

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

online edition



November 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	25
Valley items	6	Long Bredy	27
Events in the Bride Valley	12	Burton Bradstock	30
Littlebredy	13	St James the Least	37
Shipton Gorge	14	Services in the Valley	56

Information for Contributors

December 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 November for the December issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley can be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy must be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact bvctc@outlook.com for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, often with additional items which could not be fitted into the printed version, can be found at bvn.org.uk or via links on Bride Valley village websites.

Note: Contributors are asked to note that space in the BVN is strictly limited and the Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions and cannot guarantee that items will be included.

The Bride Valley News is delivered to every home in the valley and is entirely produced and distributed by volunteers. Donations to help us continue to provide the magazine would be welcome and if you feel able to contribute - please make a BACS payment to:

**Account: 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council', Sort code 30-91-21
Account number 00074071.....and please quote BVN.**

The Bride Valley & Chesil Churches

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

St Mary: Litton Cheney
St Peter: Long Bredy
St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle
Holy Trinity: Swyre
St Peter, Langton Herring
St Bartholomew: Corton

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 a Lay Pastoral Assistant in our team who is available for anyone throughout our community and can respond to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. Please contact Liz on 01308 897451, alternatively you can get in touch with your churchwarden, or Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator, on 01308 897260.

Home communion is available by arrangement.

If you would like to become an LPA, please have a look at the Diocese of Salisbury webpage:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/news/is-god-calling-you-to-be-a-lay-pastoral-assistant->, and then chat with Rector Andrew.

Safeguarding

The Churches of this Benefice have adopted the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and are 'Promoting Safer Churches'. The Benefice Churches have an open door to all survivors.

For further information or support please contact our Safeguarding Officer: - Les Keatley. Tel: - 07833545450 email: - Les@Keatley.me.uk

From the Rectory

Dear friends,

Are you ready to be remembered?

Once again, we're in November, and in 'Remembrance Tide'. On All Saints Day we honour the memory of the saints, on All Souls Day we honour the memory of those we have known and loved, and on Remembrance Sunday we remember all those who have died in service of their country and communities, in war and violent conflict. We can remember because we're still alive. But what if we were to die suddenly, how would we be remembered? How would we want to be remembered?

For many years of my life, serving in the military, I was prepared to die. I had written out a will and had life insurance in place for loss of limbs or loss of life. I was prepared never to see my loved ones again, but I hadn't really prepared for what I would leave behind in terms of the terrible grief and loss, and for how I would be remembered. I was too young or selfish to think much about it, just living in the moment. But it's one thing to be remembered as a member of the military with a rank and regimental affiliation, but what about as a human being. Would love shared with family and friends help build a bridge over the loss, or would the chasm of loss remain a deep and ever painful void?

We were thinking about this in church recently with a parable from Jesus which talked about 'wailing and gnashing of teeth' and being 'cast into outer darkness', because someone had not been properly prepared for an encounter with eternity. This could have been about an individual's spiritual journey and a lack of peace and forgiveness, tormented by a past dominated by selfishness and denial of the truth, or it could have been about a situation where those left behind after a death were left in a loveless place sometimes called 'hell'.

A significant part of my ministry is preparing for funerals, and knowing what to say, or sometimes what not to say about the person who has died. I took a funeral once, not in the Bride Valley and Chesil churches, where I was not allowed to mention that the person who had died was the mother of her own daughter. The mother had given birth as a teenager at a time when the church and society judged unmarried mothers. The daughter had been brought up to think that her mother was her aunt, and that her grandparents were her parents. Right up until the end the mother would not acknowledge her own daughter who was a middle-aged professional. I was instructed by the family to maintain the deception. Perhaps the truth was just all too painful and guilt, regret, and shame, even

inadequacy, dominated. Mum wasn't ever known and remembered as Mum, and Grandma was never known and remembered as Grandma. The silence was not the two minutes of Remembrance Sunday, but a lifetime.

How will you be remembered? How would you like to be remembered? Are they the same? If not, what changes could you make?

Who do you need to tell that you love them or show that you love them? Who do you need to thank or show that you haven't taken them for granted? Who do you need to say sorry to, to rebuild a relationship? Who do you need to ask forgiveness from or show humility to, to rebuild a relationship? What will your example be? What will your legacy be? Will you leave behind harmony or unresolved heartache?

In church we call a change of direction: 'repentance'. It's never too late to 'repent', to turn towards the light, to make changes, to find wholeness and healing, so that we can give and share peace, and so that when it comes to us being remembered it's for all the right reasons, for goodness and for love. Love is eternal.

Peace be with you,

Andrew

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.

It's Not too Late to Place your Christmas Greetings in the BVN



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

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance provides life-saving, pre-hospital critical care to those in urgent need across Dorset and Somerset. As your local air ambulance charity, it is



**DORSET
& SOMERSET**
AIR AMBULANCE

a vital part of the community and relies on your support to be there for critically ill and injured people when every second counts.

The team's specialist skills, advanced equipment and rapid response capabilities can make a life-saving difference.

2,738	<i>missions by air and road in the last year</i>
£3,500	<i>average cost per mission</i>
£30,100	<i>daily operating cost</i>

Donations for your Christmas Greeting should if possible be paid directly into the Benefice bank account: sort code 30-91-21, account number 00074071. It is essential however, that these payments are referenced 'XG', and that the name or names for the dedication are included so that these are included in the magazine! If you prefer to pay by cheque (made payable to 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council'), or cash, these should be in clearly marked envelopes which can be handed to Churchwardens, or delivered to Liz Orza (2 Bindbarrow, Burton Bradstock, DT6 4RG). Please make sure you include the name(s) for the dedication.

Please ensure that your instructions are received no later than Monday 9th November, in order to meet the printing deadline for the December edition.



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.

Last half term was another busy one as children and staff settled back into the new routines of the school year. Owl class (year 5 and 6) recently joined the National Trust for a series of hands-on climate workshops. The children discussed simple actions individuals can take to combat climate change, showing that even the smallest everyday

tweaks can lead to meaningful change overall.

Bertie, Year 6, reported that they came up with ideas 'that could help the earth stop climate change' and that it was 'very, very fun!'

Our pre-school and reception children have loved spending time in the new soft play in the church! We are excited to be able to use it more

regularly, especially on wet days when the children need more space to let off steam. Some of our Year 5s and 6s have completed their bikeability course recently too. They have been learning how to keep safe when riding their bikes on the roads.

We are so proud of our runners who took part in the Colmer's Hill cross country run at the beginning of October. It is a tough course - I'm sure many of you are familiar with the terrain! We are so proud of each and every one of our runners - they showed such determination! Well done to our boys for coming 1st overall and to Rufus for being the 3rd



individual boy back! Thank you to our parent volunteers for such a fun running club. We are also grateful to the Friends of Burton Bradstock school for funding our new running tops - our team looked great in their new kit! Thank you to Symondsbury Primary School for hosting the event.

We have spaces available in our reception class and in our preschool for children who turned 3 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. We also welcome visits from families looking for school and preschool places from September 2027.

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

Holly Varndell-Paulley, Acting Headteacher



Thorners CE VA School

This month we have to say thank you and sadly goodbye to a few people at Thorne's. First of all, a huge thanks to all the members of the TSA (our parent fundraiser group) who are stepping down after many years of tireless work! Michelle

Feher, Jo Marchant and all their associated helpers have worked brilliantly (together with Claire Moore who is staying on as secretary) over the past few years and as well as giving the children a huge range of fun activities and competitions have also raised an incredible twenty thousand pounds for the school in their time in charge. This group have also been instrumental in helping put together joint school and village events such as summer fetes which have been lovely occasions to bring everyone together. We welcome Kitti and her new team and look forward to the new things they will bring to the role!

In school, we have to say a sad goodbye soon to Mrs Hayter who is retiring in December. Jo has worked at Thorne's for over 30 years and has been amazing working with children across the whole age range as well always leading the school in sport and ELSA work with vulnerable pupils. I know many people reading this will have been lucky enough to have been coached, encouraged and taught by Jo and we thank her enormously for all her dedication to the children and the school more broadly. It is increasingly rare to find examples where people have given so much to one place of work or institution and we look forward to making a deserved fuss of her in December when she finally steps down.

Thank you also to our teachers for arranging a great array of trips and activities these past few weeks - from an Ancient Egyptian workshop to a theatre trip to Winchester and a bus ride into Bridport Museum for the little ones as well as a walk round Abbotsbury Swannery for the pre-school. These activities add so much

to the children's learning and we also look forward to a trip to Bovington Tank Museum with the older pupils as well as the usual welly walks and trips to church in the village. To add to these big trips and activities we are also introducing a new range of clubs on Friday lunchtimes for all the children. The plan is to start a series of clubs with the children, from Reception to Eggardon, that cover some of those things that we really want them to know, but that quite simply do not always crop up in the National Curriculum. We hope that the sessions below will add to the other lunchtime and after school clubs that we offer and give all the children the chance to tackle some real-life skills, and to try some new things that we can't/don't cover in lessons.

For this term we will offer: **Autumn 26**

Mission: Everyday Hero - how to spot dangers and save the day

Domestic Science - can you sew a button or wire a plug? Can you tie knots and knot ties? Can you make and bake?

International Pen Pals - Let's connect with pupils all over the world - finding out what their school/class and lives are like through pen pal letters from Thorner's to schools across the world!

Campaign Sustainability - let's plant seeds of all different kinds to make our school, our environment and our world a better place.

Junior Responder - First Aid essentials for children.

The Thorner's Union - free speech, parliament, laws - it's all up for debate! Let's hear you speak out on the issues that matter to you!

Young Enterprise - Design, Production, Marketing, Sales - with a small bank loan from "HSBSitch", what can your company create together to turn a profit in 6 weeks?

We'll keep you updated as to how the pupils tackle these new challenges!

Mike Sitch, Headmaster

Bride Valley Book Club Review

"Bournville" by Jonathan Coe

Coe has been writing novels about the West Midlands/ Birmingham area where he was born and raised throughout his writing career and he often returns to key characters in his interconnected group of families. Bournville's Cadbury factory and housing estates were built as a benevolent social experiment and it forms the background for a socio- political canter through national events - from WW2 VE Day celebrations, the 1953 Coronation, the 1966 World Cup England victory, acts of sabotage perpetrated by radical Welsh Nationalists and The Prince of Wales Investiture at Caernarfon Castle, the wedding of Charles and Diana, the chocolate wars within the EU during the 70's and 80's, Diana's funeral in 1997, the divisive

2016 Brexit referendum and finally the 2019/20 COVID epidemic. The constant unifying character is Mary who connects with all the characters -she is a child on the night of VE Day - right up until her death caused by the ticking timebomb of an aortic aneurism during COVID. It is interesting that Coe has chosen these (often royal) set pieces as a prism through which to present the mood of the country and shifts in what could be called national consciousness. As one of our group commented, "social mores and beliefs change over time", and Coe is attempting to show this over the course of Mary's long life. Some of us are old enough to have lived through these key events and we had our own perspective and memories as a marker for comparison. Most of us enjoyed this book and found much to relate to - but some found it inconsequential and at times a bit irritating. "Bournville" prompted memories of these moments in our history - and of Cadbury's chocolate. There followed a wide-ranging discussion about Coe's technique, his underlying message and integrated use of archive documents and media commentaries

Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley WI

The Bride Valley WI invited Julia's House Hospice Charity to come and talk to us for our September meeting. Kate and Amanda gave a very interesting and informative presentation telling us about the care and support The Hospice, which is based in Corfe Mullen, gives to children with life-limiting or life-threatening illness.

We were shown a video giving us a tour of The Hospice and Katie shared with us Ziggy's story. A written account of Ziggy and his family's experience at Julia House. Telling us how Julia's House gives both emotional and practical help to children and their families. A parent's quote, "No matter how strong you are, it's not until you are put in a position like ours that you realise how fundamental children's hospices like Julia's House are for the children and their family's wellbeing in such difficult times"

Thank you to our members for their kind donation of £119.94.

The WI skittles team continues to meet fortnightly for fun, but confirmation of the skittles league has now been received, so "training" will soon be underway! Whether we win or lose, we always enjoy the opportunity to visit other teams and their alleys, as well as welcoming fellow WI members to our home alley at The White Horse Pub. If you are interested in joining us for skittles, please speak to Charlotte. New players are always welcome.

Craft Club continues and of course Christmas is on the horizon with lots of opportunities to start Xmas Crafting!!

Our walks have moved to Sunday mornings now and we are putting our thinking caps and boots on to think of new West Dorset trails to ramble on.

If you wish to join the Bride Valley Women's Institute please come and meet us all. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month in Puncknowle Village Hall at 7:30pm. Should you wish to contact us our email is bridevalleywi@gmail.com

Portesham Surgery

Portesham Renovation Update

We are making excellent progress with the refurbishment and expansion of the former dispensary area. I am sure both our staff and patients are looking forward to seeing the completed space and benefiting from the improved facilities and ease of use. We are also continuing with Phase 3 of the project, which will focus on expanding and modernising our administrative area.

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Lung cancer may not always have symptoms early on. The symptoms of lung cancer can include:

- a cough for 3 weeks or more
- a change in a cough you have had for a long time
- a chest infection that does not get better, or repeated chest infections
- feeling breathless and wheezy for no reason
- coughing up blood
- losing weight for no obvious reason
- feeling tired
- chest or shoulder pain that does not get better
- a hoarse voice for 3 weeks or more.

If you have any of these symptoms, it is important to get them checked by your GP.

Website: www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk

Facebook: Prince of Wales Surgery and Portesham Patient News

Our Night Sky in November 2026

Saturn will be visible throughout the night, with the rings now fully open. Mars and Jupiter are very close together, rising about 0100. Venus will be emerging from behind the Sun, to appear about 0700.



Dark matter is the invisible glue that holds the universe together. This mysterious material is all around us, making up most of the matter in the universe. But what exactly is dark matter? Dark matter makes up most of the mass in galaxies and galaxy clusters. In fact, scientists estimate that ordinary matter makes up only

about 5% of the universe, while dark matter makes up about 27% (the rest is thought to be dark energy, which is its own mystery). It's thought that dark matter shapes the cosmos, organizing galaxies and cosmic objects on a large scale. Today, scientists have even more direct evidence of dark matter. While dark matter doesn't interact with light, its gravity can bend light from distant galaxies, creating an effect called gravitational lensing. Studying galaxies distorted by gravitational lensing can help scientists better understand dark matter and its place in the universe.

Bill Turnill, with thanks to NASA

Events in the Bride Valley

Shipton Gorge Village Hall

Sunday 15th November, 3.30pm. Hailing from Prince Edward Island, Canada, Inn Echo present a high-



energy

Celtic sound blending fierce fiddle, grooving guitar and soaring cello. Their music captures the spirit of their journeys touring festivals on three continents, earning several awards and nominations along the way. Tickets are available via the Artsreach website or contact *Mark Sexton* on 01308 897649

Artsreach

Burton Bradstock Village Hall

Saturday 21st November, 7.30pm.

Amelia Armande and Joshua Crisp of the award-winning Ropetackle Storytellers present the story of the Gothic thriller *Jekyll & Hyde*, blending the original text with sinuous physicality, puppetry and dark humour.

Tickets are available via the Artsreach website or contact *David Witham* on 01308 897403



Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

Email: t.laycock70@gmail.com 01308 482443

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



Remembrance Sunday

Our annual service takes place on Sunday 8th November, starting at the slightly earlier time of 10.45am, to allow time to walk to the war memorial in time for the 2-minute silence at 11.00am. All are welcome to pay their respects.

Evensong

We are holding an evensong service on Sunday 22nd November. This is the first time in a decade that we've done this in the village. It's a reflective service with music, an ideal way to finish the weekend. Do come and join us, there will be plenty of singing.

Farewell

The beginning of October marked the completion of the sale of the Bridehead Estate and saw three more families departing from the village. We said goodbye to Adam, Lisa, Olivia and Harry Cooper from Littlebride; The Hooper family from Garden Cottage; and Fay, Adam and Hunter Barrett from Bigwood Lodge. We wish them all happiness in their new homes.

Ride and Stride

Huge thanks to everyone who took part in this year's Ride and Stride. We raised a grand total of £1240 which is an incredible amount, especially considering how depleted we are in numbers at the moment. Well done Littlebredy and friends far and near!

Jasper Shackleton

An obituary to Jasper can be found on page 57 of the online version of the BVN.

Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett

Email: richardhewlett419@gmail.com 01308 897278

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



Welcome to our village diary. Just search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to <https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/> where you will be able to find out all that's going on in the village.

St Martin's Church

Floodlight sponsors for November:

Janet Epplestone, for John & Bees' wedding anniversary

Doreen Rogers, in memory of Frank

Ed & Linda Buck

Colin & Myra Gardiner, for their wedding anniversary

Simon & Sue Melvin, for their 31st wedding anniversary on 4th

Geoffrey & Carolyn, for their 40th wedding anniversary on 14th

Thank you to our sponsors. We would welcome sponsors for December. If you wish to light up the Church, please contact Phyl: 01308 898657, or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage (Chapel Street) letter box. A suggested donation of £5 is much appreciated.

Community Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 5th–Sunday 13th December

This year in Shipton Gorge, St Martin's Church will be holding a Christmas Tree festival.

- groups (e.g., village organizations) and individuals can pay £35 to decorate a small living Christmas tree
- the undecorated trees will be put up in the church by Friday 4th December; a set of lights will be provided with each tree
- groups / individuals can go and decorate their tree on Friday 4th December, 4.00–6.00pm and/or Saturday 5th December, 10–12.00noon
- the festival will open to the public at 4.00pm on Saturday 5th
- while the festival is on, the church will be open daily, for the public to admire the beautifully decorated trees (no entry fee)

Any group or individual who is interested in decorating a tree, please contact Sue Melvin: 07860 157834 **by Saturday 7th November**, so that the organizers know how many trees they need to buy.

The trees will be taken down on Sunday 13th December. The undecorated trees will then be available for sale to anyone for a minimum donation of £10. Please contact Sue Melvin if you would like one. All proceeds will go towards the 'Fix St Martin's Church' fund.

Carol service: Sunday 6th December, 6.30pm

Blue Christmas service: Monday 7th December, 5.00pm

Christmas always seems to be accompanied by jolly songs, ringing tills, and the expectation that you will have a good time. But that's not how it feels for many people. Maybe your year has been hard for whatever reason (bereavement, illness, estrangement, worry) and Christmas seems to highlight the difficulties. Or maybe, in an over-busy life, you just want space to reflect, recall, regroup. Whatever the reason, whatever the need, come along to this quiet service, where we hope that you will find the space and hope which the Christmas story offers.

Christmas refreshments in Church: Saturday 12th December, 2.00–4.00pm

Breakfast church: In the church, Sunday 13th December, 9.30am

Christmas morning Holy Communion: Friday 25th December, 9.30am

'Spirit of Christmas' concert: Monday 21st December, 5.30pm. Join us for a joyful hour or so of music, poetry and prose to celebrate the festive season. Featuring: Anya Chomacki (mezzo-soprano), Oliver Hooper (tenor), Ian Bloomfield (baritone), Shipton Gorge Community Choir, and others...



Entry and refreshments for cash donations. This concert is in aid of the 'Fix St Martin's Church' fund, to keep our lovely church building in use for our community. Our current target is at least £10,000 for urgent repairs to the windows and porch.

Village Hall 100 Club

October 2026 Draw results

1st 55 £25 Adam Malcolm. 2nd 119 £10 Sue Raybould 3rd 44 £5 Jean Philby

Congratulations to all winners. The money raised via the 100 Club goes towards maintaining the Village Hall for everyone's use. For those who already support us, a huge thank you. We have more numbers available and welcome new supporters. It costs only £10 for the whole year, with the chance to win a cash prize each month and £100 first prize in the December and June draws. Contact Graham Garner: 01308 897357.

Pre-Christmas village get-together

Shipton Gorge Village Hall, Sunday 29th November, 12.00noon–2.00pm

It's going to be here sooner than you think! Shipton Gorge Bell Ringers are hosting this year and invite all villagers to this popular community event. Just bring a bottle and a plate of food to share (sweet or savoury finger food) and come and meet new villagers or catch up with long-established friendships. Please join us, everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you and getting into the festive spirit.

Advent windows for Shipton Gorge

Calling all Shipton Gorge residents! Following great success last year, please join in to create a village Advent Windows 2026 trail around Shipton Gorge.

How to take part Contact Kate Chomacki 07789 692338 OR message via the Shipton Gorge Community Facebook page any time between now and end November. Kate will allocate you a date between 1st and 24th December, or let you choose from those available. On your allocated date, put up a Christmas-related window, gate, or garden display which includes your number (i.e., the display for 1st December will include the number '1'). Your display can be as simple or as complicated as you like! We will produce a map showing the final locations of the 24 windows so that everyone can visit them all as they appear.



Shipton Gorge Christmas Market

Shipton Gorge Village Hall

Friday 11th December, 4.00pm–7.00pm

*The magic of Christmas is heading this way.
Come by foot, come by tractor, or even by sleigh.
Baubles and artwork, mulled wine and food,
Are enough to get even old Scrooge in the mood.
So please come along for an evening of joy.
Every man, every woman, and each girl and boy.*

Fancy-dress competition Calling all pixies, fairies, elves, and snowmen. You are cordially invited to take part in a Christmas-themed fancy-dress competition at the Shipton Gorge Christmas market. Judging will take place at 5.30pm, with a prize for the winner.

Call out for bakers Donations of cakes will be gratefully received from 2.00pm at the Hall on the day of the market.

Christmas-themed tombola Items for our Christmas-themed tombola can be delivered to East Court, Brook Street until Monday 7th December.

Christmas Cakes Pre-order your Christmas cake now:

4" serves 2–3 £6.00

8" family & friend size & invite the neighbours £15.00

G.F. & D.F. available

Pre-order by 1st December

If you would like to apply for a stall, require further information, or would like to order a Christmas cake, please contact Kim Bloomfield:
bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com 01308 346007 / 07754 245691.

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club

Winners of the October draw were Sue and Simon Melvin. Congratulations to both of you.

Saunders Richardson Wood

One of our trustees recently took part in a citizen science project – the Great UK Waterblitz. You will be pleased to know that, having taken samples for testing, the stream in the Wood had very low nitrate and phosphate levels, which suggests very good ecological status. We intend to open the wood on **Wednesday 25th November 11.00–12.00noon**. By then, we should have received a delivery of small saplings from The Woodland Trust and will need to get some of them planted along the hedge lines and within the wood. We have chosen a selection to support wildlife, by either providing cover, or as a valuable food source. If you would like to come along and either help or have a walk round, that would be great. This is a members' only event, but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

As with most crops this year, the apple harvest has been affected, with many of the fruits being damaged by the sun and obviously not swelling as much as they would normally. However, we did manage to pick a selection for display and tasting at our Apple Day event. We will be in the Orchard on **Monday 2nd November, 11.00–12.00noon** and will be collecting the last of the apples to then take them to Dorset Nectar Cider Farm for their Apple Swap – hopefully to exchange for a few bottles of their delicious organic cider.

You may have seen that the building work at the Village Hall has now been finished. Within the planning permissions was a requirement to include bird and bat boxes, plus an insect / bee brick in the design. The Village Hall Trust organized for these to be installed on the west-facing wall, and Shipton Gorge Heritage agreed to fund the purchase of them.

We will be holding our **AGM on Wednesday 18th November, 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. Please do come along to see what we have been doing over the last year, or even put yourself forward to be a Trustee? Perhaps we can tempt you in with a glass (or two) of wine and some mince pies!



If you are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe: 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://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/>

Village Society

Our Village Fete

On behalf of the Village Society, we would like to thank everyone involved in organising the event, and to all those generous villagers who contributed with cakes and items for the various stalls. It was wonderful to see our village organisations putting in such huge efforts to ensure everyone coming along, having a great time. We might be small but there is a big heart within the village. Let's keep the community spirit riding high. Thank you. We believe it was a great success.

Graham Garner

Chair V/S

(With apologies from the BVN, this notice from the Village Society was inadvertently omitted from the October edition).

Parish Council

Playing field: Repainting and refurbishing the slide, roundabout, and benches is well underway, and should be finished by the end of October, weather permitting. Our thanks to all those who have helped. We are also investigating additional

equipment, as suggested by respondents to the recent survey, and ways of funding the same.

Website: Tenders are out for the proposed new website, which will include a village diary.

Highways and road safety: Many of you have complained about the state of Port Lane. This has been brought to the attention of Dorset Council on several occasions, and it is on their list of roads which need resurfacing, but without any timescale. We will be taking this up again with the new Highways Officer when he is in place. There is also a new Council Officer responsible for road safety and we are seeking a meeting to discuss several concerns that have been raised by villagers.

Defibrillator and first aid training: We are still trying to find someone to run this session and hope to arrange it before the end of the year, as well as exploring the possibility of having a second defibrillator in the village.

There are several other initiatives underway, so do come along to our next meeting, which will take place in the Village Hall on **Thursday 12th November, 7.00pm**, to hear more.

Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell

email: jfirrell20@gmail.com 01308 482313

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



St Mary's

On Sunday 8th November at 4.00pm St Mary's will be holding a special Remembrance Service with words and music to mark the day, including an anthem sung by the choir. Do come and be part of our commemoration of all those who served to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

The repair work and upgrades on the church flagpole are now all complete and flags will be able to fly without fear of tangling or damage. Thank you to everyone who very generously contributed to the cost of the works, ensuring the village can mark special occasions for many years to come. Thank you to everybody who supported the Village Café on Saturday 5th September at LATCH - it was a huge success and we raised an amazing £2000 for church funds! It was great to see everyone enjoying the stalls; congratulations to all the prize winners. Thank you also to our generous sponsors - *Ford Farm (Cheese Factory), Bride Valley Vineyard, C G Fry, The White Horse and Modbury Farm Shop.*

Ride & Stride - Our intrepid riders from the village set off on Saturday 12th September to cycle round a selection of local churches, ranging from Cattistock in the North to Symondsbury and Abbotsbury in the West and East. Together, Emily & Richard Cave and Martyn Brooks raised approximately £1000 for DHCT, half of which will come back to St Mary's to boost window repair funds. We can also apply to the Trust for grants so a very worthwhile cause. Thank you to our riders and to all their very generous sponsors.

And finally, Sunday 29th is Advent Sunday. Our annual "Darkness to Light" service will be at 4.00pm that day with music from Paul and the Choir and readings to start our journey to Christmas. It will be a gentle and atmospheric service and all are welcome.

Look out for details of our Church Kneeler event in April next year!

Parish Council – Next Meeting Tuesday 10th November, 7.00pm, LATCH

If you attend the meeting, we can't guarantee too much excitement but you will witness how local democracy works and how the parish precept is spent. If you decide you might like to be part of it then we would love to hear from you – please contact Clerk Debbie whose details can be found at littoncheney.org.uk

Remembrance Day – Wednesday 11th November – Wreath Laying – All Welcome

On Wednesday 11th November there will be a Service of Remembrance including the laying of a wreath at the village war memorial in St Mary's churchyard. All are welcome. Please gather by **10.45am**. Two minutes silence will be held at 11.00am as we remember those from Litton Cheney who served their country in two World Wars but never returned.

Weight Limit on Whiteway

Vehicles over 7.5 tonnes (other than refuse lorries and tractors) are prohibited from using Whiteway. Getting the weight limit implemented was a long and hard-fought battle – let's make it count! If you witness such a vehicle, please report it to the Parish Council (details on the village website – www.littoncheney.org.uk) or call 101 (instructions shown on the village website home page). Registration number a must, and photo even better.

See it, Report it: Potholes

The more a pothole is reported, the further it moves up the list for repair.

Adopt a Drain

We are forecast to have a long wet and windy winter with the likelihood of local flooding. Why not “adopt” a drain near you, and take on the job of reporting it if it gets blocked. It could save you and your immediate neighbours from being flooded.

REGULAR EVENTS

Tuesdays	9.45-11.00am	Morning Yoga with Jane (07882 527697) janehutchinsyoga@outlook.com
	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 (contact as above)

OTHER EVENTS

Thursday 5 th	7.00pm onwards	Film Night “H is for Hawk” Starts 7.30
Saturday 7 th	9.30am – 12.30pm	Breakfast Art & Craft Cafe
Sunday 8 th	2.00-4.30pm	Lino Cut Workshop (Lusea Warner Gale (meeting room
Tuesday 10 th	7.00pm	Parish Council in Meeting Room
Thursday 12 th	6.45-9.00pm	W.I Craft in Meeting Room
	7.00pm	Alpha Course in Main Hall
Thursday 19 th	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Sunday 22 nd	10.00am - 1.00pm	Yoga with Nadiya
Thursday 26 th	7.00pm	Alpha Course
COMING UP...		
Friday 4 th Dec	6.30pm onwards	Christmas Bingo Night!

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

Christmas Greetings in the BVN – May we remind readers that they can place Christmas greetings in the December edition as in previous years. This year the chosen charity is the *Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance*, for which we believe there will be a high level of support. As previously, all the money received will be divided between the charity and the BVN, and any support will be very much appreciated. The BVN do not charge for entries, but ask that a donation is made, which in past years has raised a considerable amount, which has helped the BVN balance the books. For more details on how it all works see page 6 of this edition.



Bride Valley Bingo Fundraising Group

You are cordially invited to the CHRISTMAS BINGO at LATCH on Friday 4th December. Doors open at 6.30pm and eyes down at 7.30pm.

There will be great prizes, refreshment, a raffle and the bucket draw. All proceeds to go to a Dorset based charity.

Come and join us and wear a Christmas jumper!

A new Plan for the Parish

Visit at the Art & Craft Cafe, at Litton & Thorners Community Hall, on Saturday 7th Nov 9.30am-12.30pm.

● Do you love your village? ● Are there things you'd like to change or do you like things just the way they are? ● How would you like to see Litton Cheney develop over the next 5 to 10 years?

Come along to the community table at Village Art & Crafts Cafe on 7th November and find out what a Parish Plan is, why we are producing one now and what the benefits might be.

Make your views, needs and concerns known and help set the agenda to shape our village and bring about positive change where appropriate. For more information visit www.littoncheney.org.uk

The White Horse

How can it be November already? At the time of writing this we hadn't lit the log burner. Now it's less than eight weeks until Christmas apparently! Fortnightly quizzes and weekly meat draws are back in full flow and Sunday afternoon music continues until mid-November. We have a charity horse racing night planned for 21st November, then December's entertainment moves to Saturday nights with the Mummers Play on 5th, a Christmas Punk Party on 12th and Carols and mulled

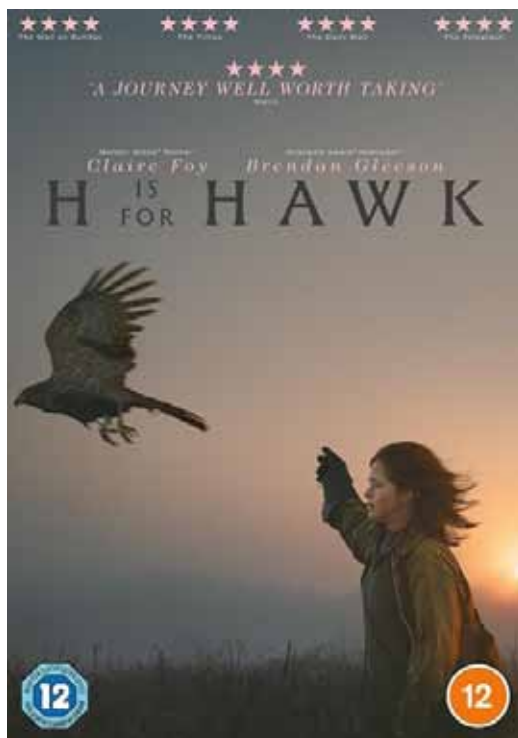
wine and cider, accompanied by Paul Cheater on the keyboard, on 19th. Please see our TV screen and Facebook page for more regular and detailed updates. Otherwise we are open as usual with a few tweaks to the menu for the autumn. Thank you for your ongoing support; we really appreciate it. See you when you can.

Andy and Liz xxx

BRIDE VALLEY FILMS at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

**Reminder...5th NOVEMBER –
“H IS FOR HAWK” ‘a
beautifully shot fact-based
drama’.**

When Helen's father passes away, she is overtaken by grief and loses herself in memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together. She becomes obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk, and so she brings the fearsome bird Mabel home her. As she labours to teach Mabel how to hunt and fly free on her own, Helen uncovers how neglected her own emotions and life have become. Starring Claire Foy, it is a soaring journey of the connection between people and nature, and how it might be possible to reconcile loss through love. Based on a true story.
Cert. 12+, 1hr 40”.



**THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER –
“THE SHEEP DETECTIVES”
*‘simply excellent and lots of fun’***



In this witty, new breed of mystery, George is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers. Starring Hugh Jackman

and Bryan Cranston. Cert.PG 1hr 50”.

Doors Open: 7.00pm. Films start 7.30pm. TICKETS: £6.00 (to include a glass of wine) available on the door. Look out for details in the BVN or on the website <http://www.littoncheney.org.uk/bridevalleyfilms.htm>

**Breakfast Art and Craft Café:
Saturday 7th November**

In aid of **Alzheimer's**

9.30am to 12.30am at LATCH, Litton Cheney.

Art, paintings including cynotope, dry point etching, textiles and mixed media, cards, Christmas presents, woodcraft, sculpture, Jewellery, candles, raffle and bottle stall and much, much more. Breakfast rolls, cakes, teas and coffees.

Come and have a morning with friends, browsing, having breakfast cooked for you, drinking tea and coffee and enjoying the pre-Christmas atmosphere.

For further information contact Liz at liz_gibbs@hotmail.com

Art and Craft Café



In aid of Alzheimers
Saturday 7th November
9.30 am to 12.30



Litton and Thorners Community Hall DT2 9AU

Breakfast Rolls, Coffee, Tea and cakes



**Raffle, Bottle tombola,
Artwork, sculpture, pottery,
textiles, Christmas gifts,
Jewellery, Candles and more!**



For more information please email Liz at Liz_gibbs@hotmail.com

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

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

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

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

Village websites: www.https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk

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



Puncknowle Church Remembrance Day Service

The Annual Remembrance Day Service will be held in St Mary's Church on Sunday November 8th at 10.45am. We hope all will join us to hear the names of the fallen read out and remember those who have given their lives in past conflicts, and pray for peace in the world.

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

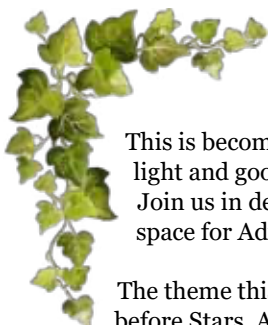
**Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club
Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy**

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

**17th November: Beef Bourguignon Roast Vegetables
Dessert to follow**

**8th December: Turkey with trimmings roast vegetables
Dessert to follow**

please contact David Buckland on 07597038141 for more details



**Advent Window Trail 2026
Puncknowle, Swyre &
Beyond**

This is becoming a growing tradition spreading light and goodwill across the Bride Valley. Join us in decorating your windows or outside space for Advent from the beginning of December.

The theme this year is The Holly and the Ivy. As before Stars, Angels, Kings and Camels are part of the Christmas story if you would like to recycle previous displays or just keep it simple.

If you'd like to participate, please do let us know where you are before the end of November.

We will provide you with a laminated number to add to your display and we'll make a map available to enable everyone to follow this year's Advent Trail.

Puncknowle & Swyre Churches

Please contact Sue Lang:
T. 07557 951305
E. sue.lang@hotmail.com



Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley

Email: bvn@longbredy.org.uk 01308 482586

Village website: <https://longbredy.org.uk/>



Long Bredy 100 Club Results – September 2026

£25	No.31	S Dyer
£15	No.100	D Andrews
£5	No.23	D Peretz

This was drawn on the 20th September 2026, at Long Bredy Church after the Harvest Service, by Andrew Bailey, Stuart Horsley and Ruth Cullingford.

Village News and Updates

On the 19th of September people gathered at Long Bredy Village Hall to remember and celebrate the life of Brian Lee. Carol, Briony and many helpers had arranged a wonderful afternoon tea for all who were there. The people attending came from all aspects of Brian's life, family, professional, and many clients who used Brian's architectural services.

Carol and Briony would like to thank everyone who came and contributed in any way. Carol said "Don't let us underestimate the power of a HUG!! I had so many on Saturday afternoon on what was a pretty emotional occasion. A hug can convey so many things which may be difficult to put into words!!"

Thanks to the generosity of the people attending a donation will be made to Lewy Body Dementia and Glaucoma UK in Brian's memory.

Congratulations to Delia and Lola on coming 4th (only missing out by 1 point to be in the finals) at the Quest semi-finals. Also, to the whole team who came 6th overall.

The film Sense and Sensibility which was partly filmed at Kingston Russell House has been shown at local cinemas. It is a highly recommended watch if only for the footage shot in and around the house.

Harvest Lunch

If you didn't get along to the Harvest Lunch held in October at the LATCH you missed a fantastic event. The room look wonderful with a real feeling of Harvest. The food was amazing, beautifully presented with much of it sourced and donated locally and tasting delicious. The raffle prizes were outstanding.

The Kinghorn family would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who came along. Thanks to your incredible support, they raised an amazing £2,100 for Pancreatic Cancer UK! This brings Sean/Spud's fundraising total to an incredible £5,905!

An extra special thank you to everyone who donated, gave up their time, contributed money, or helped in any way to make the event such a success.

Coffee Break

The Coffee Break in October saw many local people meeting over the wonderful refreshments that are always on offer. It was lovely to see so many people making the most of being able to get together and catch up on the village news, both personal and local.

Come Along Inn

September's Come Along Inn saw a lovely relaxed atmosphere where people enjoyed a drink and possibly also a jacket potato. As always everyone is welcome and a big thank you to all the volunteers that make this monthly event possible.

Ladybirds

The Ladies from the villages of Long Bredy, West Bexington, Swyre, Puncknowle & Litton Cheney have been enjoying getting together once a month in the evening to enjoy good company, interesting talks, making new friends and the occasional outing for over 30+ years.

They meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, usually in Long Bredy Village Hall at 7.00pm for a few hours, with refreshments included. All are Welcome.

Membership is £12 for the year and £3.00 on the evening to cover speakers & refreshments, £5.00 for non-members. If you are interested in joining Email: ladybirdsbv@gmail.com or call Florence on 07788100660

St Peter's Church

Churchyard: Many thanks to everyone who have helped look after the Churchyard this season. We have many visitors who regularly compliment on how well the Church and Churchyard is cared for.

Bank Card Reader: our thanks to Ruth Cullingford and Andrew Bailey who recently set up a Bank Card Reader in the Church. We rely on donations, fund raising and Church service collections to finance our many outgoings and to keep the Church and Churchyard in good repair. We have to pay for electricity, insurance, service of the mowers and fuel. Also contribute to Rev'd Andrew's wages amongst other things. With people using less cash we hope this will improve our financial situation.

We get no help from the Church of England, so if you feel you would like to contribute to the care of the Church, especially for past generations who have lived in the village and are buried in the Churchyard. We would be very grateful. If you wish, a regular donation could be made via Ruth - our Treasurer.

Harvest Festival, the Church was decorated beautifully with our 'Watering Can' theme. So many different Watering Cans, even a knitted one, thank you to all those who contributed to this wonderful display. A lovely service was taken by the Rev'd Andrew and the food donated was taken to the Bridport Food Bank.

Future Events

Christmas Greetings

I know it is still a little way off but have you thought about sending your Christmas best wishes to neighbours and friends in the village and Bride Valley through the Bride Valley News. For a donation your Christmas Greetings can be included in the December copy. Donations can be dropped off at 12 The Gardens, Long Bredy. Please don't forget to include the name or names for the dedication. For other ways of making your donation, please see page 6 of this edition. The deadline for this is the 9th November to allow for printing and delivery by the 1st of December. The money raised is shared with the Bride Valley News and the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Christmas Quiz

The Long Bredy Christmas Quiz is now available. This year it is 'Name that Colour'. We know this has become part of the tradition of Christmas for many families in the Bride Valley. Some people even include a copy in their Christmas cards to family and friends. If you would like a copy please look out for them locally including the village Coffee Break and the Come Along Inn. Copies can also be picked up from Caddy Sitwell (please text Caddy on 07794359525) or from Helen Horsley at 12 The Gardens, Long Bredy 01308 482586. A donation of £2 per copy is requested, all money raised goes to maintain Long Bredy Village Hall.

Coffee Break

Please note change of date and time.

To raise funds for the 'Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal' there will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th November, 10.00am-12.00 noon in Long Bredy Village Hall. As well as excellent refreshments we shall have a cake and produce stall along with a raffle. Do come and support this worthy cause. Cakes to sell would be most appreciated. Just before 11.00am we shall have the Exhortation and then a two minutes silence followed by the Kohima Epitaph. Poppies will be available at the coffee morning and also in St Peter's Church and at the White Horse.

Come Along Inn

As winter is here with its darker and colder evenings a warm welcome can be found at the Come Along Inn on Friday 20th November, 5.30-9.00pm. Why not come along and meet old and new friends, enjoy a drink or even some supper. Don't forget November's Come Along Inn is traditionally the month when the local charities that will be benefitting from those surplus funds made through the year, will be announced.

If you are planning on eating, please let us know by phoning 01308 482270 or email aking44634@aol.com letting Gwen know how many and at what time you will require your order.

St Peter's Church

Remembrance Day - Our Church will be decorated including a bell rope covered in poppies around the church door, in honour of the six young men of the village who died in the First World War and the twenty men who returned safely from the Second World War, plus the soldier who died in Aden. We share the service with Little Bredy on Sunday 8th November. Meet at the War Memorial, Little Bredy Church at 10.50am for a short service and the two minutes silence at 11.00am. Then if you wish, proceed into Church for a different service reflecting on the men who died from the villages. This will be locally led.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Long Bredy Village Hall on Monday 30th November, 7.00pm.

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton

Email: patgrafton43@gmail.com 01308 898264

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



Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride Fundraising Event

Very Many Congratulations to those people from Burton Bradstock who took part in this worthy event in September and Very Many Thanks to the large number of generous sponsors.

Andrew Bailey, once again, cycled around all the Bride Valley and Chesil churches covering 30 miles. Jane Stubbs and Liz Orza walked to the different churches, including the Cathedral, in Salisbury. Our Rector Andrew Rawding did something

completely different. He ran in the Berlin Marathon past six churches. They were all encouraged by the knowledge that their efforts were being supported by their sponsors.

Together they raised over £900 for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust which gives grants for the repair of historic churches throughout Dorset. Half of the monies raised is returned to the parish.

Harvest Thank You

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the success of St Mary's Harvest Service. The church looked wonderful thanks to the skills of Pat B, Pat L-B, Elaine C, Cilla J, Susan P, and Kate S.

Special thanks to Elaine U for keeping us supplied with coffee; Rebecca B, Kate S & Collette F for the amazing quantity of flowers supplied from their gardens & Maureen M for the fruit & veg decorations. Our thanks also go to D&S Symonds, Thatchers, for the sheaf of wheat. Food donations have gone to Bridport Food bank. A lovely community event.



Carol Higho

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 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 date below. They run from 10.00am to 12.00noon, and all are welcome.

Wed 11th Nov Burton Bradstock School

There will be no Wednesday Coffee morning in December due to the number of other activities in the month.

Christmas Market

The Village Hall Trust Christmas Market and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 5th December from 10.00am to 12.00noon. There will be a range of stalls selling

Christmas craft items, decorations and things that make good Christmas presents, as well as the usual tea/coffee and cakes service. All proceeds go to the Village Hall Trust. Anyone interested in taking one of the sale tables (£11 each) should contact Richard Ferre via rwferre99@gmail.com. Tables are limited, so availability cannot be guaranteed.

Christmas Quiz

The hugely popular Christmas Quiz will be held on Saturday 13th December, with the Quiz prepared and run by Richard Ferre. Doors will open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start. The ticket price of £13 per head (unchanged from last year) will include a light supper, plus all the normal crackers, party poppers and balloons that add to the festive fun. There will be a sensibly priced bar, raffle and prizes for winners and last place.

There will be teams of 8 (max) per table and the central aisle will be kept free. Tickets will go on sale at the Post Office on Wednesday 18th November on a first come first served basis. Buying 6 tickets or more guarantees you your own team table. Individuals or pairs wishing to join in should purchase tickets from the Post Office, then contact Richard requesting a team place. We always find team places for everyone. If history is a guide, tickets will sell out in a few hours, so put the “on sale” date in your diary now.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” October 2026 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£32.00	No 77:	Mrs Alison Hawes
2 nd	£16.00	No 98:	Mr Simon Wheatley
3 rd	£8.00	No 32:	Mr Richard Ferre

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the November 2026 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £2 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock Village Society

Friday 14th November Presentation Evening “History of the Flax Trade and its effect on Burton Bradstock”

The speaker, Richard Sims, is a researcher and author of various books including one on the Flax and Sailcloth Industry. Doors open at 7.00pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your friends.

Saturday 28th November, Village Hall & Green 5.00-6.00pm

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

Sponsor a Christmas Tree ornament

Once again, the Village Society is running a "Sponsor a decoration" programme. For £5 you get to choose a decoration (star or ball) of your choice and colour of your choice, plus we will add whatever words you wish on them. They will be used for 3 years and you can either put them on yourself this year or we will put them on for you. The money raised is used to fund replacement lights, which in our area typically only last 2 years.

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

Diary Date

The Christmas Bingo evening is on Friday 4th December with the majority of prizes being meat products from the Village Farm Shop and Post Office.

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Roadside Boundary Hedges

Following mentions in two previous issues of the BVN regarding the safety problems caused by roadside hedges encroaching onto the highway beyond property boundaries, we are grateful to those residents who have already made a real effort to cut their hedges back. Unfortunately, there are still a number of hedges which need to be trimmed back within the boundaries of their properties. This is an important safety issue, particularly for pedestrians, as well as for motorists, because overgrown hedges can significantly restrict lines of vision along the roads and when entering or leaving properties.

As the Parish Council has received a number of complaints regarding the current safety concerns, it is obliged to take appropriate action where necessary. The next step will therefore be to deliver notices to individual households where hedges are causing an obstruction, asking that the necessary cutting back is carried out as soon as practicable. We would much prefer to avoid the need for formal notices

wherever possible and hope that residents will appreciate the importance of keeping our roads and footways safe and clear for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who has already taken action, and to all residents for their understanding and co-operation.

Allotments

Fancy growing your own? A limited number of allotment plots are now available in beautiful Burton Bradstock! Whether you dream of growing fresh fruit and vegetables, enjoying some time outdoors, or discovering a rewarding new hobby, an allotment is a wonderful way to get growing and connect with your local community. Everyone is welcome — from seasoned gardeners to complete beginners! Don't miss out on the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of allotment gardening in our lovely village.

Interested in a plot? For availability, costs and further information, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk.

December Parish Council Meeting

You are warmly invited to the December Parish Council Meeting. There will be a brief meeting followed by refreshments, we look forward to seeing you there. The meeting is at 6.30pm on Wednesday 2nd December in St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who work so hard to keep our village clean and tidy. Your time, effort, and dedication is very much appreciated. Thank you for your continued hard work and community spirit.

Burton Coffee Mates

Coffee! Cakes! Chat!

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

Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

We are a very friendly group who meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1.45pm until 4.30pm to play duplicate bridge. If you have played bridge before but feel you are a bit rusty this would be ideal! We could find you a partner if necessary and you would be assured of an enjoyable afternoon with a break for tea and biscuits. Please come and make some new friends.

For more information, please contact Kathy on 01308 485626

Supper Club

This month's Supper Club will be on Monday 9th November.
Any enquiries please phone Mags Chue on 07790 811905.

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Many thanks to all of the Friends who have paid their subscriptions recently. This all goes towards keeping our library going, covering utility bills and maintenance of our building. If anyone wishes to become a Friend, forms are available in the library and subs are just £5 minimum.

Saturday Drop-ins have proved successful so will continue until the end of the year. Extra helpers would be much appreciated so please let the duty volunteers or trustees know if you can assist.

Christmas cards are now available in the Library and the Post Office. Do pop in and buy some, and again help us provide a large variety of services through Dorset Libraries and Libraries West. The whole catalogue over the seven local authorities provides an amazing choice and library cards are free. We also offer photocopying, lamination, e-services, maps, notelets and more!

Opening hours for all our library services are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

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Sue Brown, Chairman

Burton Bradstock WI

At our October meeting we were introduced to "Perfect Pearls". Generations of women have worn pearls to add that finishing touch. But what do we really know about them? Kate Jackson told us more!

Now summer time is over! And WI meetings move to the afternoons until the spring. Stephanie McCulloch, Senior Legal Advisor at Porter Dodson LLP, is our speaker on 10th November at 2.15pm. "Where there's a Will..." Might there be a way? Come along and find out more!

Meanwhile, members continue preparations for the Early Christmas Fayre, 10.00am-12.00noon on 14th November, with Dorset buttons, napkin rings and

crackers just some of the items on sale. Come along and see what takes your fancy. Also, coffee and mince pies! and a raffle for a hamper.

There will be a shopping trip to Exeter and the Christmas market on Thursday 19th November, coach leaving from the Shoes at 8.30am, set down on Exeter High Street (returning for 5-5.30). This trip is open to all! Cost £15 plus a £5 deposit – contact Carol Higho (carol.higho@yahoo.com or phone, 07806 898361) to book a place and pay the £5 deposit.

On 25th November, the lunch outing will be to the Garden Centre at Ottery St Mary (using own transport, not a coach).

All ladies are welcome to come along and join us.

With all the above activities, there will be no excuses for not being ready for Christmas this year!

Burton Bradstock Post Office

We would just like to thank everyone for their tremendous support at the recent coffee morning including all the helpers and organisers (couldn't have done it without you)! The morning raised £854, which is amazing and will go a long way towards the winter bills and a fridge repair

As I'm sure most of you are aware we are now stocking Evershot Bakery bread as well as Charmouth Bread, and as the time is approaching our Christmas order book is now open so please get your orders in for meats/cheese/dairy etc, also our hampers will be available.

And on the post office side the Christmas stamps go on sale on the 3rd of November.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Gill & Pete

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

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

It is quite natural for you curates to enjoy working with young people in your parishes; church youth clubs were created in order to keep the newly ordained off the streets in the evenings. But be assured you will grow out of it. I consent to baptise babies and prepare teenagers for confirmation,



but beyond that my contact with this alien life form is kept to an absolute minimum.

Dear Miss Thrush runs our weekly Pram Service - whose sole purpose seems to be to give young mothers an opportunity to discuss the ever-changing liaisons within the village, while their offspring shred hymn books and destroy the flower arrangements. I drop in from time to time in order to check that the more mobile haven't found where we hide the matches. An infant equipped with that knowledge can so easily become a teenage pyromaniac.

I can give you little advice on your youth group. When I was a curate, the major activity seemed to be to teach them how to wear gas masks, although today I imagine there is more concern about protecting them from other sorts of exotic chemicals. Also, I suspect you are kept busy keeping the young out of the darker corners of the churchyard as they develop their anatomical knowledge - a past-time still enthusiastically pursued by each new generation.

You clearly find your monthly Youth Service a deeply enriching experience. As far as I am concerned, if such a liturgy had been necessary, then Cranmer would have provided us with one. Endlessly repeated choruses accompanied by a guitar would make me warm to the Quakers. I am sure St Paul's services would have been much enriched with Hymns Ancient and Modern. The disciples in hiding in Jerusalem were not even able to sing accompanied by an organ, which must have greatly dispirited them. I also feel that our Verger would be unable to cope with organising the strobe lighting and dry ice effects. It takes him all his time to remember to light the candles on the altar.

On this matter we must differ. You must worship God in your way, and I in His.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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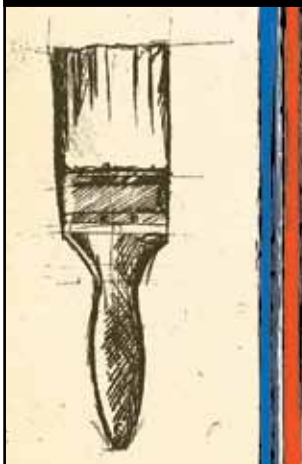


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Litton Cheney	9.30am Holy Communion	4pm Remembrance Evensong			4pm From Darkness to Light, Advent Service
Puncknowle		10.45am Remembrance Service		11am Café Church	
Swyre	11am Holy Communion	10.45 Remembrance Sunday Service	3pm Evening Prayer		
Shipton Gorge		10.30am Remembrance Service	9.30am Breakfast Church		11am Benefice Service of Holy Communion
Long Bredy	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Worship		
Littlebredy		10.45 Remembrance Service		5.30pm Evensong	
Portesham		10.50 Remembrance Service	11am Holy Communion	2.00pm Scouting in Portesham Thanksgiving Service	
Abbotsbury	11am Holy Communion	10.00am Act of Remembrance	10am Morning Worship		
Langton Herring	9am BCP	9am Holy Communion	11am Morning Worship	6pm Evening Prayer	
Wednesday November 4th Nov Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock 11.30am followed by a light lunch. Thursday November 26th Holy Communion at Portesham 11.30am followed by lunch					

Online edition Appendix

Jasper Shackleton

Littlebrey furniture maker who re-enacted Captain Bligh's 4,000 mile Pacific voyage



Jasper Shackleton, who has died aged 68, was a furniture maker who led an expedition to mark the bicentenary of Captain William Bligh's epic voyage across the Pacific.

A relative of the polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, Jasper, known as 'Spin' to his friends, was a sailing enthusiast who had travelled to the South Pacific in his early thirties, when he was first inspired by the story of Captain Bligh sailing 3600 nautical miles [4100 miles] from Tonga to Timor in the Dutch East Indies after HMS Bounty's crew mutinied, and he and 18 others were set adrift in Bounty's open launch.

Realising that the bicentenary was near, Shackleton decided to replicate the epic endeavour. He obtained plans in the National Maritime Museum which detailed the lines, sail plan and rig; he spent six months building an exact replica, mostly single-handed, with some help from an apprentice. He named the boat Elizabeth Bligh after Bligh's wife, and she soon became known as 'Lizzy.'

He recruited five others for the voyage: James Armstrong, fireman and radio operator; Paul Hadley, foundry worker and chef; Ian Lawson, doctor; Angus McCallum, accountant and store; and Robin Todd, yachtsman and navigator.

In 1989, Shackleton had "Lizzy" transported to Tofua and started the voyage 200 years after Captain Bligh, emulating the passage plan and equipment used as closely as possible. No modern sailing or navigation equipment was carried, and Shackleton and his crew used celestial navigation, managing to find a 200-yard-

wide gap through the Great Barrier reef in the middle of the night from star sights and dead reckoning. They carried charts and two sextants.

The voyage was not without its challenges and excitement; the radio communication equipment and emergency beacons failed in the harsh environment, meaning that the crew were completely self-reliant in the middle of the world's largest ocean.

Paul Hadley the cook, collapsed in agony and nearly had an emergency appendicitis operation at sea, but was eventually evacuated from a remote island. Angus McCallum recalled that constant chatting kept the crew sane. Dinner was the main event of the day, and the subject of intense anticipation. "We would spend the whole morning talking about what we would like to have, then most of the afternoon talking about what we were actually going to have. In fact, their food was monotonous. Diet on board the "Lizzie" consisted of instant mashed potato, rice and lifeboat ration packs, vitamin pills and fish such as tuna, which they caught and which would then be eaten for breakfast, lunch and dinner. They obtained fresh fruit when they landed on islands and would swap unappetising meal packs for cigarettes with locals.

The weather was merciless. Shackleton was warned by the Australian Navy not to cross the Coral Sea at that time of year, a warning that he ignored. The log records that they faced a Force 10 storm with 30 ft waves and 'dense streaks of spume', sailing under 'bare poles'; they also endured a period of two weeks totally becalmed.

Once they arrived in Timor, where Captain Bligh had finished his journey, they were arrested, deported, and had to sail approximately 600 further nautical miles to Bali. Their voyage took nearly twice as long as the 48 days taken by Bligh, and one of the crew almost missed his wedding, making it home with just a day to spare.

After his expedition Shackleton was awarded the Royal Cruising Club's seamanship medal and was presented by Queen Elizabeth with the Winston Churchill Trust medal.

Jasper Simon St John Shackleton was born on October 24th 1957 and grew up in West London and on Hayling Island off the South coast near Portsmouth, where he learnt how to sail from a young age with his siblings. His parents were Jacqueline, nee Tate, an artist and sculptor, and Keith Shackleton MBE, the marine and wildlife artist and naturalist. Jasper's father had travelled through every sea lane in the world, and captured diverse scenery and wildlife as he went, including dramatic scenes of icy seas and churning waters of the Antarctic and high Arctic.

Jasper attended Dartington Hall, a progressive school near Totnes in Devon. His main interest was in woodwork; he learned to make canoes using hand tools, which sowed the seeds for a lifelong passion. After leaving school became a furniture maker and designer, later specialising in inlay made from walnut, yew and tulipwood. The work was intricate and required immense patience and attention to detail. He made fine cabinets, fire bellows, tables and chairs. Later in life Shackleton started a seven-year project to restore a derelict dairy in Littlebredy which he made into his family home. He completed most of the work himself, with the help of his wife Jo. They had met on Easter Island in 1987 where she was working as the sailmaker on a tall ship, a square rigger named Sea Cloud, and it was while sailing around the Pitcairn Islands that Shackleton had the idea for his life-defining voyage.

As well as furniture making, Shackleton gave motivational speeches about his expedition, alongside running a bed-and-breakfast business, picture framing, and planting and maintaining woodland at home in Dorset.

He married Jo in 1999 in St Michael and All Angels, Littlebredy, where his two children Edmund and Domino were both baptised.

Jasper Shackleton, born October 24th 1957, died August 26th 2026