

Wot's On Henstridge



In This Issue

Rotary International - End Polio Now Campaign

British Horse Society - Dead Slow Campaign

Fabulous Christmas Cake Recipe

Henstridge Pantomime Needs You

Autumn 2026

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

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

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

Welcome to the Autumn Edition

By the time you read this, I do hope it has cooled down! We've put together another bumper issue during the long hot summer days. We hope you enjoy it.

You will see we have added more information for families and young people, with an article about the Youth Club, some ideas about local museums that are worth a visit, and of course an update from the school – from the new head this time!

We also bid farewell to a much-loved local activity – the Gartell Light Railway! I hope you have enjoyed it. Ride it now before it goes!

There is also some serious reading for you, so find some time to look at the Rotary details for ending Polio and the campaign for keeping riders safer on our roads. In addition, the Parish Council and the Somerset County Council articles will help to keep you up to date with issues that affect all of us.

We are lucky to live in a village with so much going on – check out the activities listings and read through the Local section with updates on our regular village groups. There is much to keep you busy.

As always, we wish you well, and hope you enjoy the cooler autumn days to come.

The Wot's On Team



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Wot's On Listings

Wot's On Every Week in the Village Hall

Exercise and Sport:	Contact leader, or just come along. See opposite page for contact details.
Pilates	Mondays 9:45am & 10:30am
Table Tennis	Monday and Friday afternoons 2:00pm
Jazzercise	Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:30am
Line Dancing	1st Wednesday of the month 2:00pm, & then following Thursdays 7:45pm
Flamenco Based Exercise	Tuesday mornings 11:00am-12:00pm - starting again in September
Other Groups	
Weekly Fruit and Veg Market	Thursdays 10:00am – 12:30pm Fruit, veg and much more
Bridge u3a	Alternate Mondays 2:30pm
Singing Group	Mondays 12:00pm - 2:00pm
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

Other Groups and Activities in the Village

Book Club	3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:45pm in The Bird in Hand
Bell Ringing	Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Church Tower
Brownies & Rainbows	Leave your details via www.girlguiding.org.uk or contact us (see over for details)
Baby & Toddler Group	Wednesdays 9:00am - 10:30am in the church
Fast Food Friday at the Bird	One Friday per month, join us at the Bird for fast food. Usually starts around 5pm. Check out the Bird in Hand Facebook page, or look for details outside the pub

Wot's On Listings

Contact List for Clubs and Societies

Beginners Line Dancing	Bridget Hallett	07702 694469 bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com
Bell Ringing	Helen Howlett	HelenBeale27@hotmail.co.uk 07791799998
Bird in Hand Society	Jacky Manning	01963 548292
Blackmore Vale Lions	Peter Oswick	01963 363281
Blackmore Vale u3a	Alison Shilling	07580127810 alisonshilling@gmail.com
Book Club	Gail Cullum	01963 362878
Brownies & Rainbows	Jane Jeanes	01963 370769/07712824747 janejeanes78@gmail.com
CAMEO	Ros Browning	01963 363016
Explorers Pre School	Debbi Norwood	explorers.preschool@hotmail.co.uk
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
Ladies' Group	Sue Latimer	01963 365765
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 alisonshilling@gmail.com
WAG	Steve Burrows	07710 120564
Walking Touch Rugby	Chris & Mark Taylor	01963 202151
Yoga	Libby Woolacott	woolacottlibby@gmail.com
Youth Club	Claire Bailey, Rep	07977 859700

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 December - February? Let us help you publicise it. Email wotsoneditor@gmail.com before 1st November 2026 with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in August	
Sun 23rd Aug, 10am - 4pm	Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway, Yenston BA8 0NB. Information at www.newglr.weebly.com
Thurs 27th Aug, 8pm	Monthly Quiz, The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp, Teams of 4. 01963 362255
Thurs – Fri, 27th - 28th July, 7pm	“The Pirates of Penzance” presented by Ilyria. The Sherborne DT9 3JG Information thesherborne.uk/events
Sat 29th Aug, 10am	25th Anniversary Wings & Wheels, Henstridge Airfield BA8 0TN. £10 entry. 130 vintage aircraft and 200 classic cars on view. Refreshments available. Information 01963 364231
Mon 31st Aug	BANK HOLIDAY
Events coming up in September	
Tues – Sun, 1st - 6th Sept, 10.30am - 3pm	<i>Last Meal on Death Row, Texas</i> - Mat Collishaw. The Sherborne DT9 3JG - free.
Tues 1st Sept until Sun 18th Oct, 12 noon - 5pm	<i>Angel Otero: Agua Salada</i> - artist residency. Hauser & Wirth, Bruton BA10 0NL. hauserwith.com
Tues 1st Sept until 1st Nov, 9.30am - 4.30pm	<i>Drawn to Trees</i> - outdoor tree trail with artist Luke Adam Hawker at Stourhead National Trust, BA12 6QD
Tues 1st Sept, 7pm	<i>Henstridge Parish Council Meeting</i> , Village Hall Lounge Contact: The Clerk 07841 392242
Wed 2nd Sept, 3pm & 7pm	<i>Bruegel, The Seasons & the World</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3JG. www.theartsocietysherborne.org
Thurs 3rd Sept, 7pm	<i>Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i> at The Swan Theatre, Yeovil - from The National Theatre. Tel 07500 376031

Have an event going on in December - February? Let us help you publicise it. Email wotsoneditor@gmail.com before 1st November 2026 with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in September	
Fri 4th Sept, 5pm	<i>Greek food van at Bird in Hand, Ash Walk, Henstridge BA8 0QD</i> Tel: 01963 362255
Sat 5th Sept, 7.30pm	<i>5 Mistakes that Changed the World</i> - from Edinburgh Fringe. Westlands Theatre, Yeovil BA20 2DD www.westlandsyevovil.co.uk
Sun 6th Sept, 9am- 12pm	<i>Table Top Sale</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. £6/table or £10 for 2. Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Tues 8th Sept, 2.15pm	<i>Open Afternoon</i> - BlackmoreVale u3a, Henstridge Village Hall. Contact www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk
Tues 8th Sept, 2-4pm	<i>CAMEO</i> - talk on North Borneo by Ashley Shirlin. £3.50 Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016
Wed 9th Sept, 7pm	<i>Sofka Zinovieff</i> talks about her new novel 'Stealing Dad'. Sherborne Literary Society, Cafe D'Urberville, Cheap Street DT9 3BJ. Tickets £12-visitors
Fri – Sun, 18th - 19th Sept	<i>Antiques Collectors Fair</i> , Bath & West Showground. Information www.iacf.co.uk/shepton-mallet/
Sat 12th Sept, 8.30am	<i>Haynes Car Boot Sale</i> , Haynes Car Museum, Sparkford BA22 7LH. Contact 01963 440804
Sat 12th Sept, 9.30am - 4.30pm	<i>London Camera Exchange (LCE) Photo Show 2026</i> - Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford. Discover & test latest products, seminars, exhibitions. Tickets £5 - £10.
Sat 12th Sept, 7pm	<i>Country Dancing & Folk Evening</i> in Henstridge Village Hall. £12pp includes Ploughman's supper. Bar available. Tickets from Village Shop or Ros Browning 01963 363016.
Sun 13th Sept, 11.30am - 3.30pm	<i>Sherborne Steam & Water Wheel</i> , Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in September	
Mon 14th Sept, 7.30pm	<i>Open Your Eyes to Abstract Art</i> - Talk @ T Birds, Village Hall, Templecombe. £3.50 non-members. Contact Sarah 07890 543769
Mon - Sat, 14th - 19th Sept	<i>Steel Magnolias</i> at The Swan Theatre, Yeovil. Tickets 0750 037 6031
Sat 19th Sept, 10am - 12.30pm	<i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church Hall, Sherborne
Sat 19th Sept, 2pm	<i>The Gerald Pitman Memorial Lecture - "Reading the Fabric of the Past"</i> - Tom Balch from <i>Rose of Jericho</i> . £5 visitors. Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road DT9 3NL
Sat 19th Sept	<i>Mind, Body & Spirit Fair</i> , Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3AA Information 07818 531877
Sat - Sun, 19th - 27th Sept	<i>Wildlife Artist - Sam Dodd</i> . Free exhibition in The Butterfly House, Castle Gardens, Sherborne
Sat 19th Sept - Sun 4th Oct	<i>Cultural Connections</i> - Somerset Art Week's Festival. Over 90 venues. Information - info@somersetartworks.org.uk
Sun 20th Sept, 10am - 3pm	<i>Sherborne Market</i> www.thesherbornemarket.com
Sun 20th Sept, 6.30pm for 7pm	<i>Downton Abbey - The Final</i> . Film night - Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (inc. glass of wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Thurs 24th Sept, 8pm	<i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £1 entry pp. Teams of 4. Tel: 01963 362255
Thurs 24th Sept, 8pm	<i>Swiss Tourism & High Literature at Turn of 20th Century</i> . Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street, DT9 3JG. Entry £5.
Fri 25th Sept, 5pm	<i>Caribbean food van at Bird in Hand</i> , Ash Walk, Henstridge BA8 0QD Tel 01963 362255
Sat 26th Sept, 7pm	<i>Sherborne Chamber Choir - timeless choral classics</i> . Sherborne Abbey. Tickets £7 - £20 pp

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in September	
Sun 27th Sept, 10am - 4pm	<i>Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway</i> , Yenston BA8 0NB. Information www.newglr.weebly.com
Sun 27th Sept, 2pm	<i>The Honesty Jar Bingo</i> . Henstridge Village Hall. Free entry. Refreshments. Payment for books of tickets cash/card - contact Jodie.darville@hotmail.com
Tues 29th Sept, 2.30pm	<i>The Misanthrope</i> - screened live from the National Theatre, Westlands, Yeovil BA20 2DD westlandsyeovil.co.uk
Events coming up in October	
Thurs - Fri 15th - 16th Oct, timing tbc	<i>Turing 100 Festival & Conference</i> in union with The Turing Project. Possible concert & Exhibition for the public still tbc. Further information 01935 812249
Thurs 1st Oct - Mon 30th Nov, 9.30am - 4.30pm	<i>Drawn to Trees</i> - outdoor tree trail with artist Luke Adam Hawker at Stourhead National Trust, BA12 6QD
Thurs - Sun 1st - 18th Oct, 12 noon - 5pm	<i>Angel Otero: Agua Salada</i> - artist residency. Hauser & Wirth, Bruton BA10 0NL. hauserwith.com
Thurs 1st Oct, 7pm	<i>Josh Ireland talks about 'The Death of Trotsky'</i> . Sherborne Literary Society, Cheap Street Church, Sherborne. Tickets £12
Sat 3rd Oct, 8.30am	<i>Haynes Car Boot Sale</i> , Haynes Car Museum, Sparkford BA22 7LH. Contact 01963 440804
Sat 3rd Oct, 11am	<i>Cider Saturday</i> - celebrate autumn with local producers. Free event at Sherborne Museum, Church Lane DT9 3BP
Sun 4th Oct, 9am- 12pm	<i>Table Top Sale</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. £6/ table or £10 for 2. Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Sun 4th Oct	<i>Giant Flea Market</i> , Bath & West Showground.

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

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in October	
Tues 6th Oct, 7pm	<i>Henstridge Parish Council Meeting</i> , Village Hall Lounge Contact: The Clerk 07841 392242
Wed 7th Oct, 3pm & 7pm	<i>David Hockney - The Old Master of the Modern World</i> . TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3JG. www.theartsocietysherborne.org
Thurs 8th Oct, 7.30pm	<i>Tim Peake's Astronauts - The Quest to Explore Space</i> . Westlands Theatre, Yeovil. www.westlandsyevovil.co.uk
Thurs 8th Oct, 8pm	<i>Networking Nuns</i> - Prof Henrike Lahnemann. Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street. Entry £5.
Fri 9th Oct, 7.30pm	<i>The Tom Toomey Band</i> , supporting The Bird in Hand. Venue - St Nicholas Church, Henstridge. £15. Contact 07860 645073. Jazz, Blues, acoustic folk, classical etc.
Sun 11th Oct, 11.30am - 3.30pm	<i>Sherborne Steam & Water Wheel</i> , Osborne Road, DT9 3RX. Entry by donation. Limited parking on site
Mon 12th Oct	PACK MONDAY, Sherborne
Mon 12th Oct, 7.30pm	<i>History of Templecombe</i> - Talk @ T Birds, Village Hall, Templecombe. £3.50 non-members. Contact Sarah 07890 543769
Tues 13th Oct, 2-4pm	<i>CAMEO talk - A Great Beginning: Scouting & Guiding</i> . £3.50 Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016
Thurs 15th Oct, 2pm	<i>"Social Life in Sherborne & London"</i> . Some Young Women's Letters 1724 - 1727: Tim Connor. £5 visitors. Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road DT9 3NL
Sat 17th Oct, 10.30am	<i>Somerset Beekeepers Annual Show</i> , The Market House, Castle Cary.
Sat 17th Oct, 10am - 12.30pm	<i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church Hall, Sherborne
Sat 17th Oct, 1pm - 4pm	<i>Felting Workshop</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge. £18 inc. material. Info & booking helen.isbell@icloud.com

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in October	
Sat 17th Oct, 6pm	<i>Explorers Pre-school Fundraising event, Henstridge Village Hall,</i>
Sun 18th Oct, 10am - 3pm	<i>Sherborne Market</i> www.thesherbornemarket.com
Sun 18th Oct, 6.30 for 7pm	<i>Barbarella - Film night - Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (inc. glass of wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Thurs 22 Oct, 8pm	<i>Mission Timbuktu - Henrietta Butler. Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street, DT9 3JG. Entry £5.</i>
Sat 24th Oct, 4pm	<i>Frank Gardener talks about his new thriller, Ballistic. Westlands, Yeovil BA20 2DD westlandseyeovil.co.uk</i>
Sat 24th Oct, time tbc	<i>End Polio Now - fundraiser in conjunction with Rotary International. Henstridge Village Hall. Further details - contact 07724 206814</i>
Sun 25th Oct	<i>End of British Summer Time</i>
Sun 25th Oct, 10am - 4pm	<i>Final Steam Train Trips on Gartell Light Railway, Yenston BA8 0NB. Information www.newglr.weebly.com</i>
Sun 25th Oct	<i>Wincanton Race Day for High Sheriff of Somerset Charitable Trust. Tickets £120/head includes lunch & cream tea. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/racing-for-children</i>
Mon 26th Oct, 10.30am	<i>Messy Museum - Halloween crafting activities for children. Sherborne Museum, Church Lane DT9 3BP. Free</i>
Thurs 29th Oct, 4pm	<i>Spooky Stories with Karen Chapman. Hear stories of the Little Ghost and have a go at writing your own. Children 6+ yrs. Sherborne Museum, Church Lane, DT9 3BP</i>
Thurs 29th Oct, 8pm	<i>Monthly Quiz, The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp. Teams of 4. Tel: 01963 362255</i>

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Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in October	
Fri 30th Oct, 7pm	<i>Big Fat Autumn Quiz - general knowledge. £5pp, teams of 6 max. BYO drinks & glasses - refreshments provided. Proceeds towards Museum's work in the community. Sherborne Museum, Chapel Lane, DT9 3BP</i>
Sat 31st Oct, 7.30pm	<i>Race Night - Henstridge Village Hall. £15pp includes Ploughman's supper. Bar available. Tickets from Village Shop or Ros Browning 01963 363016.</i>
Events coming up in November	
Sun - Mon 1st - 30th Nov, 9.30am - 4.30pm	<i>Drawn to Trees - outdoor tree trail with artist Luke Adam Hawker at Stourhead National Trust, BA12 6QD</i>
Tues 3rd Nov, 2.15pm	<i>In My Grandfather's Footsteps - Charlotte Carty. BlackmoreVale u3a, Henstridge Village Hall. Contact www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk</i>
Tues 3rd Nov, 7pm	<i>Henstridge Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall Lounge Contact: The Clerk 07841 392242</i>
Wed 4th Nov, 3pm & 7pm	<i>Creating the Golden Era of Transatlantic Liners - Howard Smith. TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3JG. www.theartssocietysherborne.org</i>
Wed 4th Nov, 7.30pm	<i>Harry Redknapp - My Life in Football & Beyond. Westlands Theatre, Yeovil www.westlandsyevovil.co.uk</i>
Wed - Sun 4th - 8th Nov	<i>Sarum Lights, Salisbury Cathedral</i>
Thurs 5th Nov	<i>Guy Fawkes Night</i>
Thurs 5th Nov, 8pm	<i>Young Elizabeth - Princess, Prisoner, Queen. Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street, DT9 3JG. Entry £5.</i>
Fri - Sun 6th - 8th Sept	<i>Antiques Collectors Fair, Bath & West Showground. Information www.iacf.co.uk/shepton-mallet/</i>
Sun 8th Nov, 10.50am	<i>Remembrance Sunday Commemoration, St Nicholas Church - service and wreath laying at the lychgate and war memorial.</i>

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in November	
Sun 8th Nov, 11am	<i>Remembrance Sunday Commemoration, Sherborne Abbey</i>
Tues 10th Nov, 2-4pm	<i>CAMEO talk - tbc.</i> £3.50 Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016
Wed 11th Nov, 11am	<i>Remembrance Day</i>
Sat 14th Nov, 1pm - 4pm	<i>Felting Workshop</i> - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge. £18 inc. material. Info & booking helen.isbell@icloud.com
Sat 14th Nov, 6.45pm & 9pm	<i>Best of Hans Zimmer & Film Favourites</i> , performed by live orchestra. Sherborne Abbey. Tickets - Eventbrite.co.uk
Sun 15th Nov, 10am - 3pm	<i>Sherborne Market</i> www.thesherbornemarket.com
Sun 15th Nov, 3pm	<i>Wessex Strings concert</i> , Cheap Street Church
Sun 15th Nov, 2.30 for 3pm	<i>The Magnificent Seven</i> - Film night - Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (inc. glass of wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Mon - Sat 16th - 21st Nov, 7.45pm	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , by Shakespeare at The Swan Theatre, Yeovil. Tickets 0750 037 6031
Thurs 19th Nov, 2pm	<i>The Beauty & History of Dorset Walled Gardens</i> with Phil Broomfield. £5 visitors. Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road, DT9 3NL
Thurs 19th Nov, 8pm	<i>A Journey through the Anglo-Saxon Year - Dr Eleanor Parker.</i> Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street, DT9 3JG. Entry £5.
Sat 21st Nov, 10am - 12.30pm	<i>Repair Cafe</i> , Cheap Street Church Hall, Sherborne
Sat 21st Nov, 9am- 12pm	<i>Handmade Henstridge</i> , Henstridge Village Hall. £15/table. Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Thurs 26th Nov, 8pm	<i>Monthly Quiz</i> , The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp. Teams of 4. Tel: 01963 362255

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in November

Fri 27th Nov, 7.30pm	<i>Medals & Militaria</i> - talk by Mark Smith, expert from the Antiques Roadshow. The Exchange, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH. Information 01258 475137
Sun 29th Nov, 3pm	<i>Words & Music from Elysium</i> . St Nicholas Church, Henstridge
Sun 29th Nov, 2pm	<i>The Honesty Jar Bingo</i> . Henstridge Village Hall. Free entry. Refreshments. Payment for books of tickets cash/card - contact Jodie.darville@hotmail.com
Sun 29th Nov - Mon 11th Jan	<i>Jack & the Beanstalk</i> , Salisbury Playhouse SP2 7RA. Information 01722 320333

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

Can you answer the following general knowledge questions?

- Q1: At what type of shop did the Great Fire of London start in 1666?
- Q2: What is the only mammal that can fly?
- Q3: What was the Spice Girls' debut single called?
- Q4: What were lost by King John, melted down by Oliver Cromwell and almost stolen by Thomas Blood?
- Q5: In literature, who owns a cat called *Crookshanks*?
- Q6: Only airport is situated in which European city?
- Q7: How many strings are there on a violin?
- Q8: Into which sea does the River Nile flow?
- Q9: In the Bible, how is the Decalogue also known?
- Q10: Which is the only planet in our Solar System that is not named after either a Greek or Roman God?

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 48 for answers.



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Gartell Light Railway: Approaching the End of the Line

This is a situation I have been trying to avoid, but the time has come to announce that our Open Day on 25th October 2026 will be the last for the Gartell Light Railway.

Age has caught up with us all, and the amount of work required to keep the locomotives, coaches, platforms, permanent way, and all other aspects of the railway running must not be underestimated. This work has been carried out by our hardworking team of volunteers, including the unsung heroes in the buffet who have kept us and our visitors fed and watered.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers, past and present, who have helped make the railway what it is today. I hope you are all proud of how the railway looks now.

I feel I must mention four volunteers who have been with us for most of the journey. Ian Matthews, a school friend of mine, helped me lay the original track in the engine shed and build the set of green coaches.

John Penny (CJ as we know him) has been responsible for the extensive signalling and the general daily operations. Shortly afterwards, Sheila and her late husband Graham joined us; they tended the gardens and parked the cars. Sheila also provided refreshments for us on working days and looked after the buffet.

From Christine and myself, a huge thank you to you all.

We are saying goodbye to approximately 45 years of work, from the time construction began through to the open days, which started in 1991. In those early days, my late father parked the cars in the works yard, and my late mother sold the tickets for the train rides.

Chris thought I was mad to start this project, but I am incredibly grateful for her endless support and hard work behind the scenes, as well as that of our family, whose unseen efforts have helped make the railway what it is today. Thank you all.

We do intend to keep things operational for a while for special events, just to keep the railway alive a little longer, without the commitment of regular open days.

Finally, I must thank our visitors for their support of the railway over the years. We have met some lovely people along the way, and hopefully we will go out on a high.

Once again, to all our volunteers, past and present, many, many thanks. You have made the railway what it is today.



Image by Dave Thompson

John Gartell

End Polio Now

This is what Rotary is trying to end forever:

Polio is a crippling, potentially fatal disease that can paralyse a child within hours. There is no cure. Only prevention.

Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and was a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. In 1988, polio was paralysing over 350,000 children every single year. Through decades of commitment and work by Rotary and their partners, that number has dropped by 99.9%. 3 billion children immunised. \$2.9 billion contributed. Wild polio now remains in only 2 countries.

As of July 7th 2026, the case total is:

Afghanistan 7

Pakistan 3

Rotary is close to eradicating this terrible disease, but close is not enough. Across the world, Rotary clubs are still fundraising, still advocating and still showing up because **Rotary will not stop until every child everywhere is protected.**

Here in Henstridge, Rotary has two honorary members, Ronnie Smith and Elspeth Graham, who would like to support the fundraising effort. Every contribution helps, and each dollar raised is matched with two additional dollars from the Bill Gates Foundation.

World Polio Day falls on 24th October 2026, when Rotary clubs worldwide will support the campaign through fundraising. Look out for details of an event at the Village Hall that evening, where everyone in Henstridge can help make history by supporting End Polio Now. You may also see other events occurring, through the year, so watch out.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Ronnie or Elspeth.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

Ronnie Smith & Elspeth Graham

Ronnie 07724 206814 or Elspeth 01963 364771



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The British Horse Society's Dead Slow Campaign Marks Ten Years

I have ridden around Henstridge for about 40 years now and think I am on nodding terms with quite a few of you as I ride around the lanes. The number of horse riders and carriage drivers has also increased with the village becoming quite an active equestrian hub. Over that time I have certainly seen an increase in traffic and, sadly, there are not many opportunities to get off the roads around here. Even if you are heading for the odd bridleways that do exist, you still have to use the roads to and from your home or stables.

Statistics from The British Horse Society's Dead Slow Campaign have revealed a welcome reduction in recorded road incidents involving horses, although in 2025 there were still 2810 with the death of 59 horses. In 2022 The Campaign managed to introduce updated guidance into the Highway Code for passing horses safely, including leaving at least two metres of space between your car and a horse and passing at no more than 10 mph from either direction.

Thankfully, living in a rural area most road users are really considerate. But in Henstridge we also have the A30 and A357 to contend with and, for short distances, horse riders and carriage drivers have to share the road with faster traffic and heavier vehicles. Sometimes we may ride two abreast to protect ourselves, particularly if one of the horses is inexperienced and needs to be on the inside. As explained at a recent safety meeting at the Avon and Somerset Mounted Police Centre in Clevedon, sometimes you have to 'own the road' to stay safe.

Hopefully we can get off the road quickly by pulling into a gateway and let you pass us safely and thank you for your patience and consideration.

Karen Moore

British Horse Society Safety Adviser

Protect yourself, horses and riders

The average horse weighs half a tonne.
So it's not just a horse that gets hurt in an accident. You, the rider and any passengers in your vehicle are also at risk.

To save lives when you see a horse on the road:

-  **Slow down to 10mph max**
-  **Be patient**
Don't sound your horn or rev your engine
-  **Pass the horse slow and wide**
(2m, at least a car's width, if possible)
-  **Drive away slowly**

Thank you for driving safely around horses.
bhs.org.uk/deadslow



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

DEAD SLOW

Horses are unpredictable.
Pass them slow and wide at 10mph to prevent
injuries to horses, riders and drivers.

Think horse. Think 10mph.



1st Henstridge Rainbows, 1st Henstridge Brownies and 2nd Templecombe Guides

We have had a summer term with lots of evenings which have been almost too hot and sunny to be outside. We have made use of the good weather to be outside doing outside things. Being in the outdoors is one of the things girls and leaders enjoy and makes clearing up at the end of the meetings so much easier. The girls have made shelters, moved lots of water, gathered natural objects to make things and worked hard to complete badges. Guides carefully lit a fire for all of us to toast marshmallows on on the last night of term. On this evening, we held promise ceremonies for both Rainbows and Brownies and would have presented badges if they had not been held up en route. We have girls moving section in September and will welcome new Rainbows. If anyone reading this is 10 years old and would like to join Guides they would be very welcome. Just pop your details in Girlguiding's 'join us' section and we will contact you.

In September Brownies, Guides and Rangers are off to Mendip Activity Centre for a county camp. Leaders will be there as well. Thank you to those organisations who have given us donations during the year as we have used these to help with camp fees. Money or lack of it is not a reason why a girl can't join Girlguiding. If you were watching the news on 27th July, you will have seen that we have a new uniform, the first real revamp for 30 years. Girls of all ages put forward ideas for things they wanted to wear. They wanted it to be recyclable at the end of its long life and comfortable to wear with no scratchy neck labels and Rainbows asked for stripes and pink. Brownies wanted their care for bees to be reflected in theirs, hence the brown and yellow stripes and the hexagonal quilting on the gilet. Guides wanted the logo and name to be less visible to the public, but wanted to be seen to be part of the organisation, so have Guides printed vertically on the back of their shirts. There are some pieces of uniform which can be worn by Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders and adults which will be more economical and save so many changes. Rangers now have blue as their main colour. We are not ditching the old uniform but as stocks dwindle it will be phased out. To make our organisation accessible for all the only uniform a member has to have is a shirt.

Jane Jeanes aka Woodpecker/Brown Owl
01963370769, 07712824747

Derek Etherington Dip(I.T.) BSc(Hons)
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Henstridge Parish Council Youth Representative Report

Henstridge Parish Youth Club

Henstridge Parish Youth Club is a welcoming and inclusive youth provision for young people from School Year 6 (ages 10-11) to School Year 12 (ages 16-17). Weekly sessions at Henstridge Village Hall offer opportunities for socialising, learning new skills, building confidence and taking part in a wide range of activities.

Popular activities this quarter have included football, pickleball, chair volleyball, short tennis, curling, cooking sessions, badge making, card making and other creative crafts. These activities have helped young people develop life skills, confidence, teamwork and positive relationships with their peers.

YCSW (Youth Connect South West) experienced youth workers support young people to build confidence, develop positive relationships and have their voices heard in a fun and relaxed environment.

Youth workers have continued to encourage positive behaviour, respect for others and community awareness, contributing to a welcoming environment where young people feel valued and heard.

Attendance: Over the past quarter, attendance has remained strong, with regular members continuing to attend and new young people joining the club. Young people have played an increasingly active role in shaping the programme, sharing ideas for future activities and helping to plan sports, games and creative projects.

There are 83 registered young people. On average 24 attend sessions each week. Total attendance April-June 2026 = 214

Youth Community Support: The club is also pleased to support local community events, with several young people volunteering at this year's Henstridge Fete and helping to run activities for visitors.

Looking ahead, the club aims to continue growing participation, strengthen leadership opportunities for young people, promote peer support and further build connections within the local community.

When: Fridays, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Where: Henstridge Village Hall

Who: Young people in School Years 6 to 13 (approximately ages 10-17)

Contact: Claire Bailey, Senior Youth Support Worker – 07977 859700

New members are always welcome. YCSW look forward to meeting you!

Supporting Our Young People in Henstridge Parish

Many folk who work with our young people in the parish agree that we need to have more on offer for our young people, especially during the holidays. Many of our young people would like there to be table tennis club, rounders, badminton club and more. For these additional activities we need additional support in the form of both volunteers and funding.

If you have any experience with working with young people and would like to get involved, please contact me.

Jane Rose PC Representative for Youth

01963 362048 or 07761 185630

Email: jane.rose@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Growing Together at St Nicholas School

As another successful school year comes to an end, we would like to share some of the exciting developments and celebrations that have taken place at our school.

This year, we introduced a new curriculum with a strong focus on improving reading across the school. We believe that developing a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children, helping them to grow in confidence, imagination and knowledge.

As part of this commitment, we recently audited our school library and discovered that we need many more books to inspire our Key Stage 2 pupils. We want every child to have access to exciting, engaging stories that help them discover a lifelong love of reading.

To support this vision, we are delighted to have established a PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association). The PTFA will raise funds to enhance our library and provide additional opportunities that enrich our children's education. Alongside these fundraising efforts, we would be incredibly grateful for donations of good-quality children's books suitable for readers aged 7–11. With the support of our wonderful village community, we can create a library that inspires every child to become a confident and enthusiastic reader.

Could you spare an hour to make a difference?

We are also looking for volunteers to support our children with reading and to help at our breakfast club in the mornings. You don't need teaching experience—just enthusiasm, patience and a willingness to help children thrive. Even a small amount of your time each week could make a lasting difference to a child's confidence and enjoyment of school.

We have also enjoyed a fantastic end to the school year. Our Sports Day was filled with determination, teamwork and plenty of smiles, while our Year 6 Leavers' Ceremony gave us the opportunity to celebrate our pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their education. We were also incredibly proud of our talented performers, who wowed audiences with a wonderful school production that showcased their confidence, creativity and hard work.

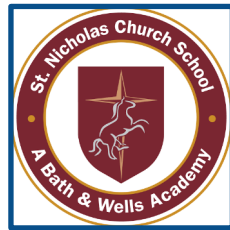
As we look ahead to the autumn term, we are excited to welcome the local community to our Christmas events. These occasions are always a highlight of the school calendar, and we look forward to celebrating the festive season with families, friends and members of the village.

Our school is at the heart of the village, and with your continued support we can give our children the very best opportunities to learn, grow and thrive. Whether you can donate a children's book, volunteer your time, attend one of our community events or get involved with our new PTFA, every contribution makes a real difference.

If you would like to donate books, volunteer, or find out more, please contact us at enquiries@henstridgestnicholas.bwmat.org.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish everyone in our community a happy and restful summer and look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas events later in the year.

Rebecca Lihou
Head Teacher



Marvellous Museums

Haynes Motor Museum

A mere 12 miles away from Henstridge, Haynes Motor Museum opened in 1985 with a collection of 35 cars which has grown to over 300 permanent vehicles, offers both an informative and fun day out for people of any age. With 15 different exhibitions, all areas of interest are covered - from the first car invented to Formula 1 and super cars. Tickets are available both online and on the door. It is, however, slightly cheaper to pre-book your tickets online, for example the standard adult ticket costs £22.45 when booking online compared to £24.95 on the door. The museum is open most days of the week from 10am until 5:30pm. Last entry is at 4:30pm in September and from the beginning of October it will close an hour earlier at 4:30pm, with last entry at 3:30pm. To ensure no changes to times and opening days please consult the website to confirm. The museum hosts many events, one being the Sunday car meets on the first Sunday of every month, where a selection of vehicles, all consisting of a specific theme chosen for that month, are displayed for all enthusiasts to see. Tickets for that event are to be pre-booked before arrival as there are no on the door/ day tickets available. Visit www.haynesmuseum.org.



Dorchester Museum and Art Gallery

The museum started as an organisation in 1845 and has moved around Dorchester until finding its permanent home in the building which it occupies today. The museum has a vast range of exhibitions which explore the ways Dorset has changed over time, from its natural history to the Victorian era. The museum is open daily from 10am until 5pm with last entry at 4pm. Again, online booking is cheaper with the standard adult price being £13.95 online and £15.50 on the door. Visit www.dorsetmuseum.org.



The Tank Museum, Bovington

A little further away in Bovington, is a hugely immersive museum which is home to over 300 military machines. The museum itself has many exhibitions which demonstrate how machinery, more specifically military vehicles like tanks, have evolved over a short space of time. Whilst the museum itself is a little bit further away, traveling the 24 miles is well worth the journey. There are also demonstrations of the tanks themselves in the outdoor arena throughout the day, creating both a mix of excitement and interest in how these amazing machines function in action. The museum is open from 10am until 5pm and it costs £19.60 online for an adult ticket compared to £24.50 on the door. This museum is well worth the trip to learn all about the history of how military machinery developed over the course of just a few short decades and how it led to the technically advanced machines of today. Visit tankmuseum.org.



Hope New

From the Churchwardens

Update on the tower

Our architect recently carried out her five-yearly inspection of our church building. Remedial work has been carried out to the pinnacles on top of the tower (which had been de-laminating) by a firm of steeplejacks and stonemasons. These have now been made safe and the security fencing removed from around the base of the tower. The church clock has been deliberately stopped as there appears to be a problem with the mechanism and we are currently expecting a visit from an engineer to repair it. We will be continuing with further recommended repairs and improvements on a priority basis. We apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst works are in progress.

No news on our vacancy – but we're still advertising

As we have had no response yet to our vacancy, we have revised the advertising and hope that a suitable candidate will consider that Henstridge is just the location they are looking for. In the meantime, we continue to rely on Lay Worship Assistants or retired clergy to lead our services, for which we are very grateful.

Evening services

We have moved the Evening Service from the first Sunday of the month to the fourth Sunday as we don't always have a service in the morning on those Sundays. You are very welcome at these as well as our usual morning services.

Activities in the church

The Community Fridge continues to be well stocked with produce from local supermarkets and is well used.

Hugo Barton & Jacky Manning, Churchwardens at St Nicholas



St Nicholas Church Henstridge

Church Street

Henstridge BA8 0QE

Vicar: in vacancy

The Vicarage, Church Street,
Henstridge, BA8 0QE

Churchwardens:

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

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

Officers of the PCC:

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

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

Church Flowers

Flowers in the church are often admired and commented on. I try to obtain them from local sources if I can and often from our garden. The hot weather is making this a challenge this year. I have been inspired by the Sustainable Church Flower group who are campaigning for churches to use home grown flowers as much as possible and to avoid using floral foam as often as they can. When I started helping with flower arranging in Henstridge church at the age of 14, while I was doing my Bronze D of E, I was using pin holders and chicken wire and vases with metal supports. I never imagined that 60 years later I would be returning to these but now the pin holders are Japanese and the wire netting comes in a small roll from Amazon with wire cutters and a pair of safety gloves. Our next whole church floral decoration will be for Harvest Festival which is celebrated on 4th October. There won't be any flowers from Advent Sunday until the Carol Service. If anyone would like to offer flowers or help with arranging them, please get in touch. I am happy to purchase and arrange flowers for anyone who would like to commemorate a loved one or celebrate an anniversary - just give me a ring.

Jane Jeanes

01963370769, 07712824747

janejeanes78@gmail.com

Services in September, October and November

September

- 6th 10.30am Morning Worship
- 13th 10.30am Holy Communion
- 20th 10.30am Morning Worship
- 27th 10.30am Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Horsington
6:00pm Evening Service

October

- 4th 10.30am Harvest Service
- 11th 10.30am Holy Communion
- 18th 10.30am Morning Worship
- 25th 10.30am Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Templecombe
6:00pm Evening Service

November

- 1st 10.30am Morning Worship
3:00pm Benefice All Souls' Service at Horsington
- 8th 10.50am Remembrance Service
- 15th 10.30am Morning Worship
- 22nd 10.30am Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Henstridge
- 29th 10.30am Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Holton
3:00pm 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 for the up-to-date schedule. Please note that the monthly Evening Service has moved to the fourth Sunday of the month as there is not always a morning service at St Nicholas on those Sundays. Also, some service times have been changed to accommodate the darker evenings. Everyone is welcome at all our services, do please come along.

Henstridge Parish Council Contribute to the Scope of Somerset Council's Local Plan 2045

The Parish Council have been advised that Somerset Council is beginning work on a new Local Plan. Residents of Henstridge had an opportunity to influence decisions that could shape the village for decades to come in a massive consultation exercise across the county.

Henstridge Parish

Council

Contact the Parish Clerk

Ann Lee

Mob: 07841 392242

Email: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Web: www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

The new plan, known as the **Somerset Local Plan 2045**, will replace the patchwork of planning policies inherited from the former district councils and establish a single framework for development across Somerset until the mid-2040s. The council says the plan will guide “where and how change happens” across towns, villages and the countryside over the next twenty years.

Why the Local Plan Matters

A Local Plan is arguably the most important strategic planning document produced by a council. It will determine:

- Where new homes can be built
- Which areas should be protected from development
- Future employment land allocations
- Infrastructure priorities such as roads, schools and healthcare
- Environmental and climate policies
- The role different settlements play within the wider county

What the Local Plan Should Contain

Under new planning regulations introduced in 2026, Somerset Council is expected to prepare and adopt the plan within 30 months, with adoption currently scheduled for March 2029. Henstridge Parish Council completed a comprehensive questionnaire responding to the proposed framework and vision that Somerset Council hopes to achieve in June.

Cllrs emphasised that the Local Plan should set out a clear, evidence-based vision for Somerset to 2045, showing how housing, employment, transport, infrastructure, environmental protection and climate resilience will be managed together. It should identify the level and distribution of new development, explain why particular locations are suitable, and ensure that growth is matched by the services and facilities needed by existing and future communities.

Cllrs stressed the importance of addressing both urban and rural developments separately and not creating a generic plan.

Cllrs emphasised that the plan include anticipated demographics relating to population density, areas classified as socially deprived, and policies that secure a suitable mix of housing, including genuinely affordable homes, homes for older people, accessible housing and homes that meet the needs of younger households and key workers. Housing growth should be located where it can be supported by public transport, schools, healthcare, utilities, open space and sustainable community facilities including local shops, health and wellbeing hubs that provide pharmacy and GP provision.

Cllrs stressed that economic policies should support sustainable employment opportunities, town centre vitality, rural enterprise, tourism, skills development and improved digital connectivity. The plan should recognise the different needs of Somerset's towns, villages and rural areas, while ensuring that development supports long-term resilience and inclusive growth. It should ensure farming and green spaces are protected and not sacrificed. The PC response incorporated a statement that infrastructure planning should be central to the Local Plan. The Council should clearly identify what infrastructure is needed, when it will be delivered, who will fund it and how delivery will be monitored. This should include transport improvements, walking and cycling routes, schools, healthcare provision, community facilities, green infrastructure, flood mitigation, water and sewerage capacity, energy networks that have national grid capability and broadband.

The plan should also provide a strong framework for protecting Somerset's landscape, heritage, biodiversity, agricultural land and rural character. It should support nature recovery, require high-quality design, reduce flood risk, promote energy efficiency and ensure that new development respects the existing community and contributes positively to local identity and place-making.

The plan must be costed, and residents must know how much each household will be paying for this significant piece of work. The results must be authentic, and all responses counted to determine penetration levels across each neighbourhood/parish.

How Somerset Council Should Engage Consultees

Cllrs stated that the Council should engage consultees in a clear, accessible and inclusive way throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. Consultation materials should be written in plain English, with summaries, maps and visual material that help residents understand what is being proposed and how it may affect their specific local area. Where appropriate, survey material should be tested by at least 10% of both urban and rural Parish Councils to ensure there is no ambiguity.

Cllrs emphasised that engagement should use a mix of online and in-person methods so that people who cannot access digital services are not excluded. This should include neighbourhood public exhibitions, workshops, parish and town council briefings, community meetings, library-based information points, accessible online portals with opportunities to submit responses by email and post. Council systems using online portals or surveys should not be "timed out" when users endeavour to make contributions. Results should be published to all households and results should reference the local impact for each Parish/ward areas.

Cllrs stressed that effort should be made to reach groups who may be less likely to take part in planning consultations, including young people, older residents, people with disabilities, rural communities, home owners, renters, businesses, community organisations and those affected by proposed development locations, health providers. The Council should explain how feedback has influenced the plan at each stage.

To build confidence in the process, the Somerset Council should publish consultation responses, key themes and the reasons for decisions in a transparent and timely way. Ongoing engagement should continue beyond formal consultation periods so that communities can understand the evidence, raise concerns early and contribute constructively to shaping the final plan.

Conclusion

The Somerset Local Plan 2045 should provide a balanced and deliverable strategy that supports necessary growth, while protecting the qualities that make Somerset distinctively unique. It should be ambitious on climate, nature recovery, infrastructure and housing

affordability, and it should be prepared through meaningful engagement with communities, businesses and other stakeholders across the county.

Henstridge's Strategic Position

Henstridge enjoys a unique position on the Somerset's eastern boundary and is located on the A357 corridor. With a population of around 1,800 people, the parish is one of several larger rural villages that could be assessed for future growth under the new settlement hierarchy being developed by Somerset Council. One of the key pieces of work currently underway is the council's "Role and Function of Settlements" study, which is examining how sustainable different towns and villages are based on factors such as local services, transport links and employment opportunities. The outcome could significantly influence how much development villages like Henstridge are expected to accommodate in the future.

Infrastructure

For many residents, the central question is not how Henstridge should grow, but whether there is sufficient infrastructure that can keep pace with all the increased housing. The village has been at the centre of high-profile planning debates in recent years, particularly concerning proposals for major housing developments and disappointingly the longstanding concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety on the A357 are increasing. Community opposition has consistently focused on road safety, village character and the ability of local services to absorb additional demand. As Somerset Council develops its new spatial strategy, these issues are likely to remain central. The Local Plan process will require the Somerset council to balance housing delivery targets with infrastructure capacity, environmental protection and our community concerns.

What Could Change?

Whilst development sites have not yet been proposed, several possibilities could emerge through the Local Plan process.

More Housing Allocations: If Henstridge is identified as a sustainable location for growth, additional housing sites could be allocated beyond those already approved or under consideration.

Stronger Infrastructure Requirements: The council could require developers to contribute towards highway improvements, pedestrian facilities, healthcare provision and community infrastructure before new developments proceed.

Protection of Countryside: The Local Plan will also determine which areas around villages should remain protected from development, helping to preserve landscape character and prevent inappropriate expansion.

Environmental Standards: New policies are expected to place greater emphasis on biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable design than previous district-level plans.

An Early Stage — But an Important One

Somerset Council is currently undertaking its first formal consultation stage, known as the Scoping Consultation. Importantly, this stage is not about selecting specific development sites. Instead, it asks residents what issues the Local Plan should address, what Somerset's future should look like and where broad patterns of growth should be directed.

Councillors have stressed that community feedback will help shape the vision, priorities and spatial strategy that underpin later decisions on development locations.

Why Henstridge Residents Should Engage

Once the strategic direction of the Local Plan is established, it becomes harder to influence later decisions about housing numbers and development patterns. Whether residents favour additional growth, stronger protections for village character, improved infrastructure, or a combination of all three, the Local Plan consultation provides an opportunity to ensure Henstridge's voice is clearly heard.

The decisions made over the next few years will influence not only where homes are built, but also how Henstridge develops as a community through to 2045 and beyond. More information will be forthcoming during the next few months.

Ann Lee

Parish Clerk

Meet the Parish Council:

Chair—Veronica Smith (Ronnie)

Ken Courtenay

Dennis Finch

Adrian Gaymer

John Graham

Barry Howlett

Deborah Petheram

Jane Rose

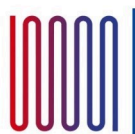
Andy Scard

Christine Steel

Peter Thompson

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.



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The View From Somerset Council

Changes to Rail Services from Templecombe

Due to record breaking temperatures, SWR will be running a temporary revised timetable on the West of England Line from 10th August.

- Services between London Waterloo and Salisbury will run every 30 minutes
- One train per hour will run between London Waterloo and Yeovil Junction
- Every other hour, the London Waterloo service will extend to run to and from Exeter St Davids
- Most journeys will take between 15 and 30 minutes longer.

www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey

Have Your Say on Polling Places

The council is inviting residents entitled to vote to have their say on polling districts and places – broadly where they go to vote. The consultation opened on 23rd July and voters have until 3rd September to take part via the Council's consultation page. The review aims to make sure voters have reasonable and practical facilities for voting and that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to all electors and meet the needs of people with disabilities. Those making representations should, if possible, give alternative places that may be considered for use as a polling station.

Free Bus Travel for Kids is Just the Ticket

Children and young people in Somerset have got a ticket to ride thanks to free bus travel for all 5-to-15-year-olds across England during August. Somerset Council is working with a range of local bus operators to make sure the Government Kids Go Free scheme is available for all young people. For more information look on the Bus It webpage.

Somerset Council Appoints New Chief Financial Officer

The Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Lizzie Watkin as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and statutory Section 151 Officer following approval by Full Council. Lizzie joins Somerset Council from Wiltshire Council, where she served as Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer. Lizzie also has strong links to Somerset, having previously worked for Somerset County Council as Strategic Finance Manager and Deputy Section 151 Officer. She has also held finance leadership roles at Taunton Deane Borough Council and South Somerset District Council.

Somerset Council has Received a Best Value Notice from the Government

The notice reflects Government concerns regarding financial resilience, the pace of transformation and pressures in key service areas including Adult Social Care, Children's Services and SEND. This is a serious step and represents the highest level of Government concern short of formal intervention and provides a framework through which improvement can be monitored and supported.

This has been issued due to government concerns about:

- Somerset's continued fragile financial position, the need to accelerate transformation activity, weaknesses in financial resilience and financial management, continued reliance on Exceptional Financial Support, low reserves, and the need to address external audit recommendations.
- Demand and performance pressures in key services including Children's Services, Adult Social Care and SEND.

The Council has already taken a range of actions including:

- Responded publicly to the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services, acknowledging areas requiring improvement while setting out actions already underway.
- Approved £5.3 million of investment to strengthen SEND services, reduce delays and improve statutory compliance.

- Similarly, since the Care Quality Commission conducted its assessment of adult social care in September 2025 the Council has made progress across the areas the regulatory body identified.

Your Voice Matters: Consultation Opens on Council Tax Reduction Changes

Somerset residents are encouraged to have their say on potential changes to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme for working age adults on low incomes. Support for pensioners would remain unchanged. The Council is now consulting on a range of proposals for the 2027/28 scheme. The consultation opened on 7th July and will run until 28th September 2026. Any approved changes would come into effect from 1st April 2027. Residents can find full details of the proposals and take part in the consultation by visiting the Council's consultation webpage: Council Tax Reduction Consultation. Paper copies of the consultation will also be available in libraries, and letters will be sent to all residents who currently receive CTR support,

£50m of Funding from Defra to Somerset for Flood Resilience

Following the announcement of £50m of funding from Defra to Somerset for flood resilience, the council has been working with partners to scope a programme of works across the county, as quickly as possible. A draft programme will be heard by Executive on 23rd September. The programme is likely to include a wide range of projects to improve conveyance and pumping capability across the Levels and Moors. It will also focus on flood 'hot spots' across the county.

A Programme Advisory Group (PAG) has been established to review progress and ensure the programme represents the interests of all parties and key stakeholders are kept informed.

- The Programme Advisory Board will be looking at a wide range of over 30 potential programmes and projects across Somerset ranging from major infrastructure projects to grassroots level initiatives.
- A major element will be the My Community Programme. My Community is a new Somerset Council-led initiative to understand and reduce flood risk at a local community level. This could include a range of things, such as clearing ditches and gullies, repairing, replacing and installing new assets, putting measures in place to slow the flow and so on. Depending on the individual needs of the community, it could also include support through enhanced flood warning, procurement of property level protection, community resilience facilities and so on.
- The programme is expected to deliver benefits for autumn/winter 2027 onwards.
- Progress on developing the My Community programme will be communicated regularly to communities through the LCN newsletter. Further information is available - contact floodresilience@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Marketplace, Thursday 17th September 2026 at Somerset County Cricket Club, The Cooper Associates County Ground, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1JT

The event is open to members of the public, patients, carers, partner organisations and colleagues, and everyone with an interest in local health and care services is welcome. The theme for this year's event is 'The NHS 10-Year Health Plan', which sets out a vision for improving health outcomes and transforming the way healthcare is delivered over the coming decade.

If you wish to submit a question beforehand, please complete and return the Public Questions Form to companysecretary@somersetft.nhs.uk by 5.00 pm on Monday 31st August 2026. This form is available from <https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk> (Search for AGM Public Questions Form).

Hayward Burt, Somerset Councilor for Blackmore Vale, 07543 854391 or Hayward.Burt@somerset.gov.uk

Community Events at Henstridge Village Hall 2026

Film night - £6 per ticket which includes a glass of wine, soft drink or tea or coffee. Tickets available on the door.

- 16th August 7 pm – The Choral
- 20th September 7 pm – Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale
- 18th October 7 pm – Barbarella
- 15th November matinee (film starts at 3pm) – The Magnificent Seven
- 20th December matinee (film starts at 3pm) – Rocky Horror Picture Show – *dressing up optional*

Table Top/Car Boot Sales - Table Top prices are £6 per table or 2 tables for £10. Pay on the door. Handmade Henstridge table prices are £15 per table. Please book Handmade Henstridge in advance by emailing Amanda at ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk. Payment required when booking.

- 2nd August 9-12
- 6th September 9-12
- 4th October 9-12
- Handmade Henstridge 21st November 10-3.30 – no car boot sale
- 6th December 9-12

Country Dancing & Folk Evening – 12th September 7pm til late.
£12 per adult ticket includes Ploughman's supper. Bar available.

Race Night - 31st October 7.30pm – 10.30pm.

£15 per adult ticket includes Ploughman's supper. Bar available.

Corkage will be charged for drinks not purchased at the bar

Tickets available from the Village Shop & Ros Browning on 01963 363016

Henstridge Village Hall, Ash Walk, Henstridge, Templecombe, BA8 0QB

News from the Bird in Hand

One of the advantages of singing is that you work up a thirst. Perhaps this lies behind donations from two local choirs to the Bird in Hand Society. The Stour Vale Singers and the Gillingham Singers have both made generous donations to the pub's fundraising which will go towards paying off our loans. It is a pity that this came about because Durweston Choral Society closed down and offered its music library to other local choirs, but we are very grateful to the two choirs for their generosity.



Members of the Gillingham Singers presenting a cheque to members of the Management Committee of the Bird

Since the pub changed hands there have been several changes. Some you will have noticed: Food Truck Fridays, barbecues, some changes to the food menu, and the pub stayed open all afternoon on Fridays in August. But, behind the scenes there have been other changes. The Bird in Hand Society Ltd held its first Annual Meeting of Members on 24 June when it published its accounts and elected a new Management Committee. This took place in the Village Hall on one of the hottest evenings of the year, and it was great that so many shareholders turned up. They were able to collect their Share Certificates and, since then, committee members have delivered most of the remainder.

The new Management Committee members are: Hugo Barton, Gail Cullum, John Graham, Isha Harvey, Jacky Manning, Trevor McComish, David Rabone, Judith Rabone, Paul Travers (Chub), Ben Whitney and James Withers (Wiz). Some members have particular responsibilities: Hugo is the Chairman, Trevor the Vice-Chair. Judith is the Treasurer and Ben the Secretary. John leads on Fundraising, Isha and Jacky share Publicity and Marketing and Paul is responsible for buildings maintenance. Full committee meetings will be held monthly and working groups will meet as required. The Share Offer is still open. In fact, the only way you can become a member of the Bird in Hand Society Ltd is by investing at least £100 in shares. For more information look on our website at: <https://birdinhandsociety.org.uk/share-issue/> or talk to someone on the Management Committee. You can invest any amount from £100 to £100,000 or add to your investment if your total shareholding is under £100,000 and these investments can benefit from SEIS tax relief. For details, go to the website or talk to any member of the Steering Group.

We have a new email address! It's info@birdinhand.pub. We are also using this email address to send information to members so, please add

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Bird in the Hand
worth?**



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

Show what The Bird's worth to you.

**Check out the Share Offer at
birdinhandsociety.org.uk**

Buy your share of the pub online!



us to your trusted senders list to avoid our emails going to spam! And we are putting much more information and hot news on our Facebook site.

The link is here: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBirdinHandHenstridge>.

contact@birdinhandsociety.org.uk

Jacky Manning

01963 548292 or jvmanning@uwclub.net

News from the Hive

The last time I wrote to you I was hoping for some sunshine and warm nights, I think I should have been more specific about the range of temperature I wanted. You might think the nights have been too warm to sleep but give a thought to worker bees that regulate temperatures inside the hive by fanning their wings. We need a lot of water to help cool the hive so thanks to everyone who has placed shallow containers of water in gardens - we are very grateful. The flowers in gardens and hedgerows have been fantastic with lots of pollen and nectar available for us to forage and turn into glorious honey. They are, as you are witnessing, drying up in the hot sun, except for petunias, but they are of no use to us or to any pollinator. We have swarmed without warning this year causing a lot of angst among Somerset beekeepers and we have done all sorts of things which don't appear in textbooks. Bees don't read the books beekeepers read. We constantly have to adapt to conditions around us. Some of our hives have had problems with queens who have not been mated properly and as a result a worker bee will become a queen but can only lay eggs which produce drones. Drones are males and for most of the summer they sit around and eat and do nothing until they are kicked out at the end of the summer. A hive full of drones has to be dispatched as there are no bees to do any work. Ken has been visiting several times a week to give us extra frames to fill with honey and to check we are safe from wasp attack. He has also taken away a lot of the honey we have stored, which we now hear is in pots ready for your toast. He has also sorted a few frames to find one to show at Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show and sent in the entry form. I hope we get the credit if he wins some prizes. He does leave us enough honey for our needs, so please don't be alarmed.

The sun is still very hot, and I must take my turn to help regulate the temperature.

Ring 01963 370769 or visit Redlands if you would like to buy the results of our hard work.

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

New Ladies' Group Starting in September

As some of you may know, Henstridge Flyers WI has closed. A supreme court judgement has ruled that only women born as women can be members of women-only groups. This means that transgender women are discriminated against and have to leave. Many WIs are now closing because of this. Henstridge Flyers, following the example of the committee, voted by a large majority and decided to close down. We are now forming a Ladies' group, and the launch meeting will be on September 15th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome. We will be having a talk about penguins, and you will hear about all the exciting plans we have for the year ahead. The yearly subscription will be £35, but visitors will be welcome for a small fee.

Please spread the word and look out for flyers and posters.

Sue Latimer, Secretary

01963 365765

u3a

The Wincanton cream tea was a success, and the next visit is planned to Dawes Twine Works at West Coker. The date for your diary is Thursday 17th September at 10am. Contact Martin White martinwhite898@gmail.com if you will be joining us as there is a small cost for tea and cake that needs to be paid for in advance.

Our Chairperson Alison Shilling has said "That if we wish this BVu3a to continue, now is the time to come forward and help run this valuable organisation for the benefit of everyone. If no-one comes forward by the Open Afternoon the committee will begin looking into the closing process, with great regret". At the Open Afternoon the group leaders will showcase their groups activities. So do come and share a glass of wine or cup of tea with us on Tuesday 8th September at Henstridge Village Hall, BA8 0QB. All refreshments are free and available from 2.30pm to 4pm.

Call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 for information or visit our website

www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk

Susan Kidd Publicity

Skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com

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OPEN AFTERNOON

Tuesday 8th September

2.30pm - 4.00pm

Henstridge Village Hall BA8 0QB

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For Information call

07580 127810 or 07919 585547

www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk

CLASH

Judicial Review, Henstridge – 130 Houses at Townsend Green and 52 House Development at Townsend Farm.

While we have unfortunately lost the legal action taken in the judicial review against the two developments above, there remains the issue of outstanding costs.

A written statement was put into the court concerning this in April of this year and to date we are yet to receive a final judgement concerning the overall liability to the defendant and interested party. The High Court takes a vacation during the month of August, and it is therefore unlikely that they will make a final decision by the end of this month. In consequence fundraising is continuing and I look forward to seeing as many as possible in the village hall on Saturday afternoon, the 15th of August for our Blokes Play Blues concert, commencing at 4pm. This should be an enjoyable afternoon and early evening with tea and cakes available together with BBQ and bar. Please do come along, entry is free.

Just a note on future planning. I note that the current draft Somerset Plan is proposing to change the status of Henstridge from a "rural settlement" to a "village." The change in status means that in the future we are likely to get even more expansion and building along the A 357. There is no account of the poor pedestrian safety for villagers in the plan and no reference at all to improve infrastructure to support the increase in population.

It appears that Somerset Council have learnt nothing and continue to ignore advice from our Parish Council and others on road safety and sustainability.

Paul Dimishky

Claimant in the Judicial Review

Henstridge Summer Fete – Saturday, 13th June 2026

Judging by the feedback we've received from the public, stallholders and entertainers, this was our most successful fete yet. People were happier with this year's layout, the daytime entertainment and the band in the evening.

As with all events, some things went wrong. The BBQ bursting into flames was one pyrotechnic we could have done without! Also, the Parish Council has sent us a long list of things they were unhappy with.

Sadly, we made a loss of about £1,000 but fortunately this was offset by the £1,700 profit we made the previous year.

We were very pleased that our Charity Raffle raised about £550 for TeamTorri.

We'd like to thank all the villagers who brought their minis and other classic cars to the fete.

As always, we would like to thank those businesses and individuals who sponsor the fete financially or with goods in kind. We would also like to thank all the helpers and the people who collected and sorted 5

car loads of rubbish throughout the day and took this all to Yeovil tip.

In particular, we would like to thank the Templecombe Scouts. This is a fantastic organization who provided us with about a dozen people who helped us with many tasks throughout the day.

What of next year? We already have sponsors who have pledged money. We have stallholders who wish to return. We have entertainers already booked. We are also delighted to announce that our chosen charity for 2027 will be the Templecombe Scouts. For a number of reasons, we are considering moving the Fete to the field next door to the Virginia Ash and would welcome people's views, please email info@henstridgefete.org In any event see you on Saturday, June 12th 2027.

Ashley Shirlin

info@henstridgefete.org



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A Huge Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, donated to, or supported the Henstridge Village Fete. Together, you raised an incredible £844.12 for TeamTorri Charity Fundraising.

TeamTorri was officially granted charity status last September, but our story began in 2018 when my daughter, Torri, was diagnosed with leukaemia at just 7 years old. Family and friends came together to raise funds for charities that supported children with cancer, including Children with Cancer UK, Young Lives vs Cancer, Stars Appeal, Teddy20 and Piam Brown Oncology Ward in Southampton.

Torri's journey was incredibly difficult. She endured years of chemotherapy, surgeries, long hospital stays, a stem cell transplant, rare side effects, total body radiation and daily medication. She fought courageously for more than five years before sadly passing away in July 2023, forever aged 13.



Today, TeamTorri supports families affected by childhood cancer across Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire. We provide supermarket vouchers, help with travel costs to hospital appointments, replace essential household items when finances are stretched, fund therapy and memory-making experiences, arrange special wishes, and offer gifts to parents staying in hospital. We also recognise the incredible healthcare professionals who care for these families throughout their journey.

Please know that every penny of the £844.12 raised at the Henstridge Village Fete will go directly towards supporting local families when they need it most. Asking for help is often the hardest step, and because of your generosity, we can be there when they do.

To find out more about TeamTorri, visit teamtorri.org, email teamtorri@mail.com, or scan the QR code to donate.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your kindness and support are never taken for granted.

Natalie Stranger

TeamTorri Founder & Trustee

www.teamtorri.org

Charity No 1214959



Wessex Activity Group

What has WAG been up to?

Who would have thought it could be hot weather keeping us indoors and not the cold and rain? Not that the heat has stopped most of our members, who have been out cycling and walking – put the raincoat away and keep the sunscreen handy!

Our cycle rides usually last around 1 and half to 2 hours, meeting at the village hall and heading out towards Marnhull or Templecombe, taking a circular route to bring us back to Henstridge. We generally stick to quiet lanes wherever possible and some of us have electric bikes for a bit of extra help up the hills, but we'll always wait at the top for anyone relying on leg power! Sometimes, those that can transport their bikes start further afield and ride along the Trailway for example from Stur or Blandford, which has a few handy cafes and pubs for a stop en route.

The WAGs entered a team into the Bird's Summer Skittles – sadly no prizes for us this year! We've continued our social skittles evenings which are great fun. Thanks to the Bird for the use of the skittle alley. We are so pleased the community has been able to buy the pub so we can continue using this brilliant resource. Not to mention being able to meet for a drink or two and enjoy the Morris dancers and musicians or the new Food Truck Fridays.

Thankfully there has been a cooling breeze at the top of the rec for Walking Touch Rugby on Wednesday evenings. It's still hot but we take lots of breaks, which is also a good excuse for getting our breath back! We laugh a lot and our skills are gradually improving.

There are now four in the motorbike branch of our group! They head out on road bike ride outs at a steady pace, with coffee stop included. Or for the more adventurous that have a dirt bike, there's green laning, as we have a good network of these in this area.

For a more sedate activity, Steve is occasionally at Loose Ends at the village hall on a Friday morning for a game of Kubb and Boules.

For anyone interested in paddle sport, Steve is offering canoe/kayak and paddleboard trips and lessons.

Thanks to all the Wagsters who helped out at the Village Fete, another successful and enjoyable day.

Over the autumn we will have more walks, bike rides, games nights, skittles at the Bird and other social gatherings, maybe even a ghost tour, perfect for a dark, misty autumn night!



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

Finally, it's happened! After 6 months of form-filling, course learning and hoop-jumping the village shop has its Post Office back!

Hopefully, most of you already know that the Post Office counter re-opened for business on Tuesday, 28th July, with **Lesley as our new Postmistress**. We're available for all your usual Post Office services; stamps, parcels (Royal Mail, DPD & Amazon) - posting, returns and collection, Drop & Go, cash withdrawals and deposits, bill paying, top ups, gift cards, travel money cards and more. So come in and let us be your place to go for all things postal.

On the shop side, another 3 months seems to have flown by, and we're so grateful for your continued support and friendly faces. It would be lovely to see more of you of course, so if you haven't been in, come and see us. If there's anything you can't find, let us know and we'll try to get it in. It's been a busy summer so far, and with the heatwaves we're trying our best to have a good variety of cold drinks, ice creams and lollies to help you keep cool.

We still have our delicious locally made goods; artisan bread and pastries, fresh apple juice and fudge in a variety of flavours. Put in a regular order if you don't want to miss out. We're always looking for new local producers to collaborate with. If you know of someone, please tell us!

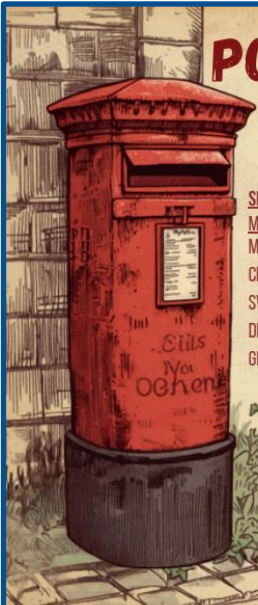
We're hoping to improve the fresh fruit and vegetables stock by managing and advertising better to ensure *you* can get what you need, and *we* minimise waste!

We still have a large range of convenience foods and products to meet your everyday needs. All keenly priced to help your money to go further.

All we need is you and your continued support; it means the world to us and helps keep the heart of our village beating. We hope we're becoming more than just a shop; we're a community hub, a place to connect, catch up.

A Heartfelt Thank You to All

Lesley, Andy, Helen & Barry



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POST OFFICE
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Come in and keep the village heart beating!

Somerset Art Weeks

The Somerset Art Weeks Festival returns from 19th September – 4th October 2026 with the theme ‘Cultural Connections’ – bringing together artists, communities and audiences to explore the cultural ties that shape Somerset, from Palaeolithic to Present, and across Human and Non-Human species. Discover inspiring journeys, new perspectives and creative responses that celebrate the unique cultural richness of our county and the stories that connect us.



As always, Somerset Art Weeks is a celebration of creativity and community. Venues across Somerset will open their doors to showcase group exhibitions, curated shows, events, new work and special commissions from SAW Members and invited artists, alongside a wide range of artists and makers.

Start your Cultural Connections journey at Somerset Rural Life Museum, where our festival programme brings together exhibitions, artist commissions and community projects celebrating the stories, people and places that connect us. Discover new work created especially for Somerset Art Weeks by commissioned artists responding to the 2026 theme, Cultural Connections.

Find hands-on workshops, family activities and creative events taking place across the festival, with opportunities for all ages to make, explore and enjoy art together.

Whether you're visiting, taking part as an artist or venue, or exploring the festival through learning and community activities, you'll find all the information and resources you need below.

Website: www.somersetartworks.org.uk

Email: info@somersetartworks.org.uk

Somerset Art Works, The Town Hall, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9PR

Somerset Art Works is a registered charity in England (1167455)

Registered company in England (03925616)



Line Dancing

Well, what weather we have been having. It's the first time that I have ever had to cancel because of the heat. Apart from that, all is going well, and we have been enjoying slower dances.

I would like to thank Debbie, Elaine and Barbara for stepping in after my accident and keeping everyone going.

Ros Browning

01963 363016

CAMEO

Our last meeting was in July for an afternoon tea party, which went well.

I would like to thank Pearl, Deanne and Carole for stepping in after my accident.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8th September when Ashley Shirlin will be giving a talk on North Borneo. Everyone is welcome.

I hope that you all enjoy your summer.

Ros Browning

01963 363016



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“Oh Yes We Will.” “Oh No We Won’t.” Pantomime 2027

People often ask me if there will be another Pantomime in Henstridge. Past productions have been great fun, creating some memorable moments.

I don’t feel able to head a new production, but I’m wondering if there is someone out there who would like to make it happen. It takes a team of committed people. Most of the effort is behind the scenes enabling those treading the boards to strut their stuff.



There are a lot of amazing people with many skills in our village. But is there someone who is wanting to lead this project?

There is no money pot to lift this project off the ground. The Village Hall Committee would like it to happen, and the cost of hiring the Hall can be put on hold until the project brings in money at the end.

I am very happy to be there to help. I love being on the stage and helping with every aspect. I just feel I can’t commit to head it.

Over to You.

Bridget

bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com

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Team Gryphon Football Club Last Season and Now This Season

In another whirlwind season, which came and went in a flash, ended with a respectable mid table finish for the first team in the Yeovil Prem, and semi-final defeats in all the cups. Our reserves unfortunately faced relegation to Division Two but reached the semi-final of the County Cup again..!



As we move into 2026/27, we have an exciting pre-season to look forward to, then the new season which will hopefully bring progression up the table and finally reaching a cup final and silverware. For our reserves, the main aim is promotion back up the divisions. We have a new management team in place and a number of new, exciting and very good players joining the club at Ash Walk, Henstridge. Something new this season is a Vets team, for players over 35 playing in the Somerset Legends league on Sunday mornings!

Team Gryphon are also looking forward to the forthcoming season as it's our 20th anniversary season and we have some exciting things planned to help celebrate this fantastic achievement. Check out our social pages for more information, and finally we are working with the Parish Council and the Football Foundation to help to improve the pitch and facilities at Ash Walk

We hope to see some of you soon, Saturdays 2pm kick off, or at The Bird in Hand afterwards. The first match of the season is on Saturday 15th August at Henstridge Recreation Ground.

Peter Diffy

TGFC Manager

URGENT – Plant Watering Needed

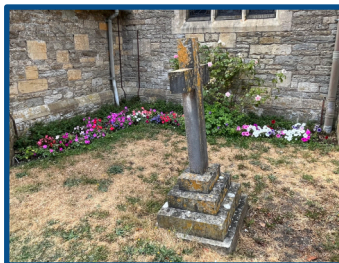
You may or may not be aware that the public flowerbeds in Henstridge are created and maintained by Susanna Donald.

These flowerbeds are by the Church, outside The Bird and close to the War Memorial. With the long, hot and dry weather it is impossible for Susanna to provide all the watering that is needed to keep these places in good condition.

If you have a little time to spare please contact Susanna and offer some help with a watering can.

01963 363091

susannadonald@outlook.com



Marie Cullum's Rich Christmas Cake

For many years this recipe was an annual event, usually in early summer. Everyone helped, and it was important for good luck that each member of the family had a good stir!

I don't know how old the recipe is; given the ingredients, it certainly could not have been made during WWII, or for quite a few years later. I have a childhood memory of my mother dancing around the kitchen in our east end flat when rationing was stopped, only for her to come back from shopping the next day in tears as there was still little food on offer!

The top of the cake mixture is depressed before baking so that a dome does not occur, making icing easier. The "glue" for the marzipan was always apricot jam.

And icing, with royal icing and a plastic Christmas theme icing set that didn't work very well, was another family event around the beginning of December. But possibly the most important job was "feeding" the cake, which was Dad's job. The cake is stored inverted in the tin, and the bottom is skewered with half a dozen holes, into which Dad would pour little drops of brandy about once a month. I can assure you that this made a great contribution to the moistness of the cake, and the taste, but small children were only allowed a little slice!

Simon and Gail Cullum

Ingredients: Makes one 8-inch round cake (8 inches = 20 cm).

Dry ingredients

8 oz / 225g plain flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp ground ginger
½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp ground cloves
2 oz / 53.5g ground almonds

Fruit

8 oz / 225g sultanas
1 lb / 450g currants
4 oz / 113g seedless raisins
4 oz / 113g chopped mixed peel
4 oz / 113g glacé cherries
2 oz / 53.5g blanched almonds

Other

8 oz / 225g butter
8 oz / 225g soft brown sugar
4 large eggs
½ wine glass brandy or sherry



Steps

1. Set 2 oz / 53.5g of the flour aside. Sift together the rest of the dry ingredients and set aside. (You may need to do the flour and spices first and then add the ground almonds).
2. Rinse the glace cherries in hot water to remove the sugary coating. Strain. Cut in half.
3. Measure all of the fruit into a large basin. Add the cherries. Add in 2 oz / 53.5g of the flour. Stir well.
4. Cream the butter and sugar until light. Gradually beat in the eggs – one at a time. (Beat eggs slightly before adding). You may need to add a bit of the flour mixture as you do this to prevent the mixture from curdling.
5. Once all the eggs have been beaten in, fold in the rest of the flour mixture.
6. Add in the fruit (you can add the fruit to the flour mixture or the reverse, whichever is easier for you). Mix well.
7. Add the brandy or sherry.
8. Line an 8-inch-deep round cake tin. (Use one that the bottom of the tin is separate from the sides to enable you to turn it out easily. A spring-form pan is ideal).
9. Pour the mixture into the pan and smooth out. Make a small dent or hollow in the centre of the top.
10. Bake for 1 hour at 150°. Bake for a second hour at 140°. Bake for a third hour at 130°. Start testing for it to be fully cooked about 10 minutes before the end of the third hour. A skewer should come out clean with no trace of batter.
11. Remove the cake from the oven and cool it in the tin.
12. Store the cake upside down in a tin still with the baking papers. From time to time “feed” the cake with more brandy or sherry...
13. The cake can be iced much closer to Christmas...

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Jottings From The Lady Shed

While it is still warm, I shall dream of the bare root rose varieties that will be purchased in the autumn. But when the heat has abated my first job will be to thoroughly clean the Lady Shed inside and out, as at present it is just too, too warm to spend any length of time there. Having emptied and swept it out, I think water and a dash of white vinegar should do the cleaning trick if I tackle all the nooks and crannies where insects and spores hide. It does not become dirty enough to use anything stronger.



The rose growers Hillier have an extensive autumn gardening checklist for downloading. It made me tired just skinning through it. The 8-8-8 rule for lavender is cutting back the plants, by 8 inches on the 8th day of the 8th month, is now past. This year I remembered putting the lavender in large bunches, with twisted stems and stalks cut level, to dry upside down in the loo. The rationale being that later in the autumn there will be a free-standing lavender posy as in the picture.

For the first time I have taken heel cuttings in the morning of lavender, rosemary and ceanothus. To do this pull a healthy side shoot on the parent plant downwards and away from the main stem so that it tears off with a small piece or tail of older bark attached. The theory being that the older wood holds natural hormones that help with the rooting process. These shoots are then placed in the appropriate compost mixture, remembering more sand for the lavender, and the wait for rooting begins.

The hot weather has meant that the pleasant task of collecting seeds, lupin, hollyhock and sweet peas started earlier, some without appearing to have flowered. These seeds, along with the heel cuttings, will be the first in trays at the clean Lady Shed.

With slightly cooler weather perhaps the following gardens will provide more inspiration.

Athelhampton House and Gardens Dorchester DT2 7LG.

Frome Agricultural and Seed Show Saturday 12th September BA11 5ES.

Knoll Gardens Open Day and Plant Sale, Hampreston, Friday 18th September BA21 7ND.

Edmondsham House and Garden Wimborne, Wednesday 7th, 14th and 21st October 2-5pm BH21 5RE



Susan Kidd née Billitt

Striped Greetings Card

I have always enjoyed making cards for all occasions and it's even better when I find a way of using up off cuts from previous projects. That is just what this project does.

Materials:

- Card of your choice (with envelope)
- Patterned/coloured crafting card – 4 to 6 different patterns and even better if any are double-sided
- Peel and stick edging strips
- Peel and stick corners
- Toppers of your choice
- Pencil
- Small paper cutter (not necessary)
- Sharp scissors
- Pencil
- Double-sided tape
- Double-sided sticky foam feet
- Tweezers



Instructions:

1. Cut your card scraps into two-centimetre strips. They don't all need to be the same length as they are going to be placed diagonally across the card but ensure that you have some that are long enough to cover the longest sections.
2. Cover the front of your card in double-sided tape. You only need to peel this off as you attach each strip of card scrap.
3. Lay out your card scrap strips in the order you want to place them on the card.



4. Peel off the cover of enough double-sided tape for one section and stick one of the longest scrap card strips across the longest section. I usually do this from the bottom left corner to just below the top right corner. Leave the excess as you will be cutting all of this off at the same time.
5. Repeat with other card scrap strips until you have covered the whole card.
6. Trim the excess from the edges using either a paper cutter or sharp scissors.
7. Apply the peel and stick edging strips to the joins between the scrap card strips and the peel and stick corners to the four corners of your card.
8. Attach your card toppers using double-sided sticky foam feet.

9. You can either print a greeting for the inside of the card onto some printer paper, use a stamp and ink pad or write inside the card.

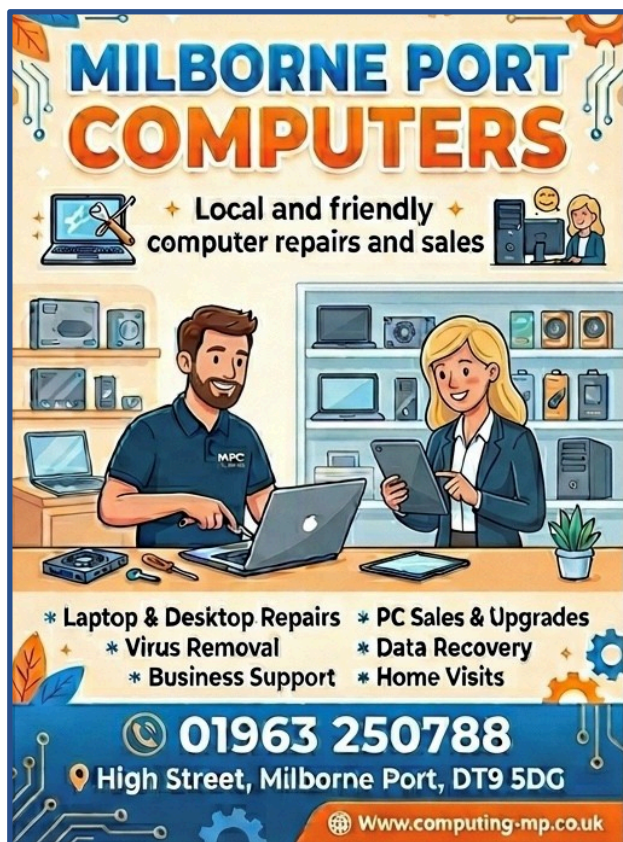
Options:

Attach the scrap fabric strips to a piece of card smaller than the card you are using and then attach this to a coloured piece of card that is slightly bigger, but still smaller than the card you have chosen. This can then be attached to the card giving you a layered effect.

You can also cut your scrap card into tall triangular shaped pieces by cutting long rectangular strips into two from a top corner to a bottom corner and attach them to the card in a starburst fashion either from the centre or other point on the card dependant on what effect you would like.

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. Although we cannot promise to publish every idea that we receive, we would love to hear from you.

Sara Bodkin



Autumn Walking Days

The Purse Caundle Circle

Wednesday 2nd September 2026. This walk is 7K/just over 4 miles. There are ups and downs. But not too steep.

Inwood - Yenston - Whitchurch

Thursday 1st October 2026. This walk is 5.5K/3.5 miles. This walk has a few gentle ups and downs. Mostly level. If there's been a lot of rain, it can be muddy.

Plott Lane - Hackthorne - Broadmead Lane

Tuesday 10th November 2026. This walk is 8k/5 miles. It's a longer walk, but it's level. We meet at The Church in Henstridge at 10am.

We walk out and about across fields, using our footpaths and bridleways as much as we can. For the Purse Caundle walk we still meet at the church, but we drive a few miles before starting our walk. We just take as many cars as we need to.

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- (1) A Bakers Shop
- (3) Wannabee
- (5) Hermione Granger (in Harry Potter)
- (7) Four
- (9) The Ten Commandments
- (2) Bat
- (4) The Crown Jewels
- (6) Paris
- (8) The Mediterranean
- (10) Earth

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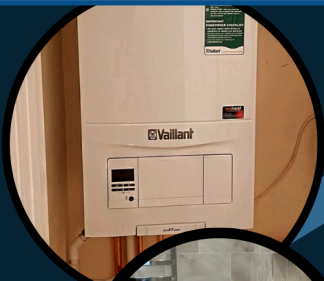
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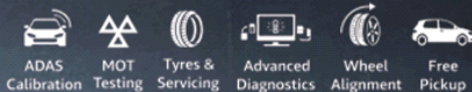
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