easter story where 'unresolved issues' can be left at the foot of the cross, and the journey can continue onwards in the power of forgiveness and love to resurrection new life.

Easter love, joy, peace and prayers be with you,

*Andrew*



**Burton Bradstock CE Primary School**  
**'Do justice; love kindness; and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6:8)**

### **A message from the headteacher**

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back after the half term break. There is a renewed sense of energy across the school.

Our Kingfisher class enjoyed an afternoon tree planting. They were so lucky with the weather after all the rain we had over the winter - the children loved being outside with the sun on their faces.

We are very proud of our runners who took part in the cross-country relays at Colfox. They showed excellent determination and



resilience and their teamwork was inspiring.

World Book Day was a huge success with lots of wonderful outfits - both the children and staff looked brilliant! We spent the day sharing books and doing book-related activities.

We are still on the lookout for a lunchtime supervisor. Could you spare an hour each day from 12 noon until 1pm? We are a lovely, friendly school and are looking to find someone to help out at lunchtimes. Please get in touch with the school office if you are interested in the post.



Our Duck Race is due to be held on Monday 6th April on the village playing field - we hope to see many of you there.

We have spaces available 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](mailto:office@burtonbradstockprimary.org).

To stay up-to-date with all our news and events please follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BurtonBradstockPrimarySchool> or the hashtags #LoveWhereWeLearn #TeamBurton!

## BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

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

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

We always welcome new drivers.

## Thorners CE VA School

Thorner's School Report Thorner's celebrated a wonderful World Book Day last week! Thanks to Mrs Biggins for brilliantly organising a great assembly, quiz, book race and craft activities for the children to take part in across the day. The outfits were fantastic and it was great to see such a huge range of outfits, characters and themes (Harry who?!) from authors old and new!

I will let the photos tell the story this month but, suffice it to say, it was a wonderful celebration of the written word and the power it still holds to beguile, enchant and excite.

*Mike Sitch - Headmaster*



## Our Night Sky in March 2026

You should be able to see Venus setting in the West a couple of hours after sunset, while Jupiter and Orion still dominate the night sky. Mars, Mercury and Saturn will be rising in the East, but will be too close to the Sun to be visible.



The bottom, or centre of a black hole is called a singularity. It is a theoretical point of infinite density where matter is crushed, gravity is at its maximum, and the known laws of physics cease to apply. This point is surrounded by a boundary called the event horizon.

NASA Science (.gov) +7

Key details about the singularity:

- **Infinite Density:** According to general relativity, all matter that enters a black hole is compressed into this infinitely small, infinitely dense point.
- **Physics Breakdown:** At the singularity, spacetime is so warped that current scientific theories, including gravity, cannot explain what occurs.
- **Not a Physical Surface:** While often called the "bottom," it is a point in space rather than a solid surface.
- **Unknown Nature:** Because the centre is hidden behind the event horizon (the point of no return), the exact nature of the singularity remains unknown.

*With Thanks to NASA Astronomy Magazine.*

*Bill Turnill*

## Bride Valley WI

Despite a lot of water still lying around, the Bride Valley WI February meeting went ahead as planned. We welcomed Jill, Cathy and Carol from the Bridport Camera Club who displayed some very interesting and



professional photographs they had taken with their telephones. They shared with us some tips on how to take the best photographs and how to use the various functions on both our Android and iPhones to enhance our photos.

It was unusual to see our members sat looking at their phones during a meeting but we had a fun evening taking shots of one another and got some good results. The panorama function was excellent for photographing us all.

Our first walk of the year took place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March where some of our members revisited the 7 Benches walk around Litton Cheney. The mist was not welcome but at least it stayed dry.

Our skittles for fun continues every other Tuesday at the White Horse. Litton Cheney.

Should you receive your copy of The Bride Valley News prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> March may we take this opportunity to remind you about our Village Cafe being held at The Latch on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am.

If you wish to join the Bride Valley WI we meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7.30pm at Puncknowle Village Hall. Do come along and meet us all and if you think you might like to become a member, please contact us at [bridevalleywi@gmail.com](mailto:bridevalleywi@gmail.com)

## **The Bride Valley Book Club Review**

Rachel Cusk's novel "**Outline**" was this month's choice. Cusk is well regarded in literary circles and has won prizes. We learned that "Outline" is the first novel in a trilogy - despite us being collectively quite well read - she was new to us as a writer.

There was a varied response to this book, some of us did not really engage with it but others enjoyed what was a more unusual approach to writing a contemporary novel. The first-person narrator is a creative writing teacher who has accepted a short contract in Athens during a very hot summer. We are told little about the writer and it is not clear whether it is Cusk herself or if she is assuming another persona. What follows is a series of intensely observed conversations with various people she meets. These include fellow travellers, other teachers of creative writing, her students, old friends living in Athens etc. Nothing of any consequence happens apart from these extended conversations which are remarkably one sided. Most of these focus on marital partnerships and relationships within families. There is an overshadowing mood of disappointment, failure and unmet expectations. Some of us thought this book was beautifully written but we did not all agree whether Cusk's approach held the reader's interest. The conversational encounters are often revealing and it is noticeable there is absolutely no small talk. Personal revelations, innermost doubts and regrets are voiced alongside intimate reflections and the baring of souls. Our narrator (whoever she is) is a very effective listener who "draws out" the people she meets. This is a particular type of contemporary novel which digs deep into the human experience of relationships and expands it to be offered up to the reader. There is not really

much of a story or a narrative arc. In some ways it is a novel about writing. Some of us questioned whether it is actually a novel at all - perhaps it is more akin to a journal? We enjoyed picking out some comedic moments, the narrator's naïveté, clever repetitions and the significance of "Outline" as a title choice. We did not all agree about this month's choice but we very much enjoyed our discussion.

*Liz Pinfield*

## **Bride Valley Gardening Club**

The next meeting of the club will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at the earlier time of 7.00pm to allow for the AGM before the talk. The business side of things doesn't usually take very long but there are a couple of committee changes necessitating the election of new officers to ensure the club is able to continue.

AGMs aren't usually very popular events but this year in particular it is vital that members come and have their say and that from the membership new officers can be elected. It isn't too soon to consider whether this time you could help your club by offering to take on a role.

There are two vacancies, one for Programme Coordinator and the other for Chair. Both positions are enjoyable and undemanding with every support from a friendly but currently too small committee.

It would be a great shame if, after all these years, the Bride Valley Garden Club could not continue – and it will not be able to do so without members stepping forward to fill these roles.

After the AGM, and at 7.30pm, Bryan Madders will brighten the evening with his expert talk on 'Dahlias'. He hopes to bring along some tubers for sale too. For this occasion, doors will open at 6.30pm, the AGM starting promptly at 7.00pm. This will allow time for refreshments and socialising before welcoming Bryan to give his talk.

Please contact Liz, Club Secretary at [bridevalleygc@gmail.com](mailto:bridevalleygc@gmail.com) or 07751 942588 if you would like more information about either of the vacant posts.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April from 6.30pm at LATCH, the Community Hall in School Lane, Litton Cheney, DT2 9AU. Visitors welcome as always for £2.

## Portesham Surgery: Improvements in 2026

Portesham Surgery has submitted a bid to NHS Dorset ICB for a series of internal redesign works that, if approved, will begin at the end of March. In anticipation of a positive outcome, we're excited to share what this will mean for our service users. These improvements are being made with one clear goal in mind: to create a more welcoming, efficient and accessible environment for all.

**A More Modern Dispensary:** One of the biggest changes will be a refreshed and modernised dispensary. This upgrade is designed to improve workflow behind the scenes and enable more space to process prescriptions

**An Additional Clinic Room to Expand Care:** We're also adding a brand-new clinic room. This extra space will allow us to offer more appointment availability and greater flexibility for specialist clinics

**A Reception Area Designed for Accessibility:** We know how important it is that everyone can access care easily. That's why the reception area will be redesigned to be more accessible for patients with mobility needs and improved access to reception staff

**What to Expect During the Work:** We'll do everything we can to minimise disruption. Some areas may be temporarily relocated, and there may be short periods of noise or reduced space, but our services will continue as normal. We'll keep you updated every step of the way. We will **post regular updates on our website, Facebook pages and in the surgery.**

## Events in the Bride Valley

### Good Friday, Pilgrimage of Peace

Would you like to join us for a thoughtful Pilgrimage of Peace especially for Good Friday? This is a 'there and back' walk, taking in the amazing views and countryside of the Bride Valley between Swyre and Litton Cheney and focusing on finding peace. There will be pauses for readings and reflections. At 10.00am we meet at Holy Trinity, Swyre, from where we will walk onto Puncknowle and Litton Cheney, stopping at The White Horse for refreshments, including Hot Cross Buns! The whole route is about 4 miles, but you can do just parts of the walk if you'd prefer. There are some hilly bits and some of this walk will be on paths through fields, so wear appropriate clothing and footwear! (Babies and toddlers in carriers rather pushchairs.) Everyone is welcome, including dogs on leads!

## Dawn Chorus and Community Breakfast at Othona

The grounds of the Othona Community on the coast road between Burton and Swyre are a great place to witness the birds' dawn chorus in the company of a knowledgeable guide. Dominic Couzens is a wildlife author and renowned bird expert with a very approachable way of sharing his knowledge.

So, if you'd like to get up extra early and join us, you'll enjoy the dawn chorus, a walk towards the beach with Dominic and then a yummy cooked breakfast with thanksgiving for the birdsong. The charge is £25 per person, children under 16 free. Supper, bed and breakfast is an extra option.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 4.30am - 9.00am

<https://www.othona.org/civicism/event/info/?reset=1&id=2373> for full details  
[bookings@othonawestdorset.org.uk](mailto:bookings@othonawestdorset.org.uk) for queries or to book

## 1st April – Fooling Around – the BBC's spaghetti farm

Probably the most famous April Fool's joke of all time was the 1960's BBC TV broadcast feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. A BBC reporter interviewed Italian farmers about their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants in great detail.

Spaghetti plants were filmed being carefully planted, and then being harvested. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Aunty playing games. Whatever next!



The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> January. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April.

Others look even further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the Spring Equinox, 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett

Email: richardhewlett419@gmail.com 01308 787278

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



Welcome to our village diary: just search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to <https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/>

You'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

Floodlights - April sponsors

*Jean Ayers in memory of Bob and their 49 years together.*

*Ron & Verity.*

*Jean Ayers for her birthday.*

*A Shipton Gorge gent.*

Thank you everyone for lighting up St Martin's. If you would like to light up the church for a special occasion or just because you enjoy them, please contact Phyl on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage, (Chapel Street), letter box (suggested donation £5)

Services in April:

3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday Litany with Vicky at 10.00am.

5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Communion with Rev'd Deb Smith at 11.00am.

12<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Church in Village Hall with Vicky at 9.30am.

26<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion with Rev'd Deb Smith at 11.00am.

Please come along and support our visiting clergy whilst Andrew is still recovering from his accident.

In church, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm, there will be an opportunity to hear about, and to have your say, regarding maintenance of the church, its future and the services. At this meeting, we are hoping to elect Church wardens, a treasurer and a secretary as well as Parochial Church Council members. These posts are all essential for the future of St Martin's. Please, if you can, come along.

## Parish Council

Please note the following dates for your diary:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm - Parish Assembly. This is our annual event with the different village organisations giving an update on their activities and plans for the coming year. Do come along to learn more about what is happening in the village and have informal conversations with other members of the community.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm - Annual Parish Council meeting where, as well as providing updates on the Council's activities, the various office and portfolio holders are reconfirmed.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Village Hall

### **The Songs of Sandy Denny and Nick Drake sung by Sally Barker and Martin Ansell**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at Shipton Gorge Village Hall

£13 / £7 (u18s) online at Ticketsource or from Mark Sexton: 01308 897649

Martin Ansell performs the songs of Nick Drake. Martin has supported artists such as Van Morrison, Roy Harper and Chris Isaak. His varied career included spells as a session singer, most notably for Tom Robinson and Captain Sensible, and as a songwriter; Spanish-Italian singer Miguel Bose had an international hit with Martin's song 'Eighth Wonder'. When he's not singing songs, Martin works as a taxi driver in the south of England; in fact, when he's not driving, he sings his songs in his taxi!

Sally Barker sings Sandy Denny. Sally's appearance as Sir Tom Jones' finalist in the 'Voice UK 2014' belies a long career in music. Spanning the best part of 40 years Sally has released a string of solo albums and been a part of dozens more, notably with fem-folksters The Poozies. She has supported (amongst many others) Bob Dylan, Robert Plant, Jools Holland and Sir Tom himself and worked with inspirational musicians such as maverick double bass genius Danny Thompson and country folk-rock guitarist Jerry Donahue.

The combination of Nick Drake, Sandy Denny, Martin Ansell and Sally Barker is the "perfect double coupling".

Pre-show meals available at The New Inn, Shipton Gorge. Tel 01308 337004 / 897302. *Raising funds for supplies for the new hall toilets*

## March 100 Club Draw results

|                 |     |     |                   |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 121 | £25 | Nigel Fisher      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 34  | £10 | Hilary Cunningham |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 61  | £5  | Eddy Buck         |

Congratulations to all winners

## Shipton Gorge Heritage

**Heritage Gin Club** – The winner in the March draw was Doreen Rogers – well done Doreen.



### Saunders Richardson Wood

Spring is definitely in the air – among the many birds singing away to attract mates, we have Tawny Owls calling. The famous 'twit twoo' sound isn't made by one bird – it's made by two. The female tawny owl makes the sharp 'ke-wick' (twit) sound, while the male responds with a wavering 'hoo-hoo' (twoo). Believe we found a Sparrowhawk pellet – could clearly see bones from a small bird within it. Primroses are in bloom, Celandine carpet the wood floor, and Elf Cup fungus spotted. Some Bird Cherry saplings have been planted up in the wood by one of our members. If walking along Smacombe Lane you will see that the laid hedge is greening up. We will open the Wood on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm**. Bluebells should be showing by then, and we know that the nettles will need to be cleared from the tracks before they take hold. This is a members' only event but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.



### Shipton Gorge Orchard

The top border has been tidied and much of the Rosebay Willow Herb has been removed and the Buddleias have been pruned right back. Apologies that due to illness, we could not hold the pruning workshop this year – we do run this annually so look out for notices later on in the year. We will be in the Orchard on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am** for another maintenance session. All Shipton Gorge residents are welcome, just come prepared with robust gardening gloves. As previously mentioned, the top border does need a bit of a refresh with more pollinator friendly plants put in - If anyone would like to volunteer to oversee this, please let us know – we just need some thoughts and ideas.

For those who are keen or naturally wake early, International Dawn Chorus Day this year is on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

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

Details as usual on our website:

[http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton\\_Gorge\\_Heritage\\_\\_16417.aspx](http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton_Gorge_Heritage__16417.aspx)  
and in the Shipton Gorge Diary <https://www.shiptongorgediary.co.uk>



# An Evening of Opera



at St Martin's Church, Shipton Gorge.

**JUNE 13TH - DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of fabulous music.

Pre show drinks at 6pm, while admiring the beautiful scenery from St Martins churchyard.

A cash bar will be available serving wine, beer and champagne.

Hampers can be ordered for the picnic interval from Kim's Kitchen priced at £10ppn  
([bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com)) Mob 07754245691 Home 01308346007

Buy your tickets from Ian Bloomfield (07771541650) or Sue Melvin in Shipton Gorge,

or email [eventsatstmartins@gmail.com](mailto:eventsatstmartins@gmail.com)

Tickets £15



## **Litton Cheney**

Village Correspondent: John Firrell

email: jfirrell20@gmail.com 01308 482313

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



## **St Mary's Church**

The Annual Meeting will take place after the morning service on Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>. It is an open meeting, though only those on the church's Electoral Roll may vote. We are fortunate that Kathryn Brooks has taken over as Church Treasurer now that Freddie Spicer has stepped down. St. Mary's is still in need of a Church Warden, a secretary and additional PCC members so if you feel you could take on any of these roles, we should be delighted to hear from you.

Our main fundraising event for the year will be a Village Café on 5<sup>th</sup> September at LATCH.....more details to come in due course.

If you would like the church to be floodlit any day for a special occasion for £5, please contact John Vercoe (07973 781019)

## **Litton Cheney Parish Council**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Beginning at 7.00pm with the Parish Assembly, it is a time for local residents to catch up with their parish council, listen to the annual review, and seek answers to pressing local issues.

The Assembly will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Please make the effort to attend – better still, get involved and become a parish councillor!

## **Parish Plan**

Slowly but surely the required elements need to be in place, before the Parish Plan steering group begins its work, are coming together. More steering group members are required, but we hope to be in a position for the group to hold its inaugural meeting in April/May.

If you would like to be part of deciding Litton's future direction, then we would like to hear from you. Contact our Parish Clerk or Parish Councillors – contact details on the village website [littoncheney.org.uk](http://littoncheney.org.uk) There will shortly be a leaflet drop – please respond positively.

## What's In a Name....

The name **Litton** means 'farmstead or settlement on the stream called Hlyde', 'the noisy one' (meaning loud stream, torrent) from Old English, the Cheney part of the village name came in the 14th century when the Cheney family became part owners of the manor.

So, it should not be a surprise that when there is a sustained spell of rainfall that this will then emerge through the many springs that are dotted around the village. Water under pressure will find the path of least resistance and sometimes that means it may be on the carriageway, most notably on Main Street over Christmas and New Year and more recently between the entrance to Baglake and Hine's Mead Lane. The blockage that caused the water to spill out on to the road on Main Street was an accumulation of debris in the underground water course, this debris is now just further down "stream" and needs removing.

As for the water coming down from the spring at Baglake, that is an excess of surface water overloading the culvert, and unfortunately this is causing damage to the road surface. Dorset Council have looked at the issue a few times and the conclusion is that, until the water levels drop, they are unable to carry out repairs to the road surface. In the meantime, the council has placed "Road Closed" signs to avoid damage to vehicles from the raised manhole. So, please be aware, that if you chose to drive through the road closure and do damage your vehicle, then you do so at your own risk. Typically, the rainfall on the hillside takes around 3 months to drain away so repairs are going to be a while coming.

## Freddie & Diana Spicer

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the many local friends of Freddie & Diana Spicer came together at a bring and share lunch at LATCH. After thirty-five years of being an integral part of life in Litton Cheney, the Spicers are shortly due to depart to be near family in Wiltshire. It was a joyous occasion, albeit tinged with sadness, in celebration of their incredible contributions over the years that has benefitted the Parish Council, St Mary's church, LATCH, BV Car Service, Litton Cheney Trust, Premier Crew, Bridport CAB, BVN distribution et al. Farewell gifts included Bride Valley Wines, two albums of memories, artwork from local artists, and a mystery gift yet to be determined. Thank you, Freddie & Diana, – you will be greatly missed!

For those who missed the occasion, the three speeches that were given can be found on the village website – [littoncheney.org.uk](http://littoncheney.org.uk)

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

### 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

|                           |                 |                                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 6.45 – 9.00pm   | BV W.I. Craft evening in Meeting Room |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>   | 10.00am         | Yoga with Nadiya                      |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>   | 4.00pm          | Community Church                      |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> | Doors open 7.00 | Film Night "The Choral" starts 7.30pm |

**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](mailto:wtlitton@gmail.com)

## The Great Litton Cheney Annual Duck Race – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 12 Noon in aid of Julia's House

Hi Everyone, Just to let you all know that the Annual Easter Sunday Charity Duck Race will take place on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling ducks from 10.30am at the start line opposite Fry's Yard, ready for the off at 12.00noon. If you would like to be super organised, Andy and Liz at the White Horse will be selling ducks during the week before the big day, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. There will be a BBQ at the pub with live music for post-race refreshments, weather dependent, 11.30am-2.00pm.

*Really hope to see you all there!*

*Ralph, Sam, Liz and Andy*

## Bride Valley Films at Litton Cheney Village Hall.

**Due to a delay in the release date for the DVD, the date for The Choral screening has been delayed. It will now be shown on...**

**THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL: THE CHORAL 'poignant and funny with excellent music'**

As WW1 rages on, the Choral Society in a small English town has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's committee is determined to press ahead with new recruits. They engage a driven new chorus master, Dr. Henry Guthrie – recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the community discovers that the best response to the war is to make music together. Starring **Ralph Fiennes** and **Roger Allam**. Written by **Alan Bennett**.

1hr. 40" Cert.TBA. **Doors Open: 7.00pm. Films start 7.30pm. TICKETS: £6.00 (to include a glass of wine)** Tickets in advance from: Sally Dyke 482752, Elizabeth Kingston 482162, Bella Spurrier 482367 or on the door. (All nos. 01308)

## The White Horse

With the appearance of lovely crocuses and daffodils in the tubs and the odd sunny day here and there, the White Horse is gearing up for Spring and welcoming customers to the garden! Our regular Sunday afternoon music is well underway and will continue every week at 4.00pm, so what better way to chill out for a couple of hours after a busy weekend?

We have some great music coming up! Easter is quite early this year and the Duck Race is going ahead as usual on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at 12.00noon. 'Ducks' will be on sale in the pub from Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March until Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April then from Fry's Yard on the day. There will be a BBQ (indoor or out weather depending) and, on that day only, a band at 1.00pm! Open Easter Monday 12.00noon-7.00pm with a simple menu from 12-30pm and live music at 4.00pm.

Don't forget St George's Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April with evening Full English Breakfasts and English Rock with the very talented Mark Davis (booking would be appreciated). Normal service continues as we go along with fortnightly Snowball Quizzes alternate Tuesdays until the end of June and Friday Night Fish 'n Chips, Happy Hour and Meat Draw. We hope to see you at some or all of the above. Our continued thanks for your valued custom. *Andy and Liz*

## Artsreach Shows

For the time being at least, Artsreach are restricting their productions in the village to children's events, the next one being in September. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Patricia Charlton, ably assisted by Sue Overton, husband David and a valiant band of helpers who have over the years brought some wonderful acts to the hall, finishing with a flourish with Canadian pianist Sarah Hagen in March. At that event Patricia was presented with not one, but two floral gifts in recognition of her enormous efforts to bring culture to Litton and the Bride Valley.

## Be Aware!

Changes to the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act are being put in place from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

These changes will include:

- An introduction of unlimited fines for owners whose dogs attack or "worry" (chase, panic, or injure) sheep and other livestock.
- Police will gain stronger powers to seize dogs, take DNA samples, and enter premises.
- The law now includes alpacas, llamas, along with incidents that take place on roads and paths.

We hope this new update will prevent attacks on livestock in the future,

Remember when walking around livestock, always keep your dog on a lead.

## **Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington**

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

Puncknowle. mail: [liz@ruddle.org.uk](mailto:liz@ruddle.org.uk) 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

email: [Jill.neill@live.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.swyre.org.uk) [www.westbexington.org.uk](http://www.westbexington.org.uk)



### **Coffee Morning At Swyre Church**

Saturday 4th April 10.30am To Noon

Tea, coffee, cake and raffle. This event is for all members of our local community. Everyone is most welcome to join us and we hope to see you there.

### **Swyre Church Garden Angels**

Saturday 18th April

We would love some help to tidy the churchyard in Swyre on the morning of 18th April. Everyone is welcome. If you bring your own tools and protective gear, we will provide tea and coffee and cake.

Starts at 9.30am but come any time to suit.

*Best wishes from the friends of Holy Trinity Church*

### **Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall 100 Club**

February results

1st Sarah Turner

2nd Caroline Cox

### **Puncknowle Village Hall**

The Village Hall is available for hire for private functions and events. It is fully equipped for catering and has two table tennis tables. Hourly rates are £6 per hour – for individuals, organisations and clubs *within* the parish of Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington or £7 per hour for those outside of the parish. To make a booking contact Liz Slater, 07977 413625, or email [liz@ruddle.org.uk](mailto:liz@ruddle.org.uk)

**OR** Jill Neill, 01308 897479 or email [jill.neill@live.co.uk](mailto:jill.neill@live.co.uk)

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

## **The Crown Inn, Puncknowle**

February's Quiz was won by 'The Swyreites', who generously donated the £45 prize money to Macmillan Cancer Support. We then followed with another lively bingo night, where the flyer round raised £58 for Cancer Research UK.

### **Here's what's coming up in April:**

- **Breakfast** – Saturday 4th, 9.00am–11.00am
- **Quiz Night** – Thursday 9th at 8.15pm
- **Bingo** – Saturday 18th, eyes down at 8.30pm
- **St George's Day Pie Night** - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> (booking essential)

### **Choice of roast every Sunday from 12.00noon**

We welcomed back Tikka Trak van in March who will be here in April on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to eat in the pub. We will provide plates and cutlery saving you the washing up. We look forward to welcoming you,  
*Lyn & Paul*

## **Puncknowle Village Church Needs You!**

To keep open and accessible to all, our beautiful, ancient and historic heart of the community needs maintenance and cleaning inside and out, including the churchyard. We have a very small declining number of 'senior' church members who are doing their best to keep this wonderful listed building open.

Please come and help us give the church and churchyard a **'Spring clean' on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 10-12 noon**. Many hands make light work and we will support the other important historic hub of the community afterwards with refreshments provided in The Crown!

If you can't help on this date but can pop in at another time to clear, weed, clean or polish please let us know.

*Sue Lang 07557 951305 Liz Slater 07977 41362*



**PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE AND  
WEST BEXINGTON FETE**

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

Entertainment by Big Foolini, Magician  
with a 30 minute show and walk around Magic  
A great treat for kids and grown-ups alike!

**Volunteers needed on the day: please contact Andrea on 07990  
596 382 or Claire on 07875 762 760.**

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

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

Lunches cost £6

21<sup>st</sup> April: Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes  
Dessert to follow

**Future dates 2026**

19<sup>th</sup> May: Coronation Chicken, Dessert to follow

16<sup>th</sup> June: Vegetable Risotto with Herby Chicken Thighs,  
Dessert to follow

All meals include fruit juice to start and cheese and biscuits with tea or coffee.

Vegetarian option can be provided.

Enquiries – please contact David Buckland 01308 898492 for more details

**Long Bredy**

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley

Email: [bvn@longbredy.org.uk](mailto:bvn@longbredy.org.uk) 01308 482585

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



Long Bredy 100 Club Results – February 2026

£25 no. 85 G & M Maltby

£15 no. 63 C Kinghorn

£5 no. 75 J Maltby

Drawn on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Long Bredy Village Hall during the Come Along Inn.

**Village News and Updates**

At the time of writing School Hill is still waiting repair although a temporary fix has been put in place consisting of a large metal plate over the largest pothole. The council are/were waiting for the water table to lower so more substantial repairs can take place.

## **Coffee Break**

February's Coffee Break was quieter than normal; we assume many people were celebrating Valentine's Day in another way! Those who attended enjoyed a good morning with the normal wonderful cakes, hot drinks and good conversation.

## **Come Along Inn**

Thanks to all who attended the Come Along Inn in February, another successful social evening in the village. As always thanks to the hard-working volunteers who make this popular event happen.

## **St Peter's Church**

The Sunday service on the 15<sup>th</sup> February took place in the Village Hall due to School Hill being closed making access to the church difficult. Refreshments were served after the service. Rev'd Andrew led the service and it was good to see the positive progress he has made after his accident. The Church is open during the day and there is a craft table available to make an Easter card - refreshments are also available. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April anyone is welcome to leave flowers in the Church to be used for decorating it for Easter. If you would prefer, you are welcome to join the team on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April to help with the Easter decorations. We would love to encourage any children to make an Easter Garden that can be part of the displays.

## **Future Events**

### **Coffee Break**

Coffee Break this month will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30am – 12:00noon at Long Bredy Village Hall. Although we will only just be getting over eating Easter Eggs, I am sure that you will be able to find space for some delicious cake. If not just come to catch up with your neighbours.

### **Come Along Inn**

The Come Along Inn this month will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. 5.30pm – 9.00pm, Long Bredy Village Hall. April brings lighter evenings and warmer weather to encourage you to come out, socialise and partake in a drink and possibly something to eat.

## **St Peter's Church**

The Easter service at St Peter's this year will be on Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30am. This will be Holy Communion with Rev'd Andrew. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April our Morning Worship service will be at 11.00am.

## Plant Sale

The annual plant sale will be held at Manor Farm Yard, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May opening at 10.00am. So, if you have any surplus plants or have any unwanted gardening tools that are still good to use please donate them. Contact Sue Dyer 01308 482882, Corner Cottage, Long Bredy.

### Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton

Email: [patgrafton43@gmail.com](mailto: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 this event 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 (Sundays) are 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Tot Time meets every Friday during term time at St Mary's Church from 2.00–3.15pm and offers a warm welcome to everyone – bumps, babies and toddlers alike! It's a relaxed and happy space where little ones can explore, create and play together while their grown-ups enjoy a well-earned cup of tea and a chat. In recent weeks we've had lots of fun getting messy with paint, squeezing and shaping playdough, sharing favourite stories, and making the most of free play with toys and activities. It's always a joy to see friendships forming, both for the children and for their loved ones. Whether you're a regular or thinking of coming along for the first time, we would be delighted to welcome you.

## **Burton Bradstock Village Hall**

### **Village Hall Bookings**

Should you wish to use the Hall at any time, the booking officer can be contacted via email at [bbvht.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:bbvht.bookings@gmail.com) or by phone on 01308 897648.

### **Coffee Mornings**

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

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> April St Mary's Church

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> May Friends of the Library

### **Burton Bradstock Films**

#### **The Choral - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April (moved from March)**

The Choral is another wonderful Alan Bennett script well-acted by several famous names including Ralph Fiennes acting as the choir master. Set in Ramsden, Yorkshire during WW1 the story line can be sad at times but also uses humour as it explores the uplifting power of community and music to reach people.

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

### **Village Hall Spring Quiz**

The ever-popular Village Hall Spring Quiz is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April with quiz run by Richard Ferre. Tickets will go on sale at the Post Office on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at £11.50 a head, which will include a jacket potato supper with filling of your choice. As well as supper there will be prizes, raffle and sensibly priced bar. Tables will be laid for teams of 8, however, people buying a minimum of 6 tickets for a team will automatically get their own table. Those not in a team may buy lesser numbers from the Post Office and will be put in a team on the night. Once tickets are purchased you should contact the organizer, Richard Ferre, to select food choices, book your table if you have 6 or more or request more players if you have a lesser number. Doors will open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm start.

Contact details for Richard Ferre, [rwferre99@gmail.com](mailto:rwferre99@gmail.com) or 01308897648.

### **Spring Fayre**

The Annual Spring Fayre, proceeds from which go to the Village Hall, will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00pm to 4.30pm in the Rectory Garden

and Village Hall. Full details will be announced in the May BVN, but if you have any White Elephant items you need to donate early, please call or email Richard Ferre (897648, rwferre99@gmail.com) to arrange collection/drop off.

### Lost Items at the Hall

We get a regular stream of items left at the Village Hall, normally on the coat racks in the Hall. Currently there are 2 coats, 3 umbrellas, a walking stick and a pink scarf. We leave them there for 2 weeks. If unclaimed after that they are disposed of. Please be aware this is our policy.

## Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” March 2026 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

|                 |        |         |                 |
|-----------------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | £32.00 | No 50:  | Mrs Veda Bull   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | £16.00 | No 118: | Mr Steve Smith  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | £8.00  | No 144: | Mr David Witham |

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the April 2026 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £9 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw. WDDC Licence no: SLO080

## Burton Bradstock Village Society

### Village Society AGM

The Village Society Committee would like to give notice of The AGM will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 1st May 2026 at 7.00pm, which is earlier than advertised in your programmes. Doors will open at 6.45pm. There will be a free glass of wine, light refreshments and some entertainment after the main business. The committee always appreciates a good attendance and especially to get feedback from our members. With only a month to the AGM, we are keen to have names of

members wishing to join the committee, particularly for the role of Secretary.

Please contact Roger Ashman for details and nomination forms.

Plant & Cake Sale: Saturday 2nd May 10.00am-12.00noon. This is the morning after the AGM, this date has also been changed from that advertised. Always a sign that Spring has well and truly arrived. We hope that members will bear us in mind should they have surplus labelled plants to sell and support us on the day.





BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE SOCIETY

# RACE NIGHT

**Friday 10th April**  
in the Village Hall

**Doors open 6:45pm ★ First Race 7:15pm**

- Entrance Fee: £1.50 or £5.00 for non-members
- Free £1 token with Entrance Fee
- All additional bets will be £1 each
- There will be 6 races with 8 horses in each
- Payout will be Win only
- Bar and Refreshments available, no Raffle
- Join the Society on the night

## **Village Society Race**

**Night:** Friday 10th April in the Village Hall.

Doors Open at 6.45pm. After the success of last year, the Committee will be running the Race Night again. There will be six races overall. Each Race has eight horses and pay-out will be win only. Please note the doors will open at 6.45pm and the 1st race at 7.15pm.

Entrance fee £1:50 for members, £5 non-members for which you will receive a token for a £1 bet to use whenever you want, all extra bets £1. There will be a Bar and Refreshments between the 3rd and 4th race but no Raffle.

April is also the month when Membership Subscriptions are due. We have managed to hold the annual cost per member to £5 for another year. Details of

how to pay will be emailed shortly to members or sent to members without email through their letterbox! With subscriptions so small it is all too easy to forget to pay altogether and timely payment is much appreciated especially by the Treasurer and Secretary!

**The Duck Race:** Easter Monday 6th April 2.00-4.00pm on the Village Playing Fields. This popular event run by the Friends of Burton Bradstock School, returns. The school is a great asset to the village and this event raises considerable funds which are used to the benefit of the children's wider education. The Society has

been approached for help in getting together some volunteers to set up and take down and running games. Any members who can give an hour or two of their time on the day would be much appreciated. Please let Elena Rees know by email: elenabatty@gmail.com."

## **Social Supper Club**

This month's supper club will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Any enquiries please phone Mags Chue on 07790 811905.

## **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 -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 on 898327.

## **Burton Bradstock WI**

March has been marvellous, even if the weather hasn't been. We had a picture-perfect presentation from Steve Bellesco on our coast. Smashing photos brought this talk to life & it was interesting to see some familiar places through a different lens.

4Bs, our craft group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month (1:30pm - 4:30pm in the Village Hall). We've had 20 ladies attend and, at the end of February, had completed 108 blanket strips for the Children's Hospital in Kiev. Anyone who wishes to continue knitting please do so. After Easter we will be focusing on making items for the Village Fayre & Church Fete. Come along and get involved with our table craft (all materials provided) or bring along a craft of your own. You're welcome just to drop in or stay for the afternoon, there's tea & biscuits about 3.00pm!

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, in celebration of 110 years of the WI, we joined with the Parish Council and students & parents from Burton Bradstock Primary school to plant 30 hedge saplings as a fence for the Woodland School. They may look small now, but

in years to come we hope they will grow & blossom and be enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Woodland Trust for the donation and all who turned out to help.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March our Spring Lunch was at our very own local, the Three Horseshoes and was wonderfully well attended. As usual the food, company and conversation were very enjoyable.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. This will be our Annual Meeting, so no speaker, just a social, but a lovely opportunity to meet, chat and enjoy a few nibbles. We will be voting for our President and naming our committee.

If you have ever wondered what the WI is all about, or just want to join something informative and enjoyable, please drop me a line, [carol.higho@yahoo.com](mailto:carol.higho@yahoo.com) or come and join us, every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

## The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Our Lego morning was themed on the Winter Olympics and the Library was filled with creative talent! 11 children attended and were much inspired by the media coverage of various winter sports. The new event of 'bikes on ice' was introduced and hopefully will be considered for the future by the Olympic authorities. We look forward to our next Lego morning.



Please note that the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Refreshments will be served after the business meeting.

Our usual opening hours are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

The Library will be closed on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April for Easter and for the two bank holiday Mondays in May.

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com    [www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library)  
01308 897563

*Sue Brown*

*Chairman*

## **Burton Bradstock Players: Cinderella Panto 2026**

### **Thank You for supporting us**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this year's production of Cinderella, however we could not do it without the amazing support of you the community. Gill and Pete at the Post Office for selling tickets and donating a wonderful gift voucher for the raffle, to our lovely musicians who gave up their time so willingly, to all of you who have made us incredible props this year and painted the stunning backdrops, to those who



have lent us personal items for props and costumes and to those who helped Nick Good and his team of stagehands on performance nights, and all of our front of house team.

We are truly grateful for all your help and all your encouragement.



We have had an absolute blast over our 4 performances, and have been overwhelmed by our incredible audiences and the lovely complimentary comments we are still receiving like  
"such a happy fun show"  
"I laughed all the way through it"  
"haven't belly laughed like that for a very long time"  
"whole production from start to finish was so good"

It's thanks to your continued support that we are able to bring productions like this to the stage year after year.

See you all next year. 🎉🎊

We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you are interested, please contact Carole Houghton on 07764523182

## **Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art 2026**

Please note that there is a slight change of dates from the last notice. Although the art exhibition remains the same, the musical concerts will start with Castaway on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August followed by the full programme as usual, finishing on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August.

*Laura Nottingham*      07710466876

## **Knitting for Ukraine – Update**

The Busy Bees in the W.I. have reached their Centenary, having knitted 100 strips, and are still going strong! Well done all of you! Altogether so far, I have packed and posted 171 strips, 10 blankets and 6 baby hats from the W.I. and many other individuals. They are all so much appreciated.

So, on behalf of the mothers and babies in Kyiv, thank you very much, all of you!

*Heather Rogers (01308 897780)*

## One Way the Village (and People Generally) Help Ukraine

I have been collecting for Ukraine for a while now – thank you to all contributors - so how does it work? Joel, who is English, is married to a Ukrainian lady and is a driving instructor. He and his wife buy a 4x4 vehicle, which is useful for military purposes, fill it with goodies of various kinds (camping equipment, toiletries etc.) and drive it to Ukraine. They leave it there, take a train into Poland and from there fly back to Bristol. Joel has been 25 times and this is what all the drivers do. I would like to congratulate them and say 'Thank You'. Joel says the Ukrainians are tired and want the war to end, but will not give in. People there are so grateful and thank us for all the help. *Barbara 01308 898165*

### Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: [t.laycock70@gmail.com](mailto:t.laycock70@gmail.com) 01308 482443

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



### ‘The Times They Are A-Changing’

For more than 200 years, the majority of dwellings in Littlebredy have been tenanted, so it’s a novel sight to see a ‘For Sale’ sign appearing outside one of the cottages. Historically there have always been people moving in, and others moving out, usually for work-related reasons; but the change since the sale of the Bridehead estate twelve months ago has been significant. Seven homes are now empty, representing 20 people who were living in our village a year ago.

Of course, not all the departures are due to the change of ownership, but some are; and its particularly poignant when young families have had to leave. At the end of March we bade farewell to Tom and Kelly Foot and their children Neve, James, Beau and Ivy; and Craig and Amy Chandler and their sons Lewis and Harris. We wish them all every happiness in their new homes; and the good news is that Tom and his team [and of course the herd of cows!] will still be very much in evidence in the fields at the top end of the valley, and Open Air Dairy Cheddar will still be available locally.

We must hope that people will soon move into the empty houses; and that they will contribute as much to our small community as these two lovely families.

### The Walled Garden

The Littlebredy Walled Garden here will re-open on Sunday 19th April, and will be open thereafter 2.00pm-5.00pm on Wednesdays and Sundays (except Bank Holidays).

## 'Let The Light Shine In!'

For most of 2025, St Michael and All Angels was a hive of activity. Many of the windows were removed and taken away to Dan Humphries' workshop in Glastonbury to be repaired and restored; and Crumbleholme builders worked inside and outside the church to replace pointing and erect a new gutter that proved its worth during the rains of the winter. The windows are now back, and on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April we are having a special celebratory service to say a big "thankyou" to all involved, including the generous donors and fundraisers who made the work possible. Rev'd Andrew will be leading the service. Everyone is welcome to join us at 11.00am.



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

*My dear Nephew Darren,*



*So, you are about to run an Alpha course in your parish; I am sure your bishop will be delighted. I remember him from my Oxford days. He was just starting his course as a gangly undergraduate when I was finishing my doctorate on Eusebius.*

*I recall him as a keen rugby player who took early morning dips in the Isis, who led intense discussions on Saint Paul's theology of 'the body' over cups of cocoa in the evenings in his rooms and who spent his holidays laying paths for the National Trust in the Lake District while lodging in Youth Hostels. He's exactly the sort of person who will empathise with your ministry - hearty, enthusiastic and overflowing with compassionate intensity. We were not close friends. We tend not to go in for those sorts of things, here at St James the Least of All, preferring matters a little more relaxed and understated. If we ever do hold discussion groups (and they are a regrettable necessity during Lent), they always start with a good lunch, finishing with coffee and one of Mrs French's excellent Madeira cakes. Once we have removed from the table, those who manage to stay awake will start to tackle the chosen topic.*

*However, we always seem to veer off to discussing more interesting matters, such as why Colonel Chorley is never allowed to sing solos in the choir anymore, or who moved Mrs Cholmondeley's flower arrangement from the font the previous week. Apparently, she has given notice that her weekly contributions on the plate will be much reduced unless an appropriate apology is received.*

*These matters may not seem as important to you as deciding what the 'white stone' in Revelation 4 is all about, but let me assure you that to members of our congregation, knowing why the second verse of the National Anthem is no longer sung at our Remembrance Services is of pivotal importance.*

*At 2.30pm we wake up those who have enjoyed an hour's slumber and totter off home, knowing we have once again done our bit for faith in the parish. I am sure your own group will also return home after your sessions - even if a digestive biscuit and weak tea is all that has been offered - invigorated and braced to tackle the heathen in the parish. We all take our pleasures in different ways.*

*Your loving uncle,  
Eustace*

## **William Law, spiritual writer extraordinary Died on 9 April 1761**

William Law is the saint for anyone forced to choose between losing their job or losing their integrity.

It had all begun so straightforwardly. Born in King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire in 1686, William had studied at Emmanuel College Cambridge, been ordained a deacon, and been made a Fellow of the college in 1711. But soon politics interfered. At his ordination, William had made his Oath of Allegiance to the House of Stuart. But with the accession of the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I in 1714, William found he was now expected to make his Oath of Allegiance to King George I. This he felt he could not do, with any integrity. But without the Oath, William lost his Fellowship, and was unable to be priested.

It would have been a bitter blow to anyone wanting a career in the Church, but William did not change his mind. He wanted more than a career in the Church, he wanted to live a holy life before God, and to keep his conscience clear. And so he spent many years as a simple curate (he was not priested until 1728), living by tutoring, but also writing extensively.

And it was through his writings that William Law went on to make a lasting impact on the spirituality of the nation. One of his numerous books, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, is recognised as having had more influence on the English people than any other English post-Reformation spiritual work, except Pilgrim's Progress.

William Law's writing greatly influenced the leaders of the evangelical movement of his day, including John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. Law was also praised by Enlightenment thinkers such as the writer Dr Samuel Johnson and the historian Edward Gibbon.

And 20 years after his death in 1761, William Wilberforce, the politician, philanthropist, and leader of the movement to stop the slave trade, also paid tribute to the effect Law's writing had had on him. Law's spiritual writings remain in print even today – nearly 300 years later.

## **New to the Bride Valley News**

We welcome a new advertiser in the BVN this month, this being **Castelle Ltd**. They are a local company specialising in the conversion of fossil fuel AGA cookers to a modern electric powered system. Many households still value the classic design and durability of AGA cookers, but rising energy costs and environmental concerns have made traditional fuel models less practical. By offering electric conversions Castelle is helping homeowners keep their beloved appliances, while adapting to modern needs. Modern conversions make it possible to switch on ovens and hob plates independently. They have fast heat-up times and the AGA retains that warmth that owners love.



The approachable engineers, John and Dan (pictured on the right) both grew up in the Bride Valley and have a real passion for their business. They offer an initial discussion during a home visit and complete the work themselves on installation day. They can even refurbish your AGA if required. Of course, the success of the company will depend on skilled workmanship, fair pricing, and building trust with customers. If those elements are delivered, an AGA electric conversion could be both practical and forward thinking, as well as a great investment for modern homes.

Join the growing electric AGA community and take advantage of Castelle's **SPECIAL OFFER** for BVN readers shown in their advert in this edition.

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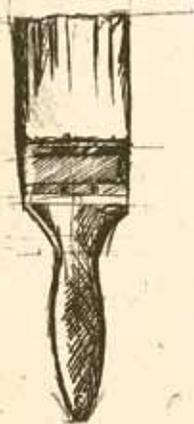
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## Benefice Services

| April 2026                    | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br/>12<sup>th</sup> April<br/>Second Sunday of Easter</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br/>19<sup>th</sup> April<br/>Third Sunday of Easter</b>   | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>26<sup>th</sup> April<br/>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Burton Bradstock              | 11.00am Holy Communion   | 9.30am Café Church  | 8.00am Holy Communion<br>9.30am Breakfast Church                                   |
| Chilcombe                     | 5.30pm Evensong  |   |  |
| Liton Cheney                  | 9.30am Morning Worship   | 9.30am Morning Prayer   | Community Church at LATCH 4.00pm   |
| Punccknowle                   | 9.30am Holy Communion  |   | 11.00am Café Church  |
| Swyre                         |  | Evening Prayer 6pm  |  |
| Shipton Gorge                 | 9.30am Breakfast Church  |   | 11.00am Holy Communion   |
| Long Bredy<br>Littlebredy     |  | 9.30am Morning Worship  | Let the Light Shine In – celebrating the<br>end of the windows project. 11.00am    |
| Portesham                     |  | 11.00am Holy Communion  |  |
| Abbotsbury                    |  | 10.00am Morning Worship   |  |
| Larigan Herring               | 11.00am Morning Worship  | 9.30am Holy Communion BCP   |  |
| <b>Midweek Holy Communion</b> |  | <b>Burton Bradstock – 1<sup>st</sup> April 11.30am to be followed by a light lunch</b><br><b>Portesham Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> 11.30am to be followed by a light lunch</b> |  |

## Benefice Services

| Holy Week and Easter Day 2026 | Holy Week                               |  |   | Easter Sunday<br>5 <sup>th</sup> April  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
|                               | Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> March             | Maundy Thursday<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> April | Good Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April   |   |
| Burton Bradstock              |   | 7.00pm Holy Communion                    |   | 6.00am Hive Beach with Dawn Easter Sunrise Service<br>9.30am Easter Communion |
| Chilcombe<br>Litton Cheney    | 6.00pm Easter Reflections Through Music |  | 10.00am Walk of Witness Pilgrimage of Peace.<br>10.00am at Swyre, then onto Puncnkowle and Litton Cheney, stopping at The White Horse for Hot Cross Buns! | 9.30am Easter Worship   |
| Puncnkowle                    |   |  |   |   |
| Swyre                         |   |  |   | 11.00am Easter Communion  |
| Shipton Gorge                 |   |  | 10.00am Litany BCP  | 11.00am Easter Communion  |
| Long Bredy                    |   |  |   | 9.30am Holy Communion   |
| Littlebredy                   |   |  | 11.00am Litany  |   |
| Portisham                     |   | 5.00pm Holy Communion                    | 11.00am Good Friday reflections   | 10.00am Morning Worship for Easter  |
| Abbotsbury                    |   |  | 3.00pm Good Friday reflections  | 11.00am Easter Communion  |
| Langton Herring               |   |  | 11.00am Good Friday reflections   | 9.00am Easter Communion (Common Worship)                                      |

