

# THE BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE COMMUNITIES  
OF STURMINSTER MARSHALL,  
SHAPWICK, PAMPHILL & COWGROVE



**February 2024**

**You can now read The Bridge in colour on line  
at [www.bridgemagazinedorset.com](http://www.bridgemagazinedorset.com),  
[www.redpostbenefice.com](http://www.redpostbenefice.com)  
and [www.mackrellcharity.org.uk](http://www.mackrellcharity.org.uk).  
Just follow the links or scan the Q.R. code.**



## THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Bridge Publications is the committee which produces the Bridge Magazine for the communities of Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick, Pamphill and Cowgrove. It is financially independent of these communities: its revenue comes from advertising fees and fund raising activities. Our Chairman is Barry Johnson, our Editor is Tony Cross and our Advertising Manager is Liz York.

### Articles:

Contributions are welcome from all sectors of the community served by the parishes. Please email your article, which should be prepared on **A5 (NOT A4 OR Letter PLEASE)** size pages, in **MS Word (.doc or .docx)** or **Works (.wps)**, or **it can be a .jpg file or .pdf file**, to the Editor at **tcenator@gmail.com**. You will receive a reply. If you do not receive a reply, please make enquiries. If you have no email then please print your copy and send it to Court House, Cowgrove, BH21 4EL, making it clear on the envelope that this is for the Editor of The Bridge.

**The deadline for articles for the next issue is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month-so that the finished magazine can be sent to our printers on the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>.**

### Advertisements:

Our advertising fees are as shown on page 3. If you would like to place a commercial advertisement then please submit it by email to

**bridgeadvertising@outlook.com**

**Please do not send any advertisements to the Editor.**

If you need help with producing your advert you may contact Liz by post at 7 Parkelea, Sturminster Marshall, BH21 4DG (marking the envelope Bridge Advertising) or by phone at **01258 857528**. We will then be in touch. Please call **01258 857528** if you do not get an acknowledgement, and ask for Liz. This is the contact number for all advertising enquiries.

**The deadline for adverts to Liz for the next issue is the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**Inserts:** Your loose leaf inserts or flyers can also be inserted in The Bridge for £20. **Please provide 300 copies of your leaflet, in banded bundles of 25, folded to A5 size** if larger, to Jan Standing, between the **27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** of the month. Jan's email is **jan.standing47@gmail.com**.

If you follow up any advertisement could you please mention that you saw it in The Bridge

**The Bridge has been printed by  
CMP UK, [www.cmp-uk.com](http://www.cmp-uk.com), tel: 01202 739993.**

## The Court Henbury 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award

To commemorate its 150 years association with Sturminster Marshall, Court 'Henbury', the local Foresters Friendly Society branch, is making a grant of **£250** each year in March to help a young person in their education, vocation or hobby.

To be eligible, you must be aged 11-19 on 1 March of the award year and either live in or have a connection with Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick, Pamphill, Wimborne or Corfe Mullen or be a Court Henbury member.

To apply, simply write a recital of no more than 500 words about the activity you wish to pursue and how the grant would help you towards your goal. You can send it by post to: **The Court Secretary, 7 Gladelands Way, Broadstone BH18 9JB** or by email to: **court5779@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk**.

The closing date for applications for the first Award is 1 March 2024. The winner will be decided at the Court's meeting on 12 March 2024.

*Please note: the successful applicant may be asked to be photographed for publicity purposes.*



SCAN ME



For more information visit:  
**[www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk](http://www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk)**  
or scan the QR code

Foresters Membership benefits are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority or the Prudential Regulation Authority and are reviewed regularly to ensure they are relevant to our members.

Foresters Friendly Society is the trading name of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society Limited which is an Incorporated Friendly Society (Registration No. 511F) and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Registration No. 110029).

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## CHURCH NOTICE

Sturminster Marshall is joined with the parishes of the Red Post Benefice which is the responsibility of Rev Jane Williams.

Kingston Lacy and Shapwick are joined with Wimborne Villages Benefice which is the responsibility of Rev Suzie Allen.

The contact details for the priests can be found in the Parish Directory on page 57.

## Bridge magazine advertising fees

Duration	full page	1/2 page	1/4 page	1/8 page
12 months	£220	£120	£65	£35
6 months	£120	£65	£35	£30
3 months	£60	£30	£20	£15
1 month	£20	£15		

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**Tel:** 01202 672222 **Web:** [www.pnfl.co.uk](http://www.pnfl.co.uk) **Email:** [info@pnfl.co.uk](mailto:info@pnfl.co.uk)

## The Old School Film Society

### PROGRAMME 2024:

Thursdays. At 7.30pm

February 8<sup>th</sup> "Brazil" 1985 Terry Gilliam

March 14<sup>th</sup> Sally's 'Musical' Evening Topic TBA

Where the original sound film is not English (January) there will be English subtitles.

### LADIES

If you're handy with a needle, be it knitting or to sew,

If your standard's very high or even very low,

PLEASE come along and join us, we're a very friendly crowd,

You can learn to do some crafty things of which you'd be so proud.

MONDAY at the Memorial Hall we'll see you there at 2,

**£2.00** with refreshments, there's nothing nicer you could do.

For more information please ring Anne Weller - 01258 857046

## From The Church

**Praying - Your kingdom come, here and now!**

**Not sure how to pray – start with those three words – Your kingdom come...**

When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, the words he used in each account of what we now call The Lord's prayer included: 'Your kingdom come'. When he was first appointed, our Bishop Stephen, encouraged us to pray afresh 'Your kingdom come, here and now. But, what does that mean for us, as individuals and as a community.

The disciples recognised that Jesus' day-to-day actions flowed from his intimate prayer life with God and they wanted their lives to reflect the same. One factor in Jesus' teaching on prayer involves us understanding that God's kingdom has not yet been completely fulfilled on this earth. 'Your kingdom come' is not just a yearning for the coming of Christ in the future, it is a longing to see God's kingdom become increasingly established throughout the world, here and now.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
(Matthew 6 verse 10)**

Your kingdom come means asking our heavenly Father to help us be authentic and effective as Christians. That way we spread God's kingdom not only with words but also through our actions and the qualities of our character.

Praying, "Your kingdom come," is the same as saying, "Dear Lord, please open my heart and the hearts of my loved ones, friends, co-workers, and neighbours to receive Your gift of salvation in Jesus Christ."

Another way we seek the establishment of God's kingdom in the here and now is to pray for aspects of God's nature to be revealed and known in the world. So overwhelming was Isaiah's experience of this, that he saw the glory of God's holiness filling the whole earth:

**"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6 verse 3).**

When we pray, "Your kingdom come," we ask God to shine His light into the world so that others may respond to Him with awe and reverence. Jesus is the light of the world who breaks through the darkness of all that is bad in this world by His work on the cross. As believers we too can become lights to the world playing our small part in the coming of God's kingdom, here and now, right where we are.

With every blessing,

**Jane (Vicar of the Red Post Churches)**

# St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery

## January Draw

### Main draw

£50	185	Phil Pirie
£30	33	Liz York
£20	103	Derek and Heather Shearman

Congratulations to the first winners of 2024.

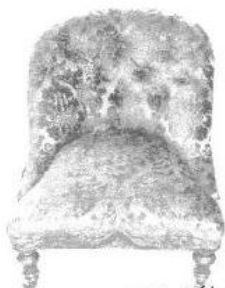
If you would like to support St. Mary's Church please join the 100 Club lottery. Pay just £2 a month for the ten remaining months and you could win £50 every month.

Please contact one the committee listed below.

Liz Jones: 49 Railway Drive, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 01258 857076)

Karen Royles: 1 Parkfield, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 07761 867738)

Jan Standing: Chartwell, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 01258 857477)



The Chair Woman  
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Mobile: 07890 064328

e-mail [lucy@yutanilnildram.co.uk](mailto:lucy@yutanilnildram.co.uk)

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# Tivoli Theatre

BOX OFFICE & ENQUIRIES 01202 885566 [www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk](http://www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk)

## FEBRUARY FILMS

5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup>	One Life (12A)	7.30pm,
7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	“ “	1pm.
12 <sup>th</sup>	Wonka (PG)	7.30pm,
13 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup>	“	2pm.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Banff Mountain Film Festival world Tour 2024 RED	7.30pm, £16.50/£14.50.

## FEBRUARY SHOWS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jo Caulfield: Here Comes Trouble	7.30pm, £20.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Genesis Connected	7.30pm, £26.50.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Story of Guitar Heroes	7.30pm, £27.
4 <sup>th</sup>	An Afternoon with Laurel & Hardy	2.30pm, £19.50.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Kenny's Killer Cults	7.30pm, £26.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tapestry: An Evening in Laurel Canyon	7.30pm, £20.
9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chris McCausland: Yonks!	8pm, £22.50.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jimeoin – The Craic!	7.30pm, £17.50.
14 <sup>th</sup>	A Beautiful Noise Show the definitive Neil diamond tribute with Fisher Stevens	7.30pm, £27.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Johnny Cash Roadshow	7.30pm, £25.
17 <sup>th</sup>	The Foundations	7.30pm, £25.
22 <sup>nd</sup> –24 <sup>th</sup>	Some Mothers Do 'ave'em:	7.30pm, £17,
21 <sup>st</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>	“ “ “ “ “ Wimborne Drama Productions	2pm, £15.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Dom Joly: The Conspiracy Tour	7.30pm, £27.50.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Rainy Days, Mondays & Good Old Dreams Exploring the music and lives of the Carpenters	7.30pm, £20.



# Lesley Davies

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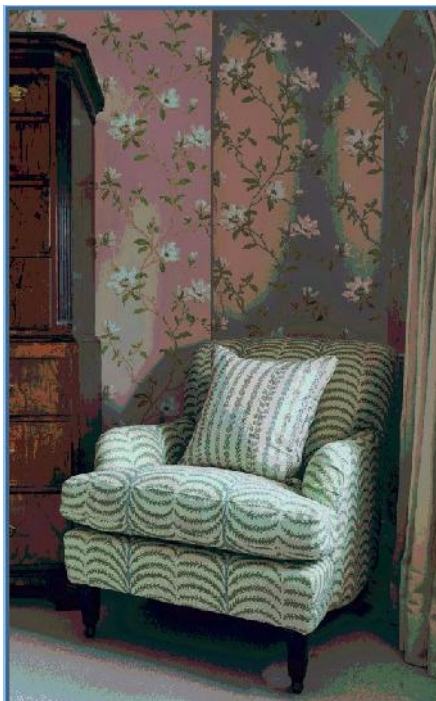
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**Founded 1988**

Our club comprises retired or semi-retired men who have held a position of responsibility during their professional life. We meet at the well-appointed Hamworthy Club in Canford Magna, near Wimborne, on the first Wednesday of the month. Before lunch, we are entertained by speakers, who cover a full and interesting range of subjects. In addition, our club holds social functions and arranges visits and other activities, involving wives and partners, throughout the year.

But above all, we are a friendly club with a great spirit and a warm welcome to new members. If you would like to learn more about us, please contact John Lewis on 01929 459357 or by email at [dilyn76@hotmail.com](mailto:dilyn76@hotmail.com)



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Mon 4-6pm, Gorcombe - Swimming lessons

Tues 11.30am, Wimborne - Aqua Fitness

Wed 4-5pm, Gorcombe - Swimming lessons

Thurs 10am, Gorcombe - Aqua Fitness

Thurs 11am-12pm - Gorcombe - Sensory Baby &  
Preschool

Contact Emma - [info@swimsouth.uk](mailto:info@swimsouth.uk) or 07584209300

## Nature's Voice

Writing this in January, it has so far been pretty bright and crisp – the kind of winter days that make you feel like spring can't be too far away! It's a little colder than December, but you can't help feel that the properly cold bit is yet to come, and this sunshine is just a trick!



The Winterborne is in full flow – a torrent, thundering along, level with the old bridge on one of my regular dog walks. When we first moved here, we didn't know about the Winterborne... We were told about it by a friend who said 'soon there'll be another river to play in that's only 3 minutes walk away!' A magic river! It's fascinated me ever since. A riverbed that is dry and stony and completely barren one day, that overnight and as if by magic, fills with icy cold, crystal-clear water the next! Not only that, but it fills with life almost as quickly. If you weren't used to it, you'd think it was something out of Game of Thrones or Lord of the Rings.

But as well as sounding a bit mythical, these rivers are really unique. There are 2 Winterborne rivers in Dorset. The one that joins the Stour at Sturminster Marshall is the North Winterborne and the one that joins the River Frome is the South. Drying out and then filling each year provides a habitat unlike anywhere else. When flowing, it welcomes the big celebrities of river life – huge, glittering and pointy-jawed pike lurking in the shadows, and kingfishers zooming downstream.



I've even heard of people seeing otters there in the early morning. But the Winterborne's special habit leads to it being home to other things, even when the water has gone. You might imagine the little fish left stranded in puddles as the summer begins is a terrible thing – save them! But in reality, these fishies provide food for others and nurture the soil of the riverbed, ready for the next year's plant growth. The reduction in fish, who are predators, can also help give other species a chance to build their numbers. The stones provide damp homes for toads – who love to wee on you (the surprisingly freezing wee of a cold-blooded creature!) if you pick them up – and presumably other amphibians and insects spend the dry months there too.

There must be more to learn about this... what happens to the thousands of caddisfly larvae and the ramshorn snails when the stream dries up? What happens to the vegetation in between times and how does it know to spring up again? But I can't find out much. I'm hoping someone reading this might point me in the right direction!

It might be easy, in the winter, to feel frustrated by our rivers, to grumble about having to go 'the long way' to Wimborne because one end of the village is flooded... to have our dog walk options cut down to 1 or 2 viable routes... but they were here first! We, along with humans ever since neolithic times, have chosen to live here in our watery villages. It is part of rural life that our days are shaped by our rivers and we have to listen to nature and adapt our plans for her, and in today's fast-paced and convenient life, it is quite a reminder of her power.

**Melanie Fermor**



***The Mackrell Charity  
at The Old School  
January Activities  
in date order***



***Discovery Cafe - 2.30pm on Saturday 3rd February***

***Sandra Simmonds - Life under the Veil***

***An Englishwoman living in Iran.***

***+++++***

***Film Society - 7.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February***

***La Dolce Vita - directed by Federico Fellini.***

***(This had to be postponed at short notice last month because  
of a scheduled power cut which overran!)***

***+++++***

***Mackrell Lecture - 2.30pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February***

***Samuel Pepys - an illustrated talk by Andrew Davies.***

***+++++***

***Play reading - 2pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February***

***The Government Inspector by Nikolai Gogol.***

***+++++***

***Social lunch – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February.***

***+++++***

***Thursday morning bridge group 10am -12.30pm***

***Contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081 or***

***[katy.norman1@btinternet.com](mailto:katy.norman1@btinternet.com)***

***+++++***

***See our website and separate posters in the Bridge  
for further details.***

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*presents*

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Sturminster Marshall BH21 4BU

**Saturday 10th February 2024**

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*presents*



# Life under the Veil



an Englishwoman  
living in Iran

a talk by Sandra Simmonds

**Saturday 3rd February 2024**

**2.30pm £6** inc

tea/cake

Tickets on the door



# The Government Inspector



by  
Nikolai  
Gogol

Monday 12th February 2.00pm  
**Play Reading Group**

The Old School, Sturminster Marshall

£3 (inc. tea & biscuits)

email: Fiona Waters  
members.mackrell@outlook.com

*The* OLD SCHOOL  
  
The Mackrell Charity  
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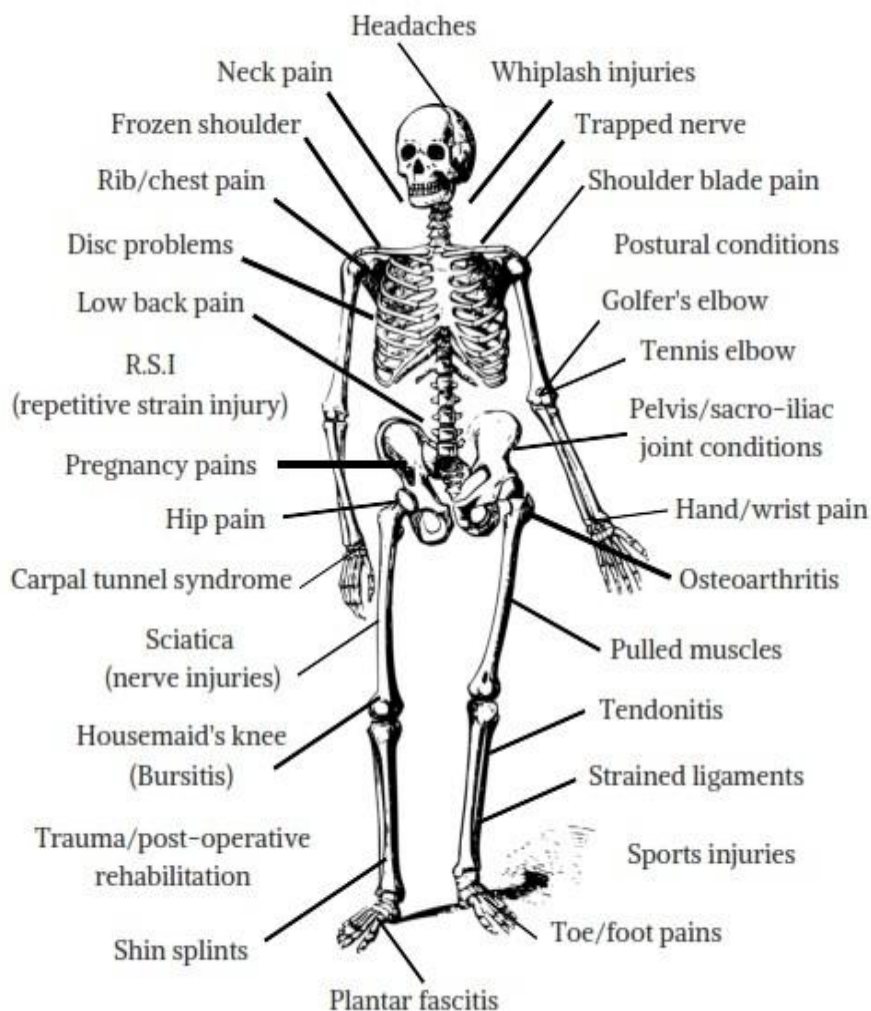




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## **A Personal View: Vera Ricketts.**

Well, we are in February and leaving behind a rather wet January, but what a lovely sunset we had. Red sky at night, shepherds delight, red sky in the morning, shepherds warning.

It has also been rather chilly but we work with that and at least the winds got better at the end of January so now the days will start to get longer and we can look forward to the spring, and to hearing the dawn chorus. We are so lucky to be living here with all the bird life and feeding them.

Did any of you do the RSPCC bird watch? My grand children did, but they live in the town so do not have the same chances as I do. January was a waiting time, waiting for someone to come, waiting for that important letter to come, waiting for visitors and people to buy eggs, etc.

But at least we are not getting flooded but we may need to clear ditches and drains to keep the road clear. So I hope February will be dry and we will have no more problems.

Speaking of problems, I have asked the National Trust to come and do a job in the house. Round here we have to ask for assistance and then we wait and hope they will eventually come, first to see what is needed then we hope they will turn up some time. I have phoned again today but still no answer. Oh well, they will come at some time, but when?

**Vera**

## **NOTICE**

Please note that the fish & chip van is back in business on Friday evenings outside the Memorial Hall in Sturminster Marshall from 5.30pm.

This is a very valuable community asset.



## **LOOKING FOR A VENUE FOR YOUR PARTY?**

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**Birthdays, Christmas,  
Halloween or just want a party!**



## **Social Lunch Club**

### **Old School Hall, Sturminster Marshall**

*Sponsored by the Mackrell Charity (Reg. Charity 306275)*

### **Lunch Club took a break in January but is back on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

The Lunch Club is open to all those over 50 who live in the area.

Come and join a lively group of people – meet old acquaintances and make some new friends – we look forward to seeing you.

Call Heather (01258 857823) or Gladys (01258 858135) if you have any questions or need transport to get to and from the Old School.

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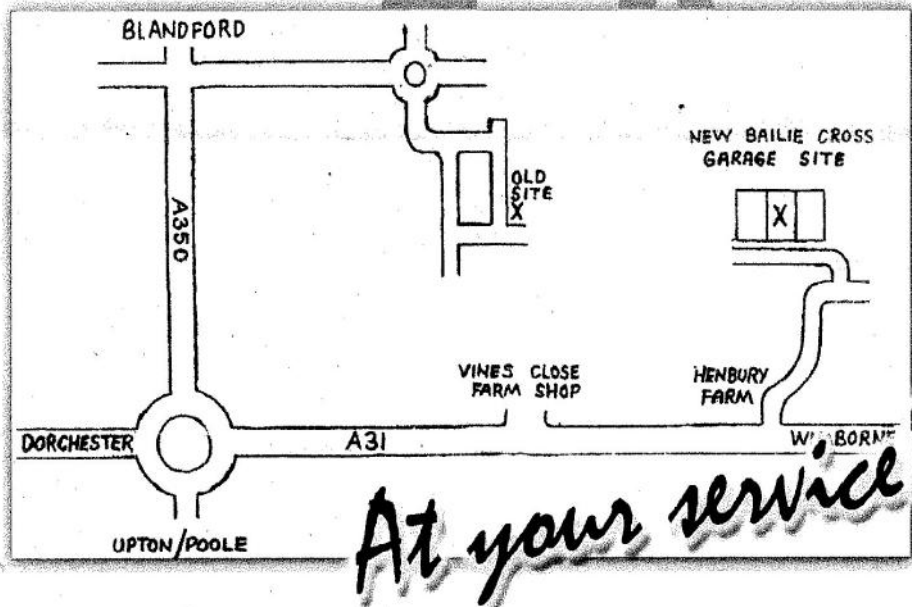
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Thanks from all the team.

## Kingston Lacy Estate News



The snowdrops are putting on their annual and joyful show at Kingston Lacy, and there are a variety of snowdrop-related events to make the most of the season: early morning walks with one of our expert

guides, a Smartphone workshop to help you make the most of your phone camera, and craft activities that include a Kokedama workshop for adults and a pixie pendent workshop for younger visitors. Check the website for details.

It's not just snowdrops that are waking up; the garden has plenty to interest in winter, with camellias bursting into fabulous bloom, and other wintry plants such as witch-hazel and winter box showing now.

Up at Bishops Court Farm at Shapwick you might see contractors have been busy erecting fencing, to protect tree saplings that will be planted in February from deer and rabbits. It's all part of the Countryside Stewardship scheme that we entered last year; over time this land will become wood pasture, and be grazed by livestock such as our herd of Red Ruby Devons. You'll also see more geophysics work, to ensure we know exactly what archaeological information might lie hidden beneath the surface, and can protect it. In the coming year look out for more wildlife boxes and the creation of ponds to help the wildlife that calls this place home.

And finally: whisper it, but we are already thinking about Easter here at Kingston Lacy – it is early this year (Good Friday is 29 March) so the teams went straight from Christmas into Easter without much of a gap! But it's still in the planning, so let's enjoy the many good about January and February before then.

## **CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024**

### **Sunday 4th : 2nd Sunday before Lent**

9.15am Sung Eucharist with choir at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>: Sunday before Lent**

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

9.15am Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

11.00am Holy Communion at Morden

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>: 1st Sunday of Lent**

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's, Shapwick

9.15am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

11.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Almer

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>: 2nd Sunday of Lent**

9.15am Family Service at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

### **Weekday Services**

Wednesdays at 9am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

Wednesdays at 11am Midweek Communion, Wimborne Minster

**All services and times are correct at date of going to press.**



## **CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024**

### **Zoom Services at Red Post**

If you would like to join an online Red Post service via Zoom, please email: **redpostbenefice@outlook.com** for details

### **Zoom Services at Wimborne Minster**

**Meeting Number Zoom ID: 883 2976 1518**

Monday to Friday    8.30am    Morning Prayer

“    “    “    5.00pm    Evening Prayer

If you would like to join an online Minster service via Zoom, please contact Jackie Leever at:

**jackie-villageadmin@wimborneminster.org.uk**



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# English Usage by Michael Evans

## Rules of Grammar

*“The rules of grammar have no value except as statements of fact: whatever is in general use in a language, is for that reason grammatically correct.”*

Pedants may huff and puff at this quotation, thinking that it shows an “anything goes” attitude about English by today’s speakers and writers. It was, however, printed in a grammar book by the philologist Henry Sweet in 1892. He studied and taught Old English and Anglo-Saxon, but the quotation shows that he was also forward-looking regarding language.

Most of today’s teachers and students of English agree with Sweet that so-called rules of grammar are only stylistic preferences.

No one in Britain lays down the law about grammar.

In France, several organisations and a government minister have attempted, without much success, to pass laws for the perfection and preservation of the French language. Their language, like ours, develops without regard to rigid rules, through the usage made by the people who speak and write it in many forms, each being appropriate to the context in which it is used.

Answers to last month’s anagrams

MIXED TRAY - TAXIDERMYY

IT'S RAIN SHOWER – AIRWORTHINESS

CLOSING REVELS - LEVEL CROSSING

LINE CATCH – TECHNICAL

This month’s anagrams

HOT CANDLE – 2-day event (one word)

HAPPY LECTURES – by a replacement (two words)

VARYING ART – well-paid easy work (two words)

GENETIC MAP – for data storage (two words)

## WIMBORNE MUSIC SOCIETY/PSD MUSIC UPDATE

### Forthcoming events:-

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.15 p.m.**

**Sunday Soirée at St. Peter's Church, Pimperne**

(Church Road, Pimperne, Blandford Forum, Dorset. DT11 8UD)

**Music for Violin, Viola and Piano**

Presented by The Well DRMS Trio

Naomi Brenton - Violin

Richard Willetts - Viola

Dr.Richard Hall - Piano

*Free entrance and profit from Retiring Collection given to Holy Trinity Church.*

+++++

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 at 7.15 p.m.**

**Sunday Soirée at St. Nicholas Church, Durweston**

(Church Road, Durweston, Dorset. DT11 0QA)

**Music by Britten and Dowie**

Michael Aitkenhead - Tenor

Fiona Brockhurst - Horn

Sam Hanson - Piano

The Parry Strings, Leader Andrew Foot

**Missa Brevis - Christopher Dowie**

**Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings**

*Free entrance and profit from Retiring Collection given to St.Nicholas Church.*

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**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 at Wimborne Minster**

Wimborne Choral Society with Sam Hanson, Organ

**Music by Haydn, Britten, Rutter, Bruckner and Dowie**

+++++

## **DORSET COUNCILLORS COLUMN**

2024 will be a year of elections – May 2<sup>nd</sup> sees those for local government, including Dorset Council, local town and parish councils, and for the post of Police and Crime Commissioner. Then there is the general election, date yet to be confirmed. My personal view is that to hold a general election on May 2<sup>nd</sup> would confuse the electorate with four different ballot papers and probably a big turn off for many folk. Local government, particularly town and parish councils, faces increasing difficulty in attracting candidates wishing to become local councillors, and in order to operate within the law many co-opt members to make the numbers up. Whilst a means to an end this is not an ideal way for a balance of representation on those councils that do. In my experience I believe that residents prefer to have elected representatives to deal with a range of local issues and work with the upper tier authority, plus there is less risk of an individual pursuing single issue matters, often those affecting them personally, as indeed I have witnessed with some co-optees.

Have you ever thought of becoming a local parish councillor? As a councillor you will play a vital role in dealing with local issues.

Councillors do not need any special or formal qualifications.

It is important that they not only represent the communities that they serve, but also have a wide range of backgrounds, skills, and experience. The knowledge and experience they have gained through their personal and professional life are important skills to bring to the councillor role.

There are opportunities for learning and development. This includes key pieces of knowledge that councillors will need including information on how services work, understanding the council's budget and legal considerations that the council has to comply with. Training is offered through the Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC).

The way in which councillors conduct themselves in office, particularly over matters where they have a financial interest, is governed both by the law and by a code of conduct. Councillors have to sign a declaration stating they will observe the council's code of conduct. They have to declare certain financial and other interests which they may have and can't take part in decisions if they have any related financial interests.

Becoming a councillor will require a time commitment to address residents' concerns, reply to communications and to attend parish/town meetings. Other responsibilities include

- attendance at other local meetings
- reading committee agendas and documents before the meeting
- engaging with learning and development opportunities
- meeting with Dorset Council officers and ward Councillors

I hope the above will encourage some of you to put yourselves forward, if so nomination forms and information will be online from mid-February or contact your local parish clerk for further information.

As always you can contact me at [cllrrobin.cook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrrobin.cook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

## What is special about February?



February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year. Spring Cleaning!

February 1st was the Celtic Feast of Imbolc. Imbolc means “in milk” and it was traditionally the start of the lactation period of cows and sheep as they fed their young. During this time it was customary to pour some milk onto the earth.

Candlemas is a Christian festival celebrated on February 2nd, commemorating the Virgin Mary who, in obedience to Jewish law, went to the Temple in Jerusalem both to be purified 40 days after the birth of her son, Jesus, and to present him to God as her firstborn.

As the rhyme goes:

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight.  
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,  
Winter is gone and will not come again.

Pancake day, falls on 13th February and Valentine’s day on the 14th, which this year is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, but have you heard of the Feast of St Blaize? He is the patron saint of people afflicted with sore throats! There is a ceremony held in St Etheldreda’s church in London each year when people with throat complaints are blessed by being touched with two candles bound together.

“There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer.” – Gertrude Jekyll



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## **STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS**

It is very cold today as I write this months jottings, and this weather is going to continue for a quite a few days yet, however it is a relief from all the rain and flooding we have been experiencing. I don't think we have seen flooding quite this bad since the winter of 2012/13.

As you will have been aware, SGN have been digging up the A350 to try and sort out a leak. The outcome of this leak is that the gas pipe needs to be replaced. We have had regular meetings and SGN have provided updates for us to pass on to you. I am hopeful that this work will be completed within this month.

The new noticeboard at Maypole Green has been installed, and the defibrillator for Mapperton and Almer has been delivered and is in place, and active. Trees to commemorate the Coronation last May have been planted in and around the Play Area. Please keep them safe and if you see anyone damaging them please report this to the Parish Clerk. On a not so good note, we are seeing Fly Posting on telegraph poles and other places, this is illegal and can carry a fine. Please use the Public Noticeboards.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted and meets the requirements of Regulation 15. The consultation period started on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and will run until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The draft plan and comments received to the consultation will be considered by an independent examiner. A poster with details on how to access the Plan and make a response is on the Parish Web site and our Noticeboards. I know we are not quite there yet, but I would like to take this opportunity to offer an enormous thank you to the Steering Committee that have work so hard and given up so much of their time to get the Plan to this point, the Parish owes them a big debt of gratitude.

Dorset Council Planners have brought in the requirement from the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to submit a sustainability statement and checklist for certain planning applications. Further information can be found on the Dorset Council website.

This year the Parish Council precept will increase by 5.42%. This is an increase (for an average Band D property) of £3.72 per year or 0.31p per month. The reasons for the increase are an increase in core expenditure costs to meet with inflation including Clerk's Salary, insurance, audit, and phone. Increases in administration costs including legal and professional fees and website costs, including a new accountancy package. Increase in parish grass cutting costs. A small budget increase to repair and maintenance for gardening projects.

### **Recent Plans:**

P/HOU/2023/06618 26B Churchill Close, Sturminster Marshall, BH21 4BQ.

Create a ground floor front extension to the main bungalow with a roof conversion that includes dormers. Extend garage to the side and front, raise the roof to provide an annex that is associated to the main house.

P/FUL/2023/02370 Winnitoba, Blandford Road, Sturminster Marshall. BH21 4AG, Sever plot and erect 1 no four bedroom detached house.

P/FUL/HOU/2023/06129 144 High Street, Sturminster Marshall.

Replacement conservatory of the same size, footprint and height.

P/PPRD/2023/07484 Riverside House, Back Lane, Sturminster Marshall.

Demolition of the existing dwelling.

---

## **Shapwick Acoustic Sessions 2023**

Great music.

Great venue - Saxon church – St. Bartholomew's.

Great acoustics.

Great value - £10 on the door, £8 in advance.

Pop-up bar. Alcoholic, non-alcoholic drinks.

Profits going to church refurbishment.

For further details of past concerts and future dates see:

**<https://www.facebook.com/ShapwickSessions/>**

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## **New Life Church**

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### **Property and Financial Affairs LPA**

These are designed for you to appoint attorneys to make a range of decisions including the buying and selling of your house and other assets, dealing with your tax affairs, operating bank and building society accounts and claiming benefits on your behalf. These can be used at your direction whilst you are still mentally capable and also by the Attorneys if you lack mental capacity to make these decisions.

### **Health & Welfare LPA**

Attorneys appointed under this document can make decisions relating to your living accommodation and care, consenting to or refusing medical treatment on your behalf, and on day-to-day matters such as diet and dress. This LPA can only be used if you have lost the mental capacity to make decisions for yourself.

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## St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival

St. Mary's Church held their 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. We were delighted to have been supported by NISA this year with a very generous donation. Not having to pay expenses out of the refreshments meant we could give more support to the charities.

The Festival is hosted by St. Mary's Church but is very much a community event with many villagers and village organisations taking part. It provides an enjoyable lead up to Church and Village Christmas services and events.

This year 20 individuals and village organisations put in trees ranging in size from 2' to 7'. The trees varied from traditional fir trees to more contemporary 'trees'. They were, as always, beautifully decorated with many specially crafted items but also some with less conventional decorations such as flowers, toys and natural objects.



During the Festival there are opportunities for visitors to decorate a tree, sing carols and enjoy refreshments amongst the trees. Visitors are also encouraged to choose and vote for their favourite tree. This year the winners of the 'Visitors Favourite Tree' trophy were Sturminster Marshall Guides with their tree 'Save our Woodlands' for the Dorset Woodland

Trust.

Sadly, this year the Festival was badly impacted by the flooding at the bottom of the village. Thankfully many people donned their wellies and paddled through the water but naturally numbers were down. However, thanks to the generosity of NISA and the visitors we were able to distribute £1,147.44 to the twenty charities.

A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who contributed and helped with the Festival. Jan and her helpers, Cake makers, Door and Tree Stewards, Rob and Andrew, Gordon and Colin, the tree decorators and everyone who stayed behind to help clear and sweep the church after the Festival. Also of course, not forgetting a big Thank You to NISA.



# ***Short and Sweet Sunday Concerts***

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The Club plays on the following days:-

Monday afternoons 2.00pm – 5.00pm,

Thursday evenings 6.15pm – 9.15pm,

All sessions are held in the Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall.

It is a great sport for all ages and we would welcome some younger players, so do come along. The club owns several sets of bowls and these can be lent to players who do not have their own, but they must remain on the premises. Completely flat shoes must be worn on the mats.

We are a mixed club and we do not compete in leagues, so the emphasis is on pleasure and not pressure. We do join other local clubs for just friendly matches.

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Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday SMEWI! Our first meeting of 2024 was cause for celebration and a good excuse to eat cake. We looked back to when our group was formed 10 years ago and shared minutes and photos from the first meeting which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014. We continue to flourish and now have 46 members who enjoy the fun and friendship our WI offers as well as access to many additional activities, outings, holidays and learning opportunities offered by the regional and national WI Federations.

January is also the time of year when members across the country vote on a shortlist of proposed WI Resolutions. The choice this year was: Dental Health Matters; Impacts of Poor Housing Conditions; Say “No” to Gambling Advertising or Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System. Every issue that the WI campaigns on stems directly from a resolution put forward by members and adopted at the national Annual Meeting. WI members have a unique opportunity to turn a concern into a national campaign every year, backed by the whole of the WI.

Life in the Sturminster Marshall Evening WI means friendship and fun and we have an exciting and varied programme planned for our meetings throughout 2024. Our members also have access to many additional activities, workshops, day trips and group holidays arranged by the Dorset Federation of WIs. At national level, an Education and Training Team brings us a range of interactive courses, activities, events and training programs as part of our membership.

We are always delighted to welcome new members and pride ourselves on being a trusted place for **all** women of **all** generations. You don't need to be resident in Sturminster Marshall; many of our members are from surrounding areas. The membership fee for 2024 has been set at £48 for the full membership year from 1<sup>st</sup> April. If you prefer to give us a try before committing to membership you are welcome to come along to a meeting as a visitor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in The Old School. We start at 7.30pm and a warm welcome awaits.

For more information about SMEWI please contact Lesley Moors – 01258 857523 or visit our website [www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com](http://www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com)  
Follow us on Facebook: Sturminster Marshall Evening WI

**Christine Rainsford**

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## Plant a Tree with Trees for Wimborne

When I read an article in the Dorset Wildlife Trusts magazine, on the plight of Woodlands in Dorset I was reminded that trees and the Woodlands that they create are both fragile and in difficulty. This has many causes, ash dieback, climate change bringing with it flooding and drought as well as fragmentation of the habitat. Dorset Wildlife Trusts has plans to address this which include delivering projects over large areas to link woodland and creating new Woodlands.

Trees for Wimborne, the tree planting arm of Wilding Wimborne, is not in a position to be so ambitious, but we are in a position to add new planting to the Wimborne landscape. We have now entered into our second tree planting season; we were spurred on by the support shown by the public and with the hedge at Dogdean SANG, now doing well we decided to undertake another round of planting. This time we planned with the local authority to create 3 woodland corners or edges. Trees for Wimborne have spent the summer organising what trees to plant and where.

We chose species that are not already present on the green space.

This will add diversity, providing a wider range of food plants for insects, a rich source of nectar for pollinators and various types of habitats for birds. One of the species that we have planted are small leaved limes; these



used to be a dominant tree across the South of England but may have been one of the first trees to be cleared to provide agricultural land; unsurprisingly they have now become very rare. Their flowers have a heavy scent and are a magnet for bees; they make wonderful tasting honey. We have also planted hornbeam, wild cherry, and alder buckthorn. The latter is the food plant for the brimstone butterfly; in years to come this should mean that residents and visitors will see these lovely yellow butterflies fluttering along the tree line as early as January on a sunny day.

The trees are now all planted allowing time for young trees to settle down and begin to develop roots. we hope that in addition to their biodiversity value that in times to come these trees will bring pleasure to all those who walk on Dogdean, adding beauty to the landscape and acting as shelter belts across what can be a windswept site.



We're very excited that we have a new planting area, this is next to a bridleway which runs parallel to the newly constructed Ainsley Road. On one side of the bridleway is a lovely hedge with a range of different species, but on the other side the hedge has deteriorated and become sparse and even disappeared in places. This is partly due to the dead elm in the hedge which Dorset council have been removing. We will be under-planting the areas where there are existing trees, and creating a new hedgerow where there are gaps. This is a big job, and we need to plant 300

metres of hedge, so we are very much hoping that the public, especially those who live close to Ainsley Road will come along and help us on our planting days on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February.

We will be planting with a range of species to make this hedge diverse and colourful so that it is attractive to a range of insect species, particularly to pollinators. We will be adding several European walnut trees as well as flowering trees such as wild cherry, wild plum, wild pear, and cherry plum. We will also be planting trees that give a bounty in the autumn such as Hazel and Rowan.

If you can come and help us plant, please bring a spade and come dressed warmly. We will be starting tree planting at Ainsley Road, on the new estate off Leigh Road. Look out for the gazebo where we will be gathering.



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## **Not Any More..... by Lys de Bray**

Like many gardeners, for years I kept opened bags of peat in my greenhouse and potting sheds, the tops carefully sealed with clothes-pegs. Never, never leave compost bags open, if you do, opportunistic pests will say 'Thanks ever so!' and lay a million tiny invisible eggs which will hatch in this cosy protected environment into tiny but visible pests that do a great deal of damage. But this won't be happening any more as the government has banned peat in bagged compost and obviously the ban will apply to peat pots which I used by the hundred, and though needing care in handling they were perfect for transplanting seedling plants, pot and all into the next size up, quick and easy and avoiding root disturbance. Years ago, I used to spread peat over the soil surface of my rose beds, and as there's no nourishment in peat there were fewer weeds and it *did* look nice. But, years ago I knew no better and now I do. In former times gardeners and nurserymen made their own compost from sieved loam (garden soil) sieved peat, sieved leafmould, horticultural grit or sand and their own secret fertiliser that they never disclosed. I had three bins side by side made from roughly made shipping crates. One was for new green stuff with stems and stalks chopped small, the middle one was quietly getting on with things and the last one was ready to use. The resulting compost smelled lovely and it was so good that it looked positively edible, though it took time like an Englishman in one of Earth Kitt's memorable ballads.

But, as usual, I've digressed.

The reason for the peat ban is because of our concern over the damage that peat extraction does to the environment. Peat has taken thousands of years to form into the dark, crumbly stuff we get from the garden centres and we don't - or didn't - give this fact much thought as we gaily put a bag - or two - into the boot of the car. But - once it's gone, it's *gone*.

So from now on we shall have to grow things differently in a peat- less gardening world. Peat is light in weight and the new mixes will inevitably be heavier and they will need new and different treatment.

The government has listened to advice and the general no-peat deadline is 2026.

Growing plants in a peat-less compost will mean that gardeners will have to learn new ways of feeding and watering because you won't be able to sow and grow as formerly.





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Since Christmas we have been battling the weather and jumping in the many puddles we have had. We are still hoping for some frosty mornings and may be some snow! We have taken part in the RSPB big bird watch, made bird feeders and used our homemade binoculars to spot the birds in the trees around us.

We are now noticing the Spring bulbs growing in our garden and waiting for the flowers to appear.

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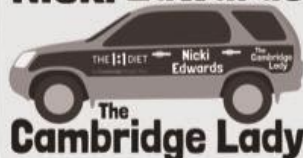
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### **The Parish of Kingston Lacy and Shapwick**

Vicar: Rev. Suzie Allen (Suzie's day of rest is Monday) 01258 840668  
Email: [Suzie-assocpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk](mailto:Suzie-assocpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk)  
Organists: contact Churchwarden

Churchwarden Kingston Lacy: Rob Langdown 01202 841381  
Email: [KL-cw@wimborneminster.org.uk](mailto:KL-cw@wimborneminster.org.uk)  
Churchwarden Shapwick: Anne Tillin 01258 858208  
PCC Secretary: Margaret Langdown 01202 841381  
Treasurer: Christine Cosgrove 01258 858876  
Electoral Roll Officer: Janet Tory 01258 857531  
Verger: Vacant

### **Sturminster Marshall Parish Church**

Vicar: Rev. Jane Williams (Jane's day of rest is usually Friday, sometimes Thursday and sometimes both) 01258 858604  
Email: [janewilliamsrpc@outlook.com](mailto:janewilliamsrpc@outlook.com)  
Red Post Benefice Clerk: Vicky Henderson King  
...Email: [redpostbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:redpostbenefice@outlook.com)  
Organists: contact Churchwarden  
Churchwarden: Katy Norman 07815 610595  
Churchwarden: Carol Johnson 07400 356901  
PCC Secretary: Liz York 01258 857528  
PCC Treasurer: Mr Edward Warren 01258 857467  
Verger: Vacant  
Captain of the ringers: Mr M. Stickley 01202 021895  
Electoral roll officer: Elaine Huntriss 07818 280800

### **Schools**

Sturminster Marshall First School: Mrs N. Charman 01258 857348  
Sturminster Marshall Pre-school: Mrs Patsy Barnes 01258 858395  
Pamphill CE First School: Mr Michael Wheeler 01202 883008  
Pamphill Pre-School Nursery: Mrs. D. Gould 07415 473977  
The Old School Shapwick Nursery: Ms. E. Praschma 01258 857922

### **Police**

Police station (non emergency number) 101

### **Hall Bookings**

Old School, Sturminster Marshall: Mrs. Val Brown	
Contact by email only, please, to: hall.mackrell@outlook.com	
Memorial Hall, Sturminster Marshall: Mrs. K. Kollberg	07729 712428
Email: sturhallbookings@gmail.com	
Pamphill Parish Hall: Mrs. Pip Chissell	
Email: pamphillparishhall@yahoo.com	

### **Councillors**

Dorset Councillor: Cllr. Mr Robin Cook	01202 889199
	07968 265897
Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Chair: Miss Hilary Palmer	07766 235865
Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Clerk: Mrs. Alison Clothier	07469 780548
Email: sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Chair: Mr. Philip Chissell	01202 883369
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Clerk: Mrs. Lindsay Hole	

### **For Sturminster Marshall**

Sturminster Marshall FC: Mr. D. Miller	01258 857314
Church Preservation Trust: Jan Standing	07973 766614
School Society: Liz Naulls (Co Chair)	
School Society: Amelia Atkins (Co Chair)	
Email: schoolsociety@sturminstermarshall.sch.uk	
WI Evening Secretary: Ms. Janet Lloyd	07967 544343
Sports Association: Mr. R. Haysom	01258 857616
Gardening Club: Mrs. S. Crowfoot	01258 857606
SturminsterMarshall Craft Club: Mrs. Barbara Beaves	01258 858404
Brownies: Miss J. Hayter	01202 885309
Guides: Mrs .L. Seare	07759 892965
Henbury Residents' Association: Mr. M. Soper	01258 857647
Homewatch Co-Ordinator: Mr. Adrian Holden	01258 858884
Sturminster Marshall Short Mat Bowls & Social Club: Mr. J. Case	01202 690718
Sturminster Marshall Village History Website	01258 857606

### **For Pamphill**

Kingston Lacy Skittles Club: Mr. R. Frost	01202 883084
Kingston Lacy Cricket Club: Mr. S. Maine	07969 883814
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12-21 February  
8.45am-9.45am

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£10 per person, normal admission applies.

#### Snowdrop pixie pendent craft



**Saturday mornings**  
3, 10, 17 and 24 February  
9.45am-11.00am

Join us in the café coach house and celebrate the snowdrop season by making your very own adorable snowdrop pixies to hang at home.  
£5 per person, normal admission applies.

#### Snowdrop Kokedama workshop



**Thursday 8 February**  
9.30am-12.00pm

Capture Kingston Lacy's winter beauty for your home. Discover the Japanese art of Kokedama making and celebrate the snowdrop season.  
£40 per person, normal admission applies.

#### Snowdrop smartphone workshop



**Saturday 17 February**  
11.00am-1.00pm

Learn how to get the most out of your smartphone camera and fall in love with taking pictures on a snowdrop smartphone photography workshop.  
£25 per person, normal admission applies.

Visit our website to find out more: [nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacy](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacy)