

# Wot's On Henstridge



In This Issue

Henstridge Summer Fete

Saturday 13th June

New School Head at St Nicholas

Short Story Competition Winner

Summer 2026

Your truly local independent store

# DIKE & SON

Trust us to look after your guests!

01963 362204

- Weddings, Parties  
Christenings, Wakes
- Bar hire available  
– staffed or DIY
- Free glass hire &  
a full refund on  
any unused drink



Dike & Son Ring Street Stalbridge Dorset DT10 2NB 01963 362204

Open seven days a week, 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun

[www.dikeandson.co.uk](http://www.dikeandson.co.uk)

**somerset carers**  
part of CCS

**Who cares for the Carers? We do.**

**Support & advice for Carers**  
Caring for another person is very rewarding, but can be overwhelming and lonely at times.  
If you regularly look after someone else - a family member or friend - Somerset Carers can support you with advice and guidance tailored to you.

Advice Line: 0800 31 68 600  
Text: 'Carer' to 78070  
carers@somersetccc.org.uk  
[www.somsetcarers.org](http://www.somsetcarers.org)

CCS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group  
NHS Somerset  
SPARK SOMERSET  
Somerset

## Waverly Commercials

Van Sales, Servicing, Repairs & Recovery  
MOT Preparation & Submissions

**Nick Hounsell**

**Tel: 01963 363738**

**Mob: 07860 669630**

Unit 12AA, Marsh Lane Trading Estate  
Henstridge  
Templecombe  
Somerset BA8 0TG

## Autospray



Car Body Repair  
Specialists with Manufacturer  
Approvals

High Quality Workmanship  
Minor Dings to Accident Repairs  
**[www.autospray-uk.com](http://www.autospray-uk.com)**

**01963 362002**

Hardings Business Centre, Henstridge BA8 0TF

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](mailto:WotsOnEditor@gmail.com) by 1st August 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 Summer Edition

Welcome to our summer edition. And what a start to the year Henstridge has had. The shop is now in local hands, is open and welcoming customers and extending their services continually. Check out the article on the shop, continue to visit, and be sure to buy something!

The pub is open too, and now owned by the Bird in Hand Society, a group of about 170 of you who have invested in the future of the pub. Check out the article in the magazine and the Facebook page for the Bird in Hand to see what is new there too... have you tried Friday pizza? How about the quiz? Or folk music night?

The village hall has just elected its new committee, chaired by Amanda Shirlin Brown. Again, there is lots going on – monthly film nights, car boot/table-top sales, and some special events coming up through the summer and autumn. Have you visited the Thursday market recently? Lots to buy, lots of stalls there too.

Soon too is our annual village fete – it's on 13<sup>th</sup> June and promises to be an excellent day out for the family, extending into the evening this year, with music, dancing, food and drink! Be sure to put it in your diary.

In fact, the list of events running locally grows and grows, a big thank you to Elspeth Graham who collates this list every issue...

And the list goes on, local groups, parish council, church, school, all of these contribute to our village.

Last issue we ran a story competition, and although we didn't have many entries, we do have a very worthy winner. Congratulations to Rose Farey. The story is printed in this issue, and the £10 Winstone's voucher will be making its way to her.

We couldn't bring you this magazine without our sponsors – do check out their ads, their notes and be sure to shop locally wherever you can! It helps us all.

Enjoy the summer, we look forward to seeing you at some of the many events going on in our village.

### **The Wot's On Team**

#### **A Warm Welcome**

**in the lounge at**

#### **Henstridge Village Hall**

**Pop along for a light lunch, tea,  
coffee, cake and biscuits**

**Friday Afternoons 12.30-4pm**

**Any queries or if you would like a lift  
please contact:**

**Barry: 07969 22240**

**Helen: 01963 363722**

**Ronnie: 07224 206814**

**All donations gratefully accepted**

#### **Contents**

|   |
|---|
| Wot's On Listings - 2                     |
| Special - Dike's Celebrate 175 Years - 12 |
| Special - Don't Panic Festival - 14       |
| Special - The Recreation Ground - 16      |
| Special - Stur Lit Fest - 18              |
| The Young Ones - 19                       |
| St Nicholas School - 20                   |
| Family Activities - 22                    |
| Winning Short Story - 23                  |
| Church Matters - 24                       |
| Parish Council - 26                       |
| Somerset County Council Update - 28       |
| Local Groups, News and Events - 31        |
| The Cat's Whiskers - 38                   |
| Handy Hints - 40                          |
| Jottings From The Lady Shed - 42          |
| Local Walk - 43                           |
| Craft With Us At Home - 44                |
| From Our Sponsors - 46                    |
| Useful Information - 48                   |

# Wot's On Listings

## Wot's On Every Week in the Village Hall

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Exercise and Sport:</b>  | Contact leader, or just come along.<br>See opposite page for contact details. |
| Pilates                     | Mondays 9:30am & 10.30am  |
| Table Tennis                | Monday and Friday afternoons 2pm  |
| Jazzercise                  | Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:30am  |
| Line Dancing                | 1st Wednesday of the month 2pm, &<br>then following Thursdays 7:45pm          |
| <b>Other Groups</b>         |   |
| Weekly Fruit and Veg Market | Thursdays 10am – 12:30pm<br>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  |

### 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.**

Have an event going on in September - November? Let us help you publicise it. Email [wotsoneditor@gmail.com](mailto:wotsoneditor@gmail.com) before 1st August 2026 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 <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a> or contact us (see below for details) |
| Walking Touch Rugby | Wednesday evenings 7pm - 8pm at the Recreation Ground   |

## Contact List for Clubs and Societies

|                         |                     |  |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Art Group               | Liz Holbrook        | 01963 363193                                       |
| Beginners Line Dancing  | Bridget Hallett     | 07702 694469<br>bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com    |
| Bell Ringing            | Helen Howlett       | HelenBeale27@hotmail.co.uk<br>07791799998          |
| Bird in Hand Society    | Jacky Manning       | 01963 548292                                       |
| Blackmore Vale Lions    | Peter Oswick        | 01963 363281                                       |
| Blackmore Vale u3a      | Alison Shilling     | 07580127810<br>alisonshilling@gmail.com            |
| Book Club               | Gail Cullum         | 01963 362878                                       |
| Brownies & Rainbows     | Jane Jeanes         | 01963 370769/07712824747<br>janejeanes78@gmail.com |
| CAMEO                   | Ros Browning        | 01963 363016                                       |
| Explorers Pre School    | Debbi Norwood       | explorers.preschool@hotmail.co.uk                  |
| Fete                    | 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              | Alison Shilling     | 07580127810<br>alisonshilling@gmail.com            |
| 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

| <b>Events coming up in May</b>  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sat - Mon 23rd - 25th May       | <i>Don't Panic Festival</i> , Stalbridge Recreation Ground. Unveiling of Blue Plaque for Douglas Adams - author of <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> , as well as a variety of activities and speakers. Full information at <a href="http://dontpanicfestival.org">dontpanicfestival.org</a> |
| Mon 25th May                    | <b>SPRING BANK HOLIDAY</b>   |
| Mon 25th May, 9.30am - 5pm      | <i>Sherborne Castle Country Fair &amp; Rare Breeds Show</i> , Sherborne DT9 5NR. Entrance £15 adults, children free. Car parking is free. Information <a href="http://www.sherbornecountryfair.com">www.sherbornecountryfair.com</a>   |
| Thurs 28th May, 8pm             | <i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp. Teams of 4. Contact 01963 362255  |
| Sat 30th May, 1pm - 5pm         | <i>Hedgehog Happy Fayre</i> , The Pavilion, Hazelbury Bryan DT10 2EE<br>Information - <a href="mailto:nhampstead@hotmail.com">nhampstead@hotmail.com</a> or 01258 818266   |
| 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 <a href="mailto:jodie.darvill@hotmail.com">jodie.darvill@hotmail.com</a>   |
| Sun 31st May, 6pm               | <i>Words &amp; Music with Elysium</i> at St Nicholas Church, Henstridge. Wine & coffee. Donations appreciated.   |
| <b>Events coming up in June</b> |  |
| Mon - Sun 1st - 7th June        | <b>VOLUNTEERS WEEK</b>   |
| Tues 2nd June, 7pm              | <i>Henstridge Parish Council Meeting</i> , Village Hall Lounge<br>Contact The Clerk 07841 392242   |
| Wed 3rd June, 3pm & 7pm         | <i>Diego Velazquez: Painter &amp; Courtier for Philip IV</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3JG<br><a href="http://www.theartssocietysherborne.org">www.theartssocietysherborne.org</a>   |

Have an event going on in September - November? Let us help you publicise it. Email [wotsoneditor@gmail.com](mailto:wotsoneditor@gmail.com) before 1st August 2026 with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

# Wot's On Listings

| <b>Events coming up in June</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Fri 5th June, 7.30pm            | <i>Craig Revel Horwood: Revelations - Songs Boys don't Sing.</i> Westlands, Yeovil BA20 2DD <a href="http://westlandseyevil.co.uk">westlandseyevil.co.uk</a>                                  |
| Sat 6th June, 8.30am TBC        | <i>Haynes Car Boot Sale.</i> Haynes Car Museum, Sparkford, BA22 7LH.<br>Information 01963 440804  |
| Sat 6th June, time TBC          | <i>Garden Party for CLASH (Community Legal Action for Safety in Henstridge),</i> Keyham Cottage, Vale Street Henstridge. Further info 07403 489404  |
| Sat 6th June, 12.30 - 6pm       | <i>Open Gardens, Motcombe.</i> Tickets from St Mary's Church @ £10, children free. Cream teas and treasure hunt.  |
| Sat 6th June, 7pm & 9pm         | <i>Lumos Experience,</i> Cheap Street Church, Sherborne DT9 3BJ. Contact <a href="http://lumos-experiences-concert.com">lumos-experiences-concert.com</a>                                     |
| Sun 7th June, 9am - 12pm        | <i>Table Top Sale - Henstridge Village Hall.</i> £8/ table, £12 for 2.<br>Contact to book <a href="mailto:AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk">AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                  |
| Sun 7th June, 11.30am - 3.30pm  | <i>Sherborne Steam &amp; Water Wheel,</i> Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site.  |
| Mon 8th June, 7.30pm            | <i>Frida Kahlo - exhibition on Screen.</i> The Sherborne, DT9 3JG   |
| Tues 9th June, 2 - 4pm          | <i>The Volcanoes of Iceland &amp; the Mediterranean.</i> CAMEO talk by John Peck. £3.50 Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016   |
| Wed 10th June, 7pm              | <i>Sherborne Museum Fundraiser "To Win the Day" with folk-theatre group.</i> Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Rd, Sherborne DT9 3NL. Admission £10 includes a glass of wine and light refreshments. |
| Wed 10th June, 7.30pm           | <i>Sir Derek Jakobi in conversation....</i> At The Exchange, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH <a href="http://www.stur-exchange.co.uk">www.stur-exchange.co.uk</a>                                 |
| Thurs 11th June, 7pm            | <i>Song Sung Blue - Neil Diamond Tribute.</i> Westlands, Yeovil BA20 2DD <a href="http://westlandseyevil.co.uk">westlandseyevil.co.uk</a>   |

# Wot's On Listings

| <b>Events coming up in June</b>        |  |
|--|--|
| Fri - Sun 12th - 21st June             | Sat Sturminster Newton Literary Festival<br>Information - <a href="http://www.sturlitfest.com">www.sturlitfest.com</a>   |
| Sat 13th June, 12 noon - 10pm          | <i>2026 Village Fete</i> , Henstridge Playing Field & Lounge. Stalls & Fun for all including dancing, music, cheerleaders, games and a magician.<br>Contact <a href="mailto:ashleyshirlin@hotmail.co.uk">ashleyshirlin@hotmail.co.uk</a> |
| Sat - Sun 13th - 14th June, 2 - 5.30pm | <i>National Garden Scheme Open gardens in Henstridge</i> - Cherry Bolberry Farm, Furge Lane BA8 0RN - includes Tea.<br>Rose Cottage, Church Street BA8 0QE.<br>£8 to visit both.   |
| Mon 15th June, 7.30pm                  | <i>Raleigh, the Digbys &amp; Sherborne Castle</i> .<br>Milborne Port History & Heritage talk by Bill McDermott. Church House, Milborne Port DT9 5AN. £5 non-members  |
| Sat 20th June, 10am - 12.30pm          | <i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church, Sherborne  |
| Sat 20th June, 7pm                     | <i>A Little Night Music</i> - Sherborne Abbey Chamber Choir. Tickets £7 - £20 @ Sherborne Abbey DT9 3LQ.<br>Information - <a href="http://sherbornechamberchoir.org.uk/concerts">sherbornechamberchoir.org.uk/concerts</a>               |
| Sun 21 June, 10am - 3pm                | <i>Sherborne Market</i><br><a href="http://www.thesherbornemarket.com">www.thesherbornemarket.com</a>  |
| Sun 21st June, 6.30pm for 7pm          | <i>The Italian Job (original version) Film Night</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (incl glass wine or coffee).<br>Contact <a href="mailto:ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk">ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk</a>  |
| Thurs 25th June, 7pm                   | <i>"Playboy of the Western World"</i> presented by NT Live @ The Swan Theatre, Yeovil, BA20 1QT. Tel: 07500 37603  |
| Thurs 25th June, 7pm                   | <i>"All My Sons" (Arthur Miller)</i> . National Theatre screening at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH<br><a href="http://www.stur-exchange.co.uk">www.stur-exchange.co.uk</a>   |
| Thurs 25th June, 8pm                   | <i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp, Teams of 4. 01963 362255  |

# Wot's On Listings

| <b>Events coming up in June</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Sat 27th June, 1pm              | <i>Fun Dog Show</i> to raise funds for Stour Valley Dog Rescue. Contact <a href="http://www.stourvalleydogrescue.com">www.stourvalleydogrescue.com</a>  |
| Sun 28th June, 10am - 4pm       | <i>Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway</i> , Yenston BA8 0NB. Information at <a href="http://www.newglr.weebly.com">www.newglr.weebly.com</a>  |
| Sun 28th June - time TBC        | <i>Songs of Praise for 80th birthdays</i> , St Nicholas Church, Henstridge. Information - <a href="mailto:janejeanes78@gmail.com">janejeanes78@gmail.com</a>  |
| Sun - Mon 28th - 29th June, 3pm | " <i>Pinocchio</i> " presented by Ilyria. The Sherborne DT9 3JG Information <a href="http://thesherborne.uk/events">thesherborne.uk/events</a>  |
| <b>Events coming up in July</b> |   |
| Wed 1st July, 3pm & 7pm         | <i>Introduction to the Newlyn School (1880-1910)</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3JG <a href="http://www.theartsocietysherborne.org">www.theartsocietysherborne.org</a> |
| July TBC                        | <i>Garden Party for CLASH (Community Legal Action for Safety in Henstridge)</i> , Old Vicarage, Henstridge. Further info 07403 489404   |
| Sat 4th July, 8.30am            | <i>Haynes Car Boot Sale</i> , Haynes Car Museum, Sparkford, BA22 7LH. Information 01963 440804  |
| Sat 4th July, 12 noon - 6.15pm  | <i>Henstridge Cricket Club Match</i> , Henstridge Playing Field & Lounge. Contact Hugo Barton 01963 363193  |
| Sun 5th July, 9am - 12pm        | <i>Table Top Sale</i> - Henstridge Village Hall. £8/ table, £12 for 2. Contact to book <a href="mailto:AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk">AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |
| Mon - Tues 6th - 7th July, 6pm  | <i>South Somerset Singing Festival</i> - pupils across South Somerset. Westlands, Yeovil. Tickets 01935 422884  |
| Tues 7th July, 2.15pm           | <i>Careless Talk Costs Lives</i> - James Taylor. BlackmoreVale u3a, Henstridge Village Hall. Contact <a href="http://www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk">www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk</a>                           |

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

| <b>Events coming up in July</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Tues 7th July, 7pm              | <i>Henstridge Parish Council Meeting</i> , Village Hall Lounge<br>Contact The Clerk 07841 392242  |
| Wed - Thur 8th - 9th July, 6pm  | <i>"The 3 Musketeers"</i> presented by Ilyria. The Sherborne DT9 3JG Information <a href="http://thesherborne.uk/events">thesherborne.uk/events</a>   |
| Sat 11 July, 6pm - 8pm          | <i>Explorers Preschool Fundraising Disco</i> . Henstridge Village Hall. £3/child - must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets from Village Shop.  |
| Sun 12th July, 10am             | <i>Blackmore Vale Half Marathon</i> , Bishop's Caundle - organised by Blackmore Vale Lions Club. Entries from February 2026 will be carried over or contact <a href="https://bvllm.yolasite.com">https://bvllm.yolasite.com</a> |
| Sun 12th July, 11.30am - 3.30pm | <i>Sherborne Steam &amp; Water Wheel - Gala Day</i> , Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site.  |
| Tues 14th July, 2 - 4pm         | <i>CAMEO Tea Party</i> . The Lounge, Henstridge Hall. Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016   |
| Tues 14th July, 7pm             | <i>Open Spaces - Henstridge Parish Council</i> . The Lounge, Village Hall. Contact The Clerk 07841 392242   |
| Wed 15th July, 7pm              | <i>Parish Council Open Spaces Meeting</i> , The Lounge<br>Information - The Clerk 07841 392242  |
| Thurs - Mon 16th - 20th         | <i>Southern Cathedrals Festival</i> , Salisbury Cathedral   |
| Sat 18th July, 10am - 12.30pm   | <i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church, Sherborne   |
| Sun 19th July, 10am - 3pm       | <i>Sherborne Market</i><br><a href="http://www.thesherbornemarket.com">www.thesherbornemarket.com</a>   |
| Sun 19th July, 6.30pm for 7pm   | <i>The Magnificent Seven - Film Night</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (incl glass wine or coffee).<br>Contact <a href="mailto:ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk">ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk</a>  |

# Wot's On Listings

| <b>Events coming up in July</b>             |   |
|---|---|
| Mon 20th July, 7.30pm                       | <i>Milborne Port History &amp; Heritage On Location Talk</i> @ St Peter & St Paul Churches, Charlton Horethorne. Further information - <a href="http://milborneporthistory.org/whats-on">http://milborneporthistory.org/whats-on</a> . £5 non-members |
| Mon - Sat 20th - 25th July, 7pm             | ' <i>Home, I'm Darling</i> ' by Laura Wade. The Swan Theatre, Yeovil, BA20 1QT. Tel: 07500 376031   |
| Tues, Fri & Sat 21st, 24th & 25th July, 7pm | <i>L'Elisir d'Amore</i> , Dorset Opera Festival, Bryanston. Plus Matinee Thurs 23rd July. Tel 07570 366186  |
| Wed - Thur 22nd - 23rd July, 7pm            | <i>Samson et Dalila</i> , Dorset Opera Festival, Bryanston. Plus Matinee Sat 25th July. Tel 07570 366186  |
| Sun 26th July, 10am - 4pm                   | <i>Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway</i> , Yenston BA8 0NB. Information at <a href="http://www.newglr.weebly.com">www.newglr.weebly.com</a>  |
| Sun 26th July, 2pm                          | <i>The Honesty Jar Bingo</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. Free entry, refreshments. Payment for books of tickets by cash/card - contact <a href="mailto:jodie.darvill@hotmail.com">jodie.darvill@hotmail.com</a>  |
| Thurs 30th July, 8pm                        | <i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp, Teams of 4. 01963 362255   |
| <b>Events coming up in August</b>           |   |
| Sat 1st Aug, 8.30am                         | <i>Haynes Car Boot Sale</i> , Haynes Car Museum, Sparkford, BA22 7LH. Information 01963 440804  |
| Sun 2nd Aug, 9am - 12pm                     | <i>Table Top Sale</i> - Henstridge Village Hall. £8/ table, £12 for 2. Contact to book <a href="mailto:AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk">AJBrown1@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |
| Mon 3rd Aug, 10.30am - 12.30pm              | <i>Messy Museum Monday</i> , Sherborne Museum, Church Lane, DT9 3BP. Suitable for children over 5yrs, accompanied by an adult. Donations welcome.   |
| Wed 5th, Fri 7th, Sat 8th Aug 7.30pm        | <i>The Magic Flute</i> , Opera in Osborne 2026 programme. St Cuthbert's Church DT9 4LA. Information - <a href="mailto:operainoborne@47485929.mailchimpapp.com">operainoborne@47485929.mailchimpapp.com</a>  |

# Wot's On Listings

| Events coming up in August        |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mon - Fri 3rd - 28th Aug          | <i>Discovering Churches, Dorset &amp; Beyond.</i> Photographic journey through interior church architecture, art and furniture - Sherborne Abbey. Info <a href="mailto:byjimj@gmail.com">byjimj@gmail.com</a>                           |
| Sun 9th Aug, 11.30am - 3.30pm     | <i>Sherborne Steam &amp; Water Wheel</i> , Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site.   |
| Sun 9th Aug, 3pm                  | <i>Opera in the Park</i> , Opera in Osborne 2026 programme. Bring a Picnic & friends. Osborne Playing Field DT9 4LA. Information - <a href="mailto:operainoborne@47485929.mailchimpapp.com">operainoborne@47485929.mailchimpapp.com</a> |
| Sat 15th Aug, 5.30 - 11pm         | <i>Blokes Play Blues</i> - CLASH (Community Legal Action for Safety in Henstridge), Village Hall & Recreation Ground, Henstridge. Further info 07403 489404   |
| Sun 16th Aug, 10am - 3pm          | <i>Sherborne Market</i> <a href="http://www.theshernbornewmarket.com">www.theshernbornewmarket.com</a>  |
| Sun 16th Aug, 6.30pm for 7pm      | <i>The Choral</i> - Film Night, Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (incl glass wine or coffee). Contact <a href="mailto:ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk">ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |
| Mon 17th Aug, 7.30pm              | <i>Milborne Port History &amp; Heritage Talk</i> - New material on South & Church Streets; and 18th Century poet Elizabeth Singer Rowe's connections. Church House, DT9 5AN. £5 non-members   |
| Sun 23rd Aug, 10am - 4pm          | <i>Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway</i> , Yenston BA8 0NB. Information at <a href="http://www.newglr.weebly.com">www.newglr.weebly.com</a>  |
| Thurs 27th Aug, 8pm               | <i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp, Teams of 4. 01963 362255   |
| Thurs - Fri 27th - 28th July, 6pm | <i>"The Pirates of Penzance"</i> presented by Ilyria. The Sherborne DT9 3JG Information <a href="http://theshernborne.uk/events">theshernborne.uk/events</a>  |

Have an event going on in September - November? Let us help you publicise it. Email [wotsoneditor@gmail.com](mailto:wotsoneditor@gmail.com) before 1st August 2026 with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

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



## Dike & Son is 175 years old!

May sees the launch of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our much-loved independent supermarket Dike & Son in Stalbridge, with a fun draw for customers involving lucky tickets and over 6,000 prizes to be won.

Harold Dike first started taking groceries round the village by horse and cart in 1851, gradually building up the business.

Over time the shop was passed on to his son William James Dike, and then his sons Cyril and Percy Dike, by which time the bakery was supplying the whole region with bread and cakes, and produce from the farm behind the shop kept folk supplied with milk, lamb, pork and ham.

After the war the shop on Ring Street expanded to include a wide range of grocery provisions and baked goods (including the famous Dorset Lardy Cake!) until fourth generation heir William Dike took it to the next level in 2007, with his dream of a new, purpose-built supermarket to rival any of the chain stores.



Sadly, William never got to see the much larger, purpose-built store we now all know and treasure, as months before the new supermarket opened, he lost his battle with cancer.

His son Andy Dike has been at the helm ever since, steering a steady path with co-director Adam Vincent to preserve a shining example of outstanding customer service, supporting local producers and suppliers and introducing a strong ethos of recycling and sustainability.

The celebrations for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kick off on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month (of course!). The team at Dike's have joined forces with their local and national producers and suppliers – and other local businesses – to reward their loyal and valued customers with a mini bonanza in the form of a Prize Draw. Over a period of three weeks shoppers will receive a 175 Draw Ticket for every £10 they spend in the shop (as long as stocks last), with over 6,000 surprises to be won.

Lucky winners can look forward to anything from children's toys, a welcome free cup of coffee in William's Café, packs of sausages or a bottle of local cider, to top prizes such as a Hall & Woodhouse Brewery Tour, a Nespresso coffee machine or even a flight over the Blackmore Vale!

The Prize Draw runs until the 7<sup>th</sup> June, after which there will be other 175 events through summer into the Autumn, including the launch of a commemorative book and an in-store exhibition.

Dike's would be delighted to hear your stories and memories of the shop at [info@dikeandson.co.uk](mailto:info@dikeandson.co.uk) with the subject line 175 YEARS.



# DIKE & SON

*Celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*



Proudly independent and family-run for five generations, we've been championing local food and drink, supporting our community and employing local people for 175 years. The festivities will begin on 17th day of the 5th month (of course) with exciting events in store!

[www.dikeandson.co.uk](http://www.dikeandson.co.uk)

*Supporting 175 local producers & suppliers*

Dike & Son Superstore, Café & event catering, Ring Street, Stalbridge, Dorset DT10 2NB  
info@dikeandson.co.uk 01963 362204 Open 8am-8pm Mon to Sat, 10am-4pm Sun

## Stalbridge – The Town that Saved the Galaxy!



The universe is extremely large. This is widely agreed upon.

It contains billions of galaxies, unimaginable distances, several species of surprisingly intelligent dolphins and, rather unexpectedly, the town of Stalbridge.

Unexpectedly GUGG ARTS, known locally as The Gugg, began life as a ragtag collection of artists, volunteers and mildly determined optimists attempting the deeply improbable task of building a cultural organisation, in the same town, out of enthusiasm, biscuits and very little money.

Against all reasonable expectations, it worked.

The guiding principle is disarmingly simple: culture should not only happen in cities. It should grow wherever people decide to make it happen in fields, village halls, skittle alleys, farm buildings and occasionally slightly chaotic meetings involving tea.

In another previous, highly improbable, twist Douglas Adams' parents moved to Grove Lane, Stalbridge in 1964 and he holidayed and lived there in his breaks from school and then university.

Fast forward to 1971 and, stargazing in a field in Innsbruck, the said same author was in a state of philosophical reflection [and clutching a copy of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Europe*] when it came to him that someone should write a hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy.

Then in 1977, living in London and struggling with his creative career, Adams was fetched home by his mother, Janet, after she read between the lines of his placatory letters home, and sent him to his room.

According to family accounts, the ongoing demolition of buildings at the bottom of the garden inspired him to begin writing a narrative in which the Earth itself was destroyed entirely.

He imagined several different ways in which this might happen, this cheerful concept was originally titled *The Ends of the Earth*.

Soon afterwards, BBC producer Simon Brett invited Adams to pitch a comedy series. The idea evolved, gained an alien researcher named Ford Prefect, and eventually became *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

The first episode aired on BBC Radio 4 in March 1978.


Nearly half a century later, Gugg Arts is celebrating this curious sequence of events with The Don't Panic Festival, taking place at Stalbridge Recreation Ground on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 May, from 1-6pm. Which in a not-entirely-unplanned coincidence is also International Towel Day [www.towelday.org] and 25 years and two weeks since the writer's tragic, sudden death.


The festival celebrates creativity, community and the improbable chain of circumstances linking an Austrian field, a mother's care, a Dorset demolition, and one of the strangest comic universes ever created.

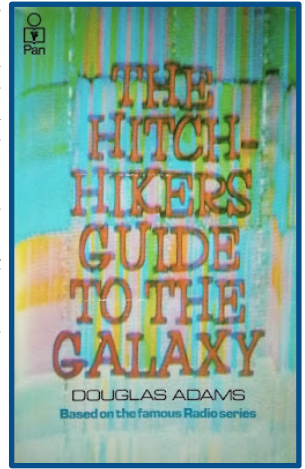
Which, when you consider the general behaviour of the cosmos, is really quite normal.

This is a family friendly, low entry cost, day for everyone. With music food and plenty to discombobulate.

Get your tickets, find out more and join in here:

 <http://www.thegugg.org>

 <http://www.dontpanicfestival.org>



**Else BBQ Packs**  
 £25 each. Each pack includes 4 x Sticky Maple Chicken Thighs, 4 Homemade Burgers, 4 x Homemade Sausages, and 4 x Chinese Pork Steaks - ideal for outdoor gatherings and family meals.

**'3 for £12' range**  
 A selection of Mince, Chipolatas, Sausages, Pork Steaks, Chicken, Bacon. It's a great way to sample a variety of flavours at excellent value.

**'Pig in the Box'**  
 Easy Entertaining with our Hostaroast special! Take the stress out of hosting with our convenient 'Pig in the Box' option. Enjoy pulled pork with all the trimmings, including apple sauce, crackling, stuffing, baps, and napkins. Simply order, collect, and reheat for 40 minutes - making entertaining effortless and delicious.



**ELSE**  
 FAMILY BUTCHERS

01963 362276



SHOP & CATERING: HIGH STREET, STALBRIDGE, DORSET DT10 2LH

**Awaydays Travel**  
*Quotations via the website*  
**awaydays-travel.uk**



**Tel: +44(0)7736958262**

- Luxury Licensed Taxi
- Seating 1 – 7 Persons
- Airports & Seaports
- Large Luggage Capacity
- Awaydays City Breaks

*Experience the difference!*

# Special – Henstridge Recreation Ground

## How Henstridge converted a farmer's field into the Recreation Ground

### A short history of the Home Field of Pond Farm

To many living in the village it must seem natural to think that the current Recreation Ground has always been there but, as I found out whilst researching the history of the cricket club, it has only belonged to the Village since February 1952 when the Parish Council bought it. Before that it had been part of the Home Field of Pond Farm for hundreds of years.



In 1810 Pond Farm, together with Church Farm, was owned by Mr Benjamin Gray a successful breeder of pigs. He died in 1834 and 5 years later it was bought by the Rev Nathaniel Bridges the Vicar of Henstridge who let both farms to tenants whilst he continued to live in the old vicarage. When he died in 1871 the whole estate was bought at auction by Thomas Marriott Doddington of Horsington. Between 1882 and 1918 both farms were let to Josiah Pickford and then to his son Edward. Pickford built up a very successful dairy business. Church Farm was known as Pond Dairy Farm.

He was a keen sports man and had played cricket for Henstridge since being a teenager. HCC played on a pitch he prepared in his field in the late 1890s. In 1898 Edward had also offered one of his fields to the very first Henstridge Football Club. I don't know how long it lasted, but in 1908 a new HFC was formed by Rev JW Firth and they played on a field in Whitchurch offered by Mr H W Collard.

In 1913 HFC joined Inwood FC in the Shaftesbury & District league and after WW1 were founder members of the Blackmore Vale League whose patron was Lady Guest. The two clubs merged in 1920 and they played as HFC on pitches in Inwood till WW2. Football had become fashionable.

Edward's son, Donald, was also a keen sportsman playing football, cricket and mixed doubles tennis for Henstridge till in the mid 1930's when he married and left the village to live on the South Coast. This caused a ripple in both clubs. In August 1934 an HFC meeting voted to disband the club for lack of interest. But it reappears in a report of the results of the 34/35 season. In 1935 the Cricket Club was complaining of a lack of players and tried to see if they could merge with Templecombe. But not surprisingly that didn't happen. They then asked Ms Guest if they could use the Inwood pitch. The next year there is a newspaper report of a Henstridge Inwood Cricket team match against Milborne Port and in 1939 an appeal for offers of fixtures and a fund raising dance.

In 1918 Edward Pickford bought the freehold to Pond Farm with 46 acres when the whole estate was sold at public auction. To fund this purchase he gave up the Church Farm tenancy selling most of his dairy herd and equipment. The fields adjoining Inwood were bought by the agent for Lady Guest, Church Farm by a Mr G Penny and the fields on the eastern side of Yenston Road by Mr Scammell, who also bought the Jenny Close field between the A30 and the school.

Edward Pickford farmed with a smaller herd until he retired in 1941 when, remaining in Pond House, he let the farm on a Lady Day tenancy. Before he retired he asked the District Planning Office to schedule a part of his Home Field as a recreation ground and this can be seen marked in green on the original of very first Wincanton RDC development plan dated 1941 held in Taunton. He died in 1943 and the whole farm with Pond House was sold by public auction and bought by Miss Guest.

In 1945 the tenant at Pond Farm was Cyril Down who agreed to allow the Henstridge Football and Cricket Clubs to use the field as well as the school. In August 1948 Pond Farm

including the 11 acre Home Field was bought by Mr and Mrs Hopkins who moved into Pond House and gave notice to quit to Mr Down.

In 1949 with the help of the Area Planning Office, Wincanton RDC, Somerset County Council, the Parish Council under the chairmanship of Percy Warren of Townsend Farm reached agreement with the owners to buy 6 acres of the Home Field (referred to in the PC minutes as the Rookery). The PC had been accumulating funds since 1935 to purchase a recreation ground and had more than enough to put down the deposit and cover legal costs. But it took a further 2 1/2 years to get their Government Public Works loan and Ministry of Education grant approved and the legal agreement for this complex tripartite conveyance completed.

When all was finally completed in February 1952. The PC bought a see-saw and set of 6 swings for the children's playground, formed the entrance from the road and erected the gates. The football club was given a licence to use it from September to April and the cricket club from May till August. Henstridge School was given permission to use the recreation ground - they did not get their own playing fields until much later. Sheep grazed in the field to keep the grass short as they had no mowing equipment.

In 1953 the new Queen's Coronation celebrations were held on the new recreation ground. The PC bought its first gang mowers to be pulled by a tractor lent by Mr Raymond. The old pre-war Cricket Hut was pulled down and a new one erected to store the gang mowers.

Because it took so long to complete the purchase Henstridge Football Club lost many of their players and couldn't put a team together. The PC backed a proposed United Sports Club but that lasted only two years.

In 1957 the football club reformed again as Henstridge Football Club and this time really took off for the next 55 years. Their success and progress to promotion forced the provision for on site changing facilities and toilets.

Cricket didn't really get going again till 1975 when they were given permission to rope off a wicket from Feb to Aug the following year. But there are plenty in village who know a lot more than I do about that and the stories of the Football Club's successes, the building of the Village Hall and the Park Road houses.



Image SHC D/R/winc/22/1/12, reproduced with kind permission of the South West Heritage Trust

Photo by Dave Thompson

*Will Eaden*  
*Henstridge Cricket Club*

# Special - Stur Lit Fest War Artist, Historians and Crime Writers Headline Sturminster Newton Literary Festival 2026

The internationally acclaimed war artist, George Butler, will discuss his illustrative work in Ukraine and other conflict zones at the 2026 Sturminster Newton Literary Festival. George Butler is known for his thought provoking work that goes beyond the headlines and highlights stories that never reach the news.

Military historian and author Anthony Tucker Jones will outline Churchill's early years and how that shaped the future iconic leader. Kate Werran's talk promotes her research into Black American troops stationed in the West country in World War Two and who were often treated inequitably by the US Army.

Dorset writer and journalist Faith Eckersall will discuss cosy crime and her latest book set in Wimborne, while Mark Bridgeman returns with his popular interactive true crime event where the audience become the jury. Travel writer Nick Jubber will be taking the audience on a global journey of monsters. Giles and Annie Henschel of Olives et Al will be speaking about their 10,000 mile journey revisiting olive groves and the impact climate change is having on the harvest.

This year there are literary walks, a showcase of local writers, and a special writing workshop in partnership with the University of Exeter for people from Ukraine and their host families. Details of events are on the festival website [www.sturlitfest.com](http://www.sturlitfest.com). Tickets are available from Ticketsource <https://www.ticketsource.com/sturminster-newton-literary-festival> or from 1855 Sturminster Newton.

The banner features the festival logo (a green leaf) and the text "Sturminster Newton Literary Festival" in green and gold. A circular badge indicates the dates "12th - 21st June 2026". A QR code is labeled "BOOK HERE". Below the text is a grid of book covers: "Black Yanks" by Kate Werran, "Monsterland" by Anthony Tucker Jones, "TUULA: A TRUE CRIME TRAGEDY" by Mark Bridgeman, "A VIEW FROM THE SADDLE" by Nick Jubber, "The Ukraine" by Giles and Annie Henschel, "Winston Churchill: THE MAKING OF A HERO" by Anthony Tucker Jones, "EM SCOTT THE MAN NEXT DOOR" by Anthony Tucker Jones, "The Fleetwood Half-Orphan Asylum" by Don Norberg, "The Body ON THE ROUNDABOUT" by Faith Eckersall, and "The BONE GARDEN" by Tess Burnett.

For information visit: [www.sturlitfest.com](http://www.sturlitfest.com)   

## The Young Ones Explorers

Explorers are having a great spring, we are enjoying all the minibeasts and we are all revamping our outdoor space, we are excited to show you these photos in due course of our wonderful new bug hotel, sensory space and new construction area. We have been planting seeds and hope to have some more plants soon for our flower beds.

Some of the children are preparing for 'big school' and starting their transition process and are enjoying their school ready club, where we help them to secure the skills they need to move onto the next part of their education journey.

This week we are celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and we will be looking at some of his work and talking about our favourite animals, as well having a party.

After that we will be preparing and practicing for our Sports day, which will be great fun!

We are also undertaking viewings for September. If you would like to come and visit us, please contact the team on 07792 240804 or email [explorers.supervisor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:explorers.supervisor@hotmail.co.uk)

*Debbi Norwood*



## Henstridge Rainbows and Brownies and Templecombe Guides

By the time you read this we will have attended the St George's day Parade in Templecombe and carried our flags into the church. We are looking forward to the lighter evenings so that we can be out and about in the school field and garden doing parts of our programme which need a wider space. Guides meet at the same time, so I am looking forward to some outdoor cooking and lots of samples. Our girls benefit from a team with varied experience and expertise and there is never a dull moment. Some of us are off to a County Camp in September and Somerset Guides will once again be part of the messenger service at the Bath and West Show. We can also give girls the chance to complete the service part of their DofE award by helping at meetings. We love hearing where former members of our unit are and what they are now doing. We like to think we played a small part in allowing them to be themselves and to develop into young women who are confident and able to do anything they put their minds to. Thank you to everyone who has offered support over the last 50 years since the unit was restarted in 1975.

*Jane Jeanes aka Woodpecker/Brown Owl 01963370769, 07712824747*

## St Nicholas School A Letter From the New Head Teacher

Dear Henstridge Community,

It is with great excitement (and a rather big smile!) that I introduce myself as your new Head Teacher, Rebecca Lihou. I am absolutely delighted to be joining such a warm, vibrant village and to be stepping into a school that clearly sits at the heart of this wonderful community.

From the outset, I have already felt incredibly welcomed, and I want to take a moment to recognise the outstanding support that has made this transition so positive. A huge thank you goes to our Executive Leader, James Webb, for his exceptional leadership and care throughout the handover. Your guidance, reassurance, and deep commitment to the school community have made a real difference, and I am sincerely grateful.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent handover and ongoing support provided by the Bath & Wells Multi-Academy Trust. The professionalism, clarity, and secure foundations you provide ensure that leadership transitions like this are smooth, well-structured, and firmly rooted in what matters most, continuity, care, and the very best education for children.

To our parents and carers, I am very much looking forward to working alongside you. Henstridge is clearly a place where relationships matter, where children are known and valued, and where learning is nurtured with care and ambition. I feel genuinely excited about what we will build together, full of laughter, curiosity, high standards, and many memorable school moments that your children will carry with them for years to come.

There will be lots of opportunities ahead for us to meet properly, share ideas, and celebrate the fantastic things happening in school. I am especially keen to listen, learn, and understand what matters most to you and your children as we move forward together as a community.

For now, please accept this as my very warm "hello" from someone who is already proud to be part of Henstridge. I'm looking forward to plenty of muddy boots, proud achievements, and creative expression, alongside joyful school days ahead!

With very best wishes,

*Rebecca Lihou*  
Head Teacher

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

Can you answer the following general knowledge questions?

1. Who was granted a decree nisi in Ipswich on 27 October 1936?
2. Which planet in our solar system has the most moons?
3. Which animal/creature is the deadliest to humans?
4. Abba-esque, an EP covering 4 ABBA hits, in 1992 was which duo's only UK No 1?
5. Whose short story "The Birds" was made into a film by Alfred Hitchcock?
6. If three dice are stacked on top of each other and a '3' is showing on top, what is the total of the hidden spots?
7. Globe and Jerusalem are varieties of which vegetable?
8. In addition to the Vatican, which country is land-locked within Italy?
9. Which two elements combine to make Common Salt?
10. Which group has spent the most cumulative total number of weeks in the UK album charts as of the end of 2025?

If you enjoy quizzes like this (or maybe better) why not come to the Bird in Hand on the last Thursday of every month at 8pm for *The Bird Quiz*? Teams of up to or around four and only £2 per player; there are prizes for the top three and a raffle too. It's all very relaxed and friendly and you'll all be very welcome.

See page 43 for answers.

## St Nicholas School

We are enjoying the warmer weather at St Nicholas as we come out of the Winter months and head towards the Summer. Already, we are taking the opportunity to get into the garden, with a few children beginning to plant things. More of that to come! The warmer weather also brings about opportunities to get outside, with children going away on residential, many for the first time. Years 3 and 4 recently returned from their trip to Kilve Court, where they tried activities including climbing, grass sledging and other outdoor pursuits, and Years 5 and 6 are getting ready to go on theirs in the coming weeks.

We are extremely proud of our global curriculum at St Nicholas, and as we move into the Summer Term, we are focussing our attention on the continent of Australasia. In Key Stage One, the children have been looking at some of the wildlife that can be found on this continent and how the weather compares to the UK. Children in Key Stage 2 have started learning about the life and work of Charles Darwin, and his journey on the Beagle.



We finished the Term with our Easter Service. Thank you to everyone who came to support the children and for joining in with the songs, some old and some new!

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 up to date 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](http://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](mailto:wotsoneditor@gmail.com) to place your advert.

*Wot's On Team*

## **Family Activities** Sunny Seaside

### Lyme Regis

Lyme Regis is the perfect place to go no matter your age. The bay offers a space where parents can easily watch their children have fun in the sea, whilst especially being reassured in the months of July and August as it is patrolled by lifeguards. The promenade has many different types of restaurants suitable for many different occasions or simply a nice cold drink looking out at the ocean on a summer's day. Over the summer season there are many different events happening such as the Lyme Regis carnival on the 31st of July to 8<sup>th</sup> of August, including, on the 31<sup>st</sup>, a fireworks display on the harbour at 21:30. Additionally, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August the Red Arrows will be passing over for the first time since 2017 in celebration of the 200 year anniversary of the lifeboat in Lyme Regis. Finally, if you like traditions, Morris Dancers will be dancing their way across the promenade on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August beginning at 11am and making their way across the beach front for a day of dancing and fun.



### Charmouth

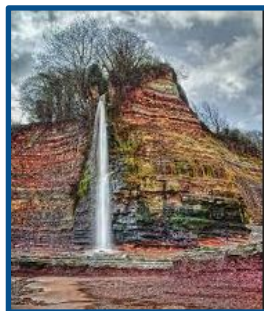
Just along the coast from Lyme Regis, is a beach which has a significant historical and scientific background. It was one of the places where the famous Mary Anning first discovered the first complete Plesiosaur and went on to become a pioneer in marine palaeontology. This means that there is an opportunity to go fossil hunting if you are patient enough - and it is a fabulous day out to the beach, even if you don't manage to find a fossil, maybe just a similar looking pebble.



### St Audrie's Bay

St Audrie's Bay is a wonderful beach with perfectly serene views and a stunning natural landscape. However, one of the main attractions to this tranquil beach is the most beautiful waterfall that backs onto this beach giving the most picture-perfect view on a summer's sunset, making it seem like a tropical paradise here in Somerset.

*Hope New*



## **Short Story Competition Winner**

Congratulations to Rose Farey who is the winner of our short story competition and will be receiving a £10 Winstone's Voucher. We thoroughly enjoyed her tale and hope that you do too.

**Gail Cullum**

## MILK (and its impact on a sailor and a monk)

I'm making tea, and have just lugged a four-pint plastic container out of a 'fridge door shelf which can barely accommodate it. I know the door appreciates this brief respite, and its hinges depend on these little intervals to regain their strength - and perhaps postpone, by some indeterminate period, the day when the door will drop entirely. Of course, I *could* simply end its suffering, and save myself future unnecessary expense, by restricting myself to just two pints at a time.

Many people insist on buying milk in unstorable quantities, and in my case it is nothing to do with the fact that I did not come across milk in its usual form until I was seven. Certainly, discovering at so late an age that milk is in fact a liquid, made no great impression on me - at seven I was ready to take anything on board. Nor is there anything remarkable in the fact itself, and I make no special claim for interest or individuality, except that my sheltered childhood in this respect was due, entirely, to the attitudes and behaviour of a sailor and a monk respectively.

Grandfather (the sailor in this narrative) ex Chief Petty Officer, and Ship's Cook of His Majesty's Royal Navy had views on hygiene that became set in stone once he made the acquaintance of the monk. In those years before, and just after the war, not only was milk not available in large plastic containers, in that part of the Mediterranean where we lived, it wasn't available in any kind of container at all; and even in this *containerless* state, availability was generally haphazard.

Determined by factors other than mere need or rota (the word 'marketing' would not enter the vocabulary of this society for a long time yet), a tuneless clamour of bells some streets off would announce the arrival of the milk. The women (for this was not considered men's work) would rush out with their jugs to wait, and eventually they'd arrive: goats - the number varied - sprawling untidily all over the road in the independent way that goats have, and defecating at will; varying in colour, certainly in temperament, and uniformly adorned with a bell at their throats. The 'milkman' (the monk in this narrative) had only the vaguest control over these wall-eyed ladies who, udders bulging and swinging between their back legs, followed him only in the hope of obtaining speedy relief.

A heavy brown woollen habit - making a hair-shirt mentality in this part of the world in high summer an indispensable prerequisite; no covering for his tonsured head; and only rough and very open sandals, meant that the journey from his monastery to the town would, at any time between eight am and sunset, have been grindingly hot and dusty, and needing every atom of mindless religious zeal within him to undertake at all.

The monk, oblivious to that star which in July and August exercises a despotic rule over *other* men's lives, would arrive with filthy feet, overheated to the point of delirium, and (since deodorants, like bottled milk, belonged to the realms of futuristic exotica), more than a little rank.

Grandfather, whose ship's galley had been the victorious veteran of a thousand white glove inspections, had taken one look at the monastic 'Milkie' pulling away at the teats of one of his flock with fingers that had only just raked out the grit from between his toes, and immediately recoiled. Thus, milk in our house became something thick and sugary that came out of a tin which sat fortress-like in a deep saucer filled with water; ants, Grandfather had decided, have many proven abilities; swimming is not one of them.

Coming back to England finally put normality within the family's grasp, but the opportunity was squandered. The excitement of seeing milk, in all its original liquid glory, *and* in bottles (and not a monk in sight) proved too heady for my family - Grandfather opted for Sterilised instead of Pasteurised - and I spent the rest of my growing-up years being told by friends that tea tasted 'funny' in our house.

From such seeds is Eccentricity sown.

*Rose Farey*

## **Church Matters** From the Churchwardens

### **The tower is fenced off**

Anyone walking past the church recently will have noticed the large fence round the tower of the church. A recent inspection showed that some of the stone decorations at the top of the tower are loose and we are waiting on their repair. Once this is done the fence will be taken away.

### **News from the bellringers**

After many years' service Ellen Edwards has reluctantly retired as tower captain. We are very grateful for all she has done to encourage people to train as ringers and to keep the bells sounding; and that Helen Howlett has stepped forward to take on the role. But, why aren't the bells ringing as usual? We need to replace some of the bell ropes and we are waiting for these to arrive and be fitted. Once that is done our bells will be sounding again.

### **No news on our vacancy**

Sadly, we have had no applications to fill our vacancy for a priest-in-charge. We are continuing to advertise and rely on Lay Worship Assistants or retired clergy to lead our services, for which we are very grateful.

### **Evening services**

Now the evenings are lighter we have reinstated the evening service on the first Sunday of the month, at 6 pm.

### **Activities in the church**

An enthusiastic audience packed the church on 24 April for a concert to support the Bird in Hand. The programme contained a wide variety of singing and instrumental music,



## **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](mailto:lizandhugo@btinternet.com)

Jacky Manning  
Elmbrook, Whitechurch Lane,  
Yenston,  
BA8 0NJ  
Tel: 01963 548292  
Email: [jvmanning@uwclub.net](mailto:jvmanning@uwclub.net)

### **Officers of the PCC:**

Vice Chair  
Hugo Barton  
Viners, Blackmoor Lane,  
Henstridge,  
BA8 0SN  
Tel: 01963 363193  
Email: [lizandhugo@btinternet.com](mailto:lizandhugo@btinternet.com)

Treasurer  
Keith Bates  
Highclere, Whitechurch Lane,  
Henstridge,  
BA8 0PA  
Tel: 01963 364028  
Email: [keithbates278@gmail.com](mailto:keithbates278@gmail.com)

organised by Simon Twiselton and John Graham, and was much appreciated. The Community Fridge continues to be well stocked with produce from local supermarkets and is well used. And finally, many thanks to Bob Steel and Steve Lindsley who installed our new bench in the churchyard.

**Hugo Barton, Jacky Manning**  
*Churchwardens at St Nicholas*

## 1946 A Vintage Year

1946 was a year to remember for many families. A year when most families were back together again and there was hope of a better Britain. It was a year when a lot of new babies arrived in families. These babies are all turning or have turned 80, including my husband. I was talking at Loose Ends a few weeks ago and thought how nice it would be to celebrate with a Songs of Praise and a tea in our church in Henstridge to which all are invited but especially anyone you know who is 80 or nearly so. I am hoping this will be in June and I will aim to avoid Open Gardens, Wimbledon and Father's day. Look out for posters and social media posts and be prepared to sing your chosen favourite hymns.

*Jane Jeanes*

### Services in June, July & August

#### *June*

|                  |          |  |
|------------------|----------|--|
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30 am | Morning Worship                              |
|                  | 6.00 pm  | Evening Service                              |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30 am | Holy Communion                               |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | 10.30 am | Morning Worship                              |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30 am | Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Templecombe |

#### *July*

|                  |          |   |
|------------------|----------|---|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30 am | Morning Worship                                 |
|                  | 6.00 pm  | Evening Service                                 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30 am | Holy Communion                                  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30 am | Morning Worship                                 |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30 am | Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Henstridge tbc |

#### *August*

|                  |         |                                      |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 10.30am | Morning Worship                      |
|                  | 6.00pm  | Evening Service                      |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Holy Communion                       |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship                      |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 10.30am | Joint Benefice Holy Communion at tbc |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Joint Benefice Holy Communion at tbc |
|                  | 6.00pm  | Music and Words                      |

Please check the church website: [Events - St Nicholas, Henstridge - A Church Near You](#) or the noticeboard in the church porch or in the churchyard from June for the up-to-date schedule.

## Parish Council Work in Oak Vale Wood

The PC has undertaken work in the wood to address flooding. This has included the provision of ditch clearance and reinstatement. In addition the PC has planted over 150 tree whips. It is hoped that the young trees will increase the soil's ability to absorb rainfall and reduce surface runoff.

Visitors may notice logs stacked and branches deliberately left on the ground. While it might be tempting to tidy these away, they are a vital part of the woodland's long-term health.

Deadwood serves several important functions:

- Fallen timber acts like a natural barrier, holding back water and reducing flood peaks
- Preventing erosion: Logs stabilise soil and protect vulnerable ground
- Creating habitat: Many insects, fungi, birds, and small mammals depend on decaying wood

Conservation guidance often stresses that such material should be left in place. Removing logs or "tidying" the woodland can unintentionally disrupt this balance by:

- Reducing habitats for insects and fungi
- Removing natural flood controls
- Interrupting nutrient cycles that feed the soil

The wood belongs to the Parish Council. Residents are asked not to remove logs or fallen timber. Protect this precious space.

### Henstridge Parish Council

Contact the Parish Clerk

Ann Lee

Mob: 07841 392242

Email: [clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

Web: [www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)



### **Imminent work in the Cemetery**

Over the next few weeks work is being undertaken in the cemetery to remove a substantial number of ant hills that have materialised. Some are impacting on graves, blocking pathways, and disturbing head stones. The PC have arranged for the ant hills to be levelled and treated. This will make grass maintenance easier to manage. The PC would like to reassure residents that the cemetery will not be closed while this work is undertaken.

### **Flowers in Bloom**

The PC is seeking volunteers who would like to work together to help make the Flowers in Bloom programme colourful and welcoming for the whole community, encouraging everyone to participate creatively. This is a positive community project. If you would like further information, please contact the Clerk.

*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

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.



# **Hayfield Plumbing**

For Oil Heating & Plumbing

## **Professional · Friendly · Effective**

**We offer a comprehensive Plumbing and Oil heating service.**

**For Henstridge,  
North Dorset & South Somerset**

# **01963 205 215**

**help@hayfieldplumbing.com**

**www.hayfieldplumbing.com**

## **The View From Somerset Council**

### **Somerset Residents Use of Dorset Recycling Update**

As you will be aware from my previous updates I have been chasing the Cabinet member at Somerset who is responsible for Recycling for updates on discussions with Dorset, It looks like we are still waiting for some response (see below), and meanwhile Somerset residents end up paying to go to the nearest recycling centre which is in Dorset. In my view the actions of the Dorset Council are wrong.

The below is the response received from Somerset Cabinet member Richard Wilkins, since Dorset have brought in their booking and charging system

“Historically, Somerset and Dorset residents have used whichever household recycling site was most convenient, as neither authority operated access controls across the Somerset/Dorset border and naturally there have been cross boundary flows which has been a practical arrangement based on open access.

Dorset’s decision to introduce both a booking system and new charging arrangements now changes that position, and we are in active discussions with them about how this will work for Somerset residents who routinely use Dorset sites. These conversations are constructive, but there are some practical challenges we need to work through.

A key issue is that Dorset’s new model assumes neighbouring authorities also operate a booking system. Somerset does not currently have a booking system, which creates administrative and verification difficulties around cross border use. Officers are working directly with Dorset to ensure Somerset residents are not disadvantaged while we navigate this change.

Linked to this, Somerset is currently assessing the potential benefits of booking systems, for example fairness, traffic management, operational efficiency and customer experience and whether such an approach would be viable for Somerset’s own service. Dorset’s move forms part of that assessment, but no decisions have been taken.

It’s also worth noting that Somerset provides a comprehensive, high performing network of recycling sites across the county, meaning most residents are already well served locally. For those communities close to the Dorset border, we recognise the importance of ensuring any new arrangements remain practical.

Once our discussions with Dorset progress and our own internal assessments for a Somerset booking system progress further and we have clarity on how access will operate under their new system, we will provide a full member update.”

### **Car Parking Review Starts Again**

You will remember the plan by Somerset council to start charging on Sundays, and extend charging in other areas, was halted. A further review of car parking charges across Somerset has restarted.

It includes proposals, for a new tiered pricing structure for both on-street and off-street parking. This would see car parks placed within a sliding scale of fees depending on location.

The new charging structure would apply seven days a week, but if adopted would still include periods of free parking for some car parks. Any introduction of fees to existing free car parks would be evidence-based following discussions with local businesses, council members, town, city and parish councils and other stakeholders.

There will now be a comprehensive survey and information gathering exercise across all of Somerset’s 200 Council-run car parks, as well as on-street parking locations. A report will be brought back to Executive later in the year on the suggested pricing before a locally-based consultation process can begin with communities.

Once the survey is complete the Executive will consider a more detailed system later in the year.

Any proposals signed off by the Council will need to go through the statutory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation process, where formal, to record/consider objections, and comments will be considered.

### **Somerset Council Chief Finance Officer Recruitment**

Somerset Council's efforts to appoint a permanent Chief Finance Officer faced further disruption after the latest candidate withdrew just days before taking up the role. The appointment would have marked the fifth Chief Finance Officer in four years. The authority has relied on interim arrangements, with the current interim officer costing approximately £7,000 per week. It has now been confirmed that the interim Chief Finance Officer, Clive Heaphy, will remain in post until the end of March 2027, meaning responsibility for overseeing the council's financial position and next budget will continue under interim leadership.

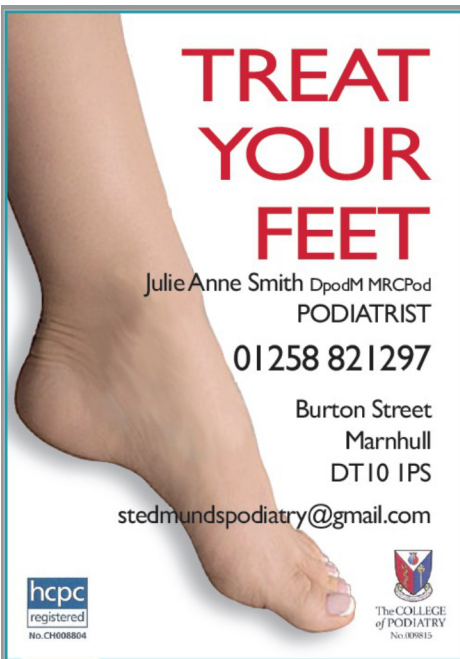
### **Somerset Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA)**

Somerset Council has published its latest Local Housing Needs Assessment, setting out the level and type of housing needed across the county from 2025 to 2045. The report highlights pressures around affordability, future housing demand and the need for accessible and specialist housing. While it does not set policy, it will inform the Somerset Local Plan and future housing strategies. The full assessment can be viewed here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/somerset-local-plan/evidence-gathering-and-early-engagement/>

*Hayward Burt*

*Somerset Councillor for Blackmore Vale*



*07543 854391 or [Hayward.Burt@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Hayward.Burt@somerset.gov.uk)*



**TREAT  
YOUR  
FEET**

Julie Anne Smith DpodM MRCPod  
PODIATRIST  
01258 821297

Burton Street  
Marnhull  
DT10 IPS  
[stedmundspodiatry@gmail.com](mailto:stedmundspodiatry@gmail.com)

**WAYNE DULLEN**

*Family Butcher*

**TOP QUALITY LOCAL MEAT**

Prime Beef, Lamb, Free-Range Pork,  
Free Range Chickens and Ducks  
Large Selection of Home Cooked  
Meats and Pies

Quality – Service - Satisfaction

**6 High Street, Milborne Port**

**01963 250222**

## Be Wildfire Aware

If British Summer Time and warmer days mean you will be visiting one of Dorset and Wiltshire's local heathlands or outdoors spaces to enjoy the wildlife and wilderness, please take a picnic.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) is encouraging residents and visitors to bring a picnic and not a barbecue when out and about. Warmer and breezy weather increases the risk of accidental or deliberate fires in our open spaces.

A wildfire can escalate quickly, so we are asking everyone to follow some simple steps:

- If you are enjoying our open spaces stay alert for signs of fire—smoke, heat, or unusual smells. If you spot anything worrying, call 999 immediately. Consider downloading and using What3Words to identify your exact location.
- Avoid having open fires or using barbecues in the countryside. Disposable barbecues and campfires are banned in many parts of Dorset.
- Extinguish smoking materials properly, and don't throw cigarette ends on the ground or out of car windows – take your litter home.
- If you're at the beach, don't set off flares, have campfires or light barbecues as these can easily lead to gorse and foliage on the cliffs catching fire.
- You can also help by reporting any anti-social behaviour on our heaths to CrimeStoppers by calling 0800 555 111 (100% Anonymous).

Landowners and land managers are also advised, where possible, to be prepared for fires and ensure that fire breaks are cut and well maintained with any cut grasses and vegetation removed from the site.

For more information on heath fires and countryside safety, please visit our website: [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Heath fires and countryside safety](#)



## Local Groups, News & Events

### Henstridge Village Hall



Spring is here with its ever-cheerful message, and I was delighted yesterday to see people picnicking on the seats outside our Village Hall. But whatever the season our activities continue with the same intensity and the same amazing variety, and by and large they run extremely well. So the Village Hall remains, and will continue to be, a vital part of our community, not only offering facilities for activities but also opportunities for people to meet each other, to make friends, to chat and exchange news and jokes.

The analogy of the swan applies here; the bird swims serenely across the water, calm and elegant, but under the surface its feet are paddling furiously! The feet are represented by the Committee and the many volunteer helpers, and our success depends on their constant unremitting work, not just in organizing the bookings (no easy task itself) but in maintaining the fabric of the building, in repairing when necessary the facilities, in overcoming vandalism, and keeping things running in general (who would have thought our toilets need so much TLC?).

In the last quarter we have installed a new - improved – audio visual system which is not only easier to set up but will, let's hope, avoid the sort of incident mentioned in the last Wot's On, when the screen lowered itself spontaneously for the Sew Easy group!

Each year at this time a new village hall committee is elected. By the time this reaches your door, that new committee will have met and will be deciding on the refurbishment projects it plans to prioritise for 2026-2027. We will update you on this through social media, posters and in the next Wots On.

Last point. Yes, the Village Hall does make a charge for most activities. But these charges do not cover in full the costs, so like every other charity we have to raise extra income by fundraising activities. These need your support, and I do urge you to take part in them whenever you can. It's not just helping a worthy cause, but a chance to have some fun too!

*John Smales - Chairman*

### News from the Hive

Last time I wrote we were all waiting for the weather to warm up so that we could get out and about to forage and bring in the nectar and pollen. The spring started slowly and Ken spent most of his time in his shed making up frames and waiting for the weather to warm up enough to look at us. Well it has certainly warmed up and Ken has been visiting regularly to put on extra storage, check the Queen and do other jobs to help or his version of help. Sadly not all the colonies survived the damp in spite of all his efforts but those that did survive are bringing in lots of oil seed rape pollen and the Queens are laying lots of eggs. We hear Ken has spent his birthday money on some new bees and that all of last year's honey has been sold. The local beekeeping branch has had some very good talks during the winter and will be out in the area at fetes, plant sales and shows this summer promoting beekeeping and supporting all pollinators with suitable flowers. Moths, butterflies, bumblebees and honey bees all benefit from wild areas and simple open flowers to provide them with food and from shallow water containers so they can drink safely. Allowing natural predators like ladybirds to control aphids instead of sprays benefits all of us. If you are going to the Bath and West at the end of May please look in the Bees and Honey tent as SE Branch are once again running the Somerset stand.

I must go out again as it is still warm enough to forage and if I don't those honey jars will take longer to fill.

*Ken Jeanes 01963 370769 or 07712 824747 or [janejeanes78@gmail.com](mailto:janejeanes78@gmail.com)*

## Bird in Hand

**The Bird in Hand seems to be the place for parties. There were at least two in April alone!**

The first was on 1 April when the Bird opened for business under its new owners, the Bird in Hand Society Ltd. The pub was packed, with live music and dancing. Then, on 24 April, more than 100 crammed into St Nicholas church for a concert put on by Simon Twiselton and John Graham to raise funds for the Bird. The programme included a wide range of music for all tastes; there was a bar and a great atmosphere. Many thanks are due to everyone who was involved in the organisation of both events.



**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](http://birdinhandsociety.org.uk)**

**Buy your share of the pub online!**



One of the questions we've been asked since completing the purchase of the pub is 'Why do you still need to raise funds?'

The simple answer is that we're in debt. We raised less than £200,000 through the share investments and accepted loans from local people to enable us to complete the purchase on 31 March. We need to continue to raise funds to pay off these loans. So, fundraising events like the concert are relevant and important.

It's still possible to invest in shares to support the pub and these investments can benefit from SEIS tax relief. For details, go to the website: [Share Issue – Bird in Hand Society](#) or talk to any member of the Steering Group. You can invest any amount from £100 to £100,000 or add to your investment if your total shareholding is under £100,000.

Another question: I've invested in shares, but why haven't I been given my share certificate? The Share Certificates will be issued shortly by the Society. If

you are eligible for SEIS relief you will also get an SEIS Certificate, but probably not at the same time as your Share Certificate.

And another question: When are you going to hold an Annual Members' Meeting? We are working on finding a suitable date and location for this meeting. As soon as this is agreed we will use every possible means of letting you know. The meeting will be open to shareholders only, who, because they have invested at least £100 in shares, are Members of the Society. There will be the opportunity for Members to be nominated for election to fill positions on the new Board of Directors and play a role in running the pub successfully.

If you have questions about the pub then ask any member of the Steering Group or email us through the website: [Contact Us – Bird in Hand Society](#)

And have you noticed we've added Fast Food Fridays to the special events run by the pub, including the Quiz, sporting events and live music? Pizza, fish and chips, and much more. There are adverts for these in social media and posters around the village. We'll also be at the Fete on 13 June and continue to be a living part of the village.  
[contact@birdinhandsociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@birdinhandsociety.org.uk)

**Jacky Manning**

**01963 548292 or [jmanning@uwclub.net](mailto:jmanning@uwclub.net)**

## u3a

There are now a healthy seven members on the committee and exciting events are in the pipeline. Now off the committee I continue to do publicity, if you can recommend venues or online sites where posters can be displayed, please let me know.

Cyril Kenneth Bird CBE, known by the pen name of Fougasse was a British cartoonist. Best known for work in Punch magazine and WWII warning propaganda posters, James Taylor, one of our regular speakers, will bring his work to life. Autumn will see the Annual Open Afternoon when the group leaders set out their stalls and share their knowledge.

Our speakers in July and September are advertised in the posters, so do join us at Henstridge Village Hall BA8 0QB. Call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 for information or visit our website [www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk](http://www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk).

u3a u3a Blackmore Vale  
For people not in full time employment  
**Tuesday July 7th**  
**Doors open 2.15pm, Speaker 3pm**  
**HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

*You make better  
a talk!*

**CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES**

**CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES**  
**SPEAKER: JAMES TAYLOR**

Members £2.00 Visitors £3.00 Includes refreshments.  
Call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 for information  
or visit our website [www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk](http://www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk).

u3a u3a Blackmore Vale  
For those people not in full time employment  
**OPEN AFTERNOON**  
**Tuesday 1st September**  
**2.30pm - 4.00pm**  
**Henstridge Village Hall BA8 0QD**

**Please join us for a glass of wine  
and chat to our talented group  
leaders, see what they do and share  
your ideas.**

**Become a member in September  
and get three months for free**

For Information call  
07580 127810 or 07919 585547  
[www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk](http://www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk)

Susan Kidd Publicity  
[Skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com](mailto:Skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com)

## Blackmore Vale Lions

The Lions have been exceptionally busy since the last report.

Our Easter Egg tombola was a great success so a big thank you to all those local venues that sold tickets - without you we could not have done it !!

We had a number of bucket shakes over the Easter weekend, sorry not supposed to shake these days!, also successful.

A third success and our biggest one was our choir concert held at Milborne Port Village Hall, some 89 people attended the event and thoroughly enjoyed the singing of the Songbirds who gave exceptional rendings of songs from the musicals. As a result we are able to give generous donations to the local branch of Riding for the Disabled and The Rendezvous in Sherborne.

Yours truly gave a talk on Lions to the Cameo club. Those who attended were surprised at what Lions do locally, nationally and internationally.



We are now busily preparing for our biggest event The Blackmore Vale Lions Half Marathon with a new date of July 12<sup>th</sup>.

We will also be popping up with our bright yellow gazebo at various fetes around the Vale.

For more information please call me on 01963 363281.

**Lion Peter Oswick**

*peter.oswick@btinternet.com*

## **CLASH**

**Judicial Review vs Somerset Council with Barratt David Wilson Homes as an Interested Party**

### **130 Home site at Townsend Green**

The interim hearing to determine whether permission would be granted for a full Judicial Review of the decision to approve the Townsend Green development took place last month.

It is with regret and disappointment that I confirm Judge Keyser KC has refused permission for the full review.

My legal team challenged the approval of the development on four separate legal grounds. For the case to proceed to a full hearing, permission was required on at least two of those grounds.

Judge Keyser found in our favour on **Ground 3**, which concerned rationality—specifically whether the condition requiring safe pedestrian access through the high street went to “*the heart of the matter*” or was instead a matter of planning judgement.

However, permission was refused on **Ground 4**. The judge held that the planning officer was entitled to discharge the pedestrian safety condition by relying on an alternative route via Furge Lane and Furge Grove. He found that the wording of the condition, which required the decision-maker to “*have regard to*” pedestrian safety, provided sufficient flexibility to meet the high street safety requirement.

These arguments are highly technical. It is important to remember that a Judicial Review tests whether the correct legal procedure was followed; it does not determine the planning merits of a decision or impose outcomes such as a safe pedestrian route through the high street.

The judgement does **not** mean that the approval of either the Townsend Green site or the site opposite at Townsend Farm were good decisions. In my view, they clearly were not. As a result, up to 182 new homes will now be built at the wrong end of the village, creating a significantly increased risk of serious accidents for existing residents and for the largely young families who will live in these homes, including many young children. It is inconceivable that residents will not walk or cycle along the high street on an increasingly busy road, regardless of any alternative route.

I believe I was fully justified in bringing this challenge, and I would like to thank all those who supported me—both financially and through advice and encouragement. No final decision has yet been taken regarding a costs challenge in respect of the Townsend Farm development.

The full legal costs for the actions have not yet been established and is partly dependent on a still current legal hearing for Townsend Farm. In consequence CLASH will still be fundraising and holding further events. The next being a garden party, by kind permission of John and Anne Smailes at their delightful garden down Vale Street on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. I hope to see you there.

**Paul Dimishky** *Claimant in the Judicial Review*

## Henstridge Summer Fete - Saturday 13th June 2026



Plans for this year's fete are nearly complete. Thank you to all our sponsors including the Parish Council for their support both financial and in kind. Also, a huge thank you to the volunteers who have been working on this event since last autumn!

The first half of this year's Fete will run from Noon until 5pm when we will have entertainment including Morris Dancers, Cheer Leaders, Line Dancers and various singing groups. Additionally, we will have traditional village games such as Tin Can Alley and Splat the Rat. The Dog Show will return provided we don't have a heat wave. This year we will have a new magician to delight children and adults.

We will have a BBQ, an ice cream van and teas & cakes as well as a bar.

Although it seems that we will have less stalls than last year there will still be an eclectic selection of items to buy. Additionally, various charities will have stalls and the wide range of Henstridge clubs and societies will have a presence. (My particular favourite is the Human Fruit Machine).

We are making more of the car display this year. Whilst concentrating on Minis we will have other cars of interest for you to peruse. NAPA Auto Parts will bring their replica Touring car which they will fill with balloons and have a competition to guess the total with the prize of 6 tickets to the British Touring Car Championship round of choice. J Day Engineering will bring their track day toy BMW M2 with J Day Livery.

Last year the Charity Raffle raised just over £500 for Henstridge Explorers. This year we are supporting Team Torri who are a local charity designed to raise money to help local families affected by childhood cancer. Tickets are already available to buy at the Henstridge Shop, the Café at Henstridge Airfield and on Reception at J Day as well as from those involved with the Fete.

From 5pm until 6pm there will be a children's disco in our huge marquee.

The bar will remain open all day until 10.30pm. Buzz will be providing two x one hour live music slots interspersed by appropriate dance music.

Don't worry if it rains! The 23 metre marquee will accommodate a lot of people and the Village Hall will take a lot of our stalls if necessary.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

**Ashley Shirlin**  
[info@henstridgefete.org](mailto:info@henstridgefete.org)

## Wessex Activity Group

As the weather warms up and the evenings get longer we have started outdoor games nights on Henstridge rec. This usually entails a game of boules on the court next to the picnic tables outside the village hall and Steve often brings the Kubb and Corn Holes. It's all for fun, no skill required, just a sense of humour and there is something for everyone, even if it's having a picnic whilst watching the action!

For anyone that doesn't know what Kubb is, it's origins purportedly go back to the days of the Vikings who, after their rampaging, would collect the bones of their pillaged victims for a fun game at the end of the day. Five skulls (or wooden blocks called kubbs) are placed at the two ends of the playing area. Each team has to knock over those at their opposite end using a thigh bone (or in our case, old cricket stumps) before knocking down the King Kubb in the middle. It's a lot of fun and if you can throw a stick, then you can play!



We've had lots of walks arranged this spring, ranging from a few loops of the rec with the Couch to 5k group on a Thursday evening to 4 mile rambles around Henstridge and nearby villages and some of our members are taking part in long distance charity walks and multi day hikes. If you're training for a big trek or just want to get out to stretch your legs occasionally, then get in touch.

Some Wagsters went along to the Community Planning Alliance (CPA) awareness event at the Church with a short walk around the village to learn of the impact of developments planned for the village on our greenspaces, footpaths and nature. This was part of the CPA's national action day to bring the impact of development e.g. housing, solar farms and the like, on our green spaces.

Some of us joined the Beginners Line Dancing sessions run by one of our members at the village hall earlier in the year which set them up for the regular classes that run throughout the year.



We will be having our annual Paddle Sport outing this summer with Steve, our resident paddle sport coach/leader. As with all our activities, no previous skill is required. It's an opportunity to try out paddling a canoe, kayak or paddle board with a qualified and experienced instructor on one of Somerset's or Dorset's beautiful rivers with a group of friends.

Walking touch rugby is back on Wednesday evenings, 7 – 8pm. We have a regular cohort of around 8 people and new players are welcome. It's great for both physical and mental fitness, not to mention banter and is usually followed by a drink or two in the Bird.

As you can see, the emphasis on our activities is to have fun and enjoy good company. If you are unsure about joining in, you can come along and watch, to see what it's all about.

*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.**

## Update From The Village Shop

Well, by the time of reading this, we've now been open for 14 weeks and everything is going very well so far. We have all your essentials in stock and have expanded our range to include local produce like Quiet Corner Farm apple juice, 'artisan' bread, cakes and pastries from Dough Ri Me and Cat's *Hell of a Fudge* – all well worth a try! However, we're always happy to receive any new ideas and suggestions that you may have.

We are pleased to say we are several steps closer to re-opening the Post Office too. Last month Lesley successfully passed a gruelling suitability assessment to qualify to be the Post Mistress. She is now waiting for dates for her formal training in Bristol, which must be completed before the Post Office counter can start operating. Unfortunately, it's a slow process in which we have no control or influence, but we are edging closer and at least it's confirmed that it will happen soon. Rest assured, as soon as we know, you'll know.

Unfortunately, it is not similar news for the lottery. Due to National Lottery protocols and gaming laws, a new business such as ours must have been operating for at least 12 months to become a National Lottery retailer. We will reapply towards the end of this year to hopefully be able to provide all the NL lottery tickets and scratchcards as soon as we are able.

Finally, *we would all like to say a massive thank you* for the appreciation, support and custom we've received from you in our first three months. We are incredibly grateful and look forward to seeing you as we progress and grow alongside this amazing village and community.

*Lesley & Andy, Helen & Barry*

## Church Flowers

A very big thank you to all those who provided and arranged flowers to make the church look so lovely on Easter Sunday morning. I came across a picture from Easter 1959 the other day which showed the church decorated for the festival. It was amazing to see how many flowers and how many parts of the church were decorated and would have been for all the major festivals. This was of course before it became illegal to pick primroses and violets in the wild and also a time when we had big houses in the village with large greenhouses and gardeners. It was also a time when the weather could usually be relied on to produce flowers at the right time and when perhaps we were all more willing to share what our gardens produced for the glory of God. There is a movement growing in this country to return to using more home grown or sustainably grown flowers in churches and to reduce or give up using floral foam in arrangements as was the case in 1959.



We try to have flowers in the church each Sunday except during Lent and Advent and to decorate most of the church for festivals. Our next big decorate will be for Harvest festival. If you feel you could arrange or provide flowers for someone else to arrange please get in touch.

*Jane Jeanes 01963370769/07712824747*

*janejeanes78@gmail.com*

## The Cat's Whiskers Introducing - Ace, Colin, Harry, Katy, Peachey and Thatcher

The Hounds are having a break this quarter and the cats have taken over!

**Ace** - Ace came to live with Sara and Andy from the RSPCA who had rescued him from a shed where he had been living with lots of other cats. Although it takes him a while to get used to new people, he is very cuddly – he is a moggy but has traits of ragdoll in him and is very handsome. He enjoys exploring and helping in the garden and likes to play with his kick toys, balls and anything with catnip in it. He loves a comfy bed with a chunky blanket, a fuss and a good brush as he's a very fluffy boy.



**Colin** - Colin was born here in Henstridge, on 19th June 2006 so will be 20 years old this year. Living with Lis and Trevor, he has white toes on his back feet, and his full name is therefore Colin Whitefoot. His mother's name was Graham, unusual for a female cat I agree, but she was grey and the first thing she was fed was ham, which she loved, so it stuck. Colin got stuck on a roof when he was a kitten and it took 4 people with 3 ladders and

a blanket to get him down. He eats tuna and chicken in equal quantities and doesn't care too much for standard cat food but will eat it at a push.

**Harry** - Harry resides at The Old Saddlers, a handsome but very naughty boy! When he first arrived in the village he managed to get into The Old Post Office through the attics and descended on to their landing in the early hours through the loft hatch! A rude awakening for everyone.

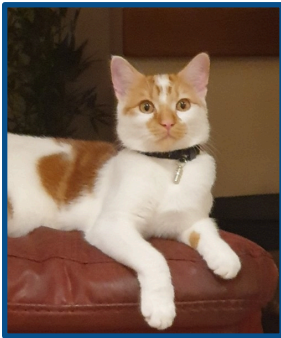


### Katy

Katy lives with Mair in Furge Lane. She has lived with there for over 12 years since she was 7 years old. She spent a whole year at Somerset and Dorset Animal Rescue as she was a stray. She doesn't like other cats but loves people including Sophie and Yvonne who look after her when John and Mair are away. Katy's hobbies are bird watching and playing with her toy mouse.

**Peachey**

Peachey lives at The Old Saddlers and her favourite thing is sleeping especially in sunny spots on windowsills and the like. Quite nervous of people in general she is very fond of the aunties that feed when her owners have permission to be away.



**Thatcher**

Meet Thatcher, a mischievous little adventurer! Rescued by Glo’s daughter in London from a main road along with three siblings, Thatcher had a rough start. After a spell on antibiotics, he finally came to Henstridge in October and hasn’t looked back. Now around eight months old, he’s chipped, neutered, and slowly discovering the great outdoors - popping in every ten minutes for a cuddle (or a treat!). Inspired by Joe, a tiny bell was bought to call him for meals or snacks - and Thatcher obeys like clockwork! Joe and Glo adore him and are pretty sure he’s smitten with them too. And the name? Joe’s nod to his love of Thatchers cider.

*Amanda Shirlin-Brown  
Photographs by Our Humans*

Bird in Hand  
Your friendly local pub  
Skittle Alley available for functions  
Real Ale, local cider and guest beers available  
Lunch time bar snacks  
Sky Sports  
Telephone: 01963 362255

Brian Kinder & Son  
Motor engineers  
Servicing & repairs to all makes  
Unit 7A Marsh Lane Industrial Estate,  
Henstridge BA80TG  
Telephone: 01963 363151 or 07714 293852  
Email: gkinder2808@gmail.com  
Web: www.briankinderandson.co.uk

Derek Etherington Dip(I.T.) BSc(Hons)  
Broadband, wireless / wired networks. PC, Mac,  
iPad, Smartphone, Tablet etc. Computer repairs  
and upgrades. Tuition available. Free local callout.  
Websites designed & maintained. CISCO trained  
Reasonable rates. Monday – Friday 9am-6pm  
Telephone: 01963 362403 or 07855 287150  
Email: info@dcentet.co.uk  
Web: www.dcentet.co.uk

## Driving With Economy

With the cost of running a car continuing to rise, economical driving isn't just a nice idea—it's essential. From what we see daily in the workshop, a lot of fuel (and money) is wasted simply through driving style. The biggest improvement most drivers can make is to be smoother. Harsh acceleration, late braking, and constant stop-start driving all burn more fuel and put extra strain on components like brakes, tyres, and clutches. Reading the road ahead, easing off early, and keeping momentum where possible will make a noticeable difference straight away.

Maintenance is just as important. Under-inflated tyres are one of the most common issues we see, and they can significantly increase fuel consumption. A poorly serviced vehicle—blocked air filters, old oil, or worn spark plugs—will never run efficiently. Keeping your car properly maintained doesn't just save fuel; it prevents bigger repair bills down the line. Even simple things like removing unnecessary weight from the boot or taking off roof boxes when they're not in use can improve economy more than people realise.

Short journeys are another big factor. Engines are at their least efficient when cold, so repeated short trips can use far more fuel than a single longer run. Where possible, combining journeys and avoiding excessive idling—especially while waiting or defrosting—can reduce unnecessary fuel use. In reality, economical driving comes down to awareness. A well-driven, well-maintained car will always cost less to run, last longer, and perform better.

*Alistair*

*Vale Auto Services*



**TOOMER  
TREE SERVICES**

**PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS**

01963 250088 | 07515 030 611

- Tree Surgery
- Hedge Cutting
- Stump Removal
- Fully Insured
- Free Quotations

**City & Guilds  
NPTC**

www.toomertreeservices.com  
toomertreeservices@outlook.com



**4 SHIRES**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

Are you making enough from your investments?

Do you and your family have sufficient financial provision for the future?

We have a strong track record of looking after families and caring across generations.

Contact us to discuss how to improve the future of your finances.

01747 824600 info@4-shires.com





4 Shires Asset Management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



# VALE AUTO SERVICES LTD

## MOT & SERVICE CENTRE

THE VALE'S DRIVING FORCE

-  **MOT TESTING**
-  **SERVICING & REPAIRS**  
(all makes & models)
-  **TYRES, BRAKES & EXHAUSTS**
-  **DIAGNOSTIC & ELECTRICAL  
REPAIRS**
-  **COURTESY CARS  
& LOCAL COLLECTION**

**First-class service at less than  
half main dealer rates**

# 01963 362843

[www.valeautoservices.co.uk](http://www.valeautoservices.co.uk)

servicing@valeautoservices.co.uk Henstridge, Somerset  
BA8 0TD



## In The Garden Jottings From The Lady Shed

In the spring edition of Wot's On I signed off with "happy weeding, mulching and pruning". In doing the weeding, done after a fashion and digging up allium bulbs on the way, I found plants that had given in to being waterlogged. Several ferns, cornus, holly, climbing roses and a magnolia, none of which were very old, had succumbed and kept the shredder fired up. So, what thrived in those damp times?



The corkscrew rush (*Juncus effusus* f. *spiralis*) has spread its wings, the elijah blue (*Fescues glauca*) was so massive that it had to be divided and the shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa* limelight) and broom (*Cytisus Boskoop Ruby*) have burst into flower. Two large bags of mulch later, no gym exercises needed for him indoors, I might now be on the home straight while quickly giving the aged wisteria a naughty late prune before it flowers. The difficulty is now; does one go for water loving or drought-tolerant plants? No, I will probably do what I always do and buy what pleases my eye.



Last week, at a friends reunion in Cambridge, which is apparently one of the driest areas in Western Europe north of the Pyrenees, we visited, in glorious



sunshine, the Cambridge University Botanical Gardens. Hidden away was a dry garden sponsored by the local water company. Billed as a demonstration of water-wise gardening but also as a lesson in low maintenance gardening. I must say that the low maintenance has great appeal! A long list of the plantings used can be downloaded from their website.



### Out and about:

Stour Row near Shaftesbury -Open Gardens 6th - 7th June.

Cannington Walled Gardens - Cannington College near Bridgewater TA5 2LS.

Local hidden gem close to hand- The Blooming Wild Plant Nursery, Horsington BA8 0DA

Enjoy the sunshine.

*Susan Kidd née Billitt*

## Village walks Upcoming Walks

I have put 3 dates in my diary for walking in the summer months. Wednesday 3rd June; Tuesday 7th July; and Thursday 13th August.

So far I have just decided the route for the June walk. Wednesday 3rd June will be a longer walk than we normally do. It is 12.5 km which is getting close to 8 miles. Meet at the church at 10 am. We don't go fast. OS says it should take 2 hours and 30 minutes but it will take us 3 hours and 30 minutes.

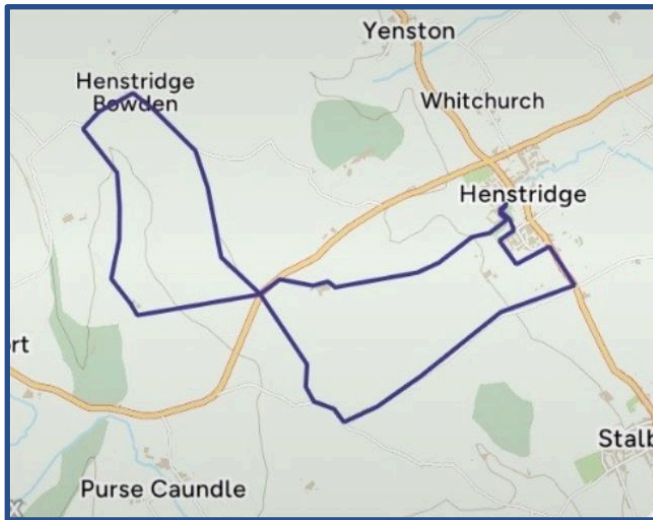


The walks in July and August will be shorter - like normal.

Nearer the time, I will put up a poster on the notice board in the Churchyard to say where we will walk in July and August.

Do get in touch if you want details of the walks nearer the time.

Wednesday 3rd June Figure of 8 Walk - across to Toomer Farm and on towards Bowden. We will pass through Gospel Ash Farm, up the Old Sherborne Road returning to Henstridge down Landshire Lane.



*Bridget Hallett*

*bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com*

07702694469

|                   |                            |                                       |             |                       |   |               |                 |                       |            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| (1) Walls Simpson | (2) Saturn (274 confirmed) | (3) Mosquitoes (>700,000 deaths/year) | (4) Erasure | (5) Daphne Du Maurier | (6) 18 (as opposite sides of a die = 7) | (7) Artichoke | (8) San Martino | (9) Sodium & Chlorine | (10) Queen |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|

**Wot's On's - How-Why-When-Where 'n' Wot's Answers:**

## Craft With Us At Home **Bunting**

I think that bunting is so versatile as it can be used for all manner of things. It can add a touch of uniqueness to birthday and wedding celebrations as well as being used to uplift a garden or a room. I have a long string of bunting



around the windows in our garden room interlaced with solar powered fairy lights and have gifted smaller strings as gifts for nursery/children's bedroom decoration which has always been loved by both parents and children. They are very simple to make and add a splash of colour wherever you place them.

### **Materials:**

Fabric of your choice – two fat quarters is generally sufficient to make 11 double sided triangular pennants. Alternatively, you can mix and match.

Thick edging ribbon or bias binding

Pencil and ruler

Sharp fabric scissors

Sewing thread and needle

### **Instructions:**

1. Iron your fabric and lay it out on a large flat surface to draw your grid.

2. Measure out the sizes of pennants you want – I generally use 15cm width by 20cm depth. If you want larger or smaller pennants adjust your fabric requirements to match.

3. Using a pencil and ruler mark out the grid – if some of the pattern will be upside down, I use this for the reverse as the bunting will generally be hanging against a wall. If you require both sides to be the right way up, you will either need additional fabric or one where it does not matter which way up it is.



4. Cut out the pennants.

5. Place two pieces of fabric together, right side facing, pin and sew along the side edges (it is not necessary to sew the top) – as I hand sew, I generally draw a pencil line to follow with the stitching which helps to keep it in a straight line. Repeat for all the pennants. Once complete, turn the right way out and iron flat. I use a chop stick to poke the pointed end out fully.

6. Lay out the pennants and order them as you wish. This is particularly important if you have used several fabrics.

7. Pin the pennants to the edging ribbon. The top of the pennants should be placed halfway up the ribbon which is then folded over and pinned and stitched to secure them in place. For 11 pennants I use between two and three metres of ribbon and adjust the spacing between

*Craft continued*

then accordingly. You will need approximately 20-25cm of ribbon at each end to secure the bunting in place. I sew a continuous line from the first to the last pennant along the edging ribbon to ensure that they are very secure. For more or larger pennants, you will need a longer edging ribbon.

8. Hang where required and enjoy your bunting.

**Options:**

Bunting can be changed as part of your seasonal décor and is an easy way to add colour and fun to a child's bedroom. It can also be used in mini form as part of the decoration on a front door wreath.

If you would like to share any craft ideas that are relatively easy to do at home, please send simple but detailed instructions, along with a few photos, to me via [WotsOnEditor@gmail.com](mailto:WotsOnEditor@gmail.com). Although we cannot promise to publish every idea that we receive we would love to hear from you.

*Sara Bodkin*



**Professional  
Will Writer**

**Steve Green FCILEx**

CHARTERED LEGAL EXECUTIVE & MEMBER  
OF THE SOCIETY OF WILL WRITERS

- Wills
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Probate Advice
- Home & Evening Visits

**Telephone:**  
01963 548179 or 07800 579323

**Email:**  
[sgreenwills@gmail.com](mailto:sgreenwills@gmail.com)



**Weekly Specials**

- Free Range Pork including Crackling Good Joints & Homemade Sausages
- Locally reared Grass fed Lamb & Dry Aged Beef
- Gluten Free Sausages & Burgers
- Homemade Faggots & Pies

**We have a lot more to offer. Pop in to discuss your requirements**

**We also Supply into the Catering Trade**

**Tel: 01747 838881**

Unit 1a Hardings Business Centre  
Bowbridge, Henstridge BA8 0T4

[www.bmv-butchery.co.uk](http://www.bmv-butchery.co.uk)

## From our Sponsors! Hello from Your Local Mobile Foot Health Practitioner

Hello, my name is Amy and I'm delighted to introduce myself as a qualified Level 4 Foot Health Care Practitioner.

I live locally in Yeovil and proudly serve clients across Somerset and Dorset, providing professional, friendly foot care treatments in the comfort of your own home.

Whether you need routine nail care or support with more specific foot concerns, my aim is to offer a safe, reliable, and personalised service to suit your needs. I understand how important foot health is to your overall wellbeing and mobility, and I'm passionate about helping people stay active and independent.

For your peace of mind, I am fully insured and hold an enhanced DBS check.

If you, or a family member, would benefit from foot care at home, I'd be very happy to help.

I look forward to meeting you!

*Amy Chainey-Lane*

*Amy Helps*

*07447693065 or hello@amyhelps.co.uk*



**Amy Helps**

Foot Health Care Practitioner

**Mobile foot health care  
in the comfort of your own home**

**Treatments include:**

Routine nail cutting & filing

Ingrown toenail care

Callus reduction & treatment

Corn removal & treatment

Verruca treatment

Diabetic foot care

Treatment for thickened & fungal nails

**To book or make enquiry**

call 07447 693065 or

email [hello@amyhelps.co.uk](mailto:hello@amyhelps.co.uk)

**Healthy feet are happy feet!**

Matthew Vincent

### Hedge & Lawn Ops

Grass Cutting / Strimming      Fruit Tree Pruning

Hedge Trimming / Reshaping      Leaf Collection

**Ride On Mower for Large Areas**

**Pedestrian Rough-cut/Brush cutter Mower**

Friendly Reliable Service

Fully Insured

Please contact Me on – 07539981510

Or

[enquiries@hedge-lawnops.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hedge-lawnops.co.uk) (preferred)

[mv-lawns.and.hedges@outlook.com](mailto:mv-lawns.and.hedges@outlook.com)

[www.hedge-lawnops.co.uk](http://www.hedge-lawnops.co.uk)

## From our Sponsors! **Milborne Port Computers**

Milborne Port Computers was set up in 2004 by Jimmy Flynn and a few years later in 2011 his son James Flynn joined the business, working out of Jimmy's garage in Milborne Port. The need for computer support grew, and it soon became clear that they needed new premises and in 2012 Jimmy and James moved to a shop in the middle of the village (and handily next door to the delicious Fish & Chip shop!) where we still are today. This provides our customers with free and easy parking and being on the main A30 very easy to find.

Kelly joined them in 2014 as office and administration support, and in 2019 Jimmy retired handing the reins over to his son James to continue the business.

The aim of our business is to provide friendly computer support that won't leave you intimidated by tech language that most of us don't understand! Whilst James is the 'mechanic' for computers, and fixes issues with both Windows laptops and PC's and Apple iMac's and MacBook's, Kelly will be the voice you hear at the end of the phone, or the person you see to greet you when you come to our shop. Neither James nor Kelly consider themselves to be tech geeks at all, and so hopefully the experience and service you receive is delivered in easy-to-understand language.

Whilst most of James' work is fixing computers that have hardware problems, such as broken screens, hard disk failure or other issues affecting the actual computer, he also services PC's with a health check, makes sure they are up to date, upgrades PC's that aren't, and helps speed up computers that are slowing down due to a variety of reasons. One thing

we pride ourselves on is giving an honest opinion and we won't expect you to spend money if it isn't required due to age and spec of the computer.

In addition to fixing computers, we also sell both new and (very popular recently) reconditioned ones. Rather than go and experience the hard sell at certain high street retail shops, we offer a service that talks to you about what you want from a computer, how you'll be using it and find you the right one at the right price. While we don't claim to be a large stockist, we can work with you so that the PC you buy will last as long as possible for the tasks at hand.

So, if you feel it's time to change your computer, or are getting frustrated at the speed it takes to open up in the morning, or just need some advice about scams and viruses, we would be happy to chat and discuss how we can help.



**MILBORNE PORT COMPUTERS**

Local and friendly computer repairs and sales

\* Laptop & Desktop Repairs \* PC Sales & Upgrades  
\* Virus Removal \* Data Recovery  
\* Business Support \* Home Visits

01963 250788

High Street, Milborne Port, DT9 5DG

www.computing-mp.co.uk

## Useful Information

### Opening Times

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Shop                      | 8:00am—6:00 pm Mon-Sat,<br>9:00am—1:00pm Sun |
| PO letter box collections | 5:30pm Mon-Fri, 10:15am Sat                  |

### Numbers to Note

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Chemist, Stalbridge Pharmacy               | 01963 362246                                    |
| District Councillor, Nicola Clark          | 07429 831737                                    |
| Doctors, Milborne Port Surgery             | 01963 250334                                    |
| Dog Warden, Linda Jones                    | 01935 713745                                    |
| Electricity distribution                   | 105 (power cuts)<br>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                                    |
| Village Hall bookings, Gail Cullum         | henstridgebookings@gmail.com                    |
| Village Shop                               | 01963 362784                                    |
| Wessex Water (water leaks, supply failure) | 0345 6004600                                    |

Blackmore Vale Forge  
General blacksmith and welding

Telephone: 01963 364116

Email: blackmorevaleforge@gmail.com

MB Electrical – Part P Registered

Mike Barnes domestic electrical work

& PAT testing

Telephone: 01963 363133 or 07966 108590

## Dorset Delights Catering

Family run since 2010, based in North Cadbury, Somerset

Event Catering for all Occasions

Funeral Teas, Anniversary Celebrations, Drinks Parties, Garden Parties

Buffets dropped off and served

[www.dorsetdelightscatering.co.uk](http://www.dorsetdelightscatering.co.uk)


Contact Alice 07783 928532 Louise 07743 780609



## KINGFISHER LANDSCAPES and design



Call Mark Goddard on:

 07971 108436

 01963 364396

4 Townsend Green, Henstridge, Somerset, BA8 0TS  
mark@info.kid.co.uk

[www.kingfisherlandscapesanddesign.co.uk](http://www.kingfisherlandscapesanddesign.co.uk)

Offering a garden design & construction service

Covering driveways, block paving, patios, walling,  
stone work, timber structures, fencing,  
timber decking, composite decking, turfing,  
artificial lawns, water features and more

# LG Glazing

OVER 27yrs EXPERIENCE



Call Lee Goddard

Tel: 01963 362082

Mob: 07767 895933  
[lgglazing@outlook.com](mailto:lgglazing@outlook.com)

- Replacement Conservatories
- Windows & Doors
- Fascia, Soffit, Gutters
- Electric Garage Doors
- Door Canopies
- Porches, Car Ports
- GRP Flat Roofs
- Door & Window Locks
- Glass Sealed Units

## Grace Haine Eyecare

*Your local, independent, optician*



- Thorough, high standard eye examinations
- Advanced technological equipment
- Eye emergency and eye condition monitoring



- Extensive range of eyewear for all ages
- Wide range of lens options
- Expert advice to help you choose the right eyewear for your needs

**"Our goal is to give our patients the best possible eyecare and eyewear"**

Give us a call, pop in or find us online to book your appointment

Stalbridge  
Tel: 01963 362775

Sherborne  
Tel: 01935 345145



## WS SCRAP METALS LTD.

### WANTED - SCRAP CARS

Give us a call for the best price 

**ANY SCRAP CLEARANCES UNDERTAKEN  
TOP PRICES PAID**

**Heavy, Light Iron  
Accident Damaged  
Write-Offs ££££££'s**

**Non Ferrous, Copper,  
Lead, Brass, Aluminium,  
Tanks, Batteries ££££££'s**

50 TONNE ELECTRONIC WEIGHBRIDGE  
20-40 YD ROLL-ON/OFF BINS

SCRAP CARS: Trucks, Vans, Lorries, Cars for Breaking

**Monday - Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-1**

**TEL: 01963 364700**

**MARSH LANE TRADING ESTATE, HENSTRIDGE**



Federation of Small Businesses  
The UK's Leading Business Organisation

Fully Licensed Recycling  
Centre

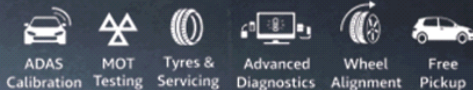
Editorial Team: Gail Cullum, John Graham, Simon Cullum, Kate Crowther, Elspeth Graham, Amanda Shirlin-Brown, Dave Thompson, Sara Bodkin, Andy Scard & Hope New

Cover Photo: Provided by Dave Thompson

Reporter: vacant position

Enquiries: [WotsOnEditor@gmail.com](mailto:WotsOnEditor@gmail.com)

# Driving the Future. Trusted for Generations.



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.



[www.dayspeed.com](http://www.dayspeed.com)  
01963 364432  
Free local pickup

**J DAY** Engineering  
maintain - repair - enhance



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

## Yenstone Walling

- ° DRY STONE WALLING & LANDSCAPING
- ° ALL TYPES OF STONE WALLING UNDERTAKEN



Patrick Houchen

DSWA Member, CIS Registered

01963 371123

07791 588141

[www.yenstonewalling.co.uk](http://www.yenstonewalling.co.uk)