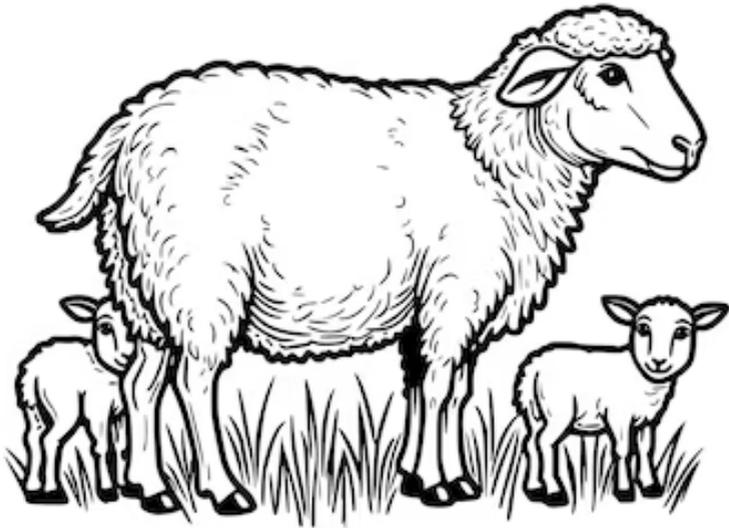


BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

Online edition



March 2026

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

Contents

Information for Contributors	2	Litton Cheney	19
From the Rectory	4	Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington	22
Valley items	6	Long Bredy	24
Events in the Bride Valley	13	Burton Bradstock	27
Littlebredy	15	St James the Least	35
Shipton Gorge	16	Services in the Valley	52

Information for Contributors

April 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 6th March for the April issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley can be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy must be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact bvctc@outlook.com for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, often with additional items which could not be fitted into the printed version, can be found at bvn.org.uk or via links on Bride Valley village websites. **Note:** *Contributors are asked to note that space in the BVN is strictly limited and the Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions and cannot guarantee that items will be included.*

The Bride Valley News is delivered to every home in the valley and is entirely produced and distributed by volunteers. Donations to help us continue to provide the magazine would be welcome and if you feel able to contribute - please make a BACS payment to:
Account: 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council', Sort code 30-91-21
Account number 00074071.....and please quote BVN.

The Bride Valley & Chesil Churches

St Mary The Virgin: Burton Bradstock
St Michael & All Angels: Littlebredy
Chilcombe (dedication unknown)
St Martin: Shipton Gorge

St 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,

First, I send you a blessing of happiness and well-being. It's March! We welcome the spring equinox (20th) and British Summer Time (29th). There's a feast of special days including St David's Day (1st), British Pie Week (2nd–8th), World Book Day (5th), International Women's Day (8th), Mothering Sunday (15th), St Patrick's Day (17th), and more. Jews will be celebrating Purim (2nd-3rd); Hindus will be celebrating the 'Holi' festival of colours (3rd-4th); Muslims will be celebrating the end of Ramadan at Eid-al-Fitr (19-20th); Christians will be celebrating Palm Sunday (29th). But if that none of that appeal, well there's also 'Barbie Day' (9th) and 'Super Mario' Day (10th). Please don't tell our twin 8-year-olds!

Second though, not everyone will be full of happiness, even though winter is over and we will have more daylight and bluer skies. Not everyone has the energy to embrace the longer days and a pressure to be active and sociable. There can be comfort for some in hibernation, and avoidance of the pain of engagement. Changing sleep patterns can cause anxiety and depression in some, and for parents wanting to get younger children to sleep the bright evenings can increase stress levels. If any of that applies to you then I send you my prayers for comfort and peace.

Reflecting on my own situation and having to cope with change and new circumstance after injury, I am reminded of the need for us all to be 'trauma-informed', that is treating each other with compassion, patience and understanding and being sensitive to some people's inability to cope with change. A trauma-informed approach does not judge another person but acknowledges and respects where another person is coming from if they are struggling. A trauma-informed approach does not ask 'what is wrong with you?' or think 'what is wrong with them?' but appreciates that a person may be struggling through no choice of their own, but because of what has been done to them, or from life's experiences. Many people are suffering with trauma. They need to feel safe. They need to feel they can trust. They need to feel in control. They need to be able to make choices and find autonomy. They need to find new pathways which provide the opportunity to heal and to thrive. Mothering Sunday, for example, can be traumatic for many people with heartache and painful reminders of loss.

As we move astronomically from darkness to light, let's also remember in our prayers all those who can still only see grey, and for whom more sunlight, and

happiness and wellbeing for others, can reinforce their sense of emptiness and loneliness. I'm on my own trauma pathway. I'm so grateful for how I have been blessed with support and prayers. Let's please take a moment to pause, reflect and think: who of my neighbours? who in our community? might be finding it difficult to come out of hibernation, to find new energy to face another spring and summer? who might find Mothering Sunday difficult? If anyone comes to mind, please pray for them and consider a trauma-informed approach which shows understanding and unconditional love, and gives freedom of choice. Thank you.

Peace be with you,

Andrew

From the Registers

Funerals:

4th February: Gloria Laver at Puncknowle

13th February: Josephine Pearse at Swyre

23rd February: Robert Langran at Shipton Gorge

Palm Sunday: Would you like to Join us on a Pilgrimage of Peace?

March 29th at 2.30pm

We will meet at Abbotsbury Church for a 2-mile circular route up to St Catherine's Chapel. On this walk, we'll have some readings and songs about peace, but we'll also engage in 'mindfulness'. Everyone is welcome! (Dogs on leads are very welcome too.) There are some hilly bits and some of this walk will be on paths through fields, so wear appropriate clothing and footwear! (Baby carriers/toddler packs rather than pushchairs for this route.)

Good Friday, Walk of Witness

April 3rd, at 10.00am meet at Holy Trinity, Swyre from where we will walk on to Puncknowle and Litton Cheney. Look out for more info online, in the Source to Sea and on A Church Near You.

Is Mothering Sunday difficult for you?

On **Saturday 14th March**

between 2 and 4pm

in **St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock**

we are offering a safe space for those who find Mothering Sunday difficult.



Whatever your story, whether you're grieving the loss of a mother, the loss of a child, or a baby through miscarriage, whether you're struggling with infertility or childlessness, singleness or a difficult relationship, whether you never even knew your mother or any other reason why you might find Mothering Sunday painful, this quiet, reflective space has been designed with you in mind. It will be an informal gathering, either to sit quietly, to light a candle, say a prayer or to chat over a cuppa.

For further info please contact bvchurchesta@outlook.com

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

It has been lovely to welcome Rev'd Andrew back for assemblies in the past fortnight - the children made and presented him with a card wishing him a speedy recovery and all were thrilled to see him back with us after his accident.

Andrew and I will shortly be looking at some exciting new initiatives for the school such as Forest Church and also a range of church walks for the children to do so that we can try and visit and learn about all out local churches in the valley.

In class the pupils have been very busy covering topics such as Global Warming, Bridges, Stop-Motion Animation and Ukulele and they have also had some great trips. The older pupils are doing their swimming sessions in deep water at Bridport Leisure Centre and soon will be learning some life saving techniques and deep diving drills whilst the youngest pupils have been out on wellie walks in between the downpours.

The whole school also took part in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition Competition - in which all pupils created a painting or a drawing to be entered into this prestigious competition. They have then capped off the half term with a fantastic visit to the pantomime in Bridport (Jack and the Beanstalk) during which they sang, screamed, shouted (oh yes they did!) and cheered the cast during a brilliant performance of this classic tale. When we return from the holiday break, the children will be starting dance with our visiting teacher Amy Parker and we look forward to watching their routines develop as the spring term unfolds.

In the office we are putting the finishing touches to our new website and this should be live in a few weeks. Thank you to Iain Cowper and all other contributors for making this such a success. At present the website is filled with pictures of the children on the field in the summer - which feels a long way away given the flooding and difficult conditions we have had in the valley recently - let's look forward to these brighter days!

Lastly, thanks to Jackie Hunt, Mark Ashman and Peter Strange for all their amazing work and support in creating and fitting our wonderful stained glass into the doors by the office. This marks the culmination of a long journey which started with the children sketching ideas last year for all the different things that they think make up life at school for them. These ideas were then worked up into a set of designs and finally captured in stained glass by a brilliant local artist

Jackie. Many thanks also to the TSA for their support with the venture. It is wonderful to see the children's designs finished in this way and turned into a lasting artwork to enjoy for years to come. Please see the online edition for more pictures.



Mike Sitch - Headmaster

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



We are inspired by this verse from the bible and how it shapes all we do. We all believe that fairness, kindness and being humble are the key to flourishing for all. The links between this and our school values of Happiness, Friendship, Hope, Love, Courage and Respect are clear.

A message from the headteacher

Our spirits haven't been dampened by the never-ending rain we have faced this term so far!



We are very proud of our amazing runners for taking part in the cross country run at Beaminster a few weeks ago! Our Year 3 and 4 boys team deserve a special mention for their bronze medal. Well done



to Emmie for her individual bronze medal, she came third in the Year 3 and 4 girls' category!

Thank you to our running club parent volunteers who support our runners in their training and at events.

The school enjoyed a performance of Robin Hood by M and M Theatrical Productions, a visiting theatre company. There was lots of shouting, booing and cheering! We are grateful to The Friends of Burton Bradstock School for funding this wonderful experience for all of our children.

“Shine bright”, was the lasting message from our Christingle service. The Year 6s explained the meaning of each part of the Christingle to the congregation. We were delighted to be joined by Rev'd Andrew who sang a blessing whilst strumming his ukulele.



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 Pre-School 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> or the hashtags #LoveWhereWeLearn #TeamBurton

Our Night Sky in March 2026

Venus and Saturn will be setting soon after Sunset, while Jupiter will be high in the sky throughout the night, accompanied by Orion.

Black holes are among the most mysterious cosmic objects, much studied but not fully understood.

These objects aren't really holes. They're huge concentrations of matter packed into very tiny spaces. A black hole is so dense that gravity just beneath its surface, the event horizon, is strong enough that nothing – not even light – can



escape. There is much we don't know about black holes, like what matter looks like inside their event horizons. However, there is a lot that scientists *do* know about black holes:

A supermassive black hole's intense gravity can cause stars to orbit around it in a particular way. Astronomers tracked the orbits of several stars near the centre of the Milky Way to prove it houses a supermassive black hole, a discovery that won the 2020 Nobel Prize. But even this has been questioned recently.

When very massive objects accelerate through space, they create ripples in the fabric of space-time called gravitational waves. Scientists can detect some of these by the ripples' effect on detectors.

- Massive objects like black holes can bend and distort light from more distant objects. This effect, called gravitational lensing, can be used to find isolated black holes that are otherwise invisible.
- I do suggest you do not try to investigate a Black Hole, should you find one near you.

Bill Turnill

A Thank You letter to all who generously donated to the Trust through the Christmas Greetings section of the BVN last December



Dear All, thank you very much for the very generous Christmas donations to the Three Ells Trust, this is very much appreciated.

The aim of the Three Ells Trust is to make a difference to the lives of children and their families who have cancer or other life limiting or life-threatening illnesses. With the help and generous support of the community we have been able to supply much needed medical, educational and recreational equipment as well as being able to assist families with individual grants to cover travelling costs to and from hospital. With your help this has relieved some of the stress families are going through at such difficult times.

Thank you once again for choosing the Three Ells Trust to benefit from your fundraising.

Yours sincerely, *Helen Naerger, Trustee*

Bride Valley WI

The Bride Valley WI January meeting was sadly cancelled. The rain descended as it has done frequently over the past weeks and it was decided that with the hazardous driving conditions and the darkness, the safety of our members was paramount. Our Greek Dancing evening will now be held in May. Hopefully the sun will shine and it will feel much more like Greece.

We will commence our weekend walks in February, when hopefully it is a little drier under foot.

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

We take this opportunity to let you know about our Village Cafe being held at The Latch on Saturday 28th March at 10.00am.

Should you wish to join the Bride Valley WI we meet every 3rd Thursday at 7.30pm at Puncknowle Village Hall. Our 2026 programme will be informative, gently physical and entertaining.

If you think you might like to become a member, please contact us at bridevalleywi@gmail.com



The Bride Valley Book Club Review

The Promise by Damon Galgut

We enjoyed this prize-winning novel set in the rural hinterland of Pretoria, South Africa. The story follows the misfortunes of a family and their farm from the dying days of the apartheid regime, through the heady days of Mandela's release from prison, his short lived presidency, the unsuccessful government of his protege Mbeki and finally the corrupt regime of Jacob Zuma. The tumultuous politics are background noise in this novel but the cultural/racial shifts - and how the various members of the family respond - is very much the story. The youngest daughter overhears a promise being made by her father - to her dying mother - that Salome, their longstanding black house servant, should be granted

ownership of the humble house she has lived in for most of her life. This promise is reneged on by everyone in the family and the youngest daughter - very aware of this injustice - moves away and becomes estranged from her family. She returns for a succession of family funerals and each time she raises the issue of Salome's inheritance and the broken promise. Each family member becomes an in depth character study and their demise is dealt with swiftly in an almost comically off hand manner. We thought that this novel could easily have been entitled "The Curse" for this family's decline, moral and financial, serves as a metaphor for post-apartheid South Africa in general. This was a clever work of fiction which told the story of a nation through one family who fail to honour their promise.

Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley Gardening Club

Bride Valley Gardening Club will kick off a new season of talks on Monday March 16th with a talk and practical demonstration on Bonsai. Popular returning speaker David Ennals has promised a 'hands on' session with audience participation, bringing enough materials for everyone to practise and hone their skills during the evening.

As usual there will be refreshment to welcome you on arrival and a chance to catch up with like minded plant enthusiasts. We look forward to seeing you there for the start of spring - visitors welcome as always at £2.

Meetings are held at LATCH, the Community Hall in School Lane Litton Cheney where there is ample parking. Doors open at 7.00pm, with the talk at 7.30pm. For information on membership or more information, please contact the Secretary, Liz Gibbs on 07751 942588

Prince of Wales & Portesham Surgeries

Nutrition and Hydration Week 16 – 22 March

This month is a great opportunity to remind ourselves of the fantastic work that members of our team did to win that Nursing Times award 2024 for the Hydration Project. The aim of this campaign is to promote good hydration amongst people for day-to-day health. We will have a great display in the waiting room for the month. So come and have a look, and learn all about the benefits of hydration, when you are next in. Further information is in the BVN online edition.



Burton Bradstock Community Library for All!

For those new to the Bride Valley or anyone who has not visited the Library, we would like you to know that Burton Bradstock Community Library is available for the use of anyone with a Dorset Library card and anyone resident in the area covered by Libraries West which includes Bristol, Bath, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and Somerset. Burton Library is run by a friendly group of volunteers and a free library card is available on supply of identification.

Dorset Libraries provide us with support and a varied and changing book stock from a huge range of board and picture books for young children, through books for older children and teenagers, up to adult fiction, crime, biography and non-fiction for adults. We have public computers for card holders and visitors, and can provide photocopying and lamination. There is online ordering available and access to Borrowbox providing e-books, magazines, etc. We maintain the building and its upkeep with the help of our Library Friends, and welcome anyone wishing to join us. In Burton we have a large selection of jigsaws to borrow and usually a jigsaw in progress for all customers to help complete.

We are open 10.00am-12.00noon on Wednesdays and 2.00pm-4.00pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We are by the Village Green on Middle Street – no parking charges! Do call in and chat to the volunteers and find out how to get your library card. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Events in the Bride Valley and Nearby

Easter Reflections through Music

Paul Cheater, organist, leads us on a spiritual journey to the Cross, through organ music and silent prayer.

Tuesday 31st March,
at St Mary's Church,
Litton Cheney





Litton Cheney Community Hall

SATURDAY MARCH 7TH 7.30PM

WONDER WOMEN

PRESENTED BY SARAH HAGEN

Canadian pianist Sarah Hagen brings us an evening of easy listening and comic timing! Her unique show reveals the melodies and stories of women composers who were once household names. This will be an exciting evening of wry humour and musical excellence expertly presented by an acclaimed international pianist

Tickets £14, U18s £6, Family £35

Bookings - Patricia 07799 612941 or on-line at Artsreach.co.uk

Bar available – cash only

Pre-show meals available at The White Horse (01308 482514)

Further info at www.Sarahhagen.com

**The Duke: Artsreach in Burton
Bradstock Village Hall
Saturday 14th March, 7.30pm**



Funny, poignant and inventive, *The Duke* received The Scotsman's Fringe First Award when it premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2016 and was made into a radio play for BBC Radio 4 in 2018, achieving 'Pick of the Week'.

"You won't find a show with a bigger, better heart". ★★★★★

Tickets are now available via the Artsreach website. Standard Ticket £14, Under 18s £7, Family ticket £35. We look forward to seeing you at the event. For more information, please contact David Witham on 01308 897403

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: t.laycock70@gmail.com 01308 482443

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



The source of the River Bride are springs that feed the lake at Bridehead. The river is fairly placid in the village. We feel very fortunate to have come through the recent wet weather without the flooding that has made travel so hazardous further down the valley in recent weeks.

Clearance work has been taking place on the south side of the lake. Interestingly, a note in the Williams archive in the Dorset History Centre describes the clearing of the lake in 1861. 1736 cartloads of mud were removed, and transported to Watcombe Bottom by a team of 16 donkeys managed by William Wills and George Cornick, where it was spread on the fields. The work took a month and two days. The walls that line the lake were built at the same time. History doesn't record what wages the donkeys received for this mammoth task!

A quicker but equally impressive piece of work has just taken place in the village, albeit aided by modern technology. For more than a hundred years a beech and an ash have stood sentinel at the bottom of White Hill near Forge Cottage. Sadly, the ash succumbed to die-back, and we have been expecting limbs to fall off for some time. In the space of two days, using a giant cherry-picker, and with great skill and dexterity, the ash was felled, and the timber removed.



The sections of sawn branch and trunk showed the extent of the rot; the good news is that the beech looks very healthy, and set to welcome visitors to the village for many years to come. Well done to Sian and colleagues.

Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett

Email: richardhewlett419@gmail.com 01308 787278

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



To find out all that's going on in the village visit the village diary at <https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/>

St Martin's Church

Floodlights - March sponsors

Ann & Tony Jones for their granddaughter Ellie's birthday on 6th March

Janet Epplestone in memory of John Epplestone on his birthday on 4th March and Bee's birthday on 9th March.

James & Phyl for their wedding anniversary on 6th

Liz & Nigel Ringrose's wedding anniversary on 31st

Thank you everyone for generously sponsoring St Martin's floodlights throughout the month and also to those who wish to remain anonymous. For a suggested donation of £5, you too 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.

Services in March:

Breakfast Club in Village Hall at 9.30am on 8th March

The Holy Communion service for March will be on the 4th Sunday at 11.00am with Rev'd Juliette Hulmes. Please see church notice board for details.

Save the date: "An Evening of Opera" 13th June at St Martin's.

Thanks

Many thanks to Linda and Ed Buck for organising and overseeing the distribution of this magazine to the households in our parish. As Linda said in last month's edition "after 15 years Ed and I need to retire". We're very grateful to you for doing this for such a long time and we wish you well.

Plenty of people offered to fill their shoes (many thanks!) but, first past the post was Paul Dore. Contact him at pauldore2001@yahoo.co.uk if you've got flyers you'd like inserted and delivered.



Community Choir

Thank you to everyone who joined the Shipton Gorge Community Choir last season. What a great joy it was. The Christmas concert was quite magical. We will be starting up again on Thursday 12th March and we will work towards a summer concert.

New members are warmly welcomed from the Bride Valley. We are a community choir and do not hold auditions. We rehearse in the Village Hall from 2.30pm-4.00pm on Thursday afternoons. The cost is £5.00 per session to include refreshments.

For further information, please contact Kim and Ian on 01308 346007 or email bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com

Village Hall

The Village Hall Trust will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Hall. Refreshments will be available before the meeting when there'll be an opportunity for you to have an informal chat with trustees. We look forward to seeing you!

We believe the hall to be a very important asset to the village. If you do too, please consider becoming a trustee. All that's required is you give a little of your time!

If you're interested and would like to know more please contact Richard Hewlett on 897278 or email richardhewlett419@gmail.com

February 100 Club Draw results

1 st	84	£25	<i>Jo Warren</i>
2 nd	60	£10	<i>Anne & Julian Sharman</i>
3 rd	97	£5	<i>Janet Lane</i>

Congratulations to all winners.

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the February draw was Tony Mallett – congratulations Tony.



Saunders Richardson Wood

What a period of stormy weather we have had so far this year. Unfortunately, a fairly large tree did come down in January – combination of shallow roots, excess rain and obviously high winds. Thankfully, it fell into the wood. Although it will mostly be kept as additional wildlife habitat, we may have to do some work on it due to where it has fallen. The moisture and above average temperatures are perfect conditions for fungi – with some lovely specimens in the wood. We will open the Wood on **Saturday 7th March at 2.30pm**, to plant more whips into the hedge line, check on our newly planted trees and refresh the halo protection around them – there is obviously no shortage of brush to work with!

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

Hopefully, the work done on the borders has helped the spring flowers be much more visible and therefore enjoyed by those walking through the Orchard. If the rain subsided in February, we should have sown some wild flower seed. We will be in the Orchard on **Monday 16th March 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, we can provide the manpower. 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

Most of you will be aware that after almost 35 years in Litton Cheney, Freddie and Diana Spicer are sadly departing to the delights of Wiltshire to be closer to family. We will be saying goodbye to them at a bring and share lunch at LATCH, 12.30pm on Sunday 1st March, thanking them for all they have done in the various spheres of Bride Valley life throughout their time here. More information on how to join in can be obtained from Wendy Firrell at wtlitton@gmail.com

The Annual Church Meeting, at which the Parochial Church Council (PCC) members are elected, will take place on Sunday 12th April 2026. To vote at this meeting and to be eligible to join the PCC you need to be included on the Church Electoral Roll by 25th March. You are entitled to go on the roll if you are baptised, over 16, a member of the Church of England or some other churches and either resident in the parish, or have attended worship here regularly in the last six months. If you are already on the roll, you don't need to do anything as you will automatically be included on the new roll. If you would like to be included, or would like more information about the PCC, please contact Kathryn Brooks on 01308 482548 or email kbrookslcpc@btinternet.com

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

Litton Cheney Parish Council – Next Meeting - Tuesday 10th March, 7.00pm at LATCH

As we look to the future, and with the funding of rural communities not exactly at the top of the government's to-do list, more and more will be expected of town and parish councils, on the basis, if you want it, you pay for it. It means difficult decisions will need to be made in the months and years to come. If you fancy a challenge, step up to the plate and consider joining the Parish Council. More details can be obtained from Parish Clerk, Debbie, whose contact details can be found on the village website – www.littoncheney.org.uk. Why not come to the meeting and hear more.

Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – Weight Limit – Whiteway: After many years of waiting, we are told that, subject to a consultation, the implementation of a weight limit on Whiteway is imminent. This will prohibit over-weight vehicles using Whiteway. It will also mean Sat Nav platforms being amended to reflect this weight limit. Once implemented, it will be the culmination of many years campaigning by several individuals. We will wait until the change has been made, and then the guilty will be revealed.

Parish Plan 2026 – We are recruiting, and looking for Litton Cheney residents who not only care about their village, but would like to explore how it might develop and grow in the next decade or so. Might you be willing to offer up a small amount of your time to help see into the future, and explore what the village might need or wish to embrace in order for it to breathe and exist in the 2030's/2040's? For further details please contact any member of the Parish Council, details of whom can be found on the village website – www.littoncheney.org.uk

Bridging the Gap – Regular walkers of the footpath that crosses Rowden Farm heading in the direction of Long Bredy will be aware of the somewhat parlous state of the bridge. It is possible Dorset Council will assist with some match funding, but if you would like to donate towards a new bridge similar to the one recently installed in Chilcombe, please contact Clerk, Debbie, email: clerk@littoncheney.org.uk. It is thought that with a combination of donations, match funding, and help from both Litton Cheney and Long Bredy Parish Councils, a new bridge is within our reach.

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

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)
Fridays	10.00 – 12.00	Art Group in meeting room 13 th and 27 th

OTHER EVENTS

Monday 2 nd	7.30pm	Allotments AGM
Thurs 5 th	From 7.00pm	Film Night – “The Roses” – starts 7.30pm
Saturday 7 th	7.30pm	Artsreach Performance “Wonder Women”
Sunday 22 nd	4.00pm	Community Church
Saturday 28 th	morning	Village Café run by W.I.
Sunday 29 th	10.00am	Yoga with Nadiya

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

BRIDE VALLEY FILMS at Litton Cheney Village Hall

Reminder - THURSDAY 5th MARCH "THE ROSES" *'superb interaction, well worth watching'*

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (**Olivia Coleman**) and Theo Rose (**Benedict Cumberbatch**): successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposedly ideal life, a storm is brewing. As Theo's career nose-dives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites in this wonderfully wry, dark comedy. 1hr. 40" Cert. 15+

THURSDAY 2 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. 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)

Bingo

On Friday 27th MARCH, The Bride Valley Bingo Fundraising Group will be holding an Easter Bingo at LATCH, School Lane, Litton Cheney to raise funds for Dorset Mencap. There will be refreshments, raffle, and the Bucket draw.

Doors open at 6.30pm and Eyes down at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there, and don't keep it a secret – why not bring along some friends for an enjoyable evening. All money raised at the bingo evenings goes to the Dorset based charity nominated by a member of the Fundraising Team, and we really appreciate the support that you give us; we couldn't do it without you!

The White Horse – Cheers!

Well, that's January done and probably Valentine's by the time the BVN is out. At time of writing, we just all need the rain to stop for a bit, don't we? That, and the floods. But the nights are beginning to draw out and we are getting organised with events going into Spring, so there is hope! Looking forward to St Patrick's, with live music from the fabulous Nina Garcia and St George's with a 'late in the day' Full English breakfast offering and English rock from Mark Davis, both on the actual date. Sunday live music restarts on 22nd March for the season - see the schedule in the pub and regular updates on our Facebook page. Thank you for the continued support during the quieter times; it's much appreciated.

Andy and Liz

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

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

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

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

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

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



Candlemas Service

On Thursday 5th February, despite the heavy rain, twenty-two people from many churches in the benefice gathered at Puncknowle Church for the candlelit Candlemas meditation service. It was a very quiet, reflective service to welcome Christ, the Light of the World.

The reflections were each followed by a time of quiet, and gentle harp music, after which candles were lit, a hymn quietly sung, and then everyone proceeded to the Crown Inn for refreshments.

Thank you to Sue Lang who led the service, and to Hilary Percival who provided the harp music, and Lyn and Paul at the Crown Inn who provided the buffet.

The Crown Inn, Puncknowle

January was a busy month at The Crown. The 1st Quiz of the Year was won by 'Table 6', who generously donated the £40 prize money to the Dorset Air Ambulance. We then followed with a lively bingo night, where the flyer round raised £43 for the Alzheimer's Society. Burns' Night was a great success, and to finish the month we took part in the '12 hours or 100,000 points' Darts Marathon for Macmillan Cancer Support. We played for 12 hours and 22 minutes, raising over £650 for the charity – and even carried on a little longer to end on an impressive 100,009 points.

Here's what's coming up in March:

Breakfast – Saturday 7th 9.00–11.00am

Quiz Night – Thursday 12th at 8.15pm

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea – Saturday 14th (booking advisable)

Bingo – Saturday 21st, eyes down at 8.30pm

All Six Nations Rugby games will be shown throughout the competition.

We look forward to welcoming you, *Lyn & Paul*

Minster Challenge

Puncknowle resident Nick Tait is running the fearsome 7-mile Minster Challenge in March, to support an excellent organisation taking medical supplies out to the frontline in Ukraine. The Minster Challenge is aptly named – according to the organisers, “It is hilly, muddy and the weather on the day can have a huge impact. It really is a course to get your teeth in to!” Describing himself as a ‘deluded jogger’, Nick recalls that “the last similar race I ran was the Capten fell run, which I staggered through with terrible leg cramps.”

Fellow runner Joel Wilkins explains that any funds raised will be used to buy essential and good quality medical supplies specifically as needed by the defenders of Ukraine and Europe on the frontline. This includes CAT 7 tourniquets and IFAK (Individual First Aid Kit). These are frequently requested as their quality is better, and when a life depends on it, quality is critical.

“Having recently completed my 25th trip to Ukraine we’re now gathering aid ready for the 26th trip, which will be in the near future as soon as funds allow. The more we can raise the more we can bring to the frontline where it’s needed.”
All donations welcome.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/medical-aid-1>



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

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

17th March: Vegetable Lasagne with Salad & Garlic Bread. Dessert to follow

Future dates 2026

21st April: Roast Beef Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes. Dessert to follow

19th May: Coronation Chicken

Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Community Fete

The fete will take place in Puncknowle Manor Gardens on Saturday 25th July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Any volunteers – and in particular anyone who wishes to run a craft stall, donate a promise for the auction of promises, or face-paint on the day – should contact Andrea on 07990 596 382 or Claire on 07875 762760, or come to our next meeting at the Crown on Thursday 26th February at 7.00pm.

Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley

Email: bvn@longbredy.org.uk 01308 482585

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



Village News and Updates

100 Club

If you have bought a ticket for the Long Bredy 100 club, you might win one of the monthly prizes or the super draw in December but you are also supporting Long Bredy organisations. The Playing Field, Village Hall and St Peter's Church, all received £350 each. Well done to all who support the village in this way.

100 Club Results – January 2026

£25 no.65	<i>D Andrews</i>
£15 no 76	<i>J Cain</i>
£5 no 22	<i>J Cain</i>

Drawn on the 1st February 2026 after the Church Service at Peter's Church.

Coffee Break

Not only does the monthly coffee break enable people to meet up with a hot drink and delicious cake it raises funds for local causes. Some months the Coffee Break is for a specific charity/cause. As previously mentioned, the coffee break and plant sale raised £911.41 for the Church. In June the £412.60 raised went towards the Feno machine at Portesham surgery. In November £441.35 went to the British Legion and the Christmas coffee break funds went to St Peter's Church. The funds raised in the other months of 2025 were split equally between The Long Bredy Village Hall, The Bride Valley News and The Friends of Mountjoy School with each organisation receiving £200. Thank you to the

volunteers who run the Coffee Break each month and the generous donations made by those that attend.

Come Along Inn

Although it was a cold and wet evening, a warm welcome met everyone who attended the Come Along Inn in January. Many people were seen to enjoy the warming stew that was served alongside the beer and wine.

Parish Council

Annual Village Spring Clean: this year's Annual Village Spring Clean will be on Saturday 14th March. Please meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am for your route and litter picking equipment. There will be light refreshments available in the Village Hall from 10.30am so you can enjoy a well-deserved drink and piece of cake afterwards. Not only does this help to keep our village looking lovely, but it is also a fun event and a good chance to meet up with neighbours and make new friends. Any questions please contact the Parish Council on clerk@longbredy.org

Highways: with all the lovely weather we've been having recently our roads have really taken a battering! Did you know that the easiest way to report issues with our roads (highways) is by using the Dorset Council Highways "Portal". The link below will take you through to the portal where you can then select the box that best describes the issue you wish to report.
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

The Parish Council continue to welcome residents to share with them issues they have with our highways but also support the use of the portal. Once reported on the portal we would welcome you to share with the Parish Council the reference number of your report and a very brief description of what you have reported. This also enables the Parish Council to monitor issues in the village and escalate if not addressed satisfactorily. The Parish Council's email address is clerk@longbredy.org

Phoenix Productions, Donation Survey Results: Apologies for the very belated update on the donation survey the Parish Council sent out in November. The **survey** asked residents how the £500 donation from Phoenix Productions, who filmed in the village over the summer, should be spent. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote. The winning choice was a "selection of trees". The Parish Council is now exploring suitable tree options and locations, so watch this space for further (and, more timely!) updates.

St Peter's Church

A thank you has been received from the Lexi- Mae Trust for the £200 the Church donated from the collection taken at the Live Nativity service at Christmas. The Trust raises money to give children with life limiting conditions a memorable experience. For example, they have a Beach Hut that they fund for families to use.

It is that time of year when we think of the care of the Churchyard during the summer months. During January and February, it starts to look beautiful with Snowdrops and Daffodils. They will soon be followed with Primroses, and later Oxeye Daisies. It is always worth a visit to see the wonderful display each season shows. To ensure that the churchyard is always looking its best we would value extra help to join our volunteers to keep it tidy. If you are willing to help it would be one session during the summer months - working with other volunteers. Please contact Jackie Cain - 01308 482 379

While visiting the churchyard you could also take advantage of the Craft and Refreshments that are available in the Church.

Still on the theme of the Churchyard the rotten Lime Tree by the Church gates has now been removed and a new one will be planted before the end of the season.

Churchyard Regulations

The Regulations of the Churchyard are made by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Salisbury. These are different from Municipal cemeteries as Churchyards are often alongside listed buildings and therefore the surroundings reflect this. At St Peter's we try to be considerate of relatives but we do have to respect the regulations and the beautiful Churchyard.

Therefore, we ask that any 'trinkets' are not put on the graves. These make it difficult for the volunteers who mow the Churchyard and in the past items have caught in the mower and damaged it. No artificial flowers other than Remembrance poppies and Christmas wreaths - The Parochial Church Council (PCC) may remove these at their discretion. Any Christmas items will be removed by the end of February if they have not been removed by the family.

The upkeep and responsibility of the Churchyard falls to the PCC which is a considerable burden upon its limited resources. If you can help in anyway by volunteering or donating money for the upkeep of the Churchyard it would be very much appreciated. Anyone wishing to view the regulations can contact the Churchwarden.

Future Events

Coffee Break: The next coffee break will be held on Saturday 14th March 10.30am – 12.00 noon at Long Bredy Village Hall. This will coincide with the village spring clean but is open to all regardless if you are able to help with the spring clean or not.

Come Along Inn: Friday 20th March will see the door open for the next Come Along Inn, 5.30pm – 9.00pm, Long Bredy Village Hall. It will be lovely to see you there and hopefully the evening will be lighter for walking home!

Plant Sale - Advance Notice: The annual plant sale will be on Saturday 9th May from 10.30am until 12.00noon. Over the past few years, the Plant Sale has gradually grown a reputation as somewhere to buy good quality plants at very reasonable prices while enjoying excellent home-made refreshments in a lovely village setting. So....if you are sowing seeds, splitting plants or clearing out tools which are still good to use, we would be extremely grateful for any spares. Several people have already asked if we are going to hold our 'lovely event' again!

If you would like to help in any way or would like more information, please contact Sue Dyer 01308 482882, Corner Cottage, Long Bredy.

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton

Email: patgrafton43@gmail.com 01308 898264

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



Notice Of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin Burton Bradstock with Chilcombe will be held in St Mary's Church on Monday 30th March 2026 at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. There will be an opportunity to learn about the efforts being made within the Church to provide more facilities for the wider community.

Please consider service to the church and parish as a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). We really do need a couple more people as there are several vacancies including Churchwarden. For information about these interesting and important roles, or to apply, please ring Ian Ibbotson (01308 898484) and/or contact the Rector.

St Mary's, Burton Bradstock, Christmas Collections

The Christmas collections for charity organised by St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock raised the following:

On a very wet and stormy evening, the round the Village Carol Singing raised **£131.00** for the **Childrens Society**.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service raised **£225.93** for **Julia's House Children's Hospice**.

The Carols by Candlelight Service collection (£548.29) and The Christmas Morning Service collection (£230.00) produced a total of **£778.29** for the **Bridport Food Bank**.

A big thank you to all who took part in making these very enjoyable events happen and to all who generously donated

Knitting for Ukraine - update

The group of Ukrainian and local knitters were delighted recently to receive an encouraging letter from his Majesty, King Charles to mark two years of this knitting / sewing / transporting project. Of course, we in the Bride Valley have only been involved since November, but every few days new people telephone to say they are knitting too. The work is expanding and recently in Bridport the Community Kitchen sent me a batch of lovely strips. Thank you.



So far, I have sent off 82 strips and 19 blankets which have all been gratefully received. A big thank you to Marian, who today provided three large boxes of knitting wool to swell the stock - so kind of you. The photograph shows a few of the group who receive our knitted contributions (not everyone likes to be photographed!). Sadly, it seems that the babies in the Kyiv maternity hospital will be needing our help for a long time, so we have no time limit in accepting your contributions.

Thank you so much, all of you, for your hard work.

For further information, please contact Heather Rogers on 01308 897780

Burton Bradstock Duck Race

The friends of Burton Bradstock School are pleased to announce that the Duck Race will return again this year on Easter Monday 6th April, 2-4.00pm.

There will be fantastic prizes for the first three winning ducks, a raffle, games and refreshments. Lots of fun for all the family, please spread the word. Ducks can be bought in advance at the Post Office in Burton Bradstock, The Three Horseshoes & The Anchor pubs.

Kind Regards

Elena

*On behalf of the friends of
Burton Bradstock School*

A promotional poster for the Burton Bradstock Duck Race. The top half features the title 'BURTON BRADSTOCK DUCK RACE' in large, bold, white letters with a blue shadow effect against a light blue background with a subtle duck pattern. Below the title are three yellow rubber ducks of different sizes, flanked by two black and white checkered racing flags. The middle section has a dark blue background with the text 'EASTER MONDAY 6TH APRIL 2026 2-4pm' in yellow. Below this, in white text, are the details '• DUCKS £1 • DUCKS AWAY 3PM'. The bottom section has a light blue background with the text 'VILLAGE PLAYING FIELDS' in orange, followed by 'REFRESHMENTS INC CREAM TEAS, CHEESE' and 'SCONES, CAKES' in orange, and 'TOMBOLA, GAMES & STALLS' in orange. A circular logo for 'Friends of Burton Bradstock School' is on the left. At the bottom, it says 'EVERYONE WELCOME!' and 'CHARITY NUMBER: 1026130 • LOTTERY LICENCE: SL0223'.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall

Village Hall Bookings

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

Coffee Mornings

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

Wednesday 11th March: Burton Bradstock School

Wednesday 18th April: St Mary's Church

Burton Bradstock Films

The Choral, Friday 27th 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 and include 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.

Defibrillator Training

The Hall Committee have booked 2 defibrillator-use training courses to take place on Saturday 21st March, one at 10.00am and one at 1.00pm. Anyone resident or working in the Village can request a place on a first come first served basis. The courses are free, being funded by the proceeds of the East Street band event last year.

To request a place contact Richard Ferre on rwferre99@gmail.com or 897648.

Diary date

The Spring Quiz is on Saturday 25th April. Look for details of when tickets go on sale, in the April BVN. The Quiz is kindly being prepared by Sue Moores and David Edwards.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” February 2026 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£32.00	No 52:	Mr John Harper
2 nd	£16.00	No 78:	Mrs Susan Britton
3 rd	£8.00	No 58:	Mrs Irene Piper

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the March 2026 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £10 – 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 Outing

One of the annual pleasures for many Society members is our outing. This year Richard Ferre is in the process of arranging for us to visit the Winchester Cathedral Flower and Nature Festival. This will be on 16th September 2026. Full details will be publicised as soon as they are available.

Date changes: Please note there are changes to dates of some of our Village Society events for your Diaries. For administrative reasons the dates of the AGM and Plant & Cake Sale have been changed from those published in your Programmes. The new dates are 1st and 2nd May respectively. We will keep publicising these but please update your Diaries.

With only two months to the AGM, we are keen to have names of members wishing to join the committee, particularly for the roles of secretary and minute secretary. Please contact Roger Ashman for details and nomination forms.

Plant and Cake Sale

Although two months away, Growers, please bear us in mind with well labelled spare plants of all varieties for the 2nd May.

Village Society Talk: Friday 13th March 7.30pm in the Village Hall “Medicines from your Garden” Speaker Sarah Hillyer

Sarah has worked as an herbalist for over 25 years, now in the Bride Valley, running courses, writing, growing and foraging her own herbs to make medicines, thereby knowing their quality and energy. Herbs have been used by humans for centuries. Sarah believes that we need to regain that lost knowledge if we are to acquire some resilience in this changing world. Come and learn what you can safely use from your garden and learn more about these amazing plants. Doors open at 7.00pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your friends.

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 payout 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.

Village Society Flower & Produce Show: Saturday 12th July

The two subjects for the Photography Classes are **“Colour blue”** and **“Happy memories”**. This will give everyone plenty of time to come up with something good. The Limerick will be entitled **“Potholes”**.

2026 Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art

With spring not so very far away, it's time to start thinking about this year's Festival of Music and Art. After such a spectacularly successful one last year, there can be no resting on laurels by the organisers. Meetings have been held and lists scrutinised to ensure there are enough volunteers to guarantee that this year's festival will be as professional as last year's, and draw as much interest and enthusiasm. If you haven't come to a concert or visited the art exhibition yet, this is the year to do so. Or are you interested in finding out more about volunteering? There's always room for a few more volunteers if you have the time. Please email Jennifer Malyon for more information on jennifermalyonbbd@gmail.com. The programme dates for your diaries are as follows:

Spring Concert Friday 5th June at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.
Ticket sales are planned for Monday April 27th.

The Art Exhibition opens to the public on Saturday August 15th and closes at midday on Sunday August 23rd.

The Tea Party in the Rectory Gardens will be on Sunday August 16th at 3.00pm, followed by **Evensong** in St Mary's at 6.30pm.

The **Concert programme** begins on Monday August 17th with 'Castaway' and ends on Friday August 21st with the Gala Performance.

Tickets are available to Friends of the Festival on June 15th and to the general public on June 22nd. The experiment with large screens was a big success and will be continued. *Laura Nottingham 0771046687*

Burton Coffee Mates

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

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Fibre Update

Burton Bradstock and the wider Bride valley, including Shipton Gorge, has been removed from Openreach's build plans for the next 12 months; meaning crucial better internet is not arriving any time soon. The future build is driven by demand with the build being prioritised for areas with more registrations.

Please can you register your interest - this will only take 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"

Allotments

Interested in having an allotment plot? We currently have plots available. Please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk for further information

Handyperson

We are seeking a suitably experienced handyperson to carry out small-scale repairs and maintenance within the village on an as-required basis. Rates and availability to be agreed.

For further information, please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk

Website

Our website is the best way for you to know what is going on and communicate your views.

- You can read the minutes of our meetings.
- Subscribe to our newsletter and get automatic updates by email.
- Read the agenda
- Get latest planning applications
- Communicate your views and concerns

Sign up today at burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk and be an active member of your local community.

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Please read our article on page 13 of this issue of the BVN if you wish to know more about our Community Library.

Opening hours are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

Please note that we will be closed for Easter on Saturday 4th and Monday 6th April. We hope to see you soon.

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

Sue Brown, Chairman

Burton Bradstock WI

Apologies for no WI News in the February BVN. The timelines and deadlines were a little too tight for us after all the fun of our Christmas activities... BBWI never stop. In January, Members had a lovely talk from Martin Fielding, a retired vet, who kept us amused with tales of animals and owners alike. In February we had a talk from Penny Townsend on Jane Austen's links with the West Country. Members also enjoyed a day out to Compton Vallance to admire the beautiful drifts of snowdrops and have homemade soup and cakes in their Village Hall. If you missed it this year add it to the back page of your diary ready for 2027 - well worth a couple of hours! The Lunch Club had a pleasant outing to the Coach Horse Inn at Winterbourne Abbas.

On to March, when our meetings will return to their evening slot at 7.00pm. In March our speaker is Steve Bellesco and he will be talking about views from our coast along with some magnificent pictures. Think you know our coast? Why not pop along and be surprised, see how many places you recognise & what new places you might discover.

Meanwhile, members have been picked up their size 4 knitting needles with gusto and have to date knitted over 50, 30-inch strips for Heather Rogers' Ukrainian baby blanket project. It has been good to see so many members getting involved and increasing numbers at our 4Bs gathering every other Thursday. We've even had some first-time knitters come along. This project is going till Easter, so... to any ladies out there who want to 'do something' to help Ukraine, please feel free to pop along to the Village Hall, 1:30pm-4:30pm on the first & third Thursday of the month. We always look forward to greeting new faces & offer a warm welcome.

Supper Club

This month's supper club will be held on the 16th March at Bridport and West Dorset Golf Club. Any enquiries please phone Mags Chue 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

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

On how to run a Church Council meeting

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Clearly, the sight of your vicar running out of the room halfway through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do have to chair your first church council meeting.

1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments, and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.
2. Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.
3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone must respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.



4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.

5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



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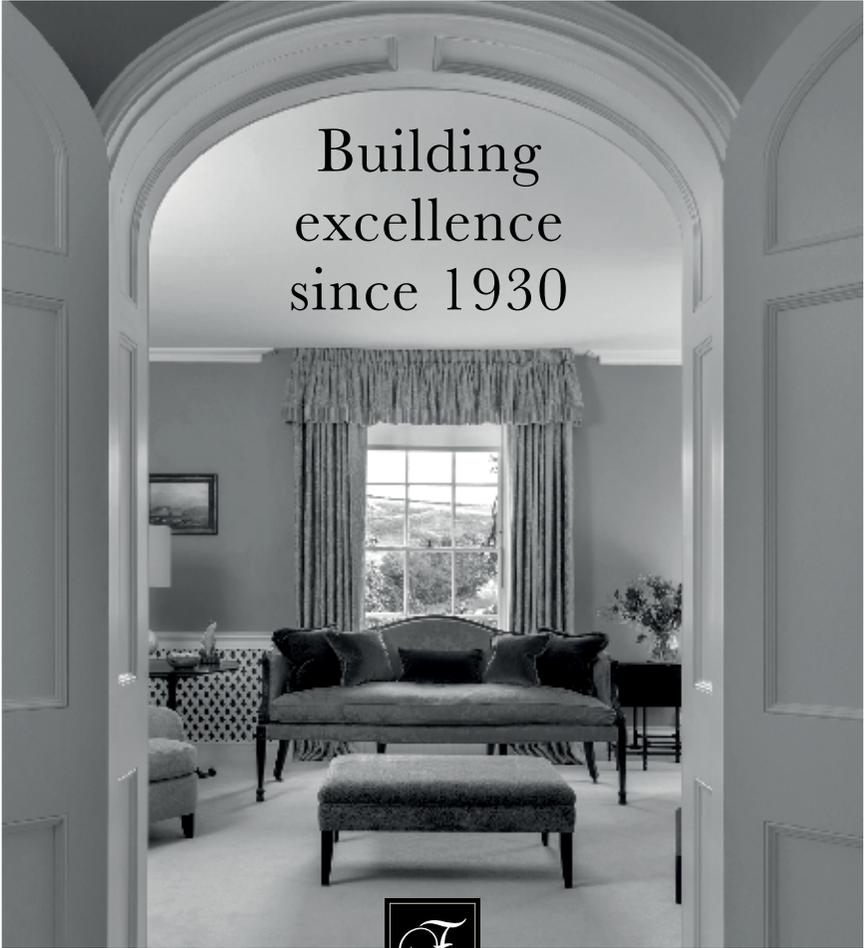
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March 2026	1st Sunday 2nd Sunday of Lent 1st March	2nd Sunday 3rd Sunday of Lent 8th March	3rd Sunday Mothering Sunday 15th March	4th Sunday 5th Sunday of Lent 22nd March	5th Sunday Palm Sunday 29th March
Burton Bradstock	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Breakfast Church	United Benefice Service at Portesham Meet at 10.30am either on The Green for a short Palm Sunday walk with a special visiting donkey or in church. Both services start with hymns and readings for Palm Sunday and the short walk ends at church, where the two groups will join together to continue the service!
Litton Cheney	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Prayer	4.00pm Community Church at LATCH	
Puncknowle		9.30am Holy Communion		11.00am Morning Worship and Baptism	
Swyre	3.00pm Evening Prayer		Holy Communion 11.00am		
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	4.00pm Community Church, Portesham Hall	10.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion		
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion		10.00am Morning Worship		
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion		
Midweek Holy Communion Services		Wednesday 4th March Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock lunch. Weds 25th March Holy Communion at Portesham			11.30am followed by a light lunch. 11.30am followed by a light lunch.



The following are additional pages for the online edition containing items for which there was not sufficient room in the printed version.



PRINCE OF WALES & PORTESHAM SURGERIES

Nutrition and Hydration Week 16 – 22 March

This month is a great opportunity to remind ourselves of the fantastic work that members of our team did to win that Nursing Times award 2024 for the Hydration Project. The aim of this campaign is to promote good hydration amongst people for day-to-day health. We will have a great display in the waiting room for the month. So come and have a look, and learn all about the benefits of hydration, when you are next in.

EVERY DROP COUNTS

How you can help others stay hydrated and healthy

Fear of incontinence

When someone is not hydrated enough, their urine becomes concentrated, and can irritate the lining of their bladder. This can cause pain, discomfort and make people need to wee more often and with more urgency. Their wee is also likely to smell stronger.

If people suffer with bladder leakage they may leak more often when fluids are reduced. This is because the bladder becomes unstable and difficult to control.

There are a number of food and drinks you can offer to keep them hydrated and well.

Great drinks that do not irritate the bladder:

Decaffeinated coffee and tea, herbal tea, milk, milkshakes, water and diluted fruit juice.

Drinks and food which can irritate the bladder:

Citrus fruit and juices, tomatoes, fizzy drinks, alcohol, tea, coffee, hot chocolate and green tea.

Hydration

Helping others stay hydrated and healthy

60% WATER

EVERY DROP COUNTS

The endless benefits of hydration

Water makes up around 60% of your entire body and is vital for staying healthy.

EVERY CUP COUNTS

How you can help others stay hydrated and healthy

How do you like your cuppa?

Take the time to find out how someone likes their drink. Ask how they prefer their tea and coffee. Milk, no milk, strong, weak, sugar or sweetener and how many? Do they have or need a certain type of cup? Do they require assistance to drink?

Milky?

Sweet?

Strong?

Lots of offers and reminders

Offer a drink with medication and at mealtimes. Aim to offer drinks hourly during the day.

Help them to drink 6-8 times a day and aim for at least eight cups of fluid.

EVERY BITE COUNTS

How you can help others stay hydrated and healthy

Offer a variety

Offer a variety of drinks and remember that fruit, jelly and ice lollies also help to keep people hydrated.

fruit

jelly

ice lollies

Add some flavour

You can add flavour to water by adding fruit, herbs or vegetables, such as cucumber, orange, lemon, mint, strawberry, kiwi, melon, lime, raspberry or blueberry.

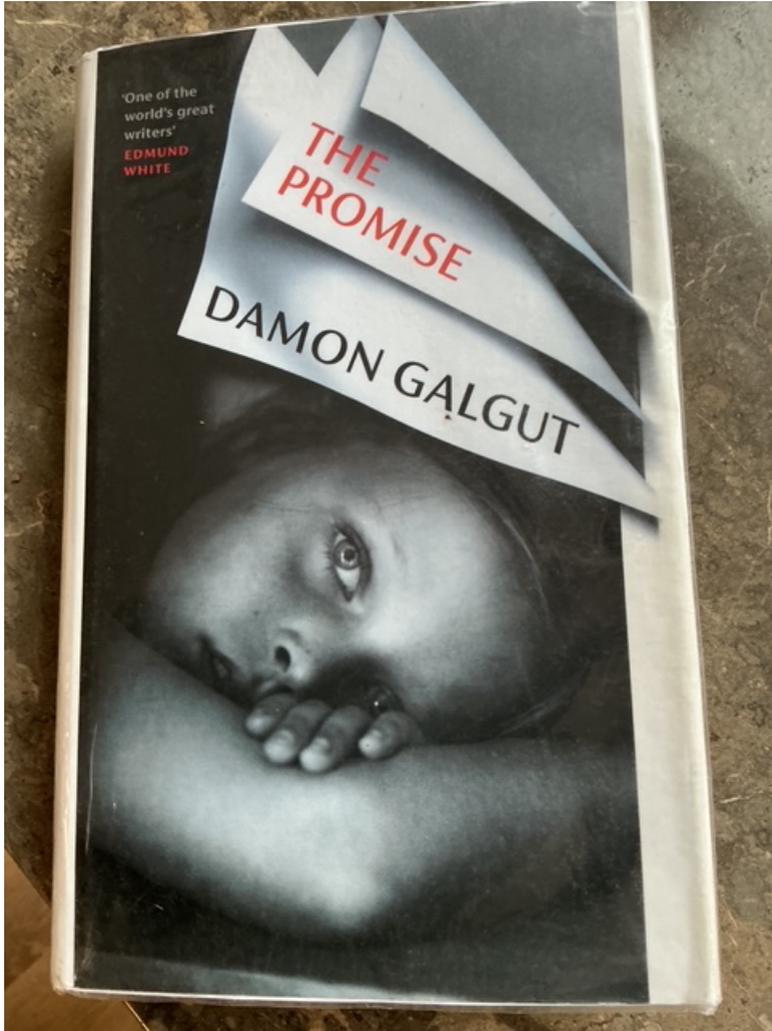
Infused water recipes and their benefits:

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- flushes toxins
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Pictures of the stained-glass doors and The Promise Book Cover from Thorner's School.









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