



THE BRIDGE

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



October 2026

You can now read The Bridge in colour
online:

www.bridgemagazinedorset.com

www.redpostbenefice.com

and

www.mackrellcharity.org.uk

or scan the QR code



The Bridge Magazine is sponsored by
The Red Lion, Sturminster Marshall

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1pm to 3pm

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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 fundraising activities. Our Chairman is Barry Johnson, our Editor is Sally Plowright 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 to bridgemagazinedorset@gmail.com

If you have no email then please print your copy and send it to 7 Parkelea, Sturminster Marshall BH21 4DG, FAO: Editor of The Bridge Magazine.

The submission deadline for articles is the 15th of the month.

Advertisements

If you would like to place a commercial advertisement, or announcement of an event, please email it to bridgeadvertising@outlook.com Advertising rates are listed opposite.

The submission deadline for adverts is the 12th 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, by the **27th of the month**. Phone 01258 857528 to arrange.

This month's cover image:

Harold II was England's last Anglo-Saxon king. He was killed on 14th October during the Battle of Hastings, an event portrayed on the Bayeux Tapestry.

The Sturminster Marshall water rat is hiding somewhere in the online version of this magazine. So do visit bridgemagazinedorset.com and if you find the water rat contact the editor at bridgemagazinedorset@gmail.com

The first person to correctly identify the rat's hiding place will receive a cash prize of £10. Congratulations to last month's sharp-eyed winner Ronnie Keiper, aged 9, who loves football!



From the Chair - Bridge Publications

The Bridge Magazine is entirely funded by advertising and generous donations from our sponsors. We are particularly grateful to our main sponsor, the excellent Red Lion pub, who support many other activities in Sturminster Marshall and are truly the centre of our community.

If you run a small business in the village why not consider advertising with us, which could not only bring you customers, but also demonstrate your support for the community. If you enjoy reading The Bridge and would like to support us with a monthly or one-off donation, the amount would be up to you, our bank details are below. In order that we can keep a record we would be grateful if you could send an email confirming your action to ebarryjohnson@aol.com

Bank Details: Bridge Publications – Sort Code 209696 - Account 00026530

Barry Johnson

.....

The Bridge Magazine – Collection Points

Sturminster Marshall:

Premier, Spar, The Red Lion, St. Mary's Church, Memorial Hall, Vines Close.

Shapwick:

St. Bartholomew's Church, The Anchor.

Pamphill and Cowgrove:

St. Stephen's Church, Pamphill Dairy.

.....

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		

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

Bridging the gap (adapted from tessofthevale.com)

Dorset is a county with many bridges, viaducts and tunnels. They are crossed without notice, their relevance heightened on the rare occasions they are closed for repairs, requiring substantial diversions. But without them the landscape can become a puzzle of islands, sewn together by deep channels of water, only accessible by getting wet or by boat. Bridges are and always have been necessary for getting from one place to another.

Many of Dorset's bridges are ancient reminders of the past, still used today. Here in Sturminster Marshall we have the White Mill Bridge, which dates from 1175 and is one of the oldest in the county. The river beneath the bridge claims to hide the bells of Knowlton Church, stolen in the middle of the night and dropped into the flowing water. However, the silt on the river bed only sucked them deeper when they were trying to be retrieved, leaving them there for only the future to find.

This bridge sits between two other medieval crossings of Crawford Bridge, which led to the old abbey at Tarrant Crawford, and Julian's Bridge, which took people to the Minster in Wimborne.

Blandford Bridge dates from 1268 and replaced a ford which gave the town its name. During the Great Fire of Blandford, lepers were kept under the arches, out of harm's way but at a safe distance from people.

In Wimborne we have Walford Bridge, crossing the river Allen, dating from the 16th century and originally part of Walford Mill; and Julian's Bridge, built in 1636 and thought to be named after a wealthy landowner, Walter Julien.

“As we cross the threshold into autumn, with its liturgical mood of gratitude and remembrance, let us rejoice that God bridges the ages in Jesus Christ: connecting us not only to the past events of our salvation but also the future hope of his heavenly kingdom. Whatever changes lie before us, he remains the way, the truth and the life.” (Bishop Andrew, Oct. 2025)

THANK YOU FROM THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE!

The Bridge Magazine's Cream Tea event on Sunday 13th September in the Old School raised a magnificent

£435.45

This will help to keep your community magazine going strong.

Thank you to everyone who supported by baking, serving, washing up, clearing away, eating and drinking!

St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery

September Draw

Main draw

£50	26	Brenda Clunies-Ross
£30	40	David and Sue Slater
£20	134	Jim Simmonds

Congratulations to this month's winners.

Over 100 NUMBERS have been purchase this year, so there will be Bonus Draws in October, November and December. If you do not have a NUMBER and would like to join, please contact one of the committee members listed below. NUMBERS cost just £2 per month.

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

Karen Royles: Parkfield, Newton Road, Sturminster Marshall. (07761 867738)

Sonia Cade: Bailie View, 24 Dullar Lane, Sturminster Marshall (07717 614270)



MINSTER PROBUS CLUB OF WIMBORNE

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

Parkfield Cottage



1 Parkfield
Newton Road
Sturminster Marshall
Mike and Karen Royles
07887353118
01258 857804

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Own secluded garden and patio plus off road parking.

Weekly rates, short breaks or just overnight deals available.

Open all year round. Call us for more details.

What's On in October

A selection of things to see and do around our area

TIVOLI THEATRE, WIMBORNE

01202 885566 www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk

2nd-7th Pressure (12A)

4th Talking Pictures TV: Festival of Film & Television

10th Sun Records - The Concert

15th-17th Kind Hearts and Coronets (Wimborne Drama Productions)

21st Tudors on Tour with Tracy Borman

22nd-23rd Wishbone Ash

ALLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WIMBORNE

01202 887247 www.the.allendale.org

Mon afts DanceAway. Classes incl. ballroom, Latin American, sequence.

Tues am Flexercise Keep Fit Class. Part exercise, part dance, but all fun!

Tues eves Learn Argentine Tango (not first Tues of month)

Fridays Wimborne Minster Market

9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th Access Wellbeing. Free mental health and wellbeing support.
A drop-in service offering a safe space to find support.

9th FREE Antiques, Jewellery, fine art & watch valuations

11th RiverMind Concert

23rd Quo Connection

24th 20-to-1 Big Band presents: Dance The Night Away

This magazine accepts no responsibility for the products and services advertised.

All adverts are accepted and published in good faith.

Payments made by advertisers contribute to the cost of publishing this magazine.

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WITH A LIMITED MENU SERVED BETWEEN 2.30PM & 6PM



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OF STURMINSTER MARSHALL.

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14th October 1130am – 3pm, at the Old School, Sturminster Marshall

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Tel: 01202 672222 Web: www.pnfl.co.uk Email: info@pnfl.co.uk

Thomas Mearing 1812-1892

Whilst in St Mary's Church, Sturminster Marshall one Saturday for the monthly coffee and cake morning, I noticed on one of the central pillars an inscription carved into one of the stones for a Thomas Mearing who died in 1892 aged 80 years.

I began to wonder who he was and why his name would be celebrated in this way, so I decided to do some research on Thomas.

Thomas was born in 1812 in Sturminster Marshall to John and Mary Mearing and in 1839 married Elizabeth (nee Maggs I believe) and by 1841 they were living with his widowed mother and had two children, Jean aged 2 and Emma aged 18 months. Thomas's two brothers, Charles and Christopher, were also living there.

Thomas was an agricultural labourer according to the census. By the 1851 census Thomas and Elizabeth were now living in Kings Street and had another child, Catherine aged 8.

Ten years later, in 1861, the family had moved to Back Lane with Emma and Catherine, who were both tailoresses. I'm not sure where Jane had gone - probably married and left home. In the 1861 census under disability Thomas was described as deaf. Sadly his wife Elizabeth died in 1864 aged 56. Thomas still worked on a farm.

For the next 25 years Thomas stayed in Back Lane, still an agricultural labourer, and according to the 1891 census he died a pauper in 1892.

As for the daughters, there is still more research to do, but the mystery remains why an humble agricultural worker would be remembered in his local church. I am sure someone out there knows more about his life than I can find by genealogical records. I would love to find out.

David Whitmarsh

St Mary's Church Preservation Trust



“Call my Quaff”

A fun evening of wine tasting and blag!

Friday 16th October 6.45 for 7.00

The Old School

Sturminster Marshall

Wine - Cheese - Raffle.

Tickets from Fiona Waters

£20

fionamwaters2@outlook.com



St Mary's Preservation Trust

Sort Code 33.99.68

Acc. no. 0704432

An October Quiz

All these events happen or happened in the month of October

1. In 1926 which book was published and written by A A Milne?
2. In 1915 the man often regarded as the greatest cricketer of all time died. Who was he?
3. What is the missing word in the old saying: "Dry your ... in October, or you'll always be sober"?
4. In 1936 which man was named as the Head of State in Spain?
5. In 1941 Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after how many years: a)14 b)18 c)22?
6. Maple, ash and sycamore trees produce seeds with which nickname, due to the way they fly through the air?
7. 1956 saw the death of the founder of the modern frozen food industry. What was his name?
8. What is the pigment which trees stop producing, causing leaves to lose their green colour?
9. 1940 saw the premiere of which Charlie Chaplin film?
10. In 1936 200 men marched from their home town to Westminster to highlight the poverty caused by the closure of their shipyard. What was the march known as?
11. In 1991 the creator of Star Trek died. What was his name?
12. Why should you wait for the first frost of autumn before picking sloe berries to make sloe gin?
13. The United Nations was formed in 1945. What organisation did it replace?
14. In 1965 which building, the tallest building in London at that time, was officially opened?
15. In what year did the Gunpowder Plot take place?
16. Guy Fawkes gave a false name when he was caught. What was it?
17. In 1925 who performed the first test of a working television system?
18. In 1983 who set a new land speed record of 633 mph, driving Thrust2 at the Black Rock Desert in Nevada?
19. Born in October 1890, this comedian, actor, writer and film star was famous for his greasepaint moustache whilst acting alongside his brothers. Who was he?
20. Hedgehogs will soon begin hibernating. What is a baby hedgehog called?

Answers on p. 31

www.mackrellcharity.org.uk

Forthcoming Activities at The Old School



Discovery Café

- Saturday 3rd October at 2.30pm

'From Court Shoes to Combats'

An illustrated talk by Sally Cadec

Our AGM follows this talk, after tea & cake. You are very welcome to stay.

Film Club

Thursday 8th October at 7.00pm - A Double Bill:

'You Never Know Women' AND 'Faust'

Play Reading

Monday 26th October at 2.00pm

Alan Ayckbourn: 'Absurd Person Singular'

Mackrell Lecture - the 2026-27 season of Lectures

will begin on 21st November with

Professor Steve Ellis talking about

"The Last Acts of Virginia Woolf"

Bridge group continues on Thursday mornings at 10am

for more info contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081

or katy.norman1@btinternet.com

***See our website and separate posters in the Bridge
for details of all our activities***

The Old School, Sturminster Marshall

Discovery Cafe

presents



From Court Shoes *to Combats*



an illustrated talk by Sally Cadec

Saturday 3rd October 2026

2.30pm £8 ^{inc} tea/cake

Tickets on the door

BH21 4BU

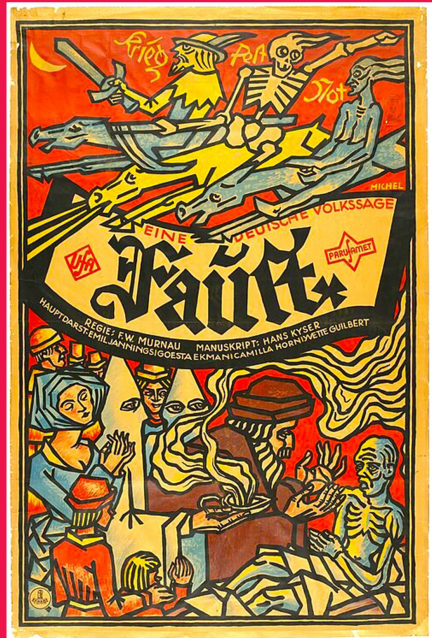
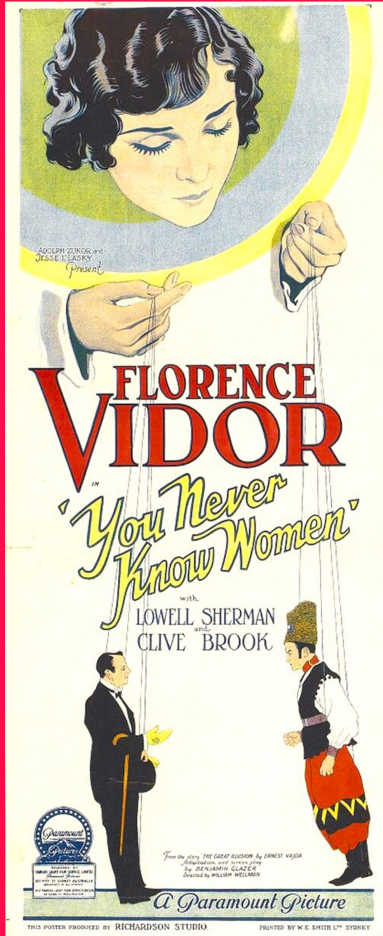


The

Old School Film Club

presents

Double Bill:
SILVER SILENTS
from 1926



Thursday 8th October 7.30pm
sturminster marshall
BH21 4BU

'Mackrell Lectures'
presents



www.mackrellcharity.org.uk

The Last
Acts of
Virginia
Woolf



a talk by Professor Steve Ellis

at The Old School, Sturminster Marshall
Saturday 21st November 2026

2.30pm

Tickets on the door: £10

(Tea & Cake included)



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**Our Advice Bus is stopping at..
Sturminster Marshall, Fridays, 1.30pm-3.30pm**

2nd, 9th, 23rd
& 30th Oct
6th, 13th, 27th Nov
4th & 11th Dec

**The bus will be in the car park opposite St Mary's
Church & an adviser will also be inside the church
at the coffee afternoon**

Speak to our friendly advisers about a range of issues including benefits, debt and money, employment, energy, water schemes, family, housing, legal and more.



Check our website for more information
www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk



Tea @ St Mary's & Citizens Advice bus stop

St Mary's Church and Citizens Advice have teamed up to offer an open house for tea/coffee and cake in the Welcome Hub, combined with the opportunity to talk to a Citizens Advice Adviser or visit the Advice Bus to seek advice.

From Friday 2 October, St Mary's Welcome Hub will be open for tea/coffee and delicious cake from 1.30pm-4pm and the Advice Bus will be parked behind the Old School and open for business, from 1.30-3.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy some tea and lovely cake; not just church goers, but people of no faith and of other faiths.

If you would like a bit of company, especially as the nights start drawing in, we would love to welcome you.

For further details, you can talk to Nikki Haswell, Outreach Co-ordinator 07788 179145.

Brownies Guides

Sturminster Marshall Brownies and Guides Groups

Meet at Sturminster Marshall
Memorial Hall

Brownies

5.45 – 7pm ♥

Guides

7 – 8.30pm ♥

Every Tuesday

Term time only

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Crafts



Games



Trips out



Helping the
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Contact Lynne Seare
07759892965
for Guides



Contact Judith Hayter
07747701453
for Brownies



Girlguiding
Together we grow

David Allen: Manipulative Therapist
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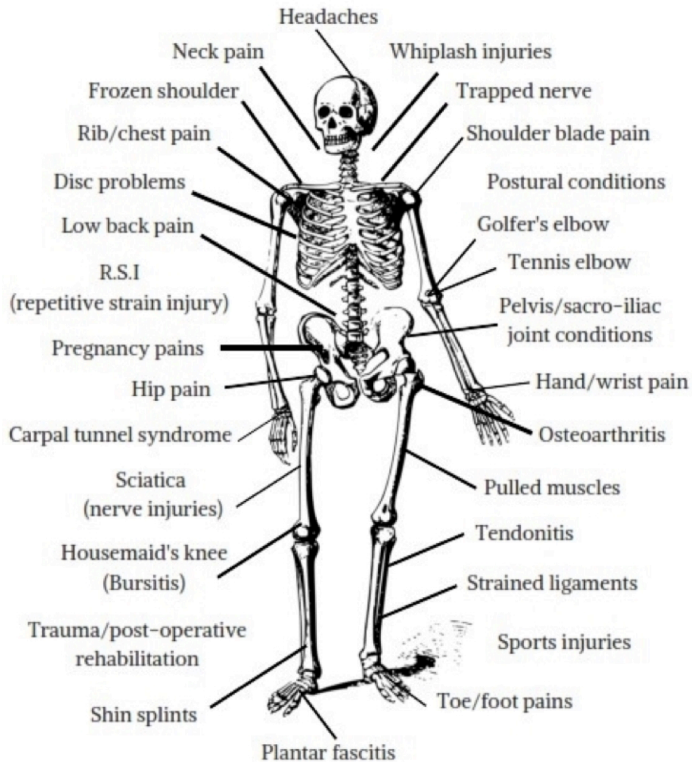
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WIFI HOME HELP

The Court Henbury 150th 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 next Award is 1 March 2025. The winner will be decided at the Court's March 2025 meeting.

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



**Foresters
Friendly Society**

For more information visit:

www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk
or scan the QR code



SCAN ME

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. 513F) and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Registration No. 310029).

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£8 for 3 courses - Midday – til finish.

Next Dates:

**14th October – Advice on independent living by Medella
home physio & OT**

11th November – Armistice Celebration

9th December – Christmas party (50 spaces) Booking Essential

Please call Claire to book - 07757322632

Held at The Old School, Sturminster Marshall - Sponsored by the Mackerall Charity (re. Charity
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If you don't have Lasting Powers of Attorney in place the Court of Protection may appoint people to manage your affairs, but the procedure is **VERY COSTLY** and time-consuming. More importantly, you will have lost the right for you to choose who will have the responsibility for looking after your affairs at a time when it is vital that they are dealt efficiently & sympathetically; **and by somebody who knows you !**

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.

Fees

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Johndedge007@gmail.com



SPONSOR A CHAIR IN ST MARY'S

Work on creating an accessible W.C. and kitchen servery continues in St Mary's. Unfortunately the relentless rain and flooding earlier in the year meant that the work was delayed, but the contractors are back on site and we are hopeful of completion very soon.

The redundant north aisle pews have now been sold and will be replaced by stackable chairs and tables making the church a more flexible and comfortable space enabling a wider variety of services and activities, as well as the creation of a community space.



If you would like to help us achieve this objective by making a donation of £168 for each chair, we shall place a plaque on a chair with one of the following dedications:

- Donated by*name*.....
- In loving memory of*name*.....*d.o.b*...-....*d.o.d*.....
-*name*.....and.....*name*.....married on.....*date*
-*name*.....baptised on.....*date*....

You are of course welcome to sponsor more than one chair.

Donation forms are available in church but if you would like more information, please speak to Katy (07815 610595) or Carol (07400 356901) or email us at nhaswell@stmarysprojectwelcome.org.uk

With every blessing,

The Reverend Jane Williams

English Usage: a personal view by Michael Evans

If you write something for others to read, it's a good idea to wait and check it before you send it to them. If possible, leave it overnight, and you may find that it does not convey the meaning you intended.

The following article was in an American newspaper: :“Many tourists visit Arlington National Cemetery where veterans and military personnel are buried, every day from 9am to 5pm.” This could upset some people, and amuse others. It can be corrected simply by placing the phrase “Every day from 9am to 5pm” at the start.

Last month's anagrams

REDUCTION – INTRODUCE

STAND UP – DUSTPAN

This month's anagrams

A POT STAIN – Italian first course

I TOLD DIANA – Extra

Answers to 'An October Quiz' on p.13

Winnie-the-Pooh 2.W.G.Grace 3.Barley (or you'll have no beer) 4.General Franco 5.14 years 6.Helicopter seeds 7.Clarence Birdseye 8.Chlorophyll 9.The Great Dictator 10.The jarrow March 11.Gene Roddenberry 12.So the skins will break, allowing the flavour out 13.The League of Nations 14.The Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) 15.1605 16.John Johnson 17.John Logie Baird 18.Richard Noble 19.Groucho Marx 20.Hoglet

Church Services in October

Sunday 4th: Trinity 18

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

Sunday 11th: Trinity 19

9.15am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

Sunday 18th: Trinity 20

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's, Shapwick

9.15am Café Church Harvest Festival at St Mary's, S Marshall

Sunday 25th: Last after Trinity

9.15am Family Communion at St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall

9.30am Family Service at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

Tuesdays at 9.30 - 11.00am

Refresh at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall - see poster for details

Wednesdays at 9.00am

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

LOCATIONS OF OUR CHURCHES

St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall: Church Street, BH21 4BU

St Bartholomew's, Shapwick: Church Street, DT11 9LB

St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy: Abbott Street, Pamphill, BH21 4ED

Refresh

EVERYONE'S WELCOME

AT ST MARY'S CHURCH,
STURMINSTER MARSHALL

A PLACE TO PAUSE,
CHAT, LAUGH AND BELONG.

NEED A REFRESH?

WHETHER YOU'D LIKE...

- a cup of tea and a chat
- someone to listen
- someone to cuddle the baby while you enjoy a hot drink
- somewhere safe for children to play
- company for a couple of hours
- or simply to be with friendly people...

REFRESH IS FOR YOU.

P PARKING AVAILABLE

AT THE OLD SCHOOL
(Opposite the Church)

AND AT THE RED LION
(Car Park)

BOTH JUST ACROSS
THE ROAD



OUR WELCOMING SPACE
Come in, relax and enjoy!



TUESDAYS

09:30 – 11:00



♥ COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE REFRESHED. ♥



Music for an Autumn Evening

St Bartholomew's Church, Shapwick DT11 9LA

Saturday 17 October 2026 at 5.00 pm

Conductor • David Gostick

Tickets £14 in advance
£16 on the door
£5 students/under 18

available online from
bschoir.org.uk

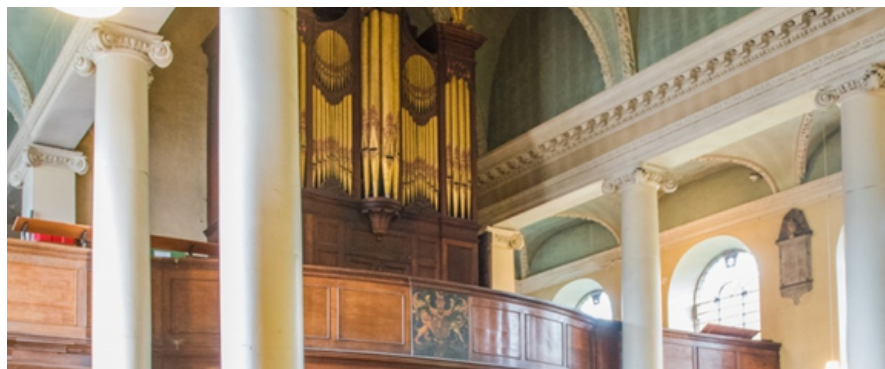
or at the door

An early evening mix of favourite music, from sacred to secular, old and new, and even including a flying visit to the jungle.



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- PARISH CHURCH -

*Charity Organ concert
in aid of Dorset Historic Churches Trust*



The oak panelled bow-fronted gallery was built in 1794 to house the organ made by George Pike England 1794-1815

Blandford Forum Parish Church at 7 pm

Friday 23rd October 2026

Organist: Graham Scott

Deputy director of music, Bryanston school

Tickets from [Ticketsource.com](https://www.ticketsource.com)

£12.00 to include refreshments

Registered Charity No: 282790
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For more Information please
Contact: inghamclark@gmail.com

Programme of music to include:
Bach, Handel & Stanley & others



OCTOBER NOTEBOOK

October 1976:

Dorset experiences exceptionally stormy weather following the summer's dramatic drought, Britain's James Hunt wins the Formula One World Championship by one point over Niki Lauda, and the Inter-City 125 high speed train is introduced into passenger service by British Rail.

October 1926:

Aviator Alan Cobham lands a de Havilland seaplane on the Thames to complete a 78-day, 32,000-mile flight from England to Australia and back. He took off from Rochester, in Kent, on June 30, and made multiple stops flying to and from Melbourne while completing a route survey for Imperial Airways (a forerunner of B.A.). Nine years on, Cobham (later Sir Alan Cobham) will found locally-based Flight Refuelling, now Cobham Ltd, a part of British Aerospace.

Facing hardship and starvation, striking miners start trickling back to work after months of lockout, and a detachment of Dorset police officers travel from Dorchester Station to South Wales, to provide support to colleagues during the angry standoffs.

A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* is published in London, with the opening lines to ponder: *Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it. And then he feels that perhaps there isn't.*

Harry Houdini, the great illusionist, dies two days after being punched in the abdomen as part of a performance at the Garrick Theatre in Detroit.

October 1826:

Traveller, explorer and politician William John Bankes - he who had the obelisk of Philae transported to Kingston Lacy from Egypt - faces charges of libel in London. He had written a letter accusing a former travelling companion and friend, James Silk Buckingham, of using some of his notes and a plan from journeys in Palestine without permission as part of a prospectus for a book. Buckingham took the case to court and won, costing Bankes £400.

October 1626:

Henry Hoskins, a yeoman farmer, leads a 'Lady Skimmington' riot in Gillingham as local people oppose moves by King Charles I to raise short term money by selling off royal forests to courtiers. This would permit the new owners to commence disafforestation, enclose the land and deny local people their traditional rights as commoners, such as grazing animals, finding food and gathering fuel. Some forest dwellers would be expelled. The Gillingham protests continue through 1626-28. Rioters dressed in women's clothing rip up fencing, destroy drains and chase off anyone employed in the enclosure activity. A Dorset militia sent to quell the dissent has to retreat in the face of overwhelming odds. Some soldiers destroy fencing in support of the locals. Eventually many rioters are arrested and put to the pillory. Other 'Skimmington' protests take place across the West Country and collectively become known as the Western Rising. A "Lady Skimmington" is an ancient form of rowdy protest involving a man or men dressed in women's clothes parading rowdily to express disapproval at actions seen to outrage community norms - as the King was seen to be doing with his enclosure plans.

Refresh

Last month we launched a new initiative called Refresh. It is a gathering for coffee (or tea if you prefer!) on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am-11am in term-time, in the new Welcome Hub, within St Mary's Church, Sturminster Marshall.

The group is particularly designed to support parents of pre-school age children, especially ones with new first babies or who are feeling overwhelmed, isolated or rather low. However, it is for all ages, and everyone is welcome. Parents involved in the initial planning of Refresh particularly wanted to include older people, not just parents.

It is simply a time to come together, chat and share a social time together. There are plenty of age appropriate toys for the children and good quality coffee or tea for the adults, and usually some nice biscuits or cake!

It is led by Sue, one of the Lay Pastoral Assistants and who was a Health Visitor, supported by David, our Curate, until Rev. Jane returns from her sabbatical. Sue is supported by a team of volunteers, who are there to welcome and look after everybody.

Please do pop in and join us, on any Tuesday morning in term time. We would love to see you there!

Nikki Haswell
Outreach Co-ordinator
St Mary's Church
08877 179145



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**[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS**



Saturday 17th October 2026

**Raising funds for the Memorial Hall, Evening WI,
First School, Pre School and St Mary's Church**

Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall, Churchill Close, Sturminster Marshall, BH21 4BQ

Doors open 4.30pm, show starts 5pm

Tickets: £10 includes a glass of prosecco and nibbles

U18 tickets: £5 includes a soft drink and nibbles

Tickets to be purchased in advance

Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

For tickets and more information please contact:

Sue - 07801 461125 - sue.ratcliffe15@gmail.com or Christine - 07778918700

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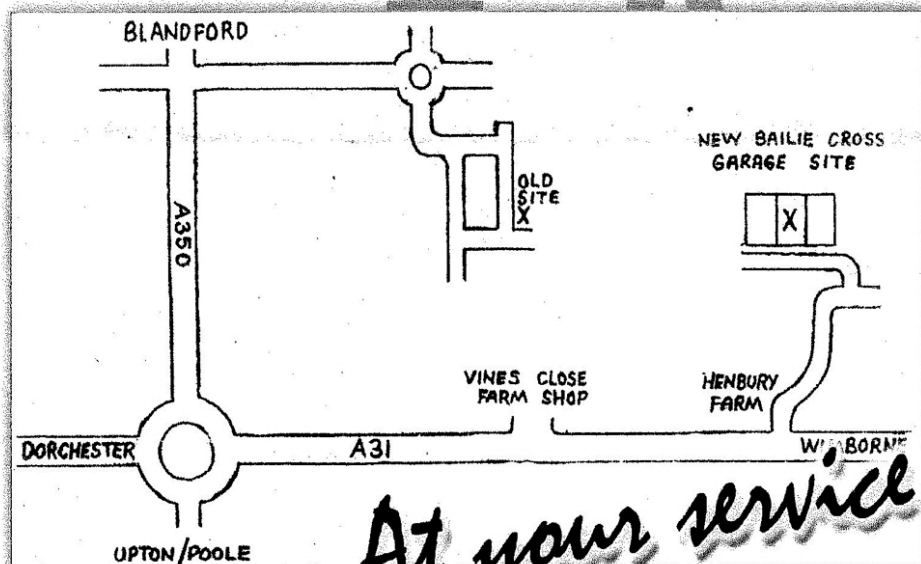
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BARBARA BEAVES

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STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS

www.sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk

Well it has at last cooled down, but as I write we have not really had much rain yet. Hopefully we will by the time you read this. Maybe not too much I hear you say.

Dorset Council is currently consulting on its Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Please take some time to look at the proposals and have your say. The consultation includes reference to the Trailway connections from Sturminster Marshall towards both Spetisbury and Corfe Mullen, so it may be of particular interest to anyone who walks or cycles along these routes. Type in the following to access the Plan: Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)
Consultation - Dorset Council - Citizen Space

During the last few weeks walking round the village I have very sadly seen a lot of dog fouling which has been left and not picked up. There has also been dog fouling in the play area, this is totally unacceptable. Please pick up after your dog and put it in the bins provided round the village or take it home and put it in your own landfill bin. If you see anyone not doing this you can report this at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-dog-fouling>

Would anyone be able to volunteer some time to help paint the village Book Box? The Parish Council will provide the paint and brushes. We are also going to introduce a six-month trial of asking for fiction and children's books only, as we have found that magazines and adult non-fiction books are not being borrowed as often. If you can spare some time to help, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk. Thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winner of our sunflower growing competition, whose sunflower reached a fantastic 255cm! The winner has received a £15 gift card. Well done!

The Sturminster Marshall Parish Council now has its own Facebook Page, just enter in the search and follow for the latest news. One of the things you will find on there is the great news that the replacement Maypole is now in place ready for next year's celebrations.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you'd like to help shape the future of our village, please get in touch with the Parish Council at parishclerk@sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk

Below I have shared ways for Reporting Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

- Non-emergency crime: Call 101. For emergencies, always call 999.
- Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 – you can provide information anonymously.

continued ...

...continued

- Anti-social behaviour: Dorset Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team can be contacted via their website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour>
- Dangerous dogs: To report concerns about dangerous dogs, visit: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/dangerous-dogs>

Recent planning applications:

P/HOU/2026/04136 20 Henbury House Gardens Sturminster Marshall BH21 3TZ

Install 4 roof lights

P/FUL/2026/0418 Crumpets Farm, Crumpets Farm Drive, Lytchett Matravers BH16 6AL

Partial change of use of site to form area for 2 No. short term holiday let pods and access to highway

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AND MORE HYMNS TO JOIN IN WITH

ADVENT	CHRISTMAS	HOLY WEEK	EASTER	PENTECOST	HARVEST	ALL SAINTS
Hope in His coming	Joy at His birth	Grace in His sacrifice	Victory in His resurrection	Power in His Spirit	Thankfulness for His gifts	Glory in His kingdom
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Glory to God in the highest	Behold the Lamb of God Surely	Since by Man came Death	Come Down, O Love Divine	Come Ye Thankful People	For All the Saints

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026
4:00 PM
BLANDFORD PARISH CHURCH
Blandford Forum DT11 7AD

SINGERS FROM
Milton and Blandford Deanery church choirs

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ALL ARE WELCOME!
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01258 857278

Also on site:

Dorset Farm Butchers — 01258 857547

Vines Kitchen — 01258 858095

Both open 7 days a week

Dorchester Road (A31), Henbury, near Sturminster Marshall, BH21 3RW

STURMINSTER MARSHALL SHORT MAT BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB



TRY YOUR HAND AT INDOOR BOWLS



We are currently looking for new members, no experience necessary. We pride ourselves as being a very sociable, friendly and non-League Club; our aim is to have fun and enjoy our game.

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.

INTERESTED? – come along, your first three sessions will be free, so give it a try.

For information telephone:- John on 01202 690718 or Jean on 01258 857308.



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**Marshalls On The Green Restaurant
at Sturminster Marshall Golf Club**

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We are open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Come and enjoy our freshly prepared, home cooked meals.

Members & non-members - All are welcome plus well behaved dogs.

Rachelle and Kozy look forward to seeing you soon.

Opening Hours:

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - 8.30 to 3pm

Wednesday to Saturday 8:30am to 3pm & 5pm to 8pm

Sunday 8:30 to 4pm

**Sturminster Marshall Golf Club,
Moor Lane, Sturminster Marshall. BH21 4BD
Tel: 01258 858444**



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Sizes include 10'x10', 6'x8' and 6'x6'.

We can offer short- or long-term rentals and are happy to work to suit your requirements.

Please contact us for more details or if you would like to view the units.

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Tea ☕ And 🧒 Toddlers

*"It takes a village to raise a child,
a cup of tea to make us human,
an occupied toddler to
chance a biscuit!"*



Parent Lead Childrens' Group 0-5 Years
Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall
Wednesdays 9:45-11:45

teaandtoddlers18@gmail.com
fb.me/teaandtoddlers

Kindly Sponsored By Joe Tizzard Racing, Milborne Port



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH,
STURMINSTER
MARSHALL
PROJECT WELCOME
RACE NIGHT**

Friday 27 th November 2026

6.30 pm

Old School Hall

Sturminster Marshall

Tickets available from Liz Jones and Wendy Pope
lizandpetejones@yahoo.co.uk/wendypope5@gmail.com

***Eight Races
to enjoy!***

***Become an owner,
win prizes and
have a flutter!***

**£20PP
INCLUDES TWO
COURSE SUPPER
AND
ONE FREE BET!**

**PAY BAR
AVAILABLE**

**Auction for
A Morning on
the Gallops at Joe
Tizzards Yard
Breakfast for 2
People**

Wimborne Model Railway Exhibition

The Central Southern Gauge O Group (CSGOG) will be holding their Annual Model Railway Exhibition on Sunday 25th October at the Allendale Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne BH21 1AS. There is ample parking and a café on site. Admittance is from 10am until 4pm. £8 per adult with accompanied children free.

On display will be O gauge models (that's twice the size of the more common Hornby Trains). There will be numerous operational layouts; the group's own large test track; model engineering demo; model railway traders; a bring & buy stall and railway societies. Our show has been described as 'the show to go to' and 'it ticks all the boxes'.

You will no doubt find the scenery on the layouts fascinating with so much detail lovingly applied, to make it look just like the real thing – but in miniature.

Apart from the exhibition the CSGOG normally meet from 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month, at the Allendale Centre. See our website for details: www.csog.org or Facebook: Central Southern Gauge O Group.

Visitors of all ages and modelling abilities are always made welcome at our meetings. So if you are interested in model railways we'd love to meet you one evening. There's no obligation to join our group, but we hope you will be inspired by what you see and after a few visits want to become a member.



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Bridge Drive

Thursday 22nd October

10.30 – 3.30

(coffee served from 10.00)

**Old School
Sturminster Marshall**

**Tickets £20
(includes lunch)**

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katy.norman1@btinternet.com

Proceeds to
St Mary's Church
Welcome Project
Sturminster Marshall



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Mellow Morning Musing

The summer days are shortening
The blue heat haze no more
Those long hot days of clearing skies
Now autumn mist hangs low
The air is crisp this early morn
The sun's warmth soon will go

The hedgerows yield their wealth of fruits
Before the spring brings new grown shoots
The brambles offer their trusses of berries
Glossy and ripe to the eye
The making of jam and crumble too
And of course a blackberry pie!

The clambering hops reach into the trees
Entwined in the branches high
Their seed cones like miniature Tiffany shades
Hang pendulous from the sky

The blue suede sloes....
An abundant crop
Ready for pickin'
In Gin for dippin'
I'll raise a glass with a drop!

The Dog Roses now bear hips bright and red
And the Haw berries too are deep crimson
A meal for the migrant flocks on the wing
A nourishing fruit to feed on

The cattle amble their way from the parlour
To the meadows by the river
The hens scritch and scratch in the long paddock grass
As I spy "Reynard".....
Stealthily poised, bushy brush all a'quiver
Perchance to catch a feathery feast
A delicious family dinner!

These days of mellow fruitfulness
Give a warm and comforting glow
So much to see and treasure
As I take my morning stroll
A season to reflect upon
Before the winter snow

JRL 2020

Market Stall

Saturday
3rd October
10.00 – 12.00



**Cakes and
Bakes
Tea, Coffee,
Bacon Rolls
and lots
more**

**Proceeds towards the upkeep of
St Mary's Church**



DEC 19 · 6:30



BH21 4BQ
Sturminster Marshall

**Sturminster Marshall
Memorial Hall - 7 - 11pm**

**£5 per person, under 15's
free**

Bar and snacks available

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By **Claire Forsey**

Attend on
 **eventbrite**

Kingston Lacy Estate News

The summer's heatwave has proved tricky for gardeners and growers, and at Kingston Lacy we're picking apples earlier than usual, with smaller yields. Apples from the orchards we look after go in two directions: fruit from the Kitchen Garden is used in the Stables cafe and turned into treats such as Dorset Apple cake for visitors, while fruit from orchards out on the wider estate is sent to Purbeck Cider.



This year, we've had help from the scouts for the orchards on the wider estate: the 1st Wimborne Scouts, Cubs and Beavers (and their parents and grandparents!) joined us for the first pick, sending a truck off with around 3 tonnes. It has gone into Purbeck Cider's 2026 People's Choice Charity Cider - a cider crafted from community-grown apples; £1 for every litre sold will be donated to Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, and we hope to have it on sale here in the shop next spring. The apples have been a fund-raiser for the scouts too, who will receive a donation towards outdoor activity equipment as a result of all their hard work.

If you'd like to help pick apples from the Kitchen Garden, take a bag home and discover a bit more about how we manage the orchards there, drop in on 23 or 26 September between 11am-2pm. There's no charge and no booking needed – just come along with whatever queries you've got.

We've got a new trail from 1 October of special interest to Pokémon fans: Pikachu's Art Adventure will explore the wide range of illustrative styles that bring the iconic Pokémon character to life. It's a fun trail that will appeal on lots of different levels, from just tracking down the displays to uncovering fun facts about Pikachu, from collecting exclusive stamps to designing your own Pikachu inspired by Kingston Lacy. Again, there's no booking and it's a free event (normal admission applies).

And finally: you have probably heard that the General Manager, Tim Turner, is retiring after more than a decade here. We wish him all the best for this new chapter in his life, and look forward to welcoming a new General Manager in November.



Talking PicturesTV
FREEVIEW 82 | SKY 338 | FREESAT 306 | VIRGIN 445

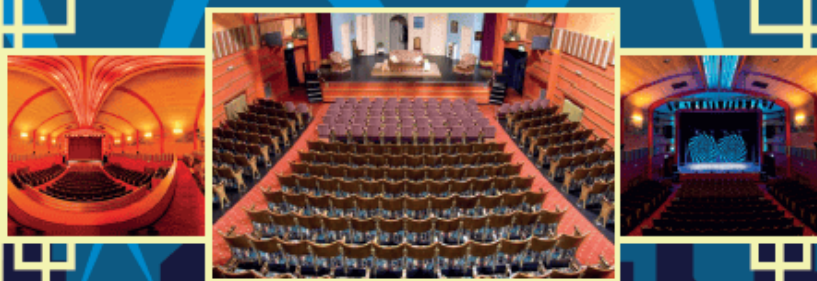


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SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2026



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DOORS OPEN 10am • CURTAIN UP AT 11am • EVENT ENDS AT 7pm

TICKETS ARE JUST £38 PER PERSON FOR THE WHOLE DAY!

Join us for a whole day of great entertainment that celebrates all things 'Talking Pictures'! We've got Film and TV history, special guests on stage, films on a big screen, plus comedy, music, and a lot of fun!

FULL GUEST LINE-UP AND SCREENING PROGRAMME TO BE ANNOUNCED!

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St Mary's Church
Sturminster Marshall

PET. Blessing DAY

All creatures,
great and small,
are gifts from God.



Bring your
pets of all
shapes, sizes
& species!

Please bring you pets large or small to a short
blessing and perhaps a treat or two
on

Sunday 11th October at 3pm

Waggy Tails rescue will be there and also a qualified
Veterinary Nurse to answer your questions

Refreshments after the service



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STURMINSTER MARSHALL EVENING WI

In August we had our Summer Outing to the historical Blandford Fashion Museum set in a beautiful Georgian townhouse in the heart of Blandford. We had booked the Silver category tour for our visit which gave the group a more in-depth experience. The visit was led by a costume and textile professional who shared their extensive knowledge with us. After the tour we enjoyed a cup of tea and a slice of cake in the award winning tearoom and gift shop.



Two of our members joined others at Camp Bestival serving refreshments in the Dorset Federation of WI's Tea Tent. It was another huge success for the DFWI. Well done to the 8 members who took part in the Annual Dorset Federation Quiz. Lots of fun and laughter during the evening and fingers crossed that at least one of our teams reaches the final again.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 15th October at The Old School at 7.30pm. Michelle Leonard, a former police officer will be giving a talk on 'Operation Argos' and her role as a decoy in an operation to catch a sex offender.

We are always delighted to welcome new members and you don't need to be a resident in Sturminster Marshall to be able to attend.

For more information about SMEWI, please contact Christine Rainsford on 01258 857413 or visit our website

www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com

Follow us on Facebook: Sturminster Marshall Evening WI

Karen West

Parish Directory

The Parish of Kingston Lacy and Shapwick

Rector: Revd Canon Andrew Rowland (The Rector's day off is Friday)	01202 882340 rector@wimborneminster.org.uk
Organists: contact Churchwarden Churchwarden K Lacy: Rob Langdown	01202 841381 KL-CW@wimborneminster.org.uk
Deputy Churchwarden Shapwick: Alan Cosgrove	07971 512390 alancosgrove@btopenworld.com
PCC Secretary: Margaret Langdown	01202 841381
Treasurer: Christine Cosgrove	01258 858876
Electoral Roll Officer: Janet Tory	01258 857531

Sturminster Marshall Parish Church

Vicar: Rev Jane Williams (Jane's day off is Friday)	01258 858604 janewilliamsrpc@outlook.com
Red Post Benefice Clerk: Vicky Harrison-King	redpostbenefice@outlook.com
Organists: contact Churchwarden Churchwardens: Carol Johnson Sue Pritchard	07400 356901 smcwsue@gmail.com
PCC Secretary: Liz York	01258 857528
PCC Treasurer: Ed Warren	01258 857467
Verger: Vacant	
Captain of the Rings: Mr M Stickley	01202 021895
Electoral Roll Officer: Elaine Huntriss	07818 280800

Schools

Sturminster Marshall First School: Mrs S Bentley (acting head)	01258 857348
Sturminster Marshall Pre-school: Mrs Holly Keets	01258 858395
Pamphill CE First School: Mrs Sarah Fairman	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
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Hall Bookings

Old School, Stur Marshall: Val Brown	hall.mackrell@outlook.com
Memorial Hall, Stur Marshall: Mrs K Kollberg	07729 712429
	sturhallbookings@gmail.com
Pamphill Parish Hall: David Wright	pamphillparishhall@gmail.com

Councillors

Dorset Councillor: Cllr. Mr Will Chakawhata	cllwill.chakawhata@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Stur Marshall Parish Council Chair: Mrs Sonia Cade	
Stur Marshall Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Alison Clothier	07469 780548
	sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Chair: Mr Martin Underhill	
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Lindsay Hole	

For Sturminster Marshall

Sturminster Marshall FC: Mr D Miller	01258 857314
Church Preservation Trust: Philip Cubitt	philipcubitt@btinternet.com
School Society: Dolly Purtill (Chair)	schoolsociety@sturminstermarshall.dorset.sch.uk
WI Evening Secretary: Mrs Gladys Quick	07720 343897
Sports Association: Mr R Haysom	01258 857616
Stur Marshall 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
Stur Marshall Short Mat Bowls & Social Club: Mr J Case	01202 690718
Stur Marshall Village History Website	07469 780548

For Pamphill

Kingston Lacy Skittles Club: Mr R Frost	01202 883084
Kingston Lacy Cricket Club: Mr S Maine	07969 883814
Pamphill Pre-School: Mrs D Gould	07415 473977

For Shapwick

S.C.T. (Village Green): Jez Bragg	07813 925681
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