

Wot's On Henstridge



In This Issue
Village Shop Update
Bird In Hand News
CLASH
Short Story Competition

Spring 2026

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A non-profit making magazine published quarterly for the parish of Henstridge. Advertising funds the printing of the magazine only. All other elements of the publication including editing, production and distribution are provided by volunteers from the community.

We welcome all advertisements, articles and letters submitted for inclusion in the magazine but the editor reserves the right to refuse, alter or amend material for any reason. The editor accepts no responsibility for, nor necessarily agrees with, views expressed in such submissions.

Please email any items for the next edition of the magazine to WotsOnEditor@gmail.com by 1st May the latest.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this magazine, the editor cannot accept responsibility for the consequences or any errors or omissions that may occur.

Editorial Welcome to the Spring Edition

Welcome to our Spring Edition! Even in the weeks of rain and floods, there are some things to be grateful for in Henstridge! Within a few weeks we hope that we will have secured the future of the local shop, post office and the Bird in Hand. Read on for more news about both of these exciting ventures.

Read on too to catch up on all the organisations that affect our day-to-day life – Somerset County Council, our own Parish Council, the church, the school, the Village Hall and the CLASH group all share their news and upcoming events.

And events! There is so much going on – be sure to check the regular weekly events and the 3 month look ahead.

We would like to extend our thanks to Heather Young who is stepping down after a number of years delivering Wot's On.

So, we hope that you're not letting the weather get you down, the sun will come out tomorrow!

Happy Spring.

The Wot's On Team

Stop Press!!

Update on the Village Shop

You may have already heard (it *was* the village's worst kept secret) but here's the confirmation; Lesley & Andy Scard and Helen & Barry Howlett have taken on the lease for the village shop and have been busy preparing it for re-opening.

Currently, we have been redecorating, refitting and then will be re-stocking. We stress we are deeply indebted to *Razzle Dazzle*, who offered their services free of charge and have deep-cleaned and sanitised almost every square inch.

By the time you read this article we should have re-opened and welcomed you all back to the shop. We have received positive feedback from the Post Office and are very hopeful that this will also re-open in the near future, with Lesley as Postmistress.

Andy Scard

Henstridge Village Shop



Back Row - Barry Howlett & Andy Scard

Front Row - Helen Howlett & Lesley Scard

Contents

Wot's On Listings - 2
Special - Henstridge Cricket Club - 12
The Young Ones - 14
St Nicholas School - 16
Church Matters - 18
Parish Council - 20
Somerset County Council Update - 24
Local Groups, News and Events - 26
Family Activities - 37
Spring Recipe - 38
Henstridge Hounds - 40
Jottings From The Lady Shed - 42
Local Walk - 44
From Our Sponsors - 45
Craft With Us At Home - 47
Useful Information - 48

Wot's On Listings

Wot's On Every Week in the Village Hall

Exercise and Sport:	Contact leader, or just come along. See opposite page for contact details.
Pilates	Mondays 9:45am
Table Tennis	Monday and Friday afternoons 2pm
Jazzercise	Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:30am
Line Dancing	1st Wednesday of the month 2pm, & then following Thursdays 7:45pm
Ballroom Dancing	Tuesday evenings 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Flamenco Based Exercise	Tuesday mornings 11:00am – 12:00 noon
Beginners Line Dancing	From March: Wednesday mornings 11:00am – 12:00md Thursday afternoons 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Other Groups	
Weekly Fruit and Veg Market	Thursdays 10am – 12:30pm Fruit, veg, and much more
Art Group	Mondays 11am
Bridge u3a	Alternate Mondays 2:30pm
Singing Group	Thursdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Loose Ends Coffee Group	Fridays 10:30am - 12:00pm
Warm Room Lunch Group	Fridays 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Youth Club	Fridays 6:30pm - 8:30pm
CAMEO	2nd Tuesday monthly 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Libby's Yoga	MOST Sunday mornings 10am - 11am

Have an event going on in June - August? Let us help you publicise it. Email wotsoneditor@gmail.com with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

Wot's On Listings

Other Groups and Activities in the Village

Book Club	3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:45pm in The Bird in Hand
Bell Ringing	Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Church Tower
Brownies & Rainbows	Leave your details via www.girlguiding.org.uk or contact us (see below for details)
Baby & Toddler Group	Wednesday mornings 9:00am -10:30am in the church - restarting 22nd April
Walking Touch Rugby	Sunday mornings 11.00am - 12.00 midday at the Recreation Ground

Contact List for Clubs and Societies

Art Group	Liz Holbrook	01963 363193
Ballroom Dancing	Joanne Bruton	07946 760832
Beginners Line Dancing	Bridget Hallett	07702 694469 bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com
Bell Ringing	Ellen Edwards	01963 362282
Bird in Hand Society	Jacky Manning	01963 548292
Blackmore Vale Lions	Peter Oswick	01963 363281
Blackmore Vale u3a	Susan Kidd	01963 362107
Book Club	Gail Cullum	01963 362878
Brownies & Rainbows	Jane Jeanes	01963 370769/07712824747 janejeanes78@gmail.com
CAMEO	Ros Browning	01963 363016
Explorers Pre School	Debbi Norwood	explorers.preschool@hotmail.co.uk
Fête	Ashley Shirlin	01963 202949
Flamenco Based Exercise	Sarah Clatworthy	01258 863861/07963311010
Fruit & Veg	Nikki Cox	07547 662393
Jazzercise	Justine Parker	jazzsandco@gmail.com
Line Dancing	Ros Browning	01963 363016
Loose Ends	Gail Cullum	01963 362878
Pilates	Laura Watford	watfordlaura@gmail.com
Singing Group	Becky Mitchell	07957 133317
Sports Club Committee	Steve Penny	01963 362157
Table Tennis	Helen Howlett	HelenBeale27@hotmail.co.uk
U3a Bridge	Howard Warden	01963 363257
WAG	Steve Burrows	07710 120564
Walking Touch Rugby	Chris & Mark Taylor	01963 202151
Women's Institute	Sue Latimer	01963 365765
Yoga	Libby Woolacott	woolacottlibby@gmail.com
Youth Club	Claire Bailey, Rep	07977 859700

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in February	
Fri 27th Feb, 7.30pm	<i>HMS Heron Band concert</i> , St Nicholas Church, Henstridge in aid of CLASH. Tickets £15 incl 5 raffle tickets. Cash bar. Information Deborah 07969 489397
Sat 28th Feb, 11am - 5pm	<i>Mind, Body & Spirit Fair</i> , Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne, DT9 3JG
Sat 28th Feb, 7pm	<i>It's a Kind of Magic - Fundraiser for 2026 Village Fete</i> . Table magic, Cash bar, finger buffet, Roulette & Blackjack tables, Auction. Fun for all. Contact ashleyshirlin@hotmail.co.uk
Events coming up in March	
Sun 1st Mar, 9am - 12pm	<i>Table Top Sale</i> - Henstridge Village Hall. £8/table, £12 for 2. Contact to book AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Sun 1st Mar, 6 - 9pm	<i>Games @ The Bird</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. Information - Steve 07710 120564
Sun 1st Mar, 7.30pm	<i>The Royal Marines Association Concert Band & Yeovilton Military Wives Choir</i> . Westlands, Yeovil BA20 2DD. Tickets £15
Sun 1st Mar - Sun 12th Apr, 10.30am - 5pm	<i>Exhibitions: The Folke Altarpiece; Quentin Blake - 100 Portraits; Quentin Blake Takes Flight</i> . The Sherborne, DT9 3JG. Queries - 01935 313000
Tues 3rd March	<i>World Wildlife Day</i>
Tues 3rd Mar, 2.15pm	<i>U3A AGM & talk - Operation Mincemeat & the Man Who Never Was</i> by Kevin Patience. Henstridge Village Hall. Contact www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk
Tues 3rd Mar, 7pm	<i>Parish Council Meeting</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Contact - Parish Clerk 07841 392242

Have an event going on in June - August? Let us help you publicise it. Email watsoneditor@gmail.com with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in March	
Wed 4th Mar, 3pm & 7pm	<i>Frick: The Man & His Museum</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound St, DT9 3JG www.theartssocietysherborne.org
Thurs 5th March	World Book Day
Thurs 5th - Sun 8th March	Crufts Dog Show
Thurs 5th Mar, 6 - 7pm	Film - " <i>Don McCullin: Looking for England</i> ", Hauser & Wirth BA10 0NL. £5/adult, children free. Info - www.hauserwirth.com/events
Thurs 5th Mar, 8pm	<i>The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House</i> . Talk by Prof Adrian Tinniswood at Sherborne Historical Society. £5 non-members. Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne DT9 3JG
Fri 6th Mar, 6.30pm	<i>Roth Rebellion: Solscisters</i> , Durslade Farm, Bruton BA10 0NL. Free entry. Info - www.rothbar.co.uk
Sun 8th March	International Women's Day
Tues 10th Mar, 10.25am - 3.15pm	<i>The Arts & Crafts Movement in the Cotswold & its Churches</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound St DT9 3JG www.theartssocietysherborne.org
Tues 10th Mar, 2 - 4pm	<i>Felting @ CAMEO</i> - workshop with Helen Isbell. Entry £6. Please book a place. Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016
Fri 13th Mar - Sun 29th Apr	Keep Britain Tidy: The Great British Spring Clean
Fri 13th Mar, 7.30pm	<i>An Audience with Edward Fox</i> at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton. More info@stur-exchange.co.uk
Sat 14th Mar, 1 - 4pm	<i>Felting Workshop</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge. £18 incl. material. Info & booking helen.isbell@icloud.com

Though our listing details were correct at the time of publication, we recommend checking with the venue or organisers before attending, to avoid disappointment.

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in March	
Sat 14th Mar, 7pm	<i>Glories of Venice</i> , Sherborne Chamber Choir at Sherborne Abbey. Info - www.sherbornechamberchoir.org.uk
Sun 15th Mar, 10am - 3pm	<i>Sherborne Market</i> www.thesherbornemarket.com Including Kate's Kitchen Bakery
Sun 15th Mar, 11.30am - 3.30pm	<i>Sherborne Water Wheel</i> , Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site.
Sun 15th Mar, 7pm	<i>Mrs Harris Goes to Paris - Film Night</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. £5 (incl glass wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Mon 16th - Sat 21st Mar, 7.45pm	<i>Pressure</i> by David Haig. The Swan Theatre, Yeovil, BA20 1QT Tel: 07500 376031
Thurs 19th Mar, 2pm	<i>Maude Dudley: The Life of a Live-in Servant through Letters</i> . Talk by Valerie Brenton for Sherborne Museum. Digby Memorial Hall, DT9 3NL. £5 non-members
Thurs 19th Mar, 8pm	<i>Rudolf Hess - A Most Curious Death</i> . Talk by Maj Gen Peter Williams at Sherborne Historical Society. £5 non-members. Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne DT9 3JG
Sat 21st Mar, 10am - 12.30pm	<i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church, Sherborne
Sat 21st Mar, 5.30 - 10pm	<i>Monthly Bingo Nights</i> - Stour Valley Dog Rescue, Henstridge Village Hall. stourvalleydogrescue@outlook.com
Sat 21st - Sun 22nd Mar	<i>Bath & West Food & Drink Festival</i> , Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallett. Kids Zone (free workshops). Tickets www.bathandwest.com
Sun 22nd March	World Water Day

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in March	
Sun 22nd Mar, 4pm	<i>The Honesty Jar Bingo</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. Free entry, refreshments. Payment for books of tickets by cash/card - contact jodie.darvill@hotmail.com
Thurs 26th Mar, 6 - 7pm	Film - " <i>Don McCullin. Looking for England</i> ", Hauser & Wirth BA10 0NL. £5/adult, children free. Info - www.hauserwirth.com/events
Thurs 26th Mar, 8pm	<i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £1 entry pp, Teams of 4. 01963 362 255
Fri 27th Mar, 6pm	<i>Skittles for Adults</i> at The Bird in Hand. Information from WAGS 07710 120564
Fri 27th Mar, 6.30pm	<i>The Fatstock Affair - A Murder Mystery</i> . Hazelbury Bryan Village Hall. £15 pp incl hot meal. Info - 07533 642642
Sat 28th Mar, 6 - 9pm	<i>Easter Bingo</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. Information - Hayly 07908 429700
Sun 29th Mar, 6pm	<i>Words and Music with Elysium Singers</i> at St Nicholas Church, Henstridge. Wine & coffee. Donations appreciated.
Sun 29th Mar	<i>Yeovil Half Marathon for St Margaret's Hospice</i> . Further information www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk
Events coming up in April	
Wed 1st - Sun 29th Apr	Keep Britain Tidy: The Great British Spring Clean
Wed 1st Apr, 3pm & 7pm	<i>The Rebirth of Notre Dame de Paris</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound St, DT9 3JG www.theartssocietysherborne.org
Fri 3rd April	GOOD FRIDAY
Sat 4th Apr, 8.30am	<i>Haynes Car Boot Sale</i> , Haynes Car Museum, Sparkford, BA22 7LH. Information 01963 440804

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in April	
Sat 4th Apr, 11am - 3pm	<i>Kate's Kitchen Easter Cafe</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. Contact Facebook.com/kateskitchenbakery
Sat 4th April	<i>Oxford v Cambridge Boat Races</i> , London
Sun 5th April	EASTER SUNDAY
Sun 5th Apr, 11.30am - 3.30pm	<i>Sherborne Water Wheel</i> , Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site.
Mon 6th April	BANK HOLIDAY
Mon 6th Apr, 10am - 4pm	<i>Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway</i> , Yenston BA8 0NB. Information at www.newglr.weebly.com
Tues 7th Apr, 7pm	<i>Henstridge Parish Council Meeting</i> , Village Hall Contact Clerk 07841 392242
Wed 8th - Sat 11th Apr	<i>Betty Blue Eyes - the pig with beautiful eyes!</i> Milborne Port Opera. Further information secretary@milborneportopera.co.uk
Thurs 9th Apr, 7pm	<i>'Hamlet' from NT Live</i> - The Swan Theatre, Yeovil, BA20 1QT Tel: 07500 376031
Fri - Sun 10th - 12th Apr	<i>Sherborne Travel Writing Festival</i> - Sherborne Literary Society. Powell Theatre, Sherborne. Information info@sherborneliterarysociety.com
Tues 14th Apr, 2 - 4pm	<i>The Blackmore Vale Lions</i> , CAMEO talk by Peter Oswick. £3.50 Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016
Tues 14th Apr, 7pm	<i>Parish Council Meeting</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge Contact - Parish Clerk 07841 392242
Sat 18th Apr, 10am - 12.30pm	<i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church, Sherborne
Sat 18th Apr, 1 - 4pm. TBC	<i>Felting Workshop</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge. £18 incl. material. Info & booking helen.isbell@icloud.com

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in April	
Sat 18th Apr, 2pm	<i>In Search of Cerne Abbey</i> , Talk by Dr Hugh Wilmott at Sherborne Historical Society. £5 non-members. Digby Memorial Church Hall, Sherborne, DT9 3NL
Sat 18th Apr, 5.30 - 10pm	<i>Monthly Bingo Nights</i> - Stour Valley Dog Rescue, Henstridge Village Hall. stourvalleydogrescue@outlook.com
Sat 18th Apr, TBC	<i>The Songbirds - Songs from the Musicals</i> . In aid of Riding for the Disabled and The Rendezvous. At Milborne Port Village Hall. Contact Blackmore Vale Lions on 01963 363281
Sun 19th Apr, 10am - 3pm	<i>Sherborne Market</i> www.thesherbornemarket.com
Sun 19th Apr, 7pm	<i>The Ballad of Wallis Island</i> - Film Night, Henstridge Village Hall. £5 (incl. glass wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Wed 22nd April	Earth Day
Thurs 23rd Apr, 7pm	<i>Parish Council Open Spaces Meeting</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge Contact - Parish Clerk 07841 392242
Fri 24th Apr, 6 - 11pm & Sat 25th Apr, 2 - 11pm	<i>Yeovil Beer & Cider Festival</i> , Westlands, Yeovil BA20 2DD. Age restriction 18+
Fri 24th Apr, 7pm	<i>'A Celebration of Music' in aid of The Bird in Hand pub</i> @ St Nicholas Church, Henstridge. £10 entry. Open from 6.30pm
Sat 25th Apr, 10am - 3.30pm	<i>Handmade Henstridge Sale</i> - Henstridge Village Hall. £10/table. Contact to book AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Tues 28th Apr, 6.30pm	<i>AGM for Henstridge Village Hall</i> , Village Hall
Thurs 30th Apr - Tues 7th May	<i>Annual Sherborne Music Festival</i> - details TBC via Sherborne Abbey
Thurs 30th Apr, 8pm	<i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £1 entry pp, Teams of 4. 01963 362255

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in May	
Sat 2nd May, 8.30am	<i>Haynes Car Boot Sale</i> , Haynes Car Museum, Sparkford, BA22 7LH. Information 01963 440804
Sun 3rd May, 9am - 12pm	<i>Table Top Sale</i> - Henstridge Village Hall. £8/table, £12 for 2. Contact to book AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Mon 4th May	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Mon 4th May, 12 - 5pm	<i>FND Friends Charity Dog Show</i> , Family Day in Yeovil. Contact www.fndfriends.com
Tues 5th May, 2.15pm	<i>Talk: World Cheese Awards</i> by Linda Farrand. BlackmoreVale u3a, Henstridge Village Hall. Contact www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk
Wed 6th May, 3pm & 7pm	<i>Going with the Flow - Garden cascades, fountains & lakes</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound St DT9 3JG www.theartsocietysherborne.org
Sun 10th May, 11.30am - 3.30pm	<i>Sherborne Water Wheel</i> , Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site.
Tues 12th May, 2 - 4pm	<i>Being Extra</i> , CAMEO talk by Bridget Hallet. £3.50 Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016
Tues 12th May, 7pm	<i>Henstridge Parish Council AGM</i> , Village Hall Lounge Contact Clerk 07841 392242
Sat 16th May, 10am - 12.30pm	<i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church, Sherborne
Sat 16th May, 1 - 4pm	<i>Felting Workshop</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge. £18 incl material. Info & booking helen.isbell@icloud.com
Sat 16th May, 7.30pm	<i>Police Choir @ St Nicholas Church</i> - fundraising in aid of Henstridge Village Hall. Entry £10pp. Cash bar from 7pm. Information williams2sr@btinternet.com
Sun 17th May, 10am - 3pm	<i>Sherborne Market</i> www.thesherbornemarket.com

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in May	
Sun 17th May, 7pm	<i>Paddington</i> - Film Night, Henstridge Village Hall. £5 (incl glass wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Mon 18th - Sat 23rd May, 7pm	' <i>The Unfriend</i> ' - a hilarious comedy. The Swan Theatre, Yeovil, BA20 1QT. Tel: 07500 376031
Weds 20th May, 7pm	<i>Henstridge Parish Council Village Meeting</i> , Village Hall Main Hall Contact Clerk 07841 392242
Sun 24th May, 10am - 4pm	<i>Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway</i> , Yenston BA8 0NB. Information at www.newglr.weebly.com
Mon 25th May	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
Mon 25th May, 9.30am - 5pm	<i>Sherborne Castle Country Fair & Rare Breeds Show</i> , Sherborne DT9 5NR. Entrance £15 adults, children free. Car parking free. Information www.sherbornecountryfair.com
Thurs 28th May, 8pm	<i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £1 entry pp, Teams of 4. 01963 362255
Sat 30th May,	<i>Hedgehog Happy Fayre</i> , The Pavilion, Hazelbury Bryan Information - nhampstead@hotmail.com
Sun 31st May, 2pm	<i>The Honesty Jar Bingo</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. Free entry, refreshments. Payment for books of tickets by cash/card Contact jodie.darvill@hotmail.com
Sun 31st May, 6pm	<i>Words and Music with Elysium Singers</i> at St Nicholas Church, Henstridge. Wine & coffee. Donations appreciated.

Have an event going on in June - August? Let us help you publicise it. Email wotsoneditor@gmail.com with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

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The First 30 Years of Henstridge Cricket Club

How cricket mad clergymen founded Henstridge Cricket Club and precipitated the founding of Somerset County Cricket Club

Visitors to Henstridge Church can read about the history of our Parish Church in the very informative illustrated folder located just by the entrance. They can read how the main body of the Church was substantially rebuilt in the early 1870s. They can also see a full list of the Vicars and the dates they served. They can read that the Bishop of Bath and Wells came in November 1873 to open the newly rebuilt main body of the Church. They might notice that the Vicar at that time was Alexander Ainslie (1871-1882). But what they won't discover is a most interesting thing that happened earlier that summer.



As reported in the Western Gazette on the 5th July 1873 a cricket match was played by the “flourishing newly formed cricket club at Henstridge”.

Henstridge Cricket Club v Milborne Port Cricket Club.

Played at Henstridge on the 5th July 1873 as a 2 innings unlimited overs match.

Milborne Port batted first and scored 74 all out.

HCC replied with 40 all out. (Rev A C Ainslie 0)

MPCC made 53 all out in the 2nd innings

HCC could only muster 10 men for their 2nd innings and scored a measly 19. (Rev Ainslie 1)

Victory to Milborne Port by 68 runs.

A return match was arranged on the 17th July 1873 at Milborne Port. Henstridge were better prepared having recruited Henry P M Dodington. He scored 36 out of the Henstridge total of 69 and took 4 wickets and 1 catch, helping HCC win the match.

So did Henstridge bring in a ringer? I suggest the evidence shows not. The Rev Henry P M Dodington was a very good cricketer and was born at Bowden in Henstridge in 1843 the youngest son of the then rector of Stowell Rev Thomas Marriot-Dodington. He was living in Bowden in 1851 before moving to Horsington when his father inherited the right to live at Horsington Manor. Educated at Cambridge he returned to Horsington and took over the Rectorship of Stowell from his father. He played regularly for Henstridge CC and Horsington whilst Rector of Stowell and later in his life retired to Styles Farm on Henstridge Marsh owned by the Dodington family.

He had also played regularly for the Gentlemen of Somerset from 1863 and played in the now famous two day match played at Sidmouth against the Gentlemen of Devon in 1875.

It was in the evening of the 18th August 1875 after that match that the Rev Alexander Colvin Ainslie Vicar of Henstridge chaired a meeting of the Somerset players and supporters at which a resolution was passed to form “a Somerset County Cricket Club that would play against other counties”.

A club secretary was appointed and fixtures arranged for the following year. The Club did not have a permanent ground but was to borrow pitches to play matches around the county. Henry Dodington played several matches for Somerset County CC in 1876 whilst still a member of HCC and in 1885 was elected president of SCCC. And later a permanent ground was found at Taunton.

It appears that Rev Ainslie had started planning a village cricket club soon after arriving in Henstridge in 1871. At that time the field behind the church yard, on which the current 20th Century vicarage and the graveyard extensions lie, was not all part of the Vicar's glebe but had been acquired by Rev Ainslie by 1873. As he told the HCC end of season meeting at the Virginia Ash Hotel in 1878 he had done this “especially that it might be used as a cricket field

by the young men of the parish".

The Cricket Club thrived during the rest of his tenure, playing matches against Wincanton, Stalbridge, Templecombe, Milborne Port, Bruton, Bourton, Marnhull, Sturminster Newton, as well as teams from further away such as Corfe, and Lyme Regis.

In 1878 the post season awards dinner was held at the Virginia Hotel presided over by Rev Ainslie. He reported that the club had 50 paid up members, had played 14 matches winning 11 and losing 3. There were speeches, many toasts made, and the evening ended with a lot of singing. The Revs Ainslie and Dodington sharing the batting honour.

Rev Ainslie left Henstridge in 1882 to take over as Vicar of Langport. During his tenure he had also overseen the building of the first purpose built school in Henstridge. In 1895 he was made Canon of Wells and in 1896 he was appointed Arch Deacon of Taunton where he could watch Somerset CC whenever he wanted.



The next two vicars of Henstridge, the Reverends Dowell and Frith, were also keen sportsmen and continued to play for and support the Cricket Club and to let the cricket club use the Glebe field.

Around the turn of the century the need to expand the graveyard made it too small for cricket and the pitch moved to its present location courtesy of Edward Pickford dairy farmer of Pond Farm, who was one of the churchwardens and also a keen sportsman. But that is a story for another day.

In the next Wot's On discover how a farmer's field became Henstridge Recreation Ground.

Will Eaden

Henstridge Cricket Club



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The Young Ones **Baby & Toddler Group**

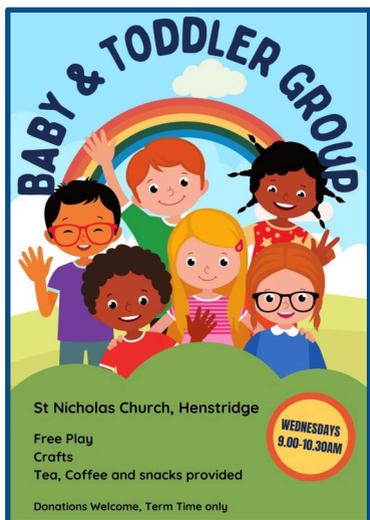
Based in St Nicholas Church, the local Baby & Toddler Group is run by Lucy Gilbert with the help of Liz Holbrook. Driven by the need to meet more people and to get out of the house, Lucy started coming to this baby group 4 years ago when she had just moved to Henstridge and her eldest was about 9 months old.

Lucy hadn't been to a baby group before but loved how the group was laid back and a safe place for her daughter to play. Since then, her two other children have also joined the group.



Lucy pictured with Eden, Arlo & Elsie

A few years ago, she was asked to take over running the group and agreed to do this in a heartbeat. The group has allowed Lucy to really integrate into the community and meet other parents many of whom are now very close friends. There have been no regrets in taking on the group, in fact she describes it as having been an amazing time.



What does the group offer? It is a place for parents or carers to come with their little ones up to preschool age. There is a lot of free play, lots to play with including baby sensory toys, bikes, dolls house, a play kitchen area and building blocks.

A craft table is set up each week where things like superhero masks can be made together with colouring in and seasonal themed crafts usually finishing with a story and singing time. Tea, coffee and snacks are provided.

Unfortunately, over recent months the group has reduced in size as those children who have been attending over the years have now started school. So, there will now be a break for a few weeks until after the Easter holidays when Lucy restarts hoping to bring the baby & toddler group back to the numbers it once had.

To contact Lucy with any questions or for more information there is a Facebook page 'Henstridge Church Baby & Toddler Group' or call Lucy on 07368 148698.

For anyone with a young family why not follow what Lucy did – get out of the house on Wednesday mornings, go to St Nicholas church and meet others with young families. The session is 9am – 10:30am and is only £3 per family including snacks, teas & coffees.

John Graham

Explorers

At Explorers, the children returned from their Christmas holidays, happy and settled and we have welcomed new children.

We have been learning about Winter and what happens during this season, through a range of practical and experimental activities and opportunities, such as our saving



the penguin tuff tray, leaving resources outside to freeze and of course more recently about all types of weathers, as we have seen a few variations since we came back in January!

Extending on our activities about the season and weather, we have followed the children's interests and been learning about what lives in the ocean and what lives on land and the differences between day and night.

We asked the children for their input on what they like at preschool and some of their answers were around their friends and all the fun toys and things we do each day. Other children said they love the sensory activities like shaving foam, water, sand, gloop, playdough and craft activities. Enjoying learning yoga, "our favourite is animal yoga" was another answer. We are pleased we provide activities and learning opportunities that the children all love and enjoy.

We are very much looking forward to learning about spring and being able to explore our garden. We have some wonderful ideas to revamp our garden, including a new den and we can't wait to welcome back all the wildlife and minibeasts.

Thank you to all our parents/carers, St Nicholas School and the community members who supports us.

If you would like to find out more about our pre-school in terms of what you can do to support us, visiting and volunteering with us or would like to come for a viewing with your child/children to meet us and see what we do each day please get in touch. We are enrolling children for September 2026 currently.

Please do contact us on 07792 240804

explorers.supervisor@hotmail.co.uk

Debbi Norwood



Henstridge Rainbows and Brownies and Templecombe Guides

We now have more girls in the younger two units than we have had in over 30 years. The last few weeks have seen a flurry of enquiries, and we are beginning to see some new girls coming through based on their ages. Guide numbers are however very low, but they meet at the same time and can work alongside Brownies. It is lovely to have enough girls to play games again as there are very few games which 6 or 8 girls can play. Some of our girls are joining a Brownie holiday organised by a unit from the other side of the county in February and in September we are going to a big county camp at Mendip Activity Centre. We went in 2024 and had a good time in spite of heavy rain on the last day. We have received a large amount of card from a colleague of one of our leaders which will see us set up for years. This was a very generous gift as were the donations of wool and fabric I had before Christmas. Our girls are very lucky to meet in a village which has cared so much since Brownies were restarted in 1975 having closed at the outbreak of WW2.

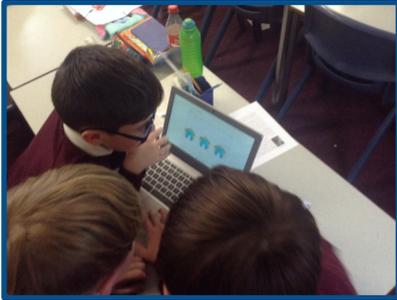
Jane Jeanes aka Woodpecker/Brown Owl 01963370769, 07712824747

St Nicholas School

This term at St Nicholas, we have seen a lot of changes, with many children having a different teacher and some even a different classroom. We are committed to making sure that we are doing the best for the children and providing them with opportunities that will enable them to flourish as they grow.

The curriculum offers children many exciting opportunities to learn, and we are committed to the desire to develop and enjoy new experiences and find the excitement in learning.

Children in Key Stage 2 (7-11) recently enjoyed a trip to Exeter where they watched a performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The concert was themed around the four elements, with classical and modern pieces about earth, air, fire and water, as well as a few that were composed specifically for the concert, and the children could take part in performing themselves. It was also wonderful to meet the conductor afterwards, who answered questions as he stopped by on his way to a game of squash! We are extremely grateful to the orchestra for this opportunity, and to the Arts Society Sherborne for supporting this.



The children are also engaging with a range of poetry. We have an upcoming poetry competition in which children will learn and perform poems, and they will be entering the Poetry By Heart competition at the end of the term.

We continue to take part in sporting events at King Arthur's School, with an upcoming football tournament, followed by athletics as we approach the Easter Holidays.

In school, the children have been learning about different aspects of the Asian continent. In Hedgehog Class, the children are learning about the environment, culture and tourism surrounding Mount Everest. They have looked at some of the earliest ascents, as well as what it takes to climb such a foreboding peak. The children in Years 3 and 4 have been learning about China and how it differs from our own country. They are comparing the culture of China to that of our own and using their knowledge to compose descriptions of dragons.



I am extremely grateful to the staff at school for everything that they do, and to the children and parents at St Nicholas. Also, our wonderful and

dedicated governors' team, many of whom have joined us at school events and supported school trips.

We keep our website updated with news and events at school, where our weekly newsletter gives more specific information about what is going on.

Christopher Pavey, Head of School
www.stnicholashenstridge.co.uk



Wot's On Henstridge Advertising

Size of Ad	Measurement	Annual Cost (4 issues)
Quarter page	62mm x 87mm	£150
Half page	87mm x 126mm	£300
Full page	126mm x 180mm	£500

In addition, advertisers are encouraged to change their ad as often as they wish, and also to give us a 250 – 300 word “advertorial” telling us their latest news.

Please contact us via email at wotsoneditor@gmail.com to place your advert.

Wot's On Team

Church Matters From the Churchwardens

The search for our new priest-in-charge continues

Our vacancy was advertised again in January and the closing date is 2nd February so, at the time of writing, we do not know if we have had any applications. It is also printed in the *Church Times* which is published weekly. In the meantime, services will continue to be led by Lay Worship Assistants or by retired clergy and we are very grateful for all that they do.

Activities in the church

Sadly, the weekly Wednesday morning playgroup has closed for the time being. We are happy to host HMS Heron's band on 27th February supporting CLASH and also look forward to a concert on 24th April which will raise funds for The Bird in Hand project. The Community Fridge continues to be well stocked with produce from local supermarkets and is well used.

Lent Study Group

This will meet at St Mary's, Templecombe every Wednesday from 25th February to 25th March inclusive. The meetings start at 7.30pm and finish at 9pm. The church will be heated and there will be coffee! The subject is the Lord's Prayer, and the meetings will provide an opportunity to look again with fresh eyes at something which is very familiar. Please contact the Rev. Candice Marcus (revcandicemarcus@gmail.com or phone 01963 370603) if you want to take part.

Hugo Barton, Jacky Manning

Churchwardens at St Nicholas



St Nicholas Church Henstridge

Church Street

Henstridge BA8 0QE

Vicar: in vacancy

**The Vicarage, Church Street,
Henstridge, BA8 0QE**

Churchwardens:

**Hugo Barton
Viners, Blackmoor Lane,
Henstridge,
BA8 0SN
Tel: 01963 363193
Email: lizandhugo@btinternet.com**

**Jacky Manning
Elmbrook, Whitechurch Lane,
Yenston,
BA8 0NJ
Tel: 01963 548292
Email: jvmanning@uwclub.net**

Officers of the PCC:

**Vice Chair
Hugo Barton
Viners, Blackmoor Lane,
Henstridge,
BA8 0SN
Tel: 01963 363193
Email: lizandhugo@btinternet.com**

**Treasurer
Keith Bates
Highclere, Whitechurch Lane,
Henstridge,
BA8 0PA
Tel: 01963 364028
Email: keithbates278@gmail.com**

Bishop of Taunton

By the time you read this Fiona will have been consecrated bishop on 6th February and welcomed at a service in Wells cathedral on 8th February. The Bishop of Taunton is our suffragan bishop and will help Bishop Michael in the work of the diocese.

Jane Jeanes 01963370769/07712824747 janejeanes78@gmail.com

Lent Lunches

We have held soup lunches during Lent for many years. They may be held this year but we are looking for some new hosts. Please keep an eye out for posters, social media posts and items on the newsletters. They have been a way of raising money for Henstridge church and for a charity of the host's choice. It will be nice to continue with them if we can.

Jane Jeanes 01963370769/07712824747 janejeanes78@gmail.com

Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church for Christmas. I have had some lovely comments saying how nice the flowers were. I had a very generous donation which allowed me to purchase some flowers but the yellow chrysanthemums were all grown here in Stowell by Ken. The weather this year was just right and they have lasted well in the cool church. There won't be any flowers in the church from 18th February which is Ash Wednesday until we decorate for Easter Day on 4th April. As before if you would like to arrange flowers in the church please get in touch.

Jane Jeanes 01963370769/07712824747 janejeanes78@gmail.com

Services in March, April and May

March

1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship
8 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
15 th	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Morning Worship
22 nd	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
29 th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Benefice Holy Communion at Holton
	6.00pm	Music and Words

April

2 nd	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Templecombe
3 rd	6.00pm	Good Friday Music and Readings
5 th	10.30am	Easter Day Family Holy Communion
12 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
19 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
26 th	10.30am	Joint Benefice Morning Worship at Templecombe

May

3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Service
10 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
14 th	7.00pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion at Castle Cary
17 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
24 th	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion at North Cheriton
31 st	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Horsington
	6.00pm	Music and Words

Parish Council Protecting Oak Vale Wood: Flood Management and Environmental Stewardship

Parish woods—whether ancient woodland fragments, community coppices, spinneys, or informal green spaces—are among the most valuable natural assets a parish can hold. They provide biodiversity havens, carbon storage, flood mitigation, and places for quiet recreation and wellbeing. Yet

conserving parish woodland is increasingly complex, as local councils and communities face ecological, financial, and social pressures.

Henstridge Parish Council is actively addressing flooding issues in Oak Vale Wood as part of its wider commitment to environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and the long-term protection of parish green spaces.

Flooding as an Environmental Issue

Oak Vale Wood is not only a valued recreational space but also an important natural asset within the parish's wider landscape. In recent years, increased and more intense rainfall events have led to prolonged surface water retention within parts of the wood. This has resulted in waterlogged soils, erosion of paths, pressure on tree root systems, and disruption to woodland habitats.

These changes reflect broader climate patterns and underline the importance of managing water in ways that work with the natural environment rather than against it.

A Nature-Sensitive Approach

Henstridge Parish Council has been clear that any intervention in Oak Vale Wood must respect its ecological value. Rather than pursuing hard engineering solutions, the Council has focused on nature-based measures that improve drainage while supporting biodiversity and soil health.

The aim is to:

- Restore natural water movement through the woodland
- Reduce soil compaction and standing water
- Protect tree roots and encourage healthier woodland growth
- Improve the wood's ability to absorb and slow rainwater during heavy rainfall events

Specialist Works Now Underway

To help overcome the practical and environmental challenges, Worthy Ground Works have now commenced work on site. Their specialist experience in sensitive ground conditions is enabling targeted interventions that minimise disturbance to trees, wildlife, and existing habitats.

Current works include:

- Careful ground profiling to encourage natural water flow
- Addressing historic drainage constraints without damaging woodland ecology
- Reducing erosion and protecting vulnerable areas
- Supporting more sustainable conditions for paths and surrounding soils

All works are being carried out with an emphasis on protecting the long-term health and resilience of the woodland.

Henstridge Parish

Council

Contact the Parish Clerk

Ann Lee

Mob: 07841 392242

Email: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Web: www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk



Building Climate Resilience for the Future

By tackling flooding in Oak Vale Wood, Henstridge Parish Council is strengthening the wood's role as a natural flood management feature within the parish. Healthy woodland soils and tree cover are essential for slowing runoff, storing water, and reducing downstream flooding risk.

The Council will continue to monitor conditions as the works progress and adapt management where necessary. This approach ensures Oak Vale Wood can continue to provide environmental, social, and climate benefits for future generations.

Ongoing Commitment

Henstridge Parish Council remains committed to transparent communication and responsible environmental management. Residents will be kept informed of progress, and the Council welcomes community interest and feedback as part of its long-term care of this important woodland.

Ann Lee

Parish Clerk

Meet the Parish Council:

Chair—Veronica Smith (Ronnie)	Deborah Petheram
Ken Courtenay	Jane Rose
Dennis Finch	Andy Scard
Adrian Gaymer	Christine Steel
John Graham	Peter Thompson
Barry Howlett	Fiona Shea

Administration for the council is dealt with by the Clerk and Proper officer.
In the first instance, all enquiries should be made to the Clerk.

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL – WE'RE RECRUITING!

Volunteer Parish Councillors (2 vacancies) Closing date 30 September 2026

Do you care about Henstridge and want to help shape its future? Perhaps you have recently moved here? Henstridge Parish Council is looking for **two local residents** to join us as **Parish Councillors**.

What does a Parish Councillor do?

As a councillor, you'll help represent local people and make practical decisions that affect day-to-day life in the parish. This includes:

- Listening to residents' views and raising local concerns
- Helping decide how parish funds are spent on local priorities
- Supporting community projects and local services
- Working with Somerset Council and other organisations on local issues
- Attending council meetings and contributing to decisions in a friendly, respectful team

You **don't need any experience**—just a willingness to get involved and a commitment to the community.

Why volunteer?

Being a Parish Councillor is a chance to:

- Make a real difference to the place where you live
- Improve local facilities and community wellbeing
- Protect and enhance Henstridge's character
- Gain new skills and confidence (teamwork, public speaking, decision-making)
- Meet new people and be part of something positive

Time commitment

Typically, councillors attend **evening meetings** and may join occasional working groups or community activities. It's a manageable role and support is provided.

Interested

To find out more or put yourself forward, please contact the Parish Clerk:

Ann Lee

Email: clerk@henstridge-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07702 667083

Help Henstridge thrive—become a Parish Councillor.

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The View From Somerset Council

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

Some of you may be aware, but below is more information about the air ambulance plans for a new base and a second helicopter. Please see below an outline of the information I have been sent.

Demand for DSAA's life-saving service continues to grow year on year. By air and by road, their missions have more than tripled in the last ten years. Therefore, DSAA is taking important steps to expand capacity, modernise its infrastructure, and ensure long-term resilience. The updates below outline how the charity is preparing for the future, from developing a new operational base to progressing the introduction of a second helicopter, all focused on giving every patient the best possible chance of survival.

DSAA has now confirmed its long-term intention to develop a new operational base at the Leonardo site in Yeovil, the Home of British Helicopters. Operational analysis shows that Yeovil's location provides excellent aircraft coverage across the entire Dorset and Somerset region, whilst immediate access to major roads will enhance deployment for rapid response vehicles. There will be a public consultation in mid-2026 to seek the community's views and backing, followed by securing planning permission and raising the necessary funds.

In the meantime, DSAA will continue operating from Henstridge Airfield, thanks to the ongoing support of Geoff Jarvis and the local Henstridge community, whose contribution over many years has been fundamental to the charity and its life-saving work.

Second helicopter. DSAA has launched their 2ndHeli Appeal to help fund the purchase and equipping of a second helicopter for the people of Dorset and Somerset. The second helicopter is expected to be operational in Summer 2026.

Confirmation of access improvements at Yeovil Junction railway station

The Department for Transport has confirmed that Yeovil Junction is one of 31 stations nationally included in the current Control Period 7 programme, with funding committed to progress the detailed design of lifts and a new footbridge.

Council Budget & Council Tax

Somerset Council understands the council will receive an increase in its Core Spending Power – this is revenue funding available for council services through the Local Government Finance Settlement – of around 13% over the next three years.

The longer-term view created through a three-year settlement has been welcomed as it will allow the Council to better plan its budget. But the Council is still facing significant funding gaps in future years, reflecting ongoing pressures in areas like children's services, placement costs and homelessness.

Somerset Council continues to plan in a financially prudent way and will take a range of steps to deliver a balanced budget for 2026/27.

In order to close the £41m budget gap for 2026/27, the Council will need to reduce expected cost pressures and request further Exceptional Financial Support from the Government. This could be in the form of a Council Tax rise above the cap of 4.99% or through a further capitalisation direction (which allows councils to sell assets or borrow money and use the proceeds to fund the budget gap and the day-to-day running costs).

Following discussion at Scrutiny on 28 January, the Council's budget will then be considered by Executive in mid February before going to Full Council on 4th March for final decisions.

Sunday Car Parking Charges Deferred

Somerset Council has decided not to proceed with the introduction of Sunday parking charges in council run car parks at this stage, following strong public opposition. Proposals to introduce charges in towns including Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater were considered after a public consultation held in September and October, which attracted around 4,200 responses, with almost 93% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Instead, the executive has agreed to carry out a wider review of parking arrangements across the county.

Bus Improvements Proposed

The government has awarded around £11.4m in capital spending over four years up to 2029-30 and a three-year revenue settlement of about £13.1m up to 2028-29 under the Bus Service Fund which replaces previous Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) allocations from government. The Council is now considering how this money should be spent.

The focus will be on spending over the coming year – 2026-27 - with an outline plan for the remaining years.

Potential investment themes were discussed with bus user groups and bus operators at the Council's Bus Advisory Board today on 27 which included:

- Better integration through bus and rail through service improvements
- Continued support for schemes funded through previous rounds of Bus Improvement Plan
- Improving services for key destinations such as employment and health services

Consultation on the future of social care in Somerset

The current Adult Social Care strategy is set to be renewed in 2026 and will set out key priorities for the next three years. The aim is to ensure the new strategy, covering 2026–2029, reflects what matters most to those who live and work in local communities.

In addition to face-to-face engagement with hundreds of Somerset residents, an **online consultation** is now open, making it easy for everyone to contribute their views.

Somerset Adult Social Care Strategy (2026-2029) - Somerset Council - Citizen Space

- Residents are encouraged to share, their recent experiences accessing care and support in Somerset
- Any barriers faced, and ideas for overcoming them
- What good care and support looks like to them or in their service
- The priorities they believe should be the focus over the next three years

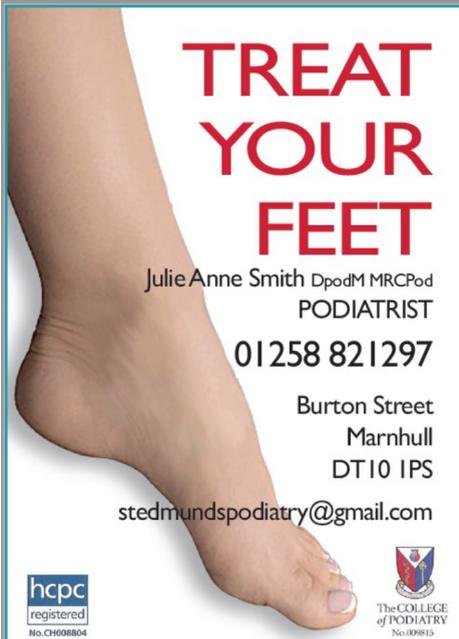
The closing date for residents to share their views is 27 March 2026.

Hayward Burt

Somerset Councillor for Blackmore Vale

07543 854391 or

Hayward.Burt@somerset.gov.uk



**TREAT
YOUR
FEET**

Julie Anne Smith DpodM MRCPod
PODIATRIST

01258 821297

Burton Street
Marnhull
DT10 IPS

stedmundspodiatry@gmail.com

 No. CH008804

 No.009815

Local Groups, News & Events

Henstridge Village Hall



Henstridge Village Hall continues to offer its essential services to the village community. The programme of routine and one-off activities is varied, and bookings go on being taken.

Financially we are healthy at present, but this is only achieved by the combination of events booked and paid for by customers and by the consistent efforts of our Fundraising and Publicity team. Such things as Race Nights, Car Boot Sales, Film Nights etc are all-important in maintaining income and you are urged to support them.

Though our activities continue successfully and without interruption there have been some significant changes in the Committee. Chris Savage has resigned the Chairmanship after over 10 years loyal service to the Village Hall, and he is warmly thanked by us all. Bob Steel has also resigned. His expertise in building and maintenance, indoors and out, will be much missed, and he has almost single-handedly born this burden.

As a result of these moves John Smales has been elected as Chairman, and Amanda Shirlin-Brown as Vice Chairman. Ashley Shirlin has been elected as Building Manager; but the Committee acknowledge that the departure of Bob Steel has left us without in-house expertise, so a plan is in hand to contract out repairs and maintenance, under the guidance of Ashley Shirlin. We believe this system will work at least as well as what went before.

One significant result of these changes is that plans for the refurbishment of the kitchen have been put on hold. The scheme was far advanced, various options costed, but it will not now be carried out until next year, under the guidance of the new Village Hall Committee. As dictated by our deeds, each year at the Annual General Meeting (28th April at 6.30pm in the Village Hall) a new committee will be elected, and they will take responsibility for the management of the hall for the year 2026-7.

Other improvements and repairs continue. Among them is the PA system, which has received adverse comments. The committee has investigated a new system, improved and up-to-date, and this will be installed soon.

In addition, we are aware of our responsibilities to those with disabilities and are reviewing the measures taken to cater for them. We are already acting in some areas, in particular in making equipment easier and safer to handle. Amanda Shirlin-Brown is leading on this.

Our activities are of course crucial to success, both financial and as an asset to the village. It is satisfying to report that there are no less than 16 routine activities every week, and to these must be added such things as CAMEO talks and Race Nights, as well as one-off bookings for parties, wakes, etc. So, we are flourishing but could always handle more activities!

A word of thanks to all who help make our Village Hall a success. Not just to the Committee, but to the volunteers who run such activities as the Warm Room Lunch and Loose Ends. We couldn't do without you!

Last word. It would be most desirable if at the AGM some people came forward to be elected to the Committee. The Village Hall would benefit from some new faces with new ideas!

John Smales - Chairman

How to Hire the Village Hall

Do you have an event or party coming up? The village hall would love to accommodate you.

What do you need to do?

Email HenstridgeBookings@gmail.com to check your dates

Main hall - holds 70 people seated, or 100 standing – only £12 per hour
Lounge – holds 25 people seated or 35 people standing – only £8 per hour
Or hire both! For £16 per hour, you can have the whole building

News from the Hive

Not too much to say at the moment because we are staying indoors for most of the time at present. We do venture out on warm sunny days for some exercise and to collect the pollen and nectar from those brave early flowers. There are catkins dripping in pollen and snowdrops are lifting their heads ready for us to forage. Even if we have to stay in we are never short of work. The hive temperature has to be maintained and the rubbish needs clearing daily. The food stores are inspected and dead bees are removed before disease can spread. Our Queen bee has to be kept in prime condition so that she can begin to lay eggs as soon as the weather improves. Then the work will build up and those bees that have lived and worked through the winter will die and be replaced by young ones. There is no place for sentiment in a hive or colony of honey bees because it is the survival of the colony not the individual that matters. We all do our bit and play our part. We hear there is probably enough honey to last until new supplies are harvested but that will depend on the spring. Ken visits us regularly and checks we are upright, have a roof over our heads and enough food. He goes back to his shed before we get cross and is busy cleaning and making up new frames ready for our spring work. Must go because there is fanning to be done to warm up the hive and protect the precious brood as they will be our replacements.

Ken Jeanes 01963 370769 or 07712 824747 or janejeanes78@gmail.com

CAMEO

Well here we are in 2026.

Our Christmas get together went well.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday March 10th, with Helen Isbell leading a felting workshop. The price for this is £6. Please book a place as we need to know numbers.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm till 4.00pm. Price £3.50 unless specified.

Ros Browning

01963 363016

Stourhead Books

We are still looking for books.

Pearl and I would like to thank everyone who donates them.

I often find books in my porch, with no names but these are really appreciated.

Last year and up till now, with your help, we have sold £42,000 worth of second hand books.

All the money goes towards projects at Stourhead.

So thank you everyone and keep them coming.

Ros Browning

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Do you have second hand books you no longer need? Stourhead shop would love to take these off your hands. They sell them in their book shop to raise funds.

Contact Ros Browning on 363016.

Henstridge Flyers WI

The last few months have been busy for us, as usual. We had our annual visit of a speaker from Castle Gardens, who talked about dealing with an overgrown garden. Not a bad thing to have, as it provides shelter and food for wildlife.

Our Christmas meal was held at the Hillbrook Hotel in Sherborne, and great fun was had by all.

We are looking forward to our Burn's Night party and are all busy brushing off our kilts and dancing shoes and practicing our Scottish accents! We are also planning one of our legendary fashion shows to be held in May, so watch this space.

We would be very glad to welcome you into our lovely WI, so come along and give it a try.

Sue Latimer, secretary

01963 365765

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01963 250222

Bird in Hand – The Bird Campaign - Success!

We've done it! Just before Christmas our offer to buy the pub was accepted so the Steering Group is now busy with the legal matters surrounding the purchase.

Both parties want to complete the sale and purchase before the end of the financial year, so matters are moving as quickly as possible. As most readers will appreciate, the legal processes required for transactions of this kind do take some time, but, at the time of writing, everything is on track to meet our deadline.

This is particularly important for some shareholders in connection with the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS). We have received advance assurance from HMRC that the



**What's a
Bird in the Hand
worth?**



**Friends? Village life? Skittles? Darts?
Good Beer?**

**Show what The Bird's worth to you.
Check out the Share Offer at
birdinhandsociety.org.uk**

Buy your share of the pub online!



Society's share issue will qualify for SEIS relief. This allows shareholders to recover up to half the cost of their investment in shares as a reduction in their Income Tax payable either for the tax year in which the purchase is completed or the previous year. We have some shareholders who have invested on the understanding that they would be able to access this relief, so we must therefore complete the share issue on time. Full details of how the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme works can be found on the Society's website.

Can I still invest in shares?

Absolutely, up to £100,000 per person! Although initially we intended to run the Share Option for a limited time, we realised that it was not a wise move and would prevent people from investing later, when personal circumstances allowed, or from increasing their investment.

Details of how to obtain your shares can be found in the Share Issue section of the Society's website at <https://birdinhandsociety.org.uk/share-issue/or>

contact any member of the Bird in Hand Steering Group.

Other news

We are delighted to announce that Henstridge Parish Council have voted unanimously to approve a generous grant to The Bird in Hand Society. The grant will really help towards many of the costs associated with the purchase process and we would like to sincerely thank the Parish Council for their contribution.

Save the date – Friday 24 April

John Graham and some of his friends are putting on a concert in St Nicholas church to raise funds for the Bird Campaign. It starts at 7 pm and further details will be available soon. Do come, it will be a super evening.

Last thoughts

Finally, in late January the Government announced that pubs in England will be given a 15% discount on their business rates bills from April and there will be no increases for two years. This is great news for the Bird, which should be under the Society's ownership by then. Every penny not spent on tax is another penny that can be ploughed back into maintaining and improving the pub and ensuring it remains a great asset for the community for many years to come.
contact@birdinhandsociety.org.uk

Jacky Manning 01963 548292 or jvmanning@uwclub.net

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC
In aid of The Bird in Hand

Join us for an evening of live music in a beautiful church setting in support of a crucial local institution.

Friday 24th April
7:00pm

St Nicholas Church
Henstridge



Live Music

Cash Bar open from 6:30pm

Tickets £10 available from ticketsource.co.uk>bird in hand concert or on the door

u3a

At the A.G.M on 3rd March I will stand down as Chairwoman. I clearly remember sitting in the audience volunteering because I felt that a community activity should not fold. What a ride I have had, new to the area I learnt many new skills surrounded by amazing committee members, made new friends and had much laughter. All this while upping the profile of the u3a.

In January two new groups were successfully started in the Camelot Room Milborne Port Village Hall these are Games and Arts and Crafts. There may still be vacancies if you would like to join.

Our speakers in March and May are advertised below, do join us

Refreshments from 2.15pm, Speaker 3pm Henstridge Village Hall BA8 0QB.

u3a Blackmore Vale
For those people not in full time employment
HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL BA8 0QB
Tuesday 3rd March
Doors open at 2.15pm
AGM 2.45pm Speaker 3pm
SPEAKER: KEVIN PATIENCE
Operation Mincemeat
WW11 Espionage
THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS
Members £2.00 Visitors £3.00 Includes refreshments.
Call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 for information
or visit our website www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk

u3a Blackmore Vale
For those people not in full time employment
Tuesday May 5th
Doors open 2.15pm, Speaker 3pm
HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL
WORLD CHEESE AWARDS
SPEAKER: LINDA FARRAND
Members £2.00 Visitors £3.00 Includes refreshments.
Call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 for information
or visit our website www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk

Call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 or visit website www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk.

Susan Kidd Chairwoman

Blackmore Vale Lions

Unfortunately our Santa Grotto was not as well attended as we hoped especially as it was set up as a Winter Wonderland with many animals on display. However, it was uplifting to see the happy smiling faces of the children that did visit. I am sure we will do this again.

We have postponed this year's Blackmore Vale Half marathon due to flooding on the course and car parking areas.

Many thanks to all those helpers who had generously offered their time to help with marshalling etc... We will advertise the new date as soon as possible.

We are well under way with sorting the details of our next choir concert which will be held on 18th April and in response to a request from Milborne Port residents will be at the Milborne Port Village Hall. The Songbirds will be singing songs from the musicals.

We will be supporting RIDING FOR THE DISABLED and THE RENDEZVOUS, SHERBORNE. Posters with all information will be displayed soon.





Our Giant Easter Eggs will be on display at local venues within the Blackmore Vale at the end of February, so when you see one please buy an entry. The profits will go towards local good causes.

Many thanks to all those who have donated generously to our causes and to all those hardworking helpers who we cannot do without.

Don't forget to call me if you know of someone who needs help, if you can help us or even join our team and have fun helping others

less fortunate than yourselves.

Lion Peter Oswick

peter.oswick@btinternet.com 01963 363281

Wessex Activity Group

What has WAG been up to?

The frosty and icy weather followed by almost continual rain this winter has not been very conducive to outdoor exercise but we have managed to get out for walks around the village and on the Trailway at Stur as well as a couple of bike rides to blow away the winter blues and work off Christmas excesses. Talking of which, around 20 of us had a wonderful Christmas lunch at the Bird with some fun games and delicious food.

We seem to have formed a Motorcycle section to the group! Steve has been doing his Advanced Motoring training and also recently took up green laning (or should I say 'brown laning' going by the muddy state of him as you can see in the photo!). A couple of our members also have bikes so if you fancy a ride out, either on road or green laning, give Steve a shout.



Walking Touch Rugby has moved to Sundays during the winter, from 11 till midday, usually followed by a lunchtime drink in the Bird. At the time of writing, we are waiting for some dry days to get going again as Henstridge recreational ground is a bit on the slippery side!

We are always looking for new activities to try and one of our members has offered to arrange a Lawn Bowls session in the spring for anyone interested in having a go. If you would like to join us, please get in touch. Likewise, please tell us if you have any activities you would like to share with our group.

Coming up, we have a Pub Games night at the Bird on Sunday 1st March, 6pm and a Skittles night, also at the Bird on Friday 27th March 6 till 8.30pm. Both are just for fun and for a sociable evening out! We will also have more walks and cycle rides which will be posted on our Whatsapp group – if you would like to be included in this, give Steve a call.



WAG (Wessex Activity Group) is a social group for adults who want to meet others and take part in some fun activities both indoors and outdoors. We are a small, friendly group of people of all abilities and new members are welcome!

Membership is free and we use WhatsApp to keep in contact and arrange activities.

Contact Steve 07710 120564 for more info.

Line Dancing

We are still going strong with 30 on the books.

We are a very informal group, who get together for a chat and dance.

We meet at Henstridge Village Hall on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm till 3.00pm and on Thursday nights in the following weeks from 8.45pm till 9.45pm.

Price £3. All money goes to different charities.

Ros Browning

01963 363016

CLASH

Henstridge Judicial Review – Current Status

Three months ago, I was waiting for a final response from the judge giving permission for the hearing of our Judicial review. Unfortunately, nothing has changed, we are still waiting. There are two matters outstanding, the most important being that of the Condition Precedent for the 130 house development by Barret/David Wilson Homes.

Those who attended the appeal in November 2018 will perhaps re-call that it was at that meeting we were presented with the now discredited Sterling Maynard report on traffic and safety. It talked about a traffic light scheme going through the high street to ensure the safety of pedestrians. The report was sprung upon the meeting, as it had not been seen before and had not been put on the website for viewing by concerned residents. In consequence the meeting was adjourned for half an hour allowing those attending to consider the report. The appeal meeting became a safety meeting. Following the brief adjournment, comments were allowed, and it quickly became apparent that there were serious shortcomings in that proposed scheme.

Although the inspector did approve the application, it was subject to the following wording:

- *No development shall take place until a scheme for pedestrian improvements has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*
- *a signal-controlled priority arrangement along A357 High Street including footway provision, appropriate signage and tactile paving at Furge Lane/Marsh Lane*

This was specific to the High Street, and it was very clear that without this condition the application would not have been approved. It is what is known as a “True Condition Precedent.”

The condition was wrongly discharged by the council citing the alternative route for pedestrians down Furge Lane, Furge Grove and Church Street.

Confirmation of this at the hearing would not only cause a new application for the 130 house scheme but would also make approval of any new application for the 52 house scheme opposite extremely difficult. That scheme and current approval is also subject to a judicial review as it was always dependent on the aforesaid pedestrian improvements.

This is a High Court case and its transfer to London is likely the reason for delay with serious clogging in the court system. We can only wait for our day in court!

We are not alone in our fight. On January 23rd, I and others from CLASH attended the inaugural meeting of SCRAPP (Somerset Community Rage Against Poor Planning.) There were 49 attending representing at least 15 schemes proposed in Somerset, mainly in similar villages and rural settlements.

The objective is to try to influence future planning to be more sustainable. Not to restrict the building of homes, but to ensure new development takes place where there are adequate infrastructure and transport links and, most important, demand and work. It promotes a

“bottom up” planning structure, rather than the “top down” we currently have dictated by politicians with little idea of either local demand or where development is best placed and leading to the “free for all” we currently have, resulting in over stretched facilities and congestion on our roads.

More will follow as the organisation gets under way, but it is going to be a long battle. The new Planning and Infrastructure Bill now going through parliament allows the minister to make the final decision on all plans for developments of over 150 homes.

We still need further funding for the forthcoming action and our next event is HMS Heron at the church, Friday 27th February. This is a Royal Navy Band, very professional and it will be an enjoyable evening.

Tickets may be purchased through Ticket Tailor, scan QR Code or buy on the door.

You may also donate through Just Giving.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paul-dimishky>

Thank you

Paul Dimishky

*Claimant in the Judicial Review vs.
Somerset Council*



Christmas Trees in Henstridge

The Christmas trees put up throughout Henstridge on the A357 this Christmas were a great and beautiful success. We fitted four new brackets either to replace unusable brackets or for new households. A total of 67 little trees were purchased from Grassroots who very kindly sold them to us at cost price and our jolly band of volunteers (sustained by bacon sandwiches) had them all up, with white lights, by the start of December.

We were very fortunate to receive grants to start us off and each household also donated for their trees and lights. The weather was good to us and we didn't have ice or snow to contend with.

By Twelfth Night the trees had been taken down, some were taken to the tip and some were left out with green garden bins and taken by the council.

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped us.

Helen Howlett: helenbeale27@hotmail.co.uk or 07791 799998

Andy Scard: andy.scard@hotmail.co.uk or 07792 065148



Photo by Kate Crowther

The Henstridge Living Advent Calendar

For the second year running, the Henstridge Living Advent Calendar lit up our village — quite literally. Throughout December, windows across Henstridge were transformed into festive displays, each one revealing a little moment of Christmas spirit for locals and visitors alike.

This year felt extra special, with a few new houses taking part and bringing fresh creativity to the calendar. From beautifully styled scenes to thoughtful details and imaginative designs, the windows were truly stunning. You could feel the care and pride that went into each display, and it was wonderful to see how different households interpreted the festive spirit in their own way.

The response from the community was fantastic. Thank you so much. So many people wrapped up warm, headed out for evening walks, and made a ritual of discovering each new window as it was revealed.

We hope the Henstridge Living Advent Calendar brought a smile to your face and added a touch of cheer to your Christmas. Did you have a favourite window?

Thank you to everyone who took part and everyone who came along to enjoy it. We'll be back again next year — and we can't wait.

Sarah Banks

sarahgusdexter@yahoo.co.uk

Henstridge Summer Fete Saturday 13th June 2026

This is our third year of running the village fete and the committee have been working hard behind the scenes to secure new music and acts for families to enjoy, as well as old favourites from previous years. Entry will be free.

We will have a larger marquee this year in case of unpredictable weather and there will be local charities, artisans and crafters selling their products such as food, crafts and artwork. The dog show will be back, weather permitting. If you are interested in hiring a stall at our fete all the information is on our web site www.henstridgefete.org.

Between noon and 5pm we will have our usual fete activities. Between 5pm and 6pm there will be a children's disco. And finally, from 6pm to 10.30pm there will be live music, dancing and a bar. We have a variety of food and drink outlets including the Village Bar, the WI Café serving teas and coffees and a variety of home-made cakes and scones, a BBQ, a pizza van and an ice cream van.

It is the generosity of local businesses and individuals that helps us to provide free entertainment and entry to the fete, along with the paying for many of the other things it takes to put the event on. We advertise our sponsors in a variety of ways including a description of your business on Facebook and Nextdoor, displaying your logo/advertisement on our web site and on the back page of the Fete's programme, as well as on banners at the main entrance to the Fete. Advertising starts as soon as you sign up so please contact Ashley Shirlin on 01963 202949 for further details.

We look forward to seeing you in June!

Ashley Shirlin

info@henstridgefete.org



Wot's On's How-Why-When-Where 'n' Wots

Can you answer the following general knowledge questions?

Q1: Which country was formerly known as Persia?

Q2: Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman were the lead actors in which prison film?

Q3: In humans, the gall bladder stores and concentrates what substance?

Q4: In which London building, once known as Flamsteed House, can you stand with one foot in the Western Hemisphere and one in the Eastern Hemisphere?

Q5: What is the main spirit used to make a Margarita cocktail?

Q6: What type of triangle has three unequal sides and three unequal angles?

Q7: On a Monopoly board, Go is in one corner square but what is in each of the other three corners?

Q8: Which British soap was set in the village of Kings Oak?

Q9: What type of fruit is a Blenheim Orange?

Q10: Who was the first female artist to achieve a UK No 1 with a song written by herself?

If you enjoy quizzes like this and want more, come down the Bird in Hand on the last Thursday of every month at 8pm and join us for The Bird Quiz. You'll all be very welcome.

Please see page 45 for answers.

Andy Scard

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Wot's On Henstridge Magazine Memories - Call Out!

Did you know that Wot's On magazine, in one form or another, is around 30 years old? It's true! How long would you say you've been a reader?

Whether the answer is a long or a short time, we'd love to hear from you, as ahead of the summer issue we will be compiling a history of Wot's On Magazine.

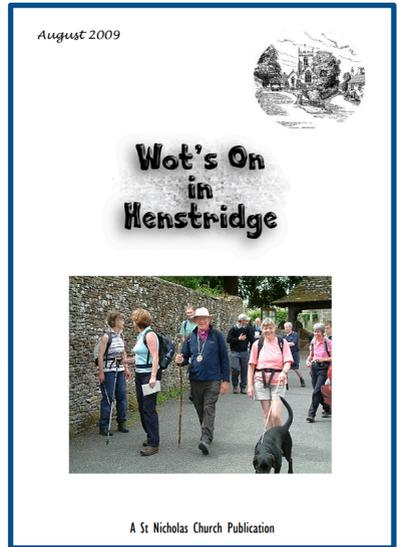
Perhaps you can remember receiving one of the very earliest editions, maybe you have kept every one you've received — or are there particular features that stand out in your mind, years on?

We'd also love to hear from you if you've contributed over the years, whether writing articles, being on past editorial teams, or distributing the mag.

Photos are very welcome too, as are any suggestions you may have for what you want to see in future issues — we're keen to look forward as well as back!

Send us your thoughts to wotsoneditor@gmail.com by the 1st April 2026.

Kate Crowther



 St. Nicholas Church 

**Henstridge Community
Fridge & Larder**

Take what you need for free

Open daily in the church
from morning until about 3pm
and when possible until later.

Please come and help yourself to
surplus food donated by local shops.

For more information please contact
Julie on 01963 364753



LINE DANCING

6 weeks of
Line Dancing for Beginners.

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11 til 12
4th : 11th : 18th : 25th March
1st and 8th April 2026
or
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5th : 12th : 19th : 26th March
2nd : 9th April 2026

£2 a session
at Henstridge Village Hall
with Bridget

bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com
07702 694469

Family Activities **Easter Bonnets**

When you think of Easter bonnets; do you reminisce about your childhood, creating your own Easter bonnet during primary school, or do you stress over the looming and overwhelming task of giving up your weekends and evenings creating one for your children?

We can thank the Romans for the beginning of this tradition - it became popular to wear new or expensive clothes on Easter Sunday for good luck. This continued throughout the ages, with references to it even in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.



The idea of including a bonnet for Easter first started in the US in 1870 when the women wore colourful bonnets which contrasted with the men's dark suits. This inspired many to continue this tradition. It was first popularised in America and has travelled across the ocean to become an iconic sign of Easter, especially for children, here too.

So, this Easter, we will wish you good luck with trying to create a bit of Easter fun for your children!

Hope New

Short Story Competition!!!

Here's an opportunity for all the keen authors of the village - get your creativity flowing - write a short story of any genre, submit it to us and our judges will decide on the winner.

There will be 3 categories: under 12, under 18 and over 18. Winning this comes with your story being published in the next issue for everyone to read and... a £10 gift voucher for Winstone's in Sherborne.

You will be limited to a maximum of only 750 words which means it's going to be a difficult task as only the best authors can captivate an audience with so few words.

The winner will be announced next issue, and better be quick as the deadline to submit your story will be the 1st April.

To submit your story, you can either email it to WotsOnEditor@gmail.com, or if you prefer, you can submit a paper copy (typed please) to the Bird in Hand addressed to Gail Cullum. We will collect it from there. Please make sure that your name and contact details are with your entry.

Everyone is welcome and good luck!

Hope New



Spring In Kate's Kitchen Making Marmalade



Ahhhh, Seville orange marmalade! I'm onto my third jar already, I could eat it all day, I really could.

Of course, Sevilles aren't the only citrus fruit that make a great marmalade, but the short timeframe by which you have to make it (and the unrivalled bittersweet taste) makes it a deserving classic.

However, by the time you read this you may not be able to get your hands on any, so I've included variations as well some tips and tricks — three fruit marmalade will be what I'm making next.

Whether you have a tried and tested method or you've never had a go at making marmalade, here is my favourite recipe, which uses the 'whole fruit method' of boiling the citrus first, and does not, I repeat, does not need muslin or soaking of pips!

I've included variations and a few tips & tricks. The recipe is from the preserves guru that is Pam Corbin, who wrote the brilliant book *Preserves: River Cottage Handbook No2*. All her recipes are brilliantly written.

Ingredients

Makes 5-6 x 450g jars

- 1kg Seville oranges*
- 75ml lemon juice
- 2kg white granulated sugar (or demerara if you prefer a very dark, more caramel marmalade)

Variations

- Three fruit: 1kg mix of grapefruit, normal sweet oranges and lemons. Follow the same whole fruit method.
- Lemon honey: use only 1kg lemons, no need for the 75ml lemon juice, and when adding sugar, add in 1,750g and at the same time 250g honey.
- Whisky: stir in 50ml of your choice of whisky after the marmalade has set.

The whole fruit method

- Step 1
Scrub your fruit, removing the buttons at the top and drop into a preserving pan with 2.5 litres water. Bring to the boil then simmer, covered, for 2–2½ hours or until the orange skins are tender and can be pierced easily with a fork.
- Step 2
When cool enough to handle, take the oranges out. Measure and keep the cooking water – you should have about 1.7 litres. Make it up to this amount with more water if you have less or bring to the boil and reduce if you have more.
- Step 3
Cut the oranges in half and remove the pips with a fork, flicking them into a bowl. Strain any juice from the pips back into the cooking water, then discard the pips.
- Step 4
Meanwhile, cut up the orange peel and flesh into thick, medium or thin shreds. Put the cut-up fruit into the strained cooking liquid. Add the lemon juice and sugar and bring to the boil, stirring until the sugar has completely dissolved. Bring to a rolling boil and boil rapidly until setting point is reached, about 10–15 minutes. (See tips regarding setting your marmalade).



- Step 5

Leave to cool for 10–12 minutes – a little longer if you’ve cut the peel into very chunky pieces – then stir gently to disperse any scum, pour into warm, sterilised jars and seal with wax discs and screw your lids on immediately. Aim to leave 1/2 cm gap between your marmalade and lid.

Use within two years.

Tips & tricks

- Not made marmalade before? This recipe is pretty foolproof, but you’ll need to gain confidence with checking the setting point. A jam thermometer helps. Put some marmalade onto a plate that’s been in the freezer and put it back in for 1 minute. Then you need to push it around with your finger. If it’s not clearly wrinkly but still flattening/runny, put the pan back on the heat for 5 more minutes. You could try adding a bit more lemon juice if it feels like you’re nowhere near setting point after it’s been on the heat for a while.
- If you’re new to preserve making, I strongly recommend having the following: a cooking/jam thermometer (look for little words on it that tell you different setting points); a stainless-steel funnel to avoid jams touching the sides of your jars (wash in hot soapy water, dry with either a very clean tea towel or a bit of kitchen roll before use); a ladle for pouring preserves is handy too; wax discs are crucial to help preserve your preserves – be sure to do some research about the right size needed for your jar type(s).
- Look at your oranges/citrus fruit closely before buying. Aim for unblemished, firm skin. It’s worthwhile using a scrub/brush while your oranges are submerged in warm water, to either wash away some of the wax or chemicals if not using organic, or simply to ensure the oranges are tip top before you start.
- No need to soak pips in muslin to get your marmalade to set. Citrus peel and pith contain more than enough to set marmalade and dispensing with the muslin means less faff too! The whole fruit method done right ensures your peel is cooked softly. Note, once sugar goes into a marmalade, the peel won’t cook any further.
- The acid in lemon juice works by clinging to and hastening the setting properties of pectin, so don’t be tempted to leave it out, unless you are making lemon marmalade.
- As someone who makes jars of preserves to sell at markets, I follow a strict sterilising method, which is washing jars and lids in very hot soapy water, putting them face down (still wet) on a baking sheet and into the oven at 140C/120C fan for 10-15 mins. Keep them in a bit longer if you’re not ready to pour the marmalade yet, it’s best the jars are still warm. If you have Kilner jars with rubber seals, put the seals in the soapy hot water and rinse, don’t put them in the oven.
- There’s no need to have cellophane lids for marmalade & nowadays there aren’t that many recipes calling for their use.
- I learned from Liz Holbrook about freezing Seville oranges to use later in the year. Just be sure you do it as soon as purchased with firm fruits, as if they’re overripe, they can go black.



Introducing - Freddie & Roxy, Miya, Boris, Fudge and Mr Darcy

Freddie and Roxy

You might see Helen out walking with her rescue labradors Freddie (2 years old) and Roxy (7 years old). Freddie is a gentle giant who loves footballs, cushions and meeting people on his walks. Roxy had a tough life before she was adopted, and although she loves meeting other dogs on her walks, she is still very nervous of their owners, unless they are offering biscuits!



Karen and Miya

Miya is a rescued Romanian Mioritic Shepherd Dog cross and is extremely friendly and sweet to everyone. She loves to meet all her friends at the village Rec. Miya is a good companion and very clever.



Steve and the Boris the Blonde Bombshell

Boris is 11 years old and had a few moves in his life, from Ireland and Oxford to Henstridge and enjoyed it all with no problems. He is very placid and calm especially around children and other dogs. When we met him and Steve he was with his friend Miya who obviously loves him.



Graeme and Fudge

Fudge is a very cute cockapoo who loves walking on the Rec in the village and is very friendly with every person and every dog she meets.



Pam and Mr Darcy

Mr Darcy is a Golden Retriever/Saluki cross. He had a very traumatic start in life having been rescued from the streets in Turkey. His front leg was shattered in several places from repeated beatings which resulted in amputation. When Pam met him 8 years ago, she knew it was meant to be!! He now just enjoys gentle strolls around the churchyard followed by snuggles on the sofa. He loves his little friends and spent Christmas Day with four of them.



Amanda Shirlin-Brown
Photographs by Dave Thompson



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In The Garden Jottings from the Lady Shed

After months of cold, wet, unpleasant weather and having repeatedly emptied the water out of a pot of tete a tete daffodils, the flowers of spring are appreciated more than any others. Spring comes earlier in this area than in RHS Wisley but do wait for the soil to dry so that compaction is avoided. I have just walked round the garden, photographed the witch hazel and surveyed the whole soggy mess. While not walking on the lawn, I inspected the mushrooms growing there and resisted the temptation to pull some up as I know that they form symbiotic mycorrhizal networks with plant roots and are invaluable for soil health. To see if the soil is dry enough to steam ahead with planting, squeeze a handful of it, if it does not drip then it is safe to do so.



Erica Cornea f. Alba Whitehall

Remembering the adage “one year’s seeding, seven years weeding” is highly apt, so as soon as the soil is dry enough get the hoe out and go forth! I suggest replacing the weeds with ground cover. Hardy evergreens include the jolly periwinkle (*Vinca Minor*) wintercreeper (*Euonymus Fortunei*) and heathers like *Erica Vagans Mrs Maxwell* are not particularly invasive. Cheerful, colourful flowers that will spring up as the weather warms are the creeping phlox (*Phlox Stolonifera*) and ladies mantle (*Alchemilla Mollis*).

We all have our favourite gardening books mine may be Penelope Hobhouse’s *The Story of Gardening* or the Reader’s Digest *The Gardening Year* first published in 1968. New out of the block is Anya Lautenbach with *The Money Saving Garden Year* - a guide to frugal gardening.

Shaftesbury Snowdrop Festival may be over but these are open:

Hester Combe Gardens and House, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton TA2 8LG offers 50 acres of Georgian landscape gardens, Victorian shrubbery, Edwardian formal gardens.

Athelhampton House and Gardens, Puddletown, Dorchester DT2 7LG open daily 5 acres of garden especially vibrant in the magnolia season.

Happy weeding, mulching and pruning.

Susan Kidd née Billitt



Hamamelis intermedia Jelskii



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Village Walks Upcoming Walks

Meet at the Church at 10am. The upcoming walks will be on Thursday 19th March, Monday 13th April, and Tuesday 5th May.

Yenston Circle



Purse Caundle Circle



Stalbridge Circle



For the Purse Caundle walk on 13th April we will meet at 10am in the Church Car Park but go in cars to begin and end at Purse Caundle.

The walks are between 5K and 7K, about 4 miles.

Bridget Hallett

bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com



Matthew Vincent

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From our Sponsors! J Day Engineering Announces Major Developments and Bold Vision for 2026

J Day Engineering, one of the South West’s most trusted independent automotive centres, is entering 2026 with renewed momentum, significant investment, and a clear vision for the future—standing firmly at the heart of the community it is proud to serve. Following a successful year of expansion, the business has launched **Dayspeed Dynamics**, its advanced technology division focused on ADAS calibration, wheel alignment, tyre strategy and next-generation diagnostic capability. This forward-looking arm reflects J Day Engineering’s commitment to staying ahead of a rapidly evolving automotive landscape while continuing to provide main-dealer standards with the personal service customers expect.

Alongside these innovations, the company remains deeply committed to the **reliable servicing and MOT work** that has defined its reputation for **26 years**. These essential services continue to be the backbone of the business—trusted, consistent, and central to the long-standing relationships built with local motorists. The same dependable team that customers know and respect remains dedicated to keeping vehicles safe, roadworthy and maintained to the highest standard.

Recent investments—including state-of-the-art alignment systems, motorhome and commercial capabilities, and a strengthened technical and customer service team—position the business for ambitious growth throughout 2026. J Day Engineering will continue to invest in people, training and technology, ensuring that progress never comes at the expense of the standards that shaped its success.

Managing Director James Day said, “Our vision for 2026 is simple: keep raising standards, keep investing, and keep serving our community with pride. Everything we do begins with trust.”



www.dayspeed.com

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For more than **26 years**, J Day Engineering has been keeping local motorists safely on the road. With major investment in **modern diagnostics, ADAS calibration, alignment and tyre services**, we're ready for today's vehicles - and tomorrow's.

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- Wot's On's How-Why-When-Where 'n' Wot's Answers:
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 - (4) The Greenwich Observatory
 - (5) Tequilla
 - (6) A Scalene Triangle
 - (7) In Jail/Just Visiting, Free Parking, Go To Jail
 - (8) Crossroads
 - (9) Apple
 - (10) Kate Bush



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Experience the difference!

Craft With Us At Home Fabric Flowers

These fabric flowers look particularly lovely attached to a ready made wreath on the front door. They are fairly easy to make and a great way to use up left over fabric.

Materials:

Fabric of your choice

Needle and thread

Buttons—1 for each flower centre (approx. 2—2.5cm diameter)

Craft glue (it's best if it dries clear)

Craft wire (for attaching to the wreath). This will need to be thin enough to pass through the holes in the buttons

Three different sized circular templates, approximately 5cms, 7cms and 10cms in diameter



Directions:

Cut out your fabric circles—you will need five of the smallest size fabric circles for a single flower; five each of the smallest size and medium size fabric circles for the double flower; and five fabric circles of all three sizes for the triple flower.

Fold a fabric circle in half and then half again with the pattern on the outside. It doesn't matter which size you begin with as long as you use the same size for all five petals.

Sew a running stitch along the curved edge, pull tight to scrunch the fabric together and fasten with a knot. Do not cut the thread.



Continue to do this with the remainder of the petals until you can form a circle with them and sew the last to the first to make a circle.

Repeat for each size of flower that you want for your project.

For a single flower glue the button to the centre and leave to dry. If you are making a layered flower you will need to glue each layer together (make sure that you stagger the petals on each layer) and then glue the button in the centre. It is easier to leave the glue between each layer to dry before you attach the next one. I have often dried mine on a radiator to speed this up.

Cut enough craft wire to thread through the buttons and attach to the wreath. I give the wire a few twists at the back of the button to hold the flower securely.

Lay your flowers out on the wreath and decide where you want to attach them.

Fasten into place with the wire, tucking the ends of the wire into the wreath.

Alternative Uses

String the flowers together to make a garland or attach them to a wooden skewer or similar to make stemmed flowers to place in a vase.

Enjoy your flowers.

Sara Bodkin



Useful Information

Opening Times

Post Office	9:00am—5:30pm Mon-Fri, 9:00am—12:30pm Sat
Shop	8:00am—6:00 pm Mon-Sat, 8:00am—1:00pm
Sun	
PO letter box collections	5:30pm Mon-Fri, 10:15am Sat

Numbers to Note

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Doctors, Milborne Port Surgery	01963 250334
Dog Warden, Linda Jones	01935 713745
Electricity distribution	105 (power cuts) 0800 072 7282 (emergencies)
Hospital, Sherborne Yeatman	01935 813991
Hospital, Yeovil District	01935 475122
Local MP, Sarah Dyke	020 7219 4975 sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk
Parish Council, Ann Lee (Parish Clerk)	07841 392242
Police, non-emergency and PCSOs	101
Somerset County Council—Single number	0300 123 2224
Somerset County Council, Hayward Burt	07543 854391 hayward.burt@somerset.gov.uk
St Nicholas Church School, Secretary	01963 362308
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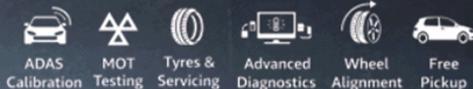
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Reporter: vacant position

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