

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



May 2024

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

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June 2024 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 10th May for the June issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Correspondents are asked to send copy to the Editor by 9.00am on 13th May please. 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, can be found at bvnl.org.uk or on the 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.

This month's cover picture, colourised (using AI) from an old black and white postcard (you can see it in colour in our online edition) shows the former Burton Bradstock Methodist Chapel, now the Community Library, with the Parish Church in the background. Pictures old and new for the cover are welcomed, please email to the editor.

**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 Mary: Litton Cheney
St Michael & All Angels: Littlebredy
St Peter: Long Bredy
Chilcombe (dedication unknown)
St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle
St Martin: Shipton Gorge
Holy Trinity: Swyre
St Nicholas, Abbotsbury
St Peter's, Portesham
St Peter's, Langton Herring

Rev'd Margaret Preuss-Higham (01305) 873978

To enquire about Baptism, Marriage and Funeral arrangements in the Bride Valley Churches please contact Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator, on 01308 897260 (email BVchurchesTA@outlook.com)

or for the Chesil Churches please contact Rev'd Margaret at the number above, or email revmph@gmail.com

Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)

Within the Bride Valley Churches there is a small team of Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's) who are available for anybody throughout our community, responding to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. If you need help please contact the Churchwardens, Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator (01308 897260) or one of the Lay Pastoral Assistants who are: *Cathryn Johnson 01308 897169, Pauline Woodford (Burton Bradstock only) 01308 898327, Jenny Malyon 01308 898768 or Liz Orza 01308 897451.*

From the Lodge

Dear friends,

I am writing this letter just a couple of days after our United Service for Easter Day which took place at St Nicholas' Church in Abbotsbury. An amazing 125 of us filled the church, with some having to stand – and in addition the hymn books ran out – all good problems to have! This was the first time that we had come together in worship from across the Bride Valley and Chesil Benefice and so it was a truly significant event, marking our new relationship together. At the end of the service, we were able to thank James Webster for his valuable ministry as an LLM in this area over the last 18 years. Sir Philip gave a speech expressing our deep gratitude, and James and Phyl were given gifts from us. We will miss James' ministry as an LLM, but he will still be among us as a good friend and fellow pilgrim.

The service had begun with some exciting news, as Revd Margaret read out the following announcement from the Bishop and Archdeacon:

'The Bishop of Salisbury and Archdeacon of Sherborne are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev'd Andrew Rawding to the post of Rector of The Bride Valley and Chesil. This is subject to the necessary checks. Andrew brings a wealth of experience as a rural parish priest in Northern Ireland, and as a Royal Navy Chaplain. He is currently completing the training to become a social worker. He is very much looking forward to a return to parish ministry. Thank you to all those who participated in the selection process. We hope that there will be a licensing service before the summer.'

We have much to look forward to in the coming months!

I close this letter with a blessing which fits so well with the Easter season:

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all now and always. Amen.

As we are blessed, so may we be a blessing.

Liz

Rev'd Liz Howlett

Associate Priest in the Bride Valley and Chesil Benefice

From Heather

“How can we win this next generation for Christ?” - is a heartfelt cry I often hear. If we focus on falling numbers and the lack of young families in most of our Churches we can feel discouraged, and fear for the future. However, the bigger picture is more encouraging.

Throughout the country churches are experiencing phenomenal growth in Free Churches and the Church of England. All denominations are planting churches in new areas; some duplicate their services for increased congregations; Cathedrals are welcoming many to the majestic beauty of Evensong; Fresh Expressions of worship draw in those who want a challenge and a greater sense of involvement.

The world-wide picture is even more amazing. The church of Jesus Christ, in all its colourful vibrant variations, is gathering momentum in spite of (or because of) severe persecution from civil authorities or terrorist groups. They put us to shame by their enthusiastic determination to follow Christ, whatever the cost. Bible Society is producing Bibles as fast as possible, to meet the demand for God’s Word for thousands of new believers. You may say ‘That’s fine for cities, but what about our rural, coastal communities?’.

Let’s take a closer look. There are significant signs of hope. Rev’d Jane started and supported a number of initiatives including: *The Big Q* at Thorners for children to voice their questions and ideas and discover more about the Christian faith; the monthly Tiny Tots became the weekly *Tots’ Time* with many new developments (see BVN monthly Tots updates). *Open the Book* assemblies in Thorners and Burton Bradstock schools have been running for many years (see February’s BVN for Pauline’s detailed account for Burton Bradstock). At Thorners James Webster has organised the weekly OTB Assemblies with a small team taking turns (we thank him for his painstaking work over many years). It’s a little more crazy at Thorners. Year 6 children dress up and act out the story with minimal rehearsal. Imagine how keenly their peers watch and take note, and younger classes look forward to their turn to take part when older. These assemblies give children a foundation for the choices they will make in life, and reinforce the schools’ values of honesty, kindness... etc. *Breakfast Church* is booming at Shipton Gorge each month where Dads, Mums, and children get involved in activities based on the Bible passage for the day, and they get a free breakfast!! *Café*

Church, now running at Puncknowle as well as Burton Bradstock, draw people in to 'informal worship' with good coffee, pastries, time to read the newspapers, pray about world events, and discuss relevant topics. The *Life Group* (named by Jane) for Bible study and prayer has a regular twelve people at Manafossen Barn, Burton Bradstock, and the *Julian Group* meet monthly at Swyre, encouraging us all to have hope as we 'watch and pray'

Jesus promised: 'I *will* build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.'

Heather Rogers

Church Floodlighting

If you would like to have a church floodlit for a baptism or wedding, or in memory of someone, please speak to the following: Burton Bradstock: Ian Ibbotson 898484, Shipton Gorge: Phyl Webster 898657, Litton Cheney: Freddie Spicer 482617.

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



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

What a busy half term we have had at Burton. The weekly Burton Bulletins have been full of all the amazing things that have been happening in school such as Science Week, our writing competition, a trip to Corfe Castle for KS1 and a visit from the amazing Bank of Dreams and Nightmares to name but a few. Please do take a look at these on our website if you would like to see more about what we get up to in school.

We have been running a writing competition this term based on an unexplained dragon visit to our school! Our winners were judged by our English Lead and a member of our LSC who said the following about our young writers:

Iris (Wagtails) was able to use her sense of humour and imagination to capture the

readers' enthusiasm. A future writing star in the making!

Franziska (Robins) created a thrilling suspense story that instantly had the readers hooked. Watch out for her future books!

Aneka (Kingfishers) created a whole new dragon world that engrossed the reader wanting to know more. I can't wait for her next story!

Poppy B (Owls) wrote a story with an incredible use of vocabulary and a number of captivating writing skills. Watch out for her future books!

Our KS2 Choir performed with St Mary's and Symonds Primary Schools at a schools' opera event last week. Working with musicians from the Royal Opera House, the children put on a wonderful performance of Mozart's, 'The Magic Flute'.



During British Science week, all children took part in a fabulous writing workshop with the wonderful Bank of Dreams and Nightmares. Children completed poems around the BSW theme of time. All children will have poems featured in our very own Poetry Anthology which will be published in the summer term.

As part of their topic 'Misty Mountain, Winding River', Kingfisher class visited the River Asker in Bridport to undertake a river study. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the river and the creatures that live in it. We were lucky to have one of our parents who works for Dorset Council's National Landscape team leading the session.



Opportunity to Train as a Teacher

The School is participating in the scheme described on the right to offer opportunities to train as a teacher in a school near you. If there are interested applicants from the Bride Valley they are welcome to contact Burton School's Head Teacher for more information. Please contact Adam on email at office@burtonbradstock.dorset.sch.uk or phone 01308 897369

*Adam Gough
Headteacher*



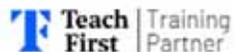
Join our one-year training and give children in your community the chance to thrive.

- ▶ **Make a difference in your community**
You'll train in a school near you and make an impact where you live.
- ▶ **Get hands-on experience in the classroom**
You'll work as a teaching member of staff in a local school right from the start.
- ▶ **Receive high-quality training**
You'll benefit from Teach First's teacher training - rated outstanding by Ofsted - delivered by local teacher development experts.
- ▶ **Access support from experienced teachers**
You'll shadow other teachers before leading your own lessons with guidance from experienced colleagues.
- ▶ **Qualify in one year and start earning**
You'll graduate with qualified teacher status (QTS) and a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE).

Local teacher training. Local lives changed.

To find out more visit:

www.teachfirst.org.uk





Thorners CE VA School

BVN deadline and our return to school after the Easter holidays have collided and sadly prevented the normal detailed report for this month's magazine.

Suffice to say we are glad to be back in school, and whilst our plans for the summer term relies on a modicum of dry weather we are prepared for all the elements that may come our way.

We will be back in full information mode in June's BVN.

Mike Sitch
Headmaster

Our Night Sky in May 2024

Venus is still lost in the glare of the Sun, but Mars and Saturn are just visible in the early morning sky for early risers before sunrise.

Japan's "Moon Sniper" robotic explorer is back in action after a power issue forced the spacecraft to shut down hours after landing on the moon 10 days ago, the country's space agency said Monday.



The explorer executed a precise landing just after 10:20 a.m. ET on January 19 (12:20 a.m. January 20 Japan Standard Time), making Japan the fifth country ever to put a spacecraft safely on the lunar surface – but faced a critical issue almost immediately.

The spacecraft landed facing the wrong direction after one of its engines failed during landing, meaning its solar cells couldn't generate electricity and it had to rely on limited battery power, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

The agency shut off the lunar explorer to conserve its battery, saying it would automatically be restarted if its solar panel began generating power as the angle of the sun changed.

On Monday, JAXA announced on the social media platform X that it had “succeeded in establishing communication with (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon, or SLIM) last night and have resumed operations!” The explorer has also captured new images of the lunar surface and returned them to the mission team on Earth.

I hope to give you more information as it comes in.

Bill Turnill

Thank You from Bill

I have been literally inundated with hundreds of cards, expressing sympathy and love for Mary with so many of them describing how much she was loved, not only by her family, but by the two villages we made our home.

Cards expressing sympathy have come from all over the country, and it would take me months if not years to answer them all personally, so I ask you to realise how much I have been comforted from all the love that has been sent, and how much I wish I could answer them all, but have to accept the impossibility of doing so.

My love to you all

Bill

Book Review: Bride Valley Book Group

The Danger Game by Kalinda Ashton

It was a lukewarm response to Kalinda Ashton’s first novel “The Danger Game”. Only about half of us actually read to the end but having said this - Ro, Debbie and Jackie enjoyed it. The novel is set in present day down at heel Australia and focuses on three siblings abandoned by their mother following a mysterious house fire in which the youngest sibling, Jeremy, perishes. The children’s father, unemployed and a drinker, is inadequate to the task of raising his remaining children. The title refers to a childhood game of high risk “dares” very much propelled by the middle sibling, Louise. Some of us admired the narrative voice shifts from



Alice (first person) to Louise (second person) to Jeremy (third person) - there was also support for the way in which opiate addiction was described and the visceral depiction of bullying at school. However none of this overcame our misgivings about this novel. The subject matter of a dysfunctional and poor family, under parented children and general misery made for a tough read. Some of us had anticipated a climactic reveal as to the true story behind the fatal house fire - and the whereabouts of the absentee mother - but this was not forthcoming. The various strands of this novel did not really cohere despite some sections of powerful writing. We did not know much about Melbourne social class structure but it did seem that this was a family struggling with the odds stacked against them.

Liz Pinfield

The Bride Valley WI

The March meeting of the WI took us to Freshwater for our Ten Pin Bowling night. Great fun was had by all with some great scores and some not so great scores. Exercise and laughter were the order of the evening with Sue Bunce taking bowling champion title. Congratulations to her.

The Bride Valley WI held its first Saturday Cafe and Cake Sale at The Latch. This proved an enormous success. Thanks to all the help from members and the committee for ensuring the sausage and bacon baps kept on coming. Thank you also to all the visitors to The Cafe who helped make it an event we will be repeating.

Our monthly walk was slightly marred by the mist but nevertheless we circled around Abbotsbury and retired to Cherries for a well deserved coffee and cake.

Skittles for fun continues at The White Horse on alternate Tuesdays.

The Bride Valley WI meet at Puncknowle Village Hall every third Thursday of the month. Come and see if it's for you. You will be very welcome.

Email: bridevalleywi@gmail.com

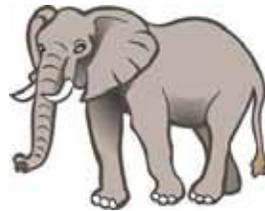
A herd of more than fifty brightly decorated elephants



A Wild in Art event presented by Weldmar Hospicecare



Prepare for the arrival of the herd – Weldmar Hospicecare and Wild in Art are bringing Stampede by the Sea to West Dorset. A herd of more than fifty brightly decorated elephants will be arriving in Bridport, West Bay, and Lyme Regis in spring 2025, to raise funds and awareness for Weldmar Hospicecare.



Stampede by the Sea will transform the area into a vibrant, fun, and free art trail, engaging with local families, schools, the business community, and artists. The event was officially launched at the Electric Palace in Bridport, where the first elephant designs were also unveiled. The elephants will be located around the area, and visitors to the trail will be able to follow the app to visit each of the sculptures. The trail is expected to bring a number of extra visitors to the area ahead of the summer season, providing a welcome boost to the local economy.

Funds will be raised for Weldmar Hospicecare through sponsorship of each sculpture and other elements of the art trail, allowing local businesses to play their part in the project and involve employees and customers. A further boost to the charity's coffers will come at the end of the trail when each of the sculptures will be sold at auction. Local schools and youth organisations will be able to engage with Stampede by the Sea's learning programme. Each participating school will receive a baby elephant sculpture to design as they wish, and it will be theirs to keep following the trail. Teachers will be supported in starting conversations about grief and dying, and how children can be encouraged to share their feelings and emotions.

More details about Stampede by the Sea can be found online at stampedebythesea.org, and by following Stampede by the Sea on Facebook and Instagram.

James O'Neill

Events in the Bride Valley

Gregory Steward - Professional Tenor

Classical Favourites and Songs from the Shows

Les Miserables, Carousel, South Pacific

St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock, DT6 4QS

Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 7.30 pm

Refreshments available

Tickets, £12, available from the Post Office
or email gregorystewardtenor@gmail.com
or from a member of the PCC, or on the door. Under 18's free.

Summer Wine Tasting with Selected Grapes of Bridport

Thorner's Hall, School Lane, Litton Cheney, DT2 9AU

Friday 7th June 2024 6.00pm for 6.30pm

Tickets £20 to include talk, canapes and Prosecco

To reserve your place contact 01308 863690 or 01308 420071
or email cropayne@icloud.com

Pippa Davis

Chairman of West Dorset Versus Arthritis Fundraising Committee

Burton Bradstock Players

Dates for your diary

The Players will present an "evening of comedy"
with two very funny 'one act' comedy plays on

Thursday 20th June 7.30pm

Friday 21st June 7.30pm

Saturday 22nd June 7.30pm

At Burton Bradstock Village Hall

Tickets available from 8th May 2024

For more information contact Carole Houghton
(01308 898521 or 07764523182)

Bride Valley Gardening Club

Why Can't I.....?

I have a friend who makes the most 'delicious' compost. She is justifiably proud of it and no visit is complete without an early inspection. The cover is whipped off and a giant thermometer plunged into its very heart to reveal a core temperature ensuring that it's doing its stuff.



No slimy mess oozes from the base; no swarms of fruit flies hover above; just pure, warm, crumbly compost - the best – surely good enough to eat, it smells so sweet. Can I do this? No chance. All attempts fail to produce anything remotely this good. I've had the lesson, read the books and tried time and again. As I see it the only good thing about my poor composting is that I'm unlikely to be surprised (terrified) by a nesting snake, my compost being too cold and wet.

As for annuals: warm weather, bare soil, packet of easy seeds carefully sown on well prepared soil together with patience and optimism. One month on and still the same bare earth while down the road neighbours have seedlings galore, some already flowering from their efficient early sowings. I've decided to blame this particular inadequacy on a variety of pests – moles, badgers, dogs, cats, hens – we have them all. I feel quietly confident about this as my success rate with more unusual seeds nurtured in the greenhouse can be quite impressive. Ready to plant them out, what do I need? You've guessed, good compost - which is where I started!

Regardless of your own composting skills do come to our next meeting on Monday May 20th at 7.30pm when we welcome the return of Phil Gamble who will try to 'Bust the Myths of Compost Making', in a light-hearted talk on this serious subject. I'll be there! Visitors welcome (£2): refreshments and plant sales from 7pm.



See you there,

Ali (balletboots@live.com)

Bride Valley Gardening Club Guest Speaker:



NEIL LUCAS

“Mr Grass” of Knoll Gardens
World authority on
Ornamental grass; gold medal winner & author

“MORE WOW AND LESS WORK”
Grasses and their place in the garden

Monday, June 17th at 7.30
In LATCH Village Hall, Litton Cheney, DT2 9AU

Tickets £3 members, £5 visitors
In advance only from:
Liz Gibbs 07751942588 email: liz_gibbs@hotmail.com

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

liz@ruddle.org.uk Tel: 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

Jill.neill@live.co.uk Tel 01308 897479

Village website: <https://puncknowle.net>



Flower Festival Saturday 4th May

After our very successful flower festival last year for the Coronation, we are holding another this year to welcome the month of May. May is traditionally the month associated with the Virgin Mary – after whom our church is dedicated. It would be great if the village could come together to celebrate. We will be decorating the church on Friday 3th May. Please bring any flowers - large or small – on Saturday, or over the weekend. Let's fill the church with flowers again.

Puncknowle 100 Club

Here are the draw results

January: 1st Prize Sue Bunce 2nd Prize Geoff Truscott

February: 1st Prize Steve Neill 2nd Prize Pam Taylor

March: 1st Prize Claire Hart 2nd Prize John Marsh

Table Tennis Anyone?

The Village Hall has two full sized table tennis tables which can be used as part of the cost of hiring of the Hall. A great way to spend some quality time with friends and family on a rainy day. The Hall can be hired for as little as £6 an hour for local residents. For more information about the Hall and bookings, please see <https://puncknowle.net/puncknowle-swyre-village-hall/village-hall-diary-dates/>

3 Villages Neighbourhood Plan

Do you enjoy walking round your village or on local footpaths? If so, we hope you'll take part in May Meanders. We're asking you to go for a walk somewhere in the Parish at any time during May, of any length, taking with you one of our question sheets so that you can make notes. The aim is to walk as many of the local footpaths and rights of way as possible. We want to collect information on the routes taken, the state of paths, wildlife and flora seen and notable views and trees and we'd like your photos as well. Keep an eye out for the details coming soon. Members of the Steering Group will be at the Parish Assembly on 28 May to give an update on how the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing. The next Steering Group meeting is at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at The Manor Hotel, West Bexington. All meetings are open and you are welcome to attend. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Brian Bowsher on 01308 897987 or email brian@bowshers.plus.com. You can also be kept updated on the Plan by subscribing to our email list (email wbexnp@yahoo.com) and there are regular updates on Facebook

Puncknowle and Swyre Annual Parish Assembly

Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall on Tuesday 9th March 2024, 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to find out about the activities of all the various groups in our community. There will also be a presentation about the progress of your Neighbourhood Plan. Everyone is welcome.

**PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE, WEST BEXINGTON, CHILCOMBE,
LONG BREDY AND LITTLE BREDY**

LUNCH CLUB 2024, at PUNCKNOWLE VILLAGE HALL - 1.00pm
Enquiries - please contact **David Buckland**,
01308 898492 for more details.

LUNCHES COST £6.00

**May 21 Lasagne with salad and garlic bread
Chocolate pudding with Chocolate Sauce**

**June 18 Sausages, Mash and gravy
Lemon meringue pie and cream**

Future dates:

July 16

August - No lunch

September 17

All meals include fruit juice, cheese and biscuits, tea or coffee



What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in May		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	10.00am - 11:00am	Tripudio Contact Ali on 07968 370485 or by email ali.russell@hotmail.com
Mondays	1:30pm - 4:00pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
Wednesdays	10:00am - 12:00noon	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Wednesdays	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
OTHER EVENTS		
Tuesday 2nd	6.45 am - 22:00 pm	Elections
Monday 6th	5.00pm - 6:00pm	Planning Steering Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Tuesday 7th	10.0am - 11:00am	Tripudio. Contact Ali on 07968 370485 or by email ali.russell@hotmail.com uesday
Tuesday 7th	19.30 - 10.00pm	Parish Council Open to the Public
Thursday 9th	14:00pm-16:00pm	Craft Club Contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
Thursday 9th	7:00pm - 10:30pm	Whist Drive Contact Jenny on 01308 897863
Tuesday 16th	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Bride Valley WI Contact Nic Arundel on 079411 201373 or by email: nicarundel@gmail.com
Monday 20th	7:00pm - 9.00pm	Benefice Contact Helen Fry on 01308 897260
Tuesday 21st	1:00pm - 2:30pm	Lunch Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Friday 31th	10:00am - 12:30 pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987

Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Rebecca Grove
01308 482882 bvn@longbredy.org.uk
Village web-site: www.longbredy.org.uk



Long Bredy 100 Club March Results

£30.00	No. 22	J. Cain
£15.00	No. 132	H. Larcombe
£5.00	No. 18	D. & R. Cullingford

St Peter's Church

Bell ringers

On Mothering Sunday a team of ringers came to St Peter's Church and successfully rang a peal of 5040 Doubles in 2h 47mins. The ringers were 1. Paul R Smith 2. Mariko H Whyte, 3. Ian D Tucker 4. Nigel R Woodruff 5. Tim E Rose (who conducted the peal). Congratulations to all involved.

New Rector

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Rector, Rev'd Andrew Rawding.

Repair works

Unfortunately, the masonry and render above the arch at the rear of the church have fallen off the wall. While the church was temporarily closed, a surveyor has assessed it as safe for use.

To ensure safety, the affected area has been cordoned off for public awareness. We are currently awaiting a detailed report from a Structural Engineer, but it's clear that significant repairs are necessary, which will incur substantial costs.

Any fundraising ideas are welcome!

Coming up in May...

Polling day

Thursday 2nd May 2024 is Polling Day for local government elections. Please remember to take photographic ID with you to the polling station in the village hall. You will not be allowed to vote without showing it to a member of the polling station staff.

Plant sale / Coffee Break

There will be a combined Coffee Break and Plant Sale on Saturday 11th May 2024 from 10.30am until midday. We usually have a wide selection of good quality plants at very affordable prices. Come and have a look.

If you are growing plants and have spares or are dividing perennials, we are very grateful to receive plants to sell; PLEASE label them with the name and variety if possible.

Please contact Sue Dyer 01308 482882 for more information

Come Along Inn

The Come Along Inn opens its door again on **Friday 17th May 2024** from 5.30pm to 9.00pm in the village hall. As always, all are welcome to join.

Things to look forward to...

In early June we are arranging a talk by the National Trust on the skeletons found near Bottleknapp, one in 2013 and a further two during a detailed dig in 2019. The date is to be confirmed so please keep a look out for the details. It should be a fascinating insight into Long Bredy's past residents.

Recipe Corner

When space permits, we'll be sharing a recipe that you can easily try at home. If there are any recipes you'd like to share with the community, please email them to Rebecca or post it through the door at No. 5 Bedford Terrace.



This month's recipe is... a healthy raspberry chia pudding

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of frozen raspberries
- 2 cups of milk of choice (dairy or plant-based)
- 3 tbsp of maple syrup
- 2/4 cup of chia seeds
- 2 cups of Greek yogurt or plant-based equivalent

Instructions:

Blend raspberries, milk, and maple syrup until smooth. Pour into a large lunchbox or container and add the chia seeds along with the yogurt and mix well. Refrigerate overnight and enjoy for breakfast or a healthy snack!

You can top with chocolate chips, coconut shreds, banana, blueberries or nuts...

...or all of the above! 😊

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton
patgrafton43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264
Village web-site: www.burtonbradstockvillage.org.



Tots' Time

A popular party game decades ago was 'pinning the tail on the donkey' (no Risk Assessments in those far off days!!) when a blind-folded child, drawing pin in hand, would attempt to fix a 'tail' onto a large cardboard 'donkey' to the shrieks of delight and shouted instructions of the other party-goers.

We went one better at our final Tots' Time before Easter, when the children could fix moveable legs and tails to their cardboard 'donkeys' as we told the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We also paraded up and down the church on 'hobby-horse' style donkeys, singing 'Hosanna'. We hope you saw the Easter Garden the tots made and the sample donkey in the church porch.

Soon we shall be planting cress seeds in egg shells, and later be eating egg and cress sandwiches. We hope to be able to play in the sunshine in the garden behind the church very soon, discover snails, watch birds and butterflies, and thank God for 'all things bright and beautiful'

All bumps, babies, toddlers, and pre-school children are welcome to come with their parents/ carers at 2.00pm each Friday in term-time. For more information contact Audrey 897227, Heather 897780 or Helen at BVchurchesTA@outlook.com

St Mary's Church Fete 2024 – a date for your diary!

Save the date – this year's Church Fete will be on the afternoon of **Thursday 1 August** from 2pm to 4.30pm in the Rectory Gardens and the Village Hall. The planning is already under way and we are delighted to welcome our new team members who are coming up with some great ideas!

Of course, we could always do with more support and helpers, so if you would like to join in the fun for a worthwhile cause - to enhance St Mary's as a community space for everyone - we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to volunteer a few hours of your time, or even sponsor something at the Fete, please don't hesitate to give Peter Tompkins a call on 01308 897043. Thank you in anticipation,

The Church Fete Team

Thank You from the Inner Wheel

Inner Wheel Club of Bridport would like to thank everyone who came to the recent Soup and Pud Lunch in Burton Bradstock. We are delighted to tell you that we raised £705.



All proceeds go to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Burton Coffee Mates

Burton Coffee Mates meet in the church on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30-12pm. Although everyone from the village is welcome, this is particularly suitable for older people and facilities are provided for wheelchair users. Do come and join us. If you would like more information, please call Pauline (898327).

Burton Bradstock Village Hall

Village Hall Bookings

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

Coffee Mornings.

The popular monthly coffee mornings where you can get a sensibly priced coffee/tea and cake plus a chat with friends will be held on the dates below. They run from 10:00am to 12:00noon and all are welcome.

Wed 15th May Bride Valley Drivers

Wed 12th June Village Society

Burton Bradstock Films

Burton Bradstock Films will be showing WONKA on Friday 24 May 2024 in the Village Hall. This is a funny, heartwarming musical and a prequel to the 1971 film Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and not the book. The film runs just under two hours but don't think about leaving when the credits roll or you will miss the post credit scene. Rated PG it is definitely an entertaining must watch for all ages from teens to grown-ups. A great film to start off a Bank Holiday weekend.

Tickets are £6 each and include a glass of wine or a soft drink and can be bought prior to the evening from Burton Bradstock Farm Shop and Post Office or, if still available, at the door on the night. Doors open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm.

We look forward to welcoming you for this last film of the 2023/24 season as we then take our summer break.

Burton Bradstock Village Fayre **Monday 27th May 2024 (2.00pm to 4.30pm)**

The Burton Bradstock Village Fayre, the proceeds from which go to the Village Hall, will be held in the Rectory Gardens and Village Hall on Bank Holiday Monday 27th 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, children will be able to test their agility on an obstacle course, and there will be a test of strength and skill for all comers. Ice creams, soft drinks, a barbeque and our famous Dorset cream teas will also be on offer. 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 or 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 25th May – see below.

Children’s Stall – 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 25th 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. if you have any white Elephant items you need to donate early please call or email Richard Ferre to arrange collection/drop off.

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 25th – 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 9.30 am 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 12.00 noon on Saturday 25th May to receive items for any of the stalls, but particularly the White Elephant, Book and Bottle Tombola stalls.

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 Village Hall “200 Club”

April 2024 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£34.60	No 123:	Jill Harper
2 nd	£17.30	No 48:	Linda Ashman
3 rd	£8.65	No 3:	Gill Mayo

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the May 2024 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

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

I am pleased to report that 28 Friends of Burton Bradstock Library attended the AGM on 10th April. We are very sorry that John Lewis has stepped down from being the Buildings Manager and Trustee and he was presented with a gift to show our gratitude for all the work he has done over many years. He

will be sorely missed and if anyone is willing to take over from John as Buildings Manager, or knows someone who could, please get in touch.

We welcomed Brenda Oliver as a new Trustee so we have a full complement on our committee again. We hope to co-opt Christine Lewis at our first Trustees' Meeting.

Anne Hurrell, our Community Library Liaison Officer, will be retiring in May. She has been supporting us since the Community Library came into being. We thank her for all her hard work and we will miss her.

Dorset Libraries/Libraries West are preparing to move to a new operating system at the beginning of June. We will be offline from 23rd May to 3rd June, during which time the volunteers will be trained to use what we have been assured is a more intuitive system than the present one. So we will be closing all of Spring Bank week, reopening on 3rd June.

This year's children's Summer Reading Challenge will be on the theme of 'Marvellous Makers' – 'to fire up children's imaginations and unleash storytelling and creativity through reading'. We hope to



hold a children's craft session linked to this topic during the summer and Lego club may happen at Spring Bank – look out for posters, etc. This picture shows some of the results of our Easter holiday Lego Club.

We will be closed for both May Bank Holiday Mondays but our normal library opening times, apart from the closure during Spring Bank week, are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com

www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

Sue Brown, Chairman

Burton Bradstock WI

Our Annual Meeting in April got off to a good start with two exciting games of Bingo. Thanks go to Richard Ferré, who kindly came along to run the sessions. The evening then took on a more serious note as we settled down to elect a committee and new President for the following year. It was no surprise that the current committee were all re-elected, thank goodness, but a little disappointing that there were no new volunteers forthcoming as we still have one more space available. Maybe we can persuade one of the newer members to our WI to join us as time goes by, once they become more accustomed to the proceedings – it's all good fun!

We are, however, pleased to announce that our new President is Alison Hawes. Congratulations and best wishes go to her. Alison gave a short thank you speech in which her enthusiasm for her new role shone through, so we are looking forward to exciting times ahead.

Our thanks go to Pauline Tompkins, our retiring President, for all her hard work over the past year in leading the WI forwards – and for trying to keep the committee under control!!

Our WI has gone from strength to strength this year and with 11 new members our number is now up to 59!

Looking back over the year we realised how good and busy it had been – some very interesting speakers, a quiz evening, two trips out, running stalls at two fêtes, running our own Christmas bazaar and a coffee morning, art, craft and photographic competitions and, of course, lots of meals out! The craft, kurling, book and Mah Jong groups have all met regularly throughout the year too.

Our meeting in May will include a talk by Liz See about the Linus Project, which involves a number of volunteers who make quilts, blankets and incubator covers for children in hospitals and hospices. Our past President, Pauline has made a large number of beautiful patchwork quilts for them over the past few years so maybe some more members might be encouraged to join in with this wonderful project.

Also, in May – you've guessed – The Lunch Club will be having a meal out at Bridport Golf Club!!

Janet Pearson
01308 898346

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Dates for your Diary:

20th April – Defibrillator Training - Village Hall

There are still spaces left on the 10.00am & 11.30am sessions, please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk to book your place.

11th May – Village Litter Picking Session - 9.30am Reading Room

15th May – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

29th May – Annual Meeting of the Parish - Village Hall 6pm

Please note that Burton Bradstock residents will have received an insert with their copy of the BVN giving details of all the candidates standing in the Parish Council elections on 2nd May.

Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art - Spring Concert

The Burton Bradstock Festival Spring Concert will be held on Friday 7 June 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Festival favourites' David Juritz (violin), Craig Ogden (guitar) and Adrian Bradbury (cello) will play an evening of music for guitar and strings.

The programme is:

JS Bach Sinfonias BWV 787 - 801 arranged for violin, guitar and cello

Heitor Villa-Lobos Bachianas

Brasileiras

Iannis Xenakis Dhipli Zyia

Gabriel Fauré Sicilienne and Après un rêve

Poldowski Tango

Nicolo Paganini Terzetto in D major

Spring Concert Tickets are £14 and can be booked through the Bridport Tourist Information Centre 01308 424901. More information at www.burtonbradstockfestival.com. And a reminder that the 42nd Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art will be held from 10-18th August, with a nine-day art exhibition in the Village Hall and six days of brilliant classical, jazz and world music played by internationally acclaimed performers.

Jenny Malyon, Chair of the Festival Committee

Supper Club

This month's supper club will be held on 20th May. Any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mags Chue 07790811905

Burton Bradstock Village Society

The Village Society AGM, Friday May 10th, 2024, 7.00pm.

Doors open at 6:45pm in the Village Hall. There will be a free glass of wine, light refreshments and Bingo with prizes as entertainment for attendees after the main business.

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 679020 or you can put your name forward on the night.

Annual Plant and Cake sale May 11th, 10.00am-12.00noon

This will be held in the Rectory Gardens with a wide range of plants and cakes for sale at bargain prices. After which, please come over to the Hall for drinks, cake, raffle and good company in the Hall.

This is always a lovely event with great atmosphere and as with all Society events everyone is welcome.

Wednesday 19th June Village Outing

There are still a few places for this year's outing to Swanage and Compton Acres ornamental Gardens in Poole with cream tea included at a cost of £45 per head. To register either email rwferre99@gmail.com with your details or call Richard on 897648. As you will be reading this in May you will be asked to pay when you register.

Saturday 13th July Annual Flower & Produce Show

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 under Flower and Produce show. Hard copies will be available in the library and Post Office shortly. A great village event where we all have an equal chance to win but it is just fun taking part.

Village Society Subscriptions: By now you will have received a request for 2024-25 subscriptions either by email or letter. If not please contact Roger Ashman on 07971 649020 or bbvillagesociety@gmail.com for more information. Thank you to those who have already paid.

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Philip Williams
pw@bridehead.com Tel: 01305 482232
Village website: <http://www.littlebredy.com>



The Church decorations at Easter were less intensive than usual, but colourful and impressive all the same, and a note in the Visitors' Book showed that they were still very much appreciated. Thanks and congratulations to Charlie and his team for creating the displays.

Still on a horticultural theme: by the time this is read, Liz Eaton and her team of volunteers will have the Walled Gardens open for seasonal visitors. Opening times are Sunday and Wednesday afternoons, from 2pm – 5pm, throughout the summer. Locals of course will be especially welcome, but an increase in traffic in the village on those afternoons can be expected from those coming from further afield.

A familiar face will sadly be missing this year – Bryn House has been a regular volunteer in the gardens for many years, beginning with skilfully repairing the brickwork of the walls in Chris and Judy Yates' time. He has died in Weymouth following a short illness within the last few weeks. So too has Syd Brown, who grew up here as a boy till his marriage in the 1950s. His ashes will return here to be buried with his parents (1937 and 1988) and his late wife Janet, whom he buried here in 2022, since when he and the family have been regular visitors. May they both rest in peace.

Brain fade has resulted in getting two names wrong in the last two editions. Natasha has been Mrs. Jason Pitcher for years, so how I absent-mindedly came to refer to her by her maiden surname of Roots in March is a mystery. Similarly, both new farm staff were identified as Jack in April, though one of them is/was Matt. Belated apologies for lack of adequate proofreading to all concerned.

Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett
richard@c-m-sltd.co.uk Tel: 01308 897278
Village web-site: www.shiptongorge.org.uk



Welcome to our village diary.
Just search for Shipton Gorge
Diary or go directly to:
shiptongorgediary.co.uk

SHIPTON GORGE VILLAGE DIARY

You'll be able to find out all that's going on in the village from the Village Society, the New Inn/ New Inn Support, the Village Hall, Shipton Gorge Heritage, the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.

St Martin's Church

Floodlight Sponsors for May

Liz & Nigel Ringrose for their 49th wedding anniversary
Jake & Janet celebrating 30 happy years on 20th May living in Shipton Gorge,
Big Bob in memory of his Dad John Ayers
Diane in memory of her Dad Jimmy James
Paul Thomas thinking of Tim & Caroline

Thank you to all our floodlight sponsors. You are very much appreciated. For a suggested donation of £5 you can have your occasion mentioned in the BVN. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

Breakfast Church in the Village Hall 12th May 9.30am
Holy Communion 26th May 11.00am

Village Hall

April 2024 100 Club Draw results: 1st 71, £25, Table Tennis Club,
2nd 121 £10 Nigel Fisher, 3rd 26 £5 Alan Evans

Congratulations to all winners

Village Society

Hanging Baskets

We still have a few hanging baskets available. Should you have not seen an earlier insert in the BVN, these are for you to display outside of the New Inn. They will be 14inch and judged in June and July to determine the best entry. The one deemed the best will win Sunday lunch for two at the New Inn. Please contact Sally Parker who will happily provide. It is then up to you to create a winning basket.

Parish Council

By the time you read this you will be preparing to vote in the local elections that are held on 2nd May or will have already voted. These elections are for Parish Councillor, Dorset Council Councillor and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The old Parish Council hands over to the new Council after these elections. There are vacancies for all nine Councillors, but only five applications were received from parishioners wishing to stand. The consequence of this is that all five have been duly elected. The five new Councillors are: Simon Crafter, Elizabeth Forty, Christine Huxtable, Martine Simmonds and Paul Thimont. One of their first tasks will be to co-opt up to four additional Councillors to reflect our community. The Parish Council obviously wants to have nine Councillors as it will be able to do more for the parish and be more effective with a full complement of Councillors.

In the playing field, the basketball post has been erected and now is able to be used once again. Progress has been made with the roundabout but its re-installation is still being hampered by all the rain and water-logged ground.

The new Council will hold its first meeting on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm. I am sure you will join me in wishing the new Council every success and I am sure they will serve the village community to the best of their ability.

Hilary Cunningham, Chair

Project Gigabit network build contract – Dorset and South Somerset

BDUK has awarded broadband provider Wessex Internet a Project Gigabit contract to provide around 21,400 premises across Dorset and South Somerset with access to gigabit-capable broadband.

From: [Building Digital UK](#)

Published 10 April 2024

To find out more about Project Gigabit, register an interest and receive progress updates use the online coverage checker at: www.wessexinternet.com

Tony Mallett

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winners in the April draw were Jean and Geoff Wyrill – their prize of a Dorset goodies hamper has been delivered. Second time winners, congratulations again!



Saunders Richardson Wood

Weather permitting, the Seed Bomb and Nettle event will have taken place and some of you may have been converted to the culinary delights of nettles. The bins will have been filled with lovely organic nettles and the brewing process started – nettle fertiliser should be ready for bottling towards the end of May. Signs of spring are here. The fiddleheads of the ferns are uncoiling, and primroses and bluebells have emerged through the carpet of celandine. When ready, we will be collecting seeds from the bluebells and will broadcast around the wood so that next spring the display will be even better.

To celebrate Dawn Chorus Day, we are holding an event in the Wood on Sunday 5 May at 5.00am. For obvious reasons, numbers are very limited

and prebooking required. Worth checking with Mary Boughton on 07785 948 386 for any late cancellations.

Members only, but we can sign you up on the day.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

After a bit of a delay, the gates should have been repaired and the signs in the Orchard have had a spruce up thanks to John Hall. The Damson blossom will have been and gone, but the apple blossom should be out now for you to enjoy – with the insect friendly borders providing some extra nutrition for the early pollinators.

We will be doing some low-key maintenance on Wednesday 8 & 22 May 11am-12pm. If you would like to help, you are very welcome to come along!



A date for the diary – King’s Birthday Cream Tea being held on 15 June in the Village hall – more details to follow.

If you are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe on 07393 214635 or email annecrowe2016@hotmail.com
Details as usual on our website:

http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton_Gorge_Heritage_16417.aspx
and in the Shipton Gorge Diary <https://www.shiptongorgediary.co.uk>

Drop-in Café

The Drop-In Café will be at the Village Hall, Friday 3rd May, 10.00am to 12.30pm: *Free refreshments, teas, coffees (including de-caff), biscuits (including gluten and dairy-free) and fruit squash.*

The second Drop-in Café in April continued where March’s left off with plenty of villagers calling in throughout the morning and having a good old natter.

The children made good use of the crayons and pictures to colour in . . . so they'll be available again!

The seed swap box, normally found at this time of year in the old telephone box, will be available to all.

Take any seeds you want to plant and if you have any packets you won't use please leave them for others to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to recycle the following small items that Dorset Council don't collect. Please bring them along or drop them off to the villagers who collect them and send them off to be recycled:

Pens & writing equipment – Chris Hewlett (they can also be left in the old telephone box)

Stamps – Julie Bartrum-Lang and Mary Boughton

Contact lens cases – Mary Boughton

Ink cartridges – Ann Jones

Pill blister packs – Jo Warren (or deposited in the metal skip at the Broomhills Recycling Centre)

If you'd like to 'Drop-in' but would appreciate a lift – just phone Richard Hewlett (897278) or Chris Huxtable (897519) in advance and it will be arranged.

See you there

Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell

jfirrell20@gmail.com Tel: 01308 482313

Village web-site www.littoncheney.org.uk



St. Mary's Church

On Easter Day we were officially given the good news of the appointment of a new Rector for the Benefice - the Rev'd Andrew Rawding. He brings a wealth of experience as a rural parish priest in Northern Ireland, and as a Royal Navy Chaplain. He is currently completing training to become a social worker. We hope that there will be a licensing service before the summer. He and his wife and children will be living in The Rectory in Burton Bradstock.

At our Annual Meeting in April John Vercoe stood down from the post of Churchwarden which he has held for the last seven years. We are hugely grateful to him for all the hard work he has put in during this time, keeping everything running smoothly at St. Mary's. Sadly no one has come forward to replace him, so the post will be vacant from the end of July and the Churchwarden's duties have been divided between members of the congregation. This is not a happy situation and we very much hope that someone will feel inspired to take on the post of Churchwarden in the near future. The contact for church matters now is PCC Secretary, Wendy Firrell, Tel: 01308 482532 email: wtlitton@gmail.com

The PCC of St. Mary's will be hosting a Village Café at LATCH on Saturday 6th July to raise funds for the church. In the meantime, we shall be running our annual Grand Prize Draw with tickets going on sale by the end of this month, with the results being announced at the Village Café. Please buy lots of tickets!

Litton Cheney Parish Council – Village Assembly/Annual Meeting - 14th May

Along with the rest of the Bride Valley villages, other than Burton Bradstock, there will not be a contested Parish Council election on 2nd May. Nominations were received from five residents:- Bill Orchard, John Firrell, Andrew King, Quentin Blacke and new councillor, Rob Matthews. As Litton Cheney has capacity for seven councillors, in due course we will be given permission to co-opt two more people.

After more than 17 years on the Parish Council, Bella Spurrier sadly decided it was time to step down. As sheep farmer and vintner, Bella's brief was to keep the council informed and advised of various happenings on the local agricultural scene and countryside. Thank you, Bella, for your dedication and sage advice over many years. Rest easy – time for others to pick up the spoils of farming and viticulture.

As previously mentioned, our former Parish Clerk, Maggie Walsh, has retired, and the position has now been assumed by new Clerk Lucy Beasley who also clerks for Shipton Gorge. We will be formally saying goodbye to Maggie at the Village Assembly on Tuesday 14th May at 7.15pm. Please make every effort to come along and join in our thanks to Maggie for a job very well done.

At the Village Assembly we will also be discussing affordable rural housing. This subject is being discussed throughout the shires of England in an effort

to identify appropriate places where affordable houses could be located. A cross section of residents in Litton have been asked to offer up their written opinion, and the results of that “consultation” will be revealed at the Village Assembly. You will have a chance to add your own thoughts to this important issue at the assembly. Please come.

Bridge over Tranquil Waters. After the amazing success of the Litton Cheney Bench Fund, we do not intend to rest on our laurels or indeed our benches! There is an urgent need for a new bridge over the stream at Chilcombe.

Walkers of all types who walk that way (so to speak!) will no doubt be very aware of the state of the current bridge. Dorset Council have offered to match fund us if we can raise £500 towards a sustainable and lasting bridge. The public right of way is virtually impassable at the moment, so your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Quentin Blacke 07919 905588 if you would like to make a donation or obtain more details. A fund-raising Village Cafe will be held in the near future and we look forward to your support at this event.

Full Fibre – Superfast Broadband

For the latest news on our transition to full fibre via Openreach visit the village website www.littoncheney.org.uk

D-Day 80th Anniversary

On 6th June this year we as a Nation will be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in 1944. Much of the coastal area along our Dorset shores were used in the lead-up to the invasion to ready the allied troops and that very much includes the Bride Valley. We will be commemorating this anniversary in various ways, but if you have a story to tell we would like to hear it. Please contact John Firrell, initially by email jfirrell20@gmail.com, so we can piece together the story of the D-Day Landings, and the part the Bride Valley played in making it happen. Many thanks.

Litton and Thorner's Community Hall - LATCH

Events at LATCH – for May

Weekly:

Mondays: 3.30pm – 4.30pm Big Q Church (Term time only)

Tuesdays: 4.45pm – 5.45pm Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 01308 482661)

6.00 pm – Pilates (johanna@larkpilates.com 07920 421783)

Wednesdays: 4.45 pm - Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 01308 482661)

7.00 pm – Mindful Movement with Jane Hutchins (07882 527697)

Thursdays: 9.15 – 11.15 am First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)

Special:

Thursday 2nd: **POLLING STATION in Meeting Room**

Thursday 2nd – Film Night “**The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry**” starts at 7.30pm

Tuesday 14th - Village Assembly – starts 7.15pm

Monday 20th – Gardening Club meeting 7.00pm

Saturday 25th – 9.30am Tai Chi (Andrew Howard 07912 107950)

Village Cafés: A reminder that 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 – contact me to book a date.
Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 wtlitton@gmail.com

Easter Sunday's Great Litton Duck Race

A superb event organised by Sam/Ralph Daubeney and Andy & Liz at The White Horse which resulted in proceeds after payment of winnings of £744.

£500 has been donated to children's hospice, Julia's House, with £244 being held in reserve for village causes. Details of how this amount is accounted for will be made known in the BVN in due course. Well done, and thank you to all who participated and made the day special.



Bride Valley Bingo Fundraising Group

On March 22nd the Bride Valley Bingo Fundraising Group held an Easter Bingo event at LATCH. Thanks to the wonderful people who turned up to play bingo and support Riding for the Disabled (Dorset), we were delighted to raise £825. I would also like to thank all of the Fundraising Group for all of your loyalty and hard work at every bingo event. The Bingo Group started as an experiment in 2019 and I am proud to have the pleasure (along with the rest of the Fundraising Team) of being able to present these Dorset based charities with a worthwhile donation. We are trialling a Summer Bingo this year on Friday July 26th and hope that lots of Bride Valley residents will support us in our next endeavour. Watch this space!!

Jackie Horsley

Bride Valley Films - at Litton Cheney Village Hall

Thank you for your ongoing support. There are some good films coming up for the autumn. It is not always possible to get licences, but if you have suggestions do let us know (contact numbers below).

Last film this season!

Reminder - Thursday 2 May – The Unlikely Pilgrimage Of Harold Fry, ‘The feel-good story of a humble and kind man’.

The story of an unremarkable man who sets off on a remarkable journey. Harold lives a life without purpose until he learns an old friend is dying and vows that in walking across England to see her, his journey can keep her alive. Starring **Jim Broadbent** and **Penelope Wilton**. Cert.12A 1hr.45”

Doors Open: 7.00 p.m. Films start 7.30 p.m. TICKETS: £5.00 (to include a glass of wine) Tickets in advance from: Sally Dyke 482752, Elizabeth Kingston 482162, Bella Spurrier 482367 or on the door. (All nos. 01308)

Look out for further details on posters, on the website and in the BVN.

The Duck Race

By Quentin Blacke

Episode 1 – Bid for freedom

Frank and Ida hid in a forgotten nook in the tunnel under School Lane and watched as the rest of the ducks went swirling by in a melee of bright plastic.

They listened to the excited shrieks of the children and their equally excited parents accompanied by the woosh of water as the duck race sped downstream towards the pub. Next came the men with sticks and waders making sure that there were no 'ducky competitors' caught up in the weeds. Later, as the light began to fail, our intrepid pair, eased themselves into the current and let the never-ending torrent carry them away.

It swept them past Court Farm, over the waterfall at the Cheese House and then into the home straight past the archery fields. The merry racegoers in the garden of the White Horse Inn had their minds on other things as Frank and Ida drifted by and then on to the sheep wash, the old youth hostel and under Cox's Lane to the White Cross cottages.

The two ducks breathed a sigh of relief. It had all gone to plan; freedom was in sight! Not for them the endless months cooped up in a cardboard box in the attic of the pub waiting for the next duck race – there must be more to life even for a plastic duck! Then suddenly, disaster struck! Instead of drifting right with Frank towards the fishing lake, Ida was carried away to the left and disappeared down the overgrown ditch which bordered the maize field and away to who knows where. Frank's heart sank, freedom means nothing without my Ida, he thought to himself.

*WILL FRANK & IDA EVER BE REUNITED?
WILL THEY ESCAPE TO FREEDOM?
CAN PLASTIC DUCKS THINK?*

Find out in the next exciting episode in June's Bride Valley News.

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



The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. In the last month, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been

drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another. Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early, in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers.

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour - until I realised that it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute. Naturally, smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle.

There is conflict about whether we should get new crockery, what colour carpeting tiles would look right - and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota. Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven; I organised a group to study High Priestly attitudes to refreshments in the Temple in Jerusalem in Leviticus. I am sure that by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

April Wordsearch answers

George, Patron, Saint, England,
 Officer, Roman, Army, Diocletian,
 Terror, Martyred, Palestine,
 Courage, Example, Helper, Evil,
 Soldier, Hero, Golden, Legend,
 Dragon, Princess, Converted



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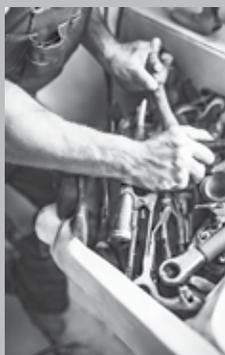
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Swyre	6.00pm Evening Prayer			9:30am Holy Communion	
Puncknowle	11.00am Morning Praise		9:30am Holy Communion		11.00am Café Church
Shipton Gorge			9:30am Breakfast Church		11.00am Holy Communion
Long Bredy	11.00am Holy Communion			11:00 Morning Worship and Baptism	
Littlebredy			11.00am Holy Communion		11.00am Morning Worship
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion		9.00am Holy Communion		10.00am Family Praise
Portesham			10.00am Family Praise	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am BCP
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