

# BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

online edition



May 2026

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

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## Information for Contributors

**June 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 8<sup>th</sup> May for the June issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley can be emailed to [bvnburton@gmail.com](mailto:bvnburton@gmail.com). Handwritten or typed copy must be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact [bvctc@outlook.com](mailto:bvctc@outlook.com) for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, often with additional items which could not be fitted into the printed version, can be found at [bvns.org.uk](http://bvns.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](mailto: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](mailto:Les@Keatley.me.uk)

## From the Rectory

Dear friends,

As we enter the month of May it's a good opportunity to ask ourselves: am I, or are we, ready for new growth? The month of May (Maius, in Latin) is after all named after the ancient Roman Goddess Maia, the goddess of growth and fertility. The growth associated with Maia was nurturing growth, linked to concepts of motherhood. May is also the month within the Catholic tradition which is dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. In gardening, May is a great time to be planting out those summer bedding plants, and the tomatoes, courgettes and other tender vegetables that up until now have needed to be protected against the risk of frost. In our churches, green is the 'liturgical' colour represented on the altar, the lectern and in the priest's stole as a symbol of this season of growth. So, May is a time for new growth. How about it?

I love the idea that new growth starts in darkness. Think of the darkness of the womb. Think of the darkness underground for bulbs and seeds. For the first time this year we've tried to grow vegetables from seed, wrapped in wet tissue and placed in the darkness and warmth of the airing cupboard. The pumpkins, courgettes, cucumbers and tomatoes have been great so far. But I also love the idea that personal new growth can also start from darkness, from suffering, from set-backs and disappointments. 'Let there be light' were the words spoken into darkness in the Genesis creation story. There couldn't be light without the darkness. There can't be new light and new life and new growth in our own lives unless we are willing to be honest with ourselves, accept the need for it and then take steps to speak it and act it into life. Look in the mirror sometime and say: 'Let there be light', and then smile, and then do something good for yourself or someone else.

Honesty and transparency with ourselves is arguably the first step to new growth. In the Easter story Jesus appears to his disciples after his death not as some super-being, but with the wounds and the scars still in place. We often are in denial about our own wounds and scars, or find it difficult to face them and the truth about ourselves. But taking time to reflect on, and empathise with, and understand ourselves can be a necessary start to new growth. It can help us be honest with ourselves about what is holding us back. What weeding do we need to do in our own lives? What turning over the soil or pruning do we need to do to promote new growth? Harmful habits and harmful practices may need to be acknowledged. Self-compassion and kindness may need to be activated, giving ourselves permission to change and grow.

There is also the powerful Easter story where Jesus appears to his disciples after his death, and three times says to them 'Peace be with you', relieving their fears and strengthening their hearts. Jesus also emphasises the need to forgive and be

forgiven. Unforgiveness of ourselves and others can keep us prisoners of the past and stifle new growth, like a seed unable, or too frightened to open. Growth is not instantaneous. It takes time; it's a process. Maybe you can start with a simple prayer: 'Help me forgive, help me find peace, and help me to grow.'

As part of my own healing, I am taking encouragement from simple observations in the garden and from nature. I need new forgiveness, new peace and new growth as much as anybody, for myself and for my relationships. You can explore new growth in your way and in your time. I just thought I would suggest it and encourage the possibility.

May you be blessed richly in May. May it be a beautiful month for you. May you experience wonderful new growth.

Peace be with you,

Andrew

## From the Registers

Baptism: Casey-May at Puncknowle 22nd March

Funerals:

Clare Viney - Burton Bradstock 16<sup>th</sup> March

Jane Goodrich - Swyre 17<sup>th</sup> March

Irene Smith - Burton Bradstock 27<sup>th</sup> April



## Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

**'Do justice; love kindness; and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)**

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

### A message from our headteacher

It was another busy half term before the Easter holidays. We loved hosting the Coffee Stop for families and villagers. Owl class served teas, coffees and cakes brilliantly and all of the other classes visited the Coffee Stop. The morning culminated with a ukulele concert by Kingfisher class! We are grateful to everyone who helped out - baking cakes,



setting up tables, making teas and coffees and so much more.

One Saturday in March, we had a beautiful morning planting 30 saplings around our Outdoor Education area on Corncrake field. These were donated by Burton Bradstock WI in recognition of this organisation's 110-year anniversary. It was wonderful to see so many families and villagers working together to enhance our outdoor space and enjoying the area together. We even enjoyed refreshments, including hot cross buns and brioche toasted on the campfire, thanks to Mrs Proudfoot.

Our Rocksteady musicians gave us a wonderful performance, sharing the music they had been learning in their lessons. Rocksteady is a popular extra-curricular activity at school, with many of our pupils learning an instrument as part of a rock band.



The end of term was marked with our Easter service in the church. Each class retold part of the Easter story, the Year 6s narrated the service and everyone sang with infectious enthusiasm.

Our Duck Race was a huge success with a grand total of £3174.70 being raised! Thank you to Elena, Katie and the Friends of the school for arranging such a fantastic, fun-filled afternoon. We are very grateful to everyone who got involved to help us out, especially the Burton Bradstock Village Society. Thank you to everyone who came to join in the fun and help raise money for our school too. There are more photos of the musicians and the Duck Race in the online edition.

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

We have spaces available in our preschool for children who are due to turn 4 before August 31st 2026. If you would like to visit our happy and friendly village school, please contact the school office to arrange a tour: 01308 897369 or [office@burtonbradstockprimary.org](mailto:office@burtonbradstockprimary.org).

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



## Thorners CE VA School

We had a super end to term a few weeks ago with our usual service in church - and it was lovely to see the pre-school children join us for the walk up as the older pupils rang the bells and even played the organ as the children came in.

Photos of this and of other recent school events and trips are now visible on our new school website - many thanks to Iain Cooper, Claire Moore and Tom Staple for all their help in setting this up for us. It should capture a much better picture of Thorners for all to see and also enable staff to upload documents and photos more promptly for parents.

This term holds much hard work for the children - especially those in year 6 as they build up to their SATs exams at the end of May but they are also excited to get stuck into the usual summer term activities we have planned for them including windsurfing, history walks, TSA Disco and Dance lessons to name but a few!

We also look forward to visits in school from local lifeguards as they give the children tips on how to stay safe at the beach this summer as well as sports and skills sessions for the younger pupils as we make the most of our school field this term. We are also hoping to carry out some more works to our wildlife, Forest school area with a combined project to further enhance the area's accessibility as well as improve parts of the site such as the pond area and fire pit.

Lastly, we are planning some walks around the valley with the older pupils so you may see a class or two out and about in the coming weeks as we explore certain aspects of the Bride and its valley.

*Mike Sitch*  
*Headmaster*

### BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

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

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

We always welcome new drivers.

## Bride Valley WI

As we write this, I'm sure the whole of The Bride Valley is enjoying the long-awaited Spring sunshine. Let us hope it continues. The surrounding fields are green, the trees are budding, the birds are singing, the bees are buzzing and the white blossom is stunning in the hedgerows. We are all so lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country.

Our walk on 29th March took us to Black Down Nature reserve a great place to enjoy the Dorset countryside. We set off enjoying the almost 360-degree views but soon stopped to investigate the Stone Circle. The circle we discovered consists of five totems that are aligned to true north and the midwinter and midsummer solstice sunrises and sunsets. Of course, Hardy's Monument is ever present towering over the landscape. Bluebells were beginning to show their blue brightness, and a joyful morning of slightly strenuous exercise was enjoyed by all, topped off with refreshments at Ducks.

Our monthly meeting was somewhat seasonal being all about chocolate. Garry (pictured on the right) from Aleksandra's Chocolate Cafe in Bridport came to talk to us about all things chocolate including the trials and tribulations of starting a business. He gave us a demonstration and allowed some members a little hands-on participation. He of course shared his chocolates with us.



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

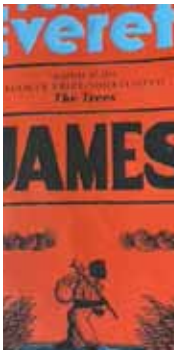
The Bride Valley WI also have a subgroup, "Craft Club." We are learning new and old crafts and are looking forward to our 3rd entry into the Melplash Show. 3 wins we hope.

Our Village Cafe held at The Latch on Saturday 28th March 2026 was as always, a success, raising around £550. Thank you to all the visitors and all our members who made cakes and helped on the day.

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



## The Bride Valley Book Club Review



### “James” by Percival Everett

For once we were unanimous in our approval for “James” by Percival Everett. Of course, we all knew about the character of Jim, the slave, and his role in Mark Twain’s famous novel “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”. Brownie points to one member who had read the original and could see the connections between both novels. Everett puts Jim front and centre stage. He escapes from his owner after discovering that he is about to be sold - leaving his wife and child behind. His plan is to avoid getting caught and to somehow acquire enough money to buy the freedom of his family. This is a huge challenge

but Jim’s owner and many of the white folk he encounters during his journey are completely unaware of Jim’s ability and resourcefulness. Jim is self-taught having spent many stolen hours in Judge Thatcher’s library. He can read and write and is familiar with the enlightened ideas of Voltaire and John Locke. He can fish, self-medicate snake bites and has an enviable tenor voice. Most impressively he can speak fluent “white person” but with a much better vocabulary. Jim’s accomplishments allow him to survive many adventures - and some bizarre characters - up and down the Mississippi River. Sometimes he is with Huck Finn who is also running away and whose own exploits tend to happen off the page. The author does not flinch from the awful injustice and cruelty of slavery but there is wry comedy to be found in the story. Unknown to Jim is the political upheaval of the imminent American Civil War with the southern states in their attempt to preserve slavery as an economic and social norm - seceding from the northern states who wanted abolition. This clever and inventive retelling is an entertaining page turner and can be enjoyed at face value. It also raises questions about atonement, the legacy of slavery on the American psyche, the vexed issue of reparation and whether “white guilt” can ever be resolved.

*Liz Pinfield*

### Bride Valley Gardening Club

We held our first meeting of 2026 in March when we had a very entertaining and informative talk by David Ennals on Bonsai, about which most of us knew nothing!

By the time you receive this newsletter we will also have held the AGM and hope that we will have some new members on the committee, so that the club can continue into the future. It’s never too late to make contact and volunteer to help.

At the next meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May we look forward to welcoming James Cross, Head Gardener at The Bishops Palace Garden, Wells.

Tickets will also be available for our Celebrity Talk in June when we have David Hurron coming to speak to us on “Creating a Jungle Garden”. David is Associate Editor of BBC Gardeners World, a gardening journalist, tutor and lecturer, and RHS Judge. Tickets are £5 each either in person at the meetings or by contacting [bridevalleygc@gmail.com](mailto:bridevalleygc@gmail.com).

Meetings are held at LATCH, Litton and Thorners Community Hall, DT2 9AU and doors open at 7.00pm for drinks and chat. Guests are welcome for £2.

## Portesham Surgery

**Hay fever Season:** At this time of year many of us are affected by Hay fever. You may experience symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose, coughing and itchy eyes. Although there is no cure, there are some things you can do to relieve your symptoms.

- Put petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline) around your nostrils to trap pollen
- Wear wraparound sunglasses, a mask or a wide-brimmed hat to stop pollen getting into your nose and eyes.
- Shower and change your clothes after you have been outside to wash pollen off
- Keep windows and doors shut as much as possible
- Vacuum regularly and dust with a damp cloth
- Try to use a pollen filter in the air vents of your car, if you have one, and a HEPA filter in your vacuum cleaner

If you need support with your Hay fever, speak to a pharmacist about over-the-counter treatments such as antihistamines or nasal sprays.

## Contact details and preferences.

Have you changed your telephone number in the last few years? Do you use a different email address? Or maybe you have stopped using your landline recently.

If you think we hold out of date contact details for you, please do update us so that we can contact you easily and efficiently. You can update your contact details and/or preferences with us via the telephone, in person or digitally by sending us an email or a Systmconnect request via our website.

**Surgery Renovation Project** As reported in the last newsletter, the renovation plans are proceeding at pace. We are anticipating that work will start in June. We'll do everything we can to minimise disruption. Some areas may be temporarily relocated, and there may be short periods of noise or reduced space. We will keep you updated regularly on the project via our website and Facebook page. We value your patience and support whilst we make these improvements for our surgery.

Our patient Wellbeing Garden has looked fantastic this spring thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and health champions. Thank you to everyone who donated bulbs and to all the volunteers for all the hard work in making it look so lovely.

**Surgery website →**

**[www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk](http://www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk)**

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



## Our Night Sky in May 2026

Because we are in the Summer months, daylight tends to monopolise our night skies, but you might be able to see Venus for some time after sunset.



Venus is a glorious sight, with its brilliant clouds covering its surface, and you might be tempted to take up a travel Agent's offer of a week on this delightful Planet. And it was considered being a place flowing with rivers and seas until space Satellites discovered the stark truth about its actual surface; this consisted of a surface temperature above 400 degrees C, enough to melt lead, and an atmospheric pressure enough to squash you flat. So, perhaps The Canary Islands might be a better bet!

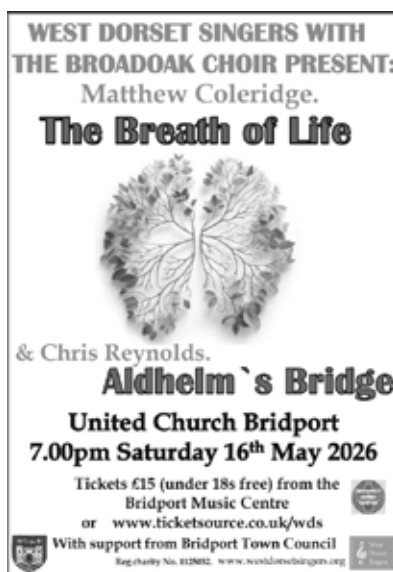
Best wishes to you all, *Bill*

## Events in the Bride Valley

### One World Worship at Othona

The Othona Community is reviving its popular One World Worship (OWW) evenings. An inclusive, informal, spiritual hour together in the lovely house chapel, followed by a very simple soup-based meal for everybody and time to chat.

You're welcome to join with us to honour the Wonders of Creation, the Common Ground of Humanity, the Wisdom of Many Spiritual Traditions and the Longing for Peace. Othona is a Christian charity that welcomes and learns from people of all faiths and none. On this occasion the heart of the OWW will be music and contemplative quiet. The first OWW of this new season is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00pm with supper at 7.00pm. No need to book and no charge; we just welcome donations. Othona is on the B3157 coast road between Burton Bradstock and Swyre. Tel: 01308 897130. Have you "always wondered what that place is about"? This could be your chance to find out!



## Dorset Art Weeks (DAW)

There is a new addition to this year's Dorset Art Weeks,

"The Burton Collective". It began with a group of friends having fun creating together and it has grown into a group of local artists displaying their artwork in St Marys Church, Burton Bradstock. Their enjoyment of experimenting, teaching and inspiring each other is self-evident in their work. Sharing has made learning easier and faster. The group are keen to make it a community project and local children are invited to come and have fun creating a collage capturing the countryside and coast of Dorset, which will form the basis of a large collage to be displayed in the church.

A whole network of local people is contributing to offer tea and cakes events during the two weeks May 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. and invite you to come and see the artworks and meet other local people.

The many open studios throughout Dorset are listed on the DAW website (<https://dorsetartweeks.co.uk>) and the DAW Guide can be read in Burton Bradstock Community Library.



VENUE 182

### The Burton Collective

Paul S Brown, Lisanne Mealing, Alison Boyland, Alison Leahy, Cynthia Justham, Karen Buchanan Harlow, Dani Farrell  
Painting, Photography, Textile Art

Saint Mary's Church, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, DT6 4QY  
Facebook: burtoncollective / Instagram: BurtonCollective

## Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

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

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



## Birkie's Garden

Several evocative photographs survive of William Birkinshaw, a highly-skilled plantsman who came from Yorkshire to Littlebredy to take over as Head Gardener to the Williams family, and remained in post for 50 years. One photo depicts him sitting straight-backed in a rustic chair with a robin perched on his hand; the other shows him in more relaxed mode, seated on the steps of the cricket pavilion, looking very much like WG Grace.

For a hundred years, the Walled Garden and the surrounding plots of land provided fruit and vegetables for the villagers, and exotic fruits and flowers for the Williams family at Bridehead. It must have been a hive of activity in its heyday, and no doubt looked very formal – Mr. Birkinshaw does not give the impression of someone who would have tolerated crooked rows of vegetables!

After the First World War, in common with Estate gardens all over the country, the Walled Garden became uneconomic to run, and a period of slow decline set in. The boiler house was shut down, the glasshouses fell in, and the garden went into hibernation and was effectively forgotten. Fortunately, however, the garden is now flourishing again, and it can be seen in its glory from April to September each year. Nowadays it's shrubs, trees, flowers and herbs that are the main attraction; but there are vegetables too, a venerable wisteria and a splendid old pear tree that may well be a survival of Mr. Birkinshaw's garden.

The Walled Garden is open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 2.00pm-5.00pm until mid-September. There are also two National Garden Scheme dates Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June. It's no longer open on Bank holiday Mondays. Admission £6, children free and dogs welcome on leads. Teas are available in the barn or the outside seating area, and there's plenty of parking.

## MANY CONGRATULATIONS!

To Lewis Wilkinson and Poppy Carter on their engagement. We wish them both great happiness.

## Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett

Email: richardhewlett419@gmail.com 01308 787278

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



## St Martin's Church

### Floodlights sponsors for May

#### Litton Cheney

*Anne & Julian for Julian's birthday on 9<sup>th</sup>*

*Peter & Jenny in memory of Peter's sister Sheila, and very good friend*

*Pat, who both passed away recently*

*email: jfirrell20@gmail.com 01308 482313*

*and for Peter's birthday*

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

*Lesley Garner for her sister's birthday on 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Anne & Julian for their wedding anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup>*

*Liz & Nigel for their anniversary on 31<sup>st</sup>*

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 May:

9.30am 10<sup>th</sup> May Breakfast Club in Village Hall with Vicky

11.00am 24<sup>th</sup> May Holy Communion with the Rev'd Andrew

St Martin's looked very special over the Easter celebration, adorned with beautiful flower arrangements. The church yard is also being very well cared for. Thank you to our volunteers – you are appreciated.

## Village Society

### Flower and Vegetable Show and Fete

The Village Society is holding this year's event on the 8<sup>th</sup> August at the Village Hall. You are warmly invited to come along to see how your entries have fared, join in the fun of the fete and get together with your fellow villagers. There will be numerous stalls representing all of the villages' organisations. Please put this date in your diary. We look forward to seeing you all.

For those of you lucky enough to have won a trophy at last year's flower and vegetable show, it is now time for them to be returned to Sally Parker. It would be very much appreciated if they could be polished, where tarnished, before return. Thank you.

## Archive Event

The Village Society is holding the annual archive event held at the village hall on the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00am until 4.00pm. Please come along and support this free event to view the village and its people over many decades. We can assure you it is a real eye opener.

## Village Hall

### 100 Club Draw results

1<sup>st</sup> 75 £25 Jean Wyrill  
2<sup>nd</sup> 122 £10 Keith Garner  
3<sup>rd</sup> 1 £5 Kate Chomacki

Congratulations to all winners

## Shipton Gorge Heritage

**Heritage Gin Club** The winner in the April draw was Marissa Conway – well done. For info, we will be coming round soonish to sell tickets for the next year, so let us know if you want to be put on the priority list!

### Saunders Richardson Wood

We finally had a lovely sunny day for our work day on Easter Monday. We had ordered some Bird Friendly Hedge Plant mix – which arrived in late March and were ready for planting. This included Buckthorn Alder, Wild Crab Apple, Cherry Plum and Scotch Burnet Rose – providing a food source by way of berries and a habitat for lots of insects. All 50 trees and whips were planted on the day, thanks to a team of enthusiastic volunteers. These were mostly added to the hedge line along Smacombe Lane to bulk up the laid hedge, with some of the Cherry Plum planted in the wood. If walking along the lane, you will see some of the new additions with a little red marker on them, so we can keep an eye on them. The celandine, emerging bluebells and unfurling ferns made the wood look quite magical. Weather permitting, we are planning to open up the wood on

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 5.00am** to celebrate **International Dawn Chorus day**. We will have the Merlin app at the ready to help identify the various bird species. Please come along to share the experience. We will also be opening the Wood on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm**. Will need to check on the newly planted trees and make



sure the tracks are clear from nettles etc. These are both members' only events, but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.

### **Shipton Gorge Orchard**

The apple blossom should be looking splendid this month. We will be in the Orchard on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am for a maintenance session. All Shipton Gorge residents are welcome, just come prepared with robust gardening gloves and see if we can make it an even more special place to enjoy. If you are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe on 07393 214635 or email [annecrowe2016@hotmail.com](mailto:annecrowe2016@hotmail.com)

Details as usual on our website:

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

### **An Evening of Opera**

Tickets still available for "An Evening of Opera" at St Martins Church on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are £15 each, payable by BACS. Please email Ian for details at [ijbloomfield@icloud.com](mailto:ijbloomfield@icloud.com) or phone 07771541650 to arrange payment. Picnic hampers are £10 each, available from Kim's Kitchen at [bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com) or phone 07754245691. Alternatively, you can email [eventsatstmartins@gmail.com](mailto:eventsatstmartins@gmail.com)

There will be a cash bar serving wine, beer and champagne.

All profits will go to the restoration of St Martins Church.

This promises to be a night of exceptional music and a night to remember.

If anyone who has not received their tickets yet, please contact Ian.

#### **Italian style Opera Buffet Hamper. Pre-order only by 1st June**

##### **Fusilli al Pesto**

Fusilli pasta in a homemade pesto sauce (contains pine nuts & parmesan)  
(G/F available)

##### **Olive Tapenade**

Pureed black olives with home-grown sage, garlic, lemon juice & balsamic vinegar

##### **Miniature Tricolore Salad**

Mozzarella balls, fresh basil & tomatoes  
(Contains dairy)

##### **Mediterranean Vegetable Salad**

Red peppers & courgettes oven roasted in olive oil, garlic & balsamic

##### **Insalata Miste**

Mixed green leaves with a homemade Italian style dressing.

##### **Homemade Focaccia**

Oven-baked bread with home-grown Rosemary  
(G/F available)

Lemon Polenta Cake (Contains eggs)

**PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY INTOLERANCES WHEN ORDERING**  
**07754 245691/01308 346 007 [bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com)**



## Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell

email: jfirrell20@gmail.com 01308 482313

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



### St Mary's Church

During the summer months our service on the third Sunday will be Evensong instead of a morning service. So, **17<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00pm** will be our first Evensong of the season. It's always a peaceful way to end a lovely summer's day so why not give it a try?

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

### Litton Cheney Parish Council

#### Annual Meeting & Parish Assembly – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

You are cordially invited to the Parish Assembly aka Village Assembly at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at LATCH,

**Parish Assembly** - This is where you find out what's been going on over the last year, and also what might be happening in the year to come. If you have questions, prepare to ask them at this meeting, and hey, here's an idea, why not put yourself up for co-option onto the Parish Council? At the meeting you will hear more about the Parish Plan, and what it might achieve in the years to come if the effort is put in now. Trigger warning – these things will only happen if you are prepared to play your part, don't mutter – make it matter!

**Weight Limit on Whiteway** – A Traffic Regulation Order will shortly place a weight limit (7 tonnes) on Whiteway necessitating both signage on A35 and sat navs being changed. This should severely restrict the number of large vehicles allowed down Whiteway. Those that venture down (or up) Whiteway are liable to be prosecuted.

**Village Litter Pick** – Grateful thanks to all those who immersed themselves in the village litter pick during March. Most litter was found around the outer reaches of the village suggesting non-residents disposing of their litter before driving off home!

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Freddie & Diana Spicer left the village for their new home in Corsham, Wiltshire. It was the end of thirty-three years of residency in our midst and there was much activity in the lead up to their departure – see last month's BVN. Thank you to all who joined in the long farewell for a much-loved couple who have given so much to the community.

## Thank you from Freddie & Diana Spicer

“Very many thanks from Freddie and Diana Spicer to all who gave us a right royal send off on our moving from the village. We were overwhelmed by such generosity; the lunch at LATCH, the gifts and good wishes will be for us treasured memories of our 33 years in Litton. After a somewhat traumatic removal our life is gradually returning to normal but we will continue to miss our Litton Cheney friends and neighbours to whom there will always be a welcome in Corsham,”

## A-Maz-ing! - Duck Race Raised record-breaking £1065.50 for Julia's House - Thank You!

To Liz and Andy at the White Horse, and Sam & Ralph Daubeney, the heartiest of thanks for organising the Easter Sunday Duck Race which produced an amazing financial outcome – the best ever! The funds have been deposited with Julia's House Children's Hospice. Full results can be found on the village website.

**How lucky we are!** - With the gloom and doom surrounding many of the country's pubs and inns and their continuing battles to stay open, we should count ourselves extremely fortunate to have Liz and Andy at the helm of “The Horse”. Their efforts to provide the perfect hostelry for one and all is very much appreciated, and deserves the support of all. When it comes to the pub, it really is “The Hub”. Bravo Zulu, Liz & Andy!

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

#### REGULAR EVENTS

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

#### OTHER EVENTS

|                           |             |                            |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm      | Book Club in Meeting Room  |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> | From 6.45pm | W.I. Craft in Meeting Room |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> | 7.00pm      | W.I. Greek Dancing         |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 4.00pm      | Community Church           |

**Village Cafés:** The hall is available for hire free of charge on Saturday mornings for a Café to raise funds for any group. It's a good social event for the community and always popular.  
Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 [wtlitton@gmail.com](mailto:wtlitton@gmail.com)

## Bingo – Thank You!

On behalf of the Bingo Fundraising Committee, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes, and everyone who gave up their Friday evening to come and play, and help raise a fantastic total of £970 for West Dorset Mencap, who have expressed their grateful thanks. Also, as ever, huge thanks to the wonderful fundraising group who always shine like the true stars they are. Jackie Horsley.

## **Bride Valley Films at Litton Cheney Village Hall**

Thank you to everyone who has supported our films during the 2025/6 season. We will be back in the autumn and look forward to seeing you then. For various reasons, especially the availability of licences, it is not always possible to screen specific films, but suggestions are always welcome. Just mention it to someone in Litton and ask them to pass it on.

**Look out for further details on posters, at  
<http://www.littoncheney.org.uk/bridevalleyfilms.htm> and in the BVN.**

## **Telephone Kiosk Exchange Update**

Thank you for continuing to use the telephone kiosk exchange. It is a great village resource filled with a variety of books, small toys, puzzles and DVDs. Over the Easter weekend many children's books and toys were exchanged and we've also had a lot of seeds passing through the kiosk recently, which is great news particularly at this time of year.

The telephone kiosk is an exchange for one or two books in good, clean condition & suitable for village reading. It is such a small area so please do not stack books on shelves or leave large boxes of unsorted or unsuitable items but help each other by leaving the kiosk shelves tidy for the next visitor.

Thank you for using it appropriately and we hope you find a novel or book of interest on your next visit!

## **The White Horse**

What a fantastic Easter we had; so much going on, so many visitors and lovely locals. We even had a bit of sunshine which was very welcome, and hopefully that cold wind has died down by the time the BVN gets printed, and we head into bank holiday season.

Speaking of holiday season, is there anyone out there who would like a seasonal bar job (immediate start to end September). Sunday afternoon (3.00pm-about 8.00pm) is a definite and a bit of 'as and when' as business dictates or to cover our usual lovely ladies on occasion. Please let us know if this might be of interest and you can pop in for a chat.

Quizzes and Meat Draws are continuing as usual until the end of June and we will be opening again on Monday evenings on 15<sup>th</sup> June with Basilico Pizzas. Other than that, enjoy the Spring and we hope to see you when you can.

*Andy and Liz xx*

# Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

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

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

email: [Jill.neill@live.co.uk](mailto:Jill.neill@live.co.uk) 01308 897479

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

Lots of people will have made new year resolutions to unpack and not live in Portland and most of my belongings were not frequent or regular. So this year has given me a fresh appreciation of when entering school, especially if they friends it can be passed. I hope that we a of which there are quite a few. I was su that they have connections here and are who were willing to give help and adv pleased to say that they never once res that I am now able to find my way arou

This term class 4 are working with Bu camcorders, computers and digital cam The children will collaborate at differ information on how to access this mater

While practising for our Christmas pro unfortunately she only works for half t week, we tried hard, we knew the wor locally who could play the piano or key need on occasions. We would be very gi

## Puncknowle Village Hall

| What’s on at Puncknowle Village Hall in May                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 100 club winners: Carol Randall £15 an                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REGULAR EVENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mr Pinkett £10                                                                                                      |
| Every Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2.00pm – 3.00pm     | Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email <a href="mailto:sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk">sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                    | Alison Johnstone Headteacher.<br><a href="#">Return to Index</a>                                                    |
| <b>Long Bredy</b><br>2nd Monday each month<br>Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley<br>Email: <a href="mailto:svh@longbredy.org.uk">svh@longbredy.org.uk</a><br>Village website: <a href="http://www.longbredy.com">http://www.longbredy.com</a> | 7.00pm to 9.00pm    | Contact: Paul on <a href="mailto:paul.bullen@me.com">paul.bullen@me.com</a><br>01308 482585<br>Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public<br>More information: <a href="https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/">https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/</a> | <b>LONG BREDY</b><br>1st Monday each month                                                                          |
| 3rd Tuesday each month                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1.00pm – 2.30pm     | Luncheon Club<br>Contact David on 01308 898492                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Church Service Times</b> Starting this mo 9.30 a.m. We hope that this new pattern                                |
| Every Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 10.00am – 12.00noon | Table Tennis<br>Contact Brian on 01308 897987                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1st Sunday of the month 11.00 a.m. Hol 2nd Sunday of the month 9.30 a.m. Family                                     |
| Every Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 7.00pm – 9.00pm     | Table Tennis<br>Contact John on 07557 963618                                                                                                                                                                                                        | All Bride Valley Church Family Service                                                                              |
| 1st Thursday each month                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2.00pm – 4.00pm     | Craft Club<br>Contact Brenda on <a href="mailto:b.oliver@btinternet.com">b.oliver@btinternet.com</a>                                                                                                                                                | <b>The Holy Communion Service</b> on 2nd new. Anthony Ashwell                                                       |
| 3rd Thursday each month                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 7.30pm to 9:30pm    | Bride Valley WI<br>Contact <a href="mailto:Bridevalleywi@gmail.com">Bridevalleywi@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Poppy Appeal.</b> The sale of poppies price big "thank you".                                                     |
| Last Friday each month                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 10.00pm – 12.30noon | Art Club<br>Contact Sally on 01308 897987                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Neuro-Surgery.</b> The parents and grand which they have received during the tin age of 10 weeks. It is pleasing |

**Christingle Service.** The Church was s the candles during the previous day, th were also in attendance, and the Lullab helped in any way. The collection, in aic

**A Happy New Year to you all!**

[Return to Index](#)

## The Crown Inn, Puncknowle

March's Quiz was won by 'The Swyreites', who generously donated the £58 prize money to Dorset Air Ambulance. We then followed with another lively bingo night, where the flyer round raised £42, also for Dorset Air Ambulance.

### Here's what's coming up in May:

- **Bank Holiday Monday** May 4<sup>th</sup>, open 12.00noon- 6.00pm
- **Breakfast** – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 9.00-11.00am
- **Quiz Night** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> at 8.15pm
- **Morris Dancers** – Festus Derriman, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm
- **Bank Holiday Monday** – May 25<sup>th</sup> open 12.00-6.00pm
- **Bingo** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, eyes down at 8.30pm

Choice of roast every Sunday from 12.00noon. We look forward to seeing you soon

*Lyn & Paul*

## Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Parish Assembly

Our Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. It is open to everyone in the three villages and is a chance for the Parish Council and local clubs and societies to let residents know what has been happening in the villages.

## Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall 100 club

March Winners :

*1<sup>st</sup>- Dave & Dee Bird. 2<sup>nd</sup>-Sally Bowsher.*

### **Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club**

*Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy*

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

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

#### **Future dates 2026**

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

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

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

Vegetarian option can be provided.

**PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE AND  
WEST BEXINGTON FETE**

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

As well as the magic show and roving magic tricks of the Big Faolini, there will be a fancy dress competition for younger attendees – with prizes! In addition there will be all the favourites from the coconut shy to the Bottle stall.

More details in next edition of the BVN, as well as information on how to help on the day – it's even more enjoyable when you are part of it! A full list of 'vacancies' will be in the BVN next month but in the meantime if you are interested please contact Andrea on 07990 596 382 or Claire on 07875 762 760.

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

## Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley

Email: [bvn@longbredy.org.uk](mailto:bvn@longbredy.org.uk) 01308 482586

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



## Long Bredy 100 Club Results – March 2016

£25 No.43 R Randall

£15 No. 40 S Pitcher

£5 No.137 L Hemsley & S Evans

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

## Village News and Updates

The village has looked lovely over the past few months with the snow drops, daffodils, primroses and bluebells all showing their different colours. As we move

a true celebration of Bryan's life. It was an occasion that

Our thanks go as well to all those who contributed to the Hospital who looked after Bryan with such dedication.

to appreciate over the c

olders for handing these i  
y in church on Sunday 2

ing this month, the norma  
2 years.

p.m. Evensong

mmunion

begin by immediately ma

Songs of Praise. Instead of the 6.30 p.m. Evensong wh  
At this, we will be singing in (again?) the Millennium  
merry gentlemen" and "Good King Wenceslas". What a

Happy New Year

welcome to Wendy and Paul Pritchard who have come

by Trinity Swyre

A beautiful red altar frontal with matching lectern cloth  
cloth were made by Mrs Vera Hirst, Mrs Anna Lovell I  
from the Trinity weekend held in May. The blue tower

## Swyre Parish Meeting

**The Millennium map:** It was decided by the Parish m  
work will be produced from this transparency. The ori  
different colours. As we move

**Millennium Spoons:** A survey of the children in the  
Millennium. The village is grateful to an anonymous d  
hopefully the weather will be more clement, the spo  
Christmas time and that the spoon would be a more spe

**Policing in the Valley:** Police Constable Jeff Barker

into the summer, I am sure there will be more to be seen along the verges, hedgerows and gardens. What a wonderful place to live.

It was great to see the three big pot holes and school hill being repaired during the first week of April. Here is hoping that the repairs may last for some time into the future!

### **Long Bredy Christmas Quiz**

Congratulations to the Barbour family who won the challenging Long Bredy Quiz this year. £85 was raised for Long Bredy Village Hall. Thanks to Caddy Sitwell for organising it. It seems to be a very popular quiz with many people near and far tackling the challenges it brings, helping the winter months pass.

### **Coffee Break**

The Coffee Break in March and April saw locals enjoying the delicious refreshments that are available and catching up with each other. March was particularly welcome by those who had been helping with the annual village clean. Thank you to everyone that makes this social event happen each month.

### **Come Along Inn**

March saw a really busy evening which was enjoyed by all that attended. Thanks to you all for making it yet another successful night. As always huge thank you to all the hard-working volunteers who make it happen.

### **Parish Council**

#### **Annual Village Spring Clean**

A big THANK YOU to everyone who took part in this year's Annual Village Spring Clean. We had a record number of volunteers, which really showed in the amount of rubbish collected and the noticeable difference across the village afterwards. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and help keep our community looking its best.

#### **Welcome to our new Parish Clerk**

In January, our Parish Clerk, Tara Bailey, stepped down from her role. We would like to thank Tara for her service to the Parish and wish her all the best for the future. Following a formal appointment by the Parish Council, we are delighted to welcome Debbie Hollings as our new Parish Clerk. Many of you may already know Debbie through her work with Shipton Gorge and Litton Cheney Parish Councils. She brings with her a wealth of experience, particularly in supporting rural communities. We look forward to working with you, Debbie. If you wish to contact the Parish Clerk, you can do so at: [clerk@longbredy.org](mailto:clerk@longbredy.org)

#### **Annual Village Meeting**

This year's Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in Long Bredy Village Hall. This is a great opportunity to hear about what has been happening in the Parish over the past year, as well as plans for the

future. You will also be able to meet and discuss local issues with your Parish Councillors and our ward councillor for Dorset Council, Sally Holland. The evening is also a chance to catch up with neighbours and fellow residents, with complimentary light refreshments provided. Prior to this, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm. Members of the community are very welcome to attend.

### **Make a Change – Become a Parish Councillor**

If you care about where you live and are passionate about your community, Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Council needs you.

What do Councillors do?

Becoming a Parish Councillor gives you the opportunity to make a real difference in your community. You will:

- Engage with residents, local groups, and businesses to understand their needs
- Help decide which services and projects the Council should prioritise
- Play an active role in ensuring local services are meeting community needs

Can I stand?

There are just a few requirements. You must:

- Be a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union
- Be 18 years of age or over
- Live in, or near, the area served by the Parish Council

How long does it take?

Parish Councillors typically commit less than one hour per week on average. This may include:

- Attending parish meetings
- Engaging with residents
- Representing the views of your community

How can I get involved?

To find out more or express your interest, please contact the Parish Clerk: Debbie Hollings – [clerk@longbredy.org](mailto:clerk@longbredy.org) or the Chair, Cllr Charlotte Kinghorn – [cllrkinghorn@longbredy.org](mailto:cllrkinghorn@longbredy.org)

**Closing date is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.**

### **Playing Field Volunteer Morning**

Following the success of last year's Playing Field Volunteer Morning, we will be holding this event again this year on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am – 1.00pm**. Long Bredy is very fortunate to have such a valuable community space, and this is a great opportunity to come together to help maintain and improve it.

### **St Peter's Church**

**Mothering Sunday** was commemorated by a small congregation with a simple service where poems were read and reflections were made about 'Mothering'. Small posies were given to the attendees, with some also given to people in the village. After the service refreshments were enjoyed.



**Easter Day** saw a full Church celebrating with Rev'd Andrew. It was lovely to hear the organ being played by Tony Williams. The Church was beautifully decorated with seasonal flowers, the Churchyard also looked wonderful and was brimming with primroses. The children were busy completing the many crafting activities provided. Everyone enjoyed the delicious Easter treats offered after the service including Easter eggs to take home.

## **Future Events**

### **Coffee Break and Plant Sale**

On **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** there will be the annual Coffee Break and Plant Sale at Manor Farmyard, Long Bredy. It will start at the usual time of **10.30am** (not 10.00am as was mistakenly advertised last month) and finish at **12.00noon**. of plants at sensible prices. Visit us and judge for yourselves! We welcome all good quality plant donations...vegetables, herbs, shrubs, annuals, perennials and house plants. Please label them with name/colour if known. Without the generous donations we have, there is no plant sale! Please contact Sue Dyer 01308 482882 for more details or to arrange for plants to be left at Corner Cottage, Long Bredy DT2 9HU

### **Come Along Inn**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 5.30pm – 9.00pm** will see the first of the summer BBQ's at the Come Along Inn. We look forward to seeing you at Long Bredy Village Hall.

### **Open Gardens**

We are lucky to have two gardens open in the village during June.

Chris and Caddy Sitwell will be opening their garden on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00pm-5.00pm. Long Bredy House, (next to Long Bredy village hall).

Entrance fee will be £5 per person with children free. Sorry No Dogs. Tea and cake will be available. Funds raised will go to support Long Bredy Village Hall.

Langbride House will be open (as part of the National Garden Scheme) on Sunday 21st June, 1.00pm – 05.00pm.

The Church will also be open and hopefully the Oxeye Daisies will be spectacular in the Churchyard. Parking will be behind the Church. Delicious teas will be served at the house.

Part of the profits from this event will go to St Peter's Church, Long Bredy.

**Poppy Appeal.** The sale of poppies prior to Remembrance Sunday brought big "thank you".

## Burton Bradstock

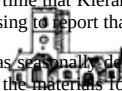
Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton

Email: [patgrafton43@gmail.com](mailto:patgrafton43@gmail.com)

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

**Neuro-Surgery.** The parents and grandparents of Kieran Mulhall, born which they have received during the time that Kieran has spent in Southa the tender age of 10 weeks. It is pleasing to report that he was discharged i

**Christmas Service.** The Church was seasonally decorated for the Chris the candles during the previous day, the materials for which had been do the Lullaby they sang after the children had helped in any way. The collection, in aid of the Children's Society, amount



**A Happy New Year to you all!**

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## Tots Time

Tots Time is a friendly and welcoming toddler group held at St Mary's Church every Friday afternoon during term time, from 2.00pm–3.15pm. It's a wonderful opportunity for little ones and their grown-ups to enjoy chats, free play, arts and crafts, stories, and much more in a relaxed and relaxed environment. Refreshments are provided for both children and adults, making it a perfect way to spend a Friday afternoon together. We would love to see you there – please do come along!

**Littlebredy**

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock

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

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

**LITTLEBREDDY**

Church Service Times: During this month, the Church Services on the pattern for at least the next 2 years.

2nd Sunday of the month 9.30 a.m. Family Service (All-age Worship)

4th Sunday of the month 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (B.C.P.)

With Long Bredy also moving its Family Service to 9.30 a.m., this means

## Knitting for Ukraine Update

By April 27th I will have dispatched 270 knitted strips, 30 blankets and many smaller items. Wow! What a lot. The 4Bs in the Burton Bradstock W.I. have excelled themselves producing at least 153 of that total number of strips. Well done all of you! A good number have been made by friends in the Bridport Community Kitchen. Thank you so much.



**LITTLEBREDDY**

Two welcomes to this month: firstly to young Edmund Shackleton, last month's notes. Belatedly but cordially, therefore, we extend all congra

Secondly, welcome also to Simon and Siobhan Baxter, who, with young noticed lights ablaze as decorations get under way, and we wish the family

The meeting scheduled to discuss the village Hall will take month's BYON. As for venue, Chris and Judy Yates have agreed to host it in

Daphne's blankets have been much admired and all the knitted goods have been made with such skill to a very high standard. We have been helped by Marian's generous gift of 3 huge boxes of wool of all kinds. Thank you very much.

Finally, of course, it is too late for Christmas greetings in this magazine, very best wishes for happiness and fulfilment in 2000 and beyond.

The W.I.'s project for Kyiv is now completed, but, sadly, the violence continues, so, for the foreseeable future, I shall still be packaging and sending knitted goods for the maternity ward in the hospital in Kyiv. Strips and little baby mittens can be left in SHIPTON GORGE in Burton Bradstock to go there about twice a week and Peter and Pat have kindly agreed to hold little packages for me to collect.

**SHIPTON GORGE**  
Village Correspondent

For any further information, please contact Heather Rogers (01308 897780)

The Village Notice Board has been re-positioned to its new site near the l

26  
As in previous years there is to be a **PLANT SALE** held adjacent to the notice, those of you with green fingers will pot up stray plants, take cu proceeds will be to our church funds and your support will be greatly appr

**Shipton Gorge 100 Club Winners for the December Draw**

## Burton Bradstock Village Hall

### Village Hall Bookings

Should you wish to use the Hall at any time, the booking officer can be contacted via email at [bbvht.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:bbvht.bookings@gmail.com) or by phone on 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 13<sup>th</sup> May Friends of the Library*

*Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June Village Society*

At this time, we have no one to run the Coffee Morning on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> September. If your group would like to host it, please contact Richard Ferre on [rwferre909@gmail.com](mailto:rwferre909@gmail.com). They can be a good way to tell people about your activities, plus organising a social event at the same time.

### Burton Bradstock Films

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

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

### Congratulations to the winners:

|                       |               |               |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>£32.00</b> | <b>No 35:</b> | <b>Mrs Helen Sinclair</b> |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>£16.00</b> | <b>No 49:</b> | <b>Ms Janet Whitaker</b>  |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>£8.00</b>  | <b>No 79:</b> | <b>Mrs Susan Britton</b>  |

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the May 2026 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £8 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.  
*WDDC Licence no: SL0080*

## Burton Bradstock Spring Fayre

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm to 4.30pm**

The Burton Bradstock Spring Fayre in aid of the Village Hall will be held in the Rectory Gardens and Village Hall on Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May starting at 2.00pm. Described by visitors as a traditional English event “Straight out of Midsomer Murders”, it’s an ideal afternoon out for all local and visiting families. There will be lots of stalls and games providing all the fun and interest you expect at a Fayre.

- The ever-popular Strawberry Jam will be there to entertain the children starting at 2.30pm – don't be late!
- There will be games to test the strength and skill of all comers.
- Tickets for the Grand Draw, the Bottle Tombola and the Spirit Raffle will be on sale.
- Snap up bargains from the Cake, Crafts, White Elephant, Book and Games & Toys stalls.
- Refresh yourself with ice creams, soft drinks, something from the barbeque and our famous Dorset cream teas.

Your support in previous years has made this event a great success with the money raised contributing towards running, maintaining and improving the Village Hall.

**In order to make the Fayre a success again we need volunteers to help run the stalls and games.** It's fun and only takes just over two and a half hours. If you can help or if you know someone who might please get in touch / ask them to get in touch with Ali Page (07502 434112) or Graham Moody (01308 898548). We also welcome donations for the stalls and Bottle Tombola. If you can help here the people to contact are:

#### **Crafts**

We will be grateful for any soap, small pieces of china, costume jewellery, scarves, sewn items, embroidery etc. or anything suitable for a gift. Please bring them to the Village Hall on the morning of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – see below.

**Toys and Games** – Ali Page or Graham Moody – Tel: see above.

We will be grateful for any donations but toys, books, games, soft toys, crayons etc. (new or used) must be clean, in good condition and safe for young children.

#### **White Elephant, Books, CDs, and DVDs**

Would people with items to donate to the White Elephant or Book Stall (including CDs & DVDs) please bring them along to the Village Hall on the morning of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (all items in good condition please). There will also be a box in the Library for the two weeks before the Fayre where you may leave any Books, CDs, and DVDs, but not White Elephant items.

#### **Plants and Produce**

Please bring any plants or produce to the outside area of the Village Hall on the morning of the Fayre between 10.00am and midday.

#### **Cakes and Preserves**

Donations may be brought to the Village Hall on the morning of the Fayre and left in the Hall itself (not the Kitchen please).

**Bottle Tombola** – Richard Ferré – Tel: 01308 897648

Please contact Richard with your donations of bottles or cans of alcoholic or soft drinks. Alternatively, please bring them to the Village Hall on May 23<sup>rd</sup> – see note below.

#### **Generally...**

A lot of help will be needed to set up and take down on the day. If you are able to come to the Rectory Gardens at 9.30am to help set up the stalls etc. or at

4.30 pm to help pack them away your help would be gratefully appreciated – please contact Graham Moody on 01308 898548.

**Note:** The Village Hall will be open from 9.30am to 12 noon on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to receive items for any of the stalls, but particularly the White Elephant, Book and Bottle Tombola stalls.

Church Street will be closed to motor traffic from Donkey Lane to the Village Green from 9.00am until 6.00pm on the day of the Fayre.

Please contact Graham Moody on 01308 898548 or Ali Page on 07502 434112 if you would like to volunteer or if you have any queries.

## **Burton Bradstock Parish Council**

### **Speedwatch**

Burton Bradstock Community Speedwatch is in need of some more volunteers. If you can spare an hour of your time or would like to know more of what's involved. Please contact Katie on [katiepile105@yahoo.com](mailto:katiepile105@yahoo.com)

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

Annual Parish Meeting, we will be joined by The National Trust who will be delivering a presentation on their future plans.

-  6.30pm
-  Thursday 21st May 2026
-  Burton Bradstock Village Hall, Church Street.

All welcome to attend and refreshments will be served.

### **Allotments**

Allotment plots are available. Please contact [clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk) for further information.

### **Openreach**

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

1. Go to [openreach.com](http://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"
- In the "Full Fibre Broadband" row, click the "Keep me updated" button  
Enter your information and click "Submit"

## **Burton Bradstock WI**

Welcome to another year of fun activities for Burton Bradstock's WI. We had our Annual Meeting in April and are looking forward to outings, crafting, lunches, curling, special events and more.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May we will welcome back, by popular demand, Brian Pettit on a 'Sojourn of Scotland'. A great chance to see the best of the Highlands (without the usual accompanying wind & rain). I'm looking forward to castles & lochs, plus shortbread biscuits. Our meeting is 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. New members are always welcome, so ladies, either by the high road or the low road, please come & join us.

Our 4Bs craft group will meet in the Village Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May. Any ladies with knitted strips for the Ukraine are welcome to drop them off here. Our 'have a go' table for the next two months will be creating craft items to sell at the Village Fayre, no experience necessary as all materials are provided, nothing too difficult or 'arty'. If you want to come & have a bit of company or to join us for a cuppa, we meet 1.30pm - 4.30pm; just bring your enthusiasm!

Don't forget to stop by our stalls at the Village Fayre (Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2-4pm). So many beautifully hand-crafted items and home-made cakes & bakes. We have a very talented group of ladies & it would be lovely to see you there.

If you want to get in touch about anything WI related, please either give me a call 07806 898361, or drop me a line [carol.higho@yahoo.com](mailto:carol.higho@yahoo.com).

## The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library



Firstly, this is to invite everyone to our Coffee Stop and Book Sale on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00am to 12.00noon, in the Village Hall and the Library respectively. There will be lots of lovely cake at the first and an interesting selection of books at the



other. Donations of books can be left at the Library from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – no sooner as we don't have the storage space! Thank you.

Then on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May we will be holding a spring bank Lego morning, from 10.00am to 12.00noon. All are welcome. There will be free entry but all children must be accompanied by an adult. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our opening hours are:

Monday 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Feel free to visit and have a look round.

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

[www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library)

01308 897563

*Sue Brown, Chairman*

## Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

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

For more information, please contact Kathy on 01308 485626

## Burton Coffee Mates

Coffee! Cakes! Chat!

Come and join us in the Church from 10.30am -12noon on the second Thursday of the month for Coffee Mates. Catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Transport is available. For more information contact Pauline 898327/

## Burton Bradstock Village Society

### April Race Night

The committee held its second Race Night in April instead of our usual monthly talk. This year there were 6 races and those who attended voted it a great success. It was decided that it's something we will be repeating as an annual event.

**The AGM will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 1st May 2026 at 7.00pm, a week later than advertised in your programmes.** Doors will open at 6.45pm. There will be a free glass of wine, light refreshments and Bingo after the main business. The committee always appreciates a good attendance and especially to get feedback from our members. If you would like to become a member of the Society or join our friendly active Committee, please phone the Secretary, Roger Ashman, on 07971 649020.

**Plant & Cake Sale: Saturday 2nd May 10.00am-12.00noon - the morning after the AGM.**

***NB - This date has also been changed from that advertised.***

Always a sign that Spring has well and truly arrived. We hope that members will bear us in mind when raising produce for us to sell and support us on the day.

**Produce may be left between the sheds to the right of the hall or bought to the Rectory Garden at 9.00am on the day.**

### Village Society Subscriptions:

By now you will have received a request for 2025-26 subscriptions either by email or letter. If not please contact Roger Ashman on 07971 649020 or [bbvillagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:bbvillagesociety@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank you to those who have already paid.

## The Annual Flower & Produce Show Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

It doesn't matter if you are a cook, grower, flower arranger, artist, photographer, crafter or limerick writer this show is for everyone in the Village and all children attending the school. The schedule is now on the website, [www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/villagesociety](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/villagesociety) under Flower and Produce show. Hard copies will be available in the library and Post Office at the end of the month. A great village event where we all have an equal chance to win and it is just fun taking part.

## The Annual Village Outing Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September,

Date is fixed for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September for a coach trip to Winchester Cathedral for the flower festival, with trip around the cathedral and time in Winchester for a bit of shopping and lunch. On the way back we will stop off at Haskins Garden Centre, which is half way, for tea. The tickets will be £40.

## Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art 2026

### Spring Concert Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>

**A four-hundred-year musical journey through England, Spain, Turkey and Russia.**

With Spring in our steps after the Easter Weekend, the time has come round to mark the calendar with the date of this year's Burton Bradstock Festival's Spring Concert. It will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm in Burton Bradstock's Village Hall. Tickets at £16 go on sale at the Bridport Tourist Information Centre to Friends of the Festival on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April and to the general public on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. There's open seating in a genuinely intimate atmosphere with 3 very well-known Festival players performing what David Juritz, the Festival's Artistic Director, describes as "*Bach, Dowland, Chabrier, Satie and Schnittke in an evening of light-hearted, serious, and even ridiculous, music for violin, guitar and accordion*". The programme is truly ambitious. Come to hear how all these remarkable composers fit together.



In the meantime, while the music and art teams are putting the plans together for August, we are also looking for a few new volunteers in Burton Bradstock willing to host one or more of our visiting musicians for a few nights. Apart from breakfast



they have all their meals in the village hall but we need a few extra beds this year. If you feel it is something that you could do to contribute to our amazing Festival, please ring Jenny Malyon on 07932192908 or email on jennifermalyonbbd@gmail.com.

Laura Nottingham  
07710 466876

## Supper Club

This month's supper club will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Any enquiries please phone Mags Chue on 07790811905

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

My dear Nephew Darren,

So, you are beginning to plan your first Summer Fete in your new parish. That you appear to be looking forward to it shows how little you know about them.



Parishes hold Summer Fetes so that their clergy can preach more meaningfully on purgatory. Their ostensible purpose is to raise money for the church - which is wholly illogical. The parish could double the money raised if the Fete were dropped, none of the endless preparations made, if everyone spent a pleasant afternoon in their own gardens and each person simply donated £20 to the church instead. But we still feel obliged to go to endless trouble, making ourselves miserable so we can show each other what a good time we are having. That it generally pours seems to make the entire event even more grimly satisfying. No, the real reasons for a Summer Fete are twofold. First, it gives the entire parish the chance to inspect the Rector's Garden. Whatever state it is in, it will cause disapproval. If it is poorly kept, then I am clearly being ungrateful for having three acres of lawn to enjoy. Mowing it each week should be one of my delights; what else would I do with a whole day off each week anyway? The hand mower, kindly given by Colonel French is assumed to be quite adequate - and rumour has it that I need to lose weight anyway. The mower was presented to me when the Colonel bought his own gardener a sit-on motor mower - which is of a size and opulence that makes me assume it has a drinks cabinet and satellite navigation. The second reason for a Fete comes as a special perk for the organisers. It gives them a chance to inspect the inside of the Rectory. Under the pretence of looking for a little more sugar, they can systematically inspect all the kitchen cupboards and comment on their contents. By the end of the day, the whole parish will know what marmalade I spread on my toast, that I use unnecessarily expensive washing powder, and where I have unsuccessfully tried to hide the gin.

The details of what then happens while the Fete is in progress must wait until my next letter, when we will have had our own. It is now time for Evensong, drinks with Major Mallet and his wife, and then a quiet evening with a good book, while I toy with other possible hiding places for the gin this year.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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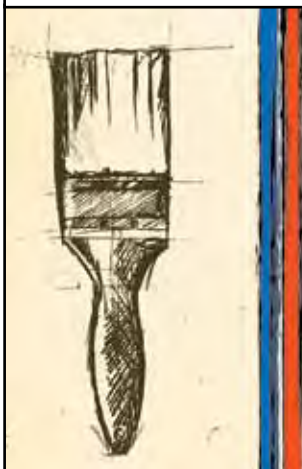
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## Benefice Services

| <b>May 2026</b>         | <b>1st Sunday<br/>3rd May<br/>5th Sunday of<br/>Easter</b> | <b>2nd Sunday<br/>10th May<br/>6th Sunday of<br/>Easter</b> | <b>3rd Sunday<br/>17th May<br/>7th Sunday of<br/>Easter</b>                                                                                    | <b>4th Sunday<br/>24th May<br/>Pentecost</b>           | <b>5th Sunday<br/>31st May<br/>Trinity Sunday</b>                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Burton<br>Bradstock     | 11.00am Morning<br>Worship                                 | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion                                   | 9.30am Café<br>Church                                                                                                                          | 8.00am Holy<br>Communion<br>9.30am Breakfast<br>Church | Churches and<br>Community Picnic<br>from 12.00noon in<br>The Rectory<br>Garden, Burton<br>Bradstock. (VH<br>booked as wet<br>weather back up) |
| Chilcombe               |                                                            | 5.30pm Evensong                                             |                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
| Litton<br>Cheney        | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion                                   | 9.30am Morning<br>Worship                                   | Evensong 6.00pm                                                                                                                                | Community Church<br>at LATCH 4.00pm                    |                                                                                                                                               |
| Puncknowle              |                                                            | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion                                    |                                                                                                                                                | 11.00am Café<br>Church                                 |                                                                                                                                               |
| Swyre                   | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion                                  |                                                             | Evening Prayer<br>6.00pm                                                                                                                       |                                                        | 9.00am United<br>Benefice Holy<br>Communion                                                                                                   |
| Shipton<br>Gorge        |                                                            | 9.30am Breakfast<br>Church                                  |                                                                                                                                                | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion                              |                                                                                                                                               |
| Long Bredy              | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion                                  |                                                             | 9.30am Morning<br>Worship                                                                                                                      |                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
| Littlebredy             |                                                            |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion                              |                                                                                                                                               |
| Portesham               |                                                            | 10.00am Morning<br>Worship                                  | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion                                                                                                                      |                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
| Abbotsbury              | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion                                  |                                                             | 10.00am Morning<br>Worship                                                                                                                     |                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
| Langton<br>Herring      | 9.00am BCP                                                 | 11.00am Morning<br>Worship                                  | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion                                                                                                                       |                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
| Mid-Week Holy Communion |                                                            |                                                             | <b>Burton Bradstock</b> Weds 6th May 11.30am followed by a light lunch<br><b>Portesham</b> Thursday 28th May 11.30am followed by a light lunch |                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |





**Appendix to the online edition**

**More pictures from Burton Bradstock School:**







