Wot's On Henstridge



In This Issue

Henstridge Swing Riots

Isha Harvey - A Life in the Royal Navy

New Wellbeing Section

Winter 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 February at the latest.

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

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter Edition

I hope you enjoy our Christmas edition – we have been somewhat overwhelmed with articles and submissions, it may take you a while to make your way through… We celebrate some local talent – from Isha's new role in the Royal Navy, Freya's experiences at the Edinburgh Fringe, Martha's outstanding athleticism, to Wayne's 20 year celebrations!

We recognise the marvellous effort from the Rotary Club raising funds for their "End Polio Now" campaign.

We also bring you news from our parish council, school, church, pub, youth club and Somerset Council, including the challenges currently being managed.

And of course, being Christmas, check out all the activities on tap over the festive season – there is lots going on… We've highlighted some of the National Trust properties nearby, and there is a long list of seasonal events. Advent windows and Christmas trees will soon be appearing, there will be church services for all ages, and lots going on at the pub and the village hall.

We have a couple of new sections this issue too – a guest book review, wellbeing and a short article on the history of Wots On – part 1!

Lots of sporting endeavours to be found too – see what the WAG are up to, think about walking rugby, or just walking without the rugby!

We are fortunate to live in a village that takes so much care and offers so much to all of us.

Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year to all of you, from

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
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
u3a general meetings	Every other month, 1st Tuesday 2:30pm
Henstridge Flyers Ladies' Group	Third Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm
u3a Games Group	Third Tuesday of the month 2:30pm - 4:30pm

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	shared mobile	07940 831998
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

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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 March - May? Let us help you publicise it.
Email wotsoneditor@gmail.com before 1st February 2027 with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in November	
Thurs 26th Nov, 8pm	Monthly Quiz, The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp. Teams of 4. Contact 01963 362255
Fri 27th Nov, 7.30pm	Medals & Militaria - talk by Mark Smith, expert from the Antiques Roadshow. The Exchange, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH. Information 01258 475137
Sat 28th Nov, 2pm	The Tailor of Gloucester - a musical adventure inspired by Beatrix Potter. Templecombe Village Hall. £12 - adult £5 – child & £30 - family. Contact 07849 510415
Sat 28th Nov, 7pm	Advent & Christmas Concert, Sherborne Chamber Choir, Sherborne Abbey. 7pm. Tickets TicketSource 0333 6663366
Sun 29th Nov, 2pm	The Honesty Jar Bingo. Henstridge Village Hall. Free entry. Refreshments. Payment for books of tickets cash/card Contact Jodie.darville@hotmail.com
Sun 29th Nov, 3pm	Words & Music from Elysium. St Nicholas Church, Henstridge
Sun 29th Nov - Mon 11th Jan	Jack & the Beanstalk, Salisbury Playhouse SP2 7RA. Information 01722 320333
Events coming up in December	
Tues 1st Dec - Mon 11th Jan	Jack & the Beanstalk, Salisbury Playhouse SP2 7RA. Information 01722 320333
Tues 1st Dec, 10am - 4pm	*Wincanton Christmas Fair* - Wincanton Racecourse. Info 01963 435840
Tues 1st - Thurs 31st Dec, daily	**Zak Ove: Invisible Man & the Mask in Blackness* - monuments in the garden **Turing Before Bletchley* - his life in Sherborne **Cornish Art* from David Tovey collection The Sherborne, DT9 3JG More information thesherborne.uk/events

Have an event going on in March - May? Let us help you publicise it.
Email wotsoneditor@gmail.com before 1st February 2027 with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in December	
Tues 1st Dec - Apr 2027, 12 noon - 4pm	*Solo exhibition by Emma Kunz - Swiss artist, researcher & healer.* Hauser & Wirth, Bruton BA10 0NL. hauserwith.com 01749 814060
Wed 2nd - Sat 5th Dec, 7.30pm	*Guys & Dolls the Musical.* Sherborne Girls School, DT9 3QN. T: 01935 812245
Wed 2nd - Sat 5th Dec, 7.45pm	*"2:22 - A Ghost Story" by Danny Robbins.* Yeovil Civic Players at The Swan Theatre, Yeovil. Tickets 0750 0376031.
Weds 2nd Dec, 3pm & 7pm	*Crowds & Clouds of Angels - Imogen Corrigan.* TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3JG. www.theartssocietysherborne.org
Thurs 3rd Dec, 2pm	*Stories from the Geological History of Sherborne - John Whicher.* Sherborne Museum Winter Talks. £5 visitors. Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road DT9 3NL
Thurs 3rd Dec, 7pm	*The 247 Club Charity Carol Concert,* Sherborne Abbey. The Military Wives Choir & The Dire Choir - in aid of The Rendezvous & The Halo Trust. £25/adult. Tickets from Hayden Hill - 19 Cheap St or Ogilvy & Moore - Half Moon St, Sherborne
Thurs 3rd Dec, 8pm	*A Lancaster Pilot's War 1941-45 - Dr Adrian Stevens.* Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street. Entry £5.
Fri 4th Dec, 7.30pm	*Moonlight Swing Band Christmas Concert* at The Exchange, Sturminster Newtown. Info - 01258 475137
Sat 5th - Sun 6th Dec, 10am - 4pm	*Traditional Christmas Market,* Symondsbury Estate, Bridport DT6 6HG Contact 01308 424116
Sat 5th - Sat 12th Dec	*Christmas Tree Festival,* Cheap Street, Sherborne. Daily performances by local choirs.
Sat 5th Dec, 1pm - 4pm	*Felting Workshop* - Henstridge Village Hall Lounge. £18 including material. Info & booking helen.isbell@icloud.com

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

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in December	
Sat 5th Dec, 6pm	*Explorers Preschool Fundraising Bingo,* Henstridge Village Hall.
Sun 6th Dec, 9am- 12pm	*Table Top Sale,* Henstridge Village Hall. £6/table or £10 for two. Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Sun 6th Dec, 3pm	*Messy Christingle,* St Nicholas Church, Henstridge
Sun 6th Dec, 4pm	*Christmas Tree Parade and Lighting* - Sherborne Town Centre
Sun 6th Dec, 1.30pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm	*Shoppers' Carols,* Sherborne Abbey
Sun 6th Dec, 7pm	*Eyes Down for Bingo,* The Bird in Hand, Henstridge
Mon 7th Dec, 7pm	*Henstridge Parish Council Meeting,* Village Hall Lounge Contact: The Clerk 07841 392242
Tues 8th Dec, 2-4pm	*CAMEO Christmas Party.* £3.50 Contact Ros Browning - 01963 363016
Wed 9th Dec, 6-8pm	*Arsenic & Ashes - talk by author Mark Bridegeman.* Festive Crime, a Glass of Fizz & a Spot of Christmas Shopping at Winstone's, Cheap Street, Sherborne. Sherborne Literary Society. Free
Fri 11th Dec - Sun 3rd Jan	*Aladdin, with Jack Glanville as Widow Twankey.* Westlands Theatre, Yeovil. www.westlandsyeovil.co.uk
Fri 11th Dec, 5pm	*Tikka Curry Food Van at Bird in Hand,* Ash Walk, Henstridge BA8 0QD Tel: 01963 362255
Sat 12th Dec, 10am - 12.30pm	*Repair Cafe, Cheap Street Church Hall, Sherborne*
Sat 12th Dec, 4pm	*Christmas Tree Carol Service with Town Band.* Cheap Street Church, Sherborne
Sat 12th Dec, 6pm	*Christingle,* Sherborne Abbey
Sat 12th - Sun 13th Dec, 10am - 4pm	*Christmas Tree Festival,* St Mary's Church, Templecombe. Decorated trees on display. Contact Brenda Ford 07747 773882 for entry details.
Mon 14th Dec, 4pm	*Community Carol Service,* Sherborne Abbey

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in December	
Mon 14th Dec, 7pm	*Golden Boy Revival* with Josh O'Connor. Live streaming from the National Theatre. At The Exchange, Sturminster Newton. Info - 01258 475137
Mon 14th Dec, 7.30pm	*The Double Life of Veronique* - cinema at The Sherborne, DT9 3JG. Information - thesherborne.uk/events
Wed 16th Dec, 7.30pm	*A Dickensian Noel - featuring Mr Fezziwig's Christmas Party.* The Corn Exchange, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Tickets £23 on door, include mulled wine & mince pies. www.bschoir.org.uk
Wed 16th Dec, 7pm	*Mulled wine, mince pies & carols,* Sherborne Abbey
Fri 18th Dec, 8pm	*Monthly Quiz - **NB: date change**,* The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp. Teams of 4. Tel: 01963 362255
Fri 18th Dec, time TBC	*Pageant Gardens Christmas Concert,* Sherborne
Sat 19th Dec, 7.30pm	*Libera at Christmas.* Celestial sounds in Sherborne Abbey from Award winning choristers aged 7-16 years old. Tickets from £10 at libera.org.uk or 03336 663366.
Sun 20th Dec, 10am - 3pm	*Sherborne Artisan Market* (NB Next market in March 2027) www.thesherbornemarket.com
Sun 20th Dec, 6pm	*Carol Service,* St Nicholas Church, Henstridge
Sun 20th Dec, 1.30pm & 2.40pm	*Shoppers' Carols,* Sherborne Abbey
Sun 20th Dec, 7pm	*Festival of Lessons & Carols,* Sherborne Abbey
Sun 20th Dec, 2.30pm for 3pm	*The Rocky Horror Show* - Film night, Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (incl glass of wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Mon 21st Dec, time TBC	Carol Singing at The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. For info call 01963 362255
Thurs 24th Dec, 4pm	*Crib Service,* St Nicholas Church, Henstridge

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in December	
Fri 25th & Sat 26th Dec	***Christmas Day & Boxing Day***
Sat 26th Dec	*Boxing Day Racing,* Wincanton Racecourse. Info 01963 435 840
Mon 28th Dec	***Boxing Day Bank Holiday***
Events coming up in January 2027	
Fri 1st Jan	***New Year's Day***
Fri 1st - Mon 11th Jan	*Jack & the Beanstalk,* Salisbury Playhouse SP2 7RA. Information 01722 320333
Fri 1st - Sun 3rd Jan	*Aladdin, with Jack Glanville as Widow Twankey.* Westlands Theatre, Yeovil. www.westlandsyeovil.co.uk
Sun 3rd Jan, 7pm	*Eyes Down for Bingo,* The Bird in Hand, Henstridge
Tues 5th Jan, 2.15pm	*How to Stay Warm in Winter & Reduce Your Heating Bills.* BlackmoreVale u3a, Henstridge Village Hall. Contact www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk
Tues 5th Jan, 7pm	*Henstridge Parish Council Meeting,* Village Hall Lounge. Contact: The Clerk 07841 392242
Thurs 7th Jan, 8pm	*Aethelstan, The First King of England - Prof David Woodman.* Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street. Entry £5.
Tues 12th Jan, 7pm	*Open Spaces Meeting,* Henstridge Parish Council, Village Hall.
Thurs 14th Jan, 7pm	*Last Night I Dreamt - A Personal History of the du Mauriers by Paul de Zulueta (eldest grandson of Daphne du Maurier).* Sherborn Literary Society - tickets 01935 816128 sherborneliterarysociety.com/events
Sat 16th Jan, 10am - 12.30pm	*Repair Cafe, Cheap Street Church Hall, Sherborne*
Sun 17th Jan, 2.30 for 3pm	*A heartfelt and funny comedy drama -* Film night, Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (including glass of wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in January	
Mon 18th Jan, 7.30pm	*Marine Archaeology on the SW Coast - Tom Cousens.* Milborne Port Historical Society, Church House, Bathwell Road, Milborne Port. Non-members £5.
Thurs 21st Jan, 2pm	*Life & Times of Rev John Hutchins 1698-1773 - Peter Scriven*. Sherborne Museum Winter Talks. £5 visitors. Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road DT9 3NL
Thurs 21st Jan, 8pm	*Exploring Medieval Manuscripts - Robert Weaver*. Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street. Entry £5.
Sun 24th Jan, 3pm	*Venetian Splendour with Wessex Baroque Collective*. St Peter's Church, Shaftesbury SP7 8LY. Tickets www.bschoir.org.uk
Wed 27th Jan, 7.30pm	*The Secret Agent - Cinematheque* at The Swan Theatre, Yeovil. Tickets 01935 421905
Thurs 28th Jan, 8pm	*Monthly Quiz*, The Bird in Hand, Henstridge. £2 entry pp. Teams of 4. Tel: 01963 362255
Sun 31st Jan, 4pm	*Words & Music from Elysium.* St Nicholas Church, Henstridge
Events coming up in February	
Tues 2nd Feb, 7pm	*Henstridge Parish Council Meeting*, Village Hall Lounge Contact: The Clerk 07841 392242
Wed 3rd Feb, 3pm & 7pm	*The Perfect Partnership: Edward Lutyens & Gertrude Jekyll.* TASS (The Arts Society Sherborne), Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3JG. www.theartssocietysherborne.org
Thurs 4th Feb, 8pm	*The Royal & Russian Navies - David Fields & Charlie Wilson.* Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street. Entry £5.
Sun 7th Feb, 9am - 12pm	*Car Boot / Table Top Sale*, Henstridge Village Hall. £6/table or £10 for two. Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Sun 7th Feb, 7pm	*Eyes Down for Bingo*, The Bird in Hand, Henstridge

Wot's On Listings

Events coming up in February	
Tues 9th Feb, 2 - 4pm	*CAMEO talk - tbc.* £3.50 Contact Ros Browning 01963 363016
Wed 10th Feb, 7.30pm	*Palestine 36 - Cinematheque* at The Swan Theatre, Yeovil. Tickets 01935 421905
Sat 13th Feb, 7pm	*It's a Kind of Magic* returns to Henstridge Village Hall to raise funds towards the 2027 Village Fete. Early Bird tickets £15. Cash bar, Magic, Gaming & Auctions. www.henstridgefete.org
Mon 15th Feb, 7.30pm	*Dressing for Different Ranks of Society - Juliet Braidwood.* Milborne Port Historical Society, Church House, Bathwell Road, Milborne Port. Non-members £5.
Thurs 18th Feb, 2pm	*William Barnes - schoolmaster, clergyman & poet*. Sherborne Museum Winter Talks. £5 visitors. Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road DT9 3NL
Thurs 18th Feb, 8pm	*Rulman Merswin & The Knights Hospitaller - Prof Stephen Mossman.* Sherborne Historical Society, Digby Hall, Hound Street. Entry £5.
Sat 20th Feb, 10am - 12.30pm	*Repair Cafe, Cheap Street Church Hall, Sherborne*
Sun 21st Feb, 2.30 for 3pm	*Classic American crime comedy* - Film night, Henstridge Village Hall. £6 (including glass of wine or coffee). Contact ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk
Wed 24th Feb, 7pm	*'Black Bag' by Luke Kennard - Booker Shortlisted.* Sherborne Literary Society, Cheap Street Church, Sherborne. Tickets from WInstone's in Sherborne, 01935 816128.
Sun 28th Feb, 7pm	*Hay Fever* from National Theatre Live, Shaftesbury Arts Centre

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Email wotsoneditor@gmail.com before 1st February 2027 with the event details and we'll do our best to feature it.

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

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

Can you answer the following general knowledge questions?

Q1: Which is the most abundant gas in the Earth's atmosphere?

Q2: For what do the letters O.P.E.C. stand?

Q3: Which animal is known as the "*ship of the desert*"?

Q4: Which country controversially hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup?

Q5: Which three artists took the hit single "*Spirit in the Sky*" to number one in 1970, 1986 and 2003?

Q6: Which fruit is the principle ingredient of the Mexican dish Guacamole?

Q7: First published in the UK in 1953, what was the title of Ian Fleming's first James Bond novel?

Q8: In the Braille system of writing for blind and the visually impaired, what is the maximum number of raised dots used to represent each character?

Q9: Situated on the River Plate which is the largest port in Uruguay?

Q10: Remembered as ANZAC Day every year, which battle was the first major battle to be fought by Australian and New Zealand forces?

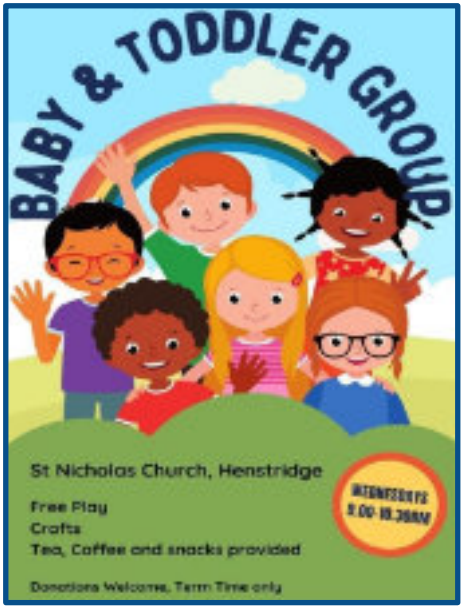
If you enjoy quizzes like this (or maybe better) why not come to the Bird in Hand on the last Thursday of every month at 8pm for *The Bird Quiz*? Teams of up to (or around) four and only £2 per player; there are prizes for the top three and a raffle too. It's all very relaxed and friendly and you'll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

See page 22 for answers.

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SOUTH WEST
WILLS & PROBATE

The Henstridge Riot 1st December 1830 - Part One



In November 1830 England was in turmoil. King George lV had died earlier that summer without a direct heir. He had ruled since 1811, as Prince Regent, then King. The new King William lV was not yet crowned and had kept the Duke of Wellington (Tory Party and hero of the Battle of Waterloo) as his Prime Minister. In early November the now very unpopular PM was forced to resign and was replaced by Earl Grey (Whig party and famous for having the tea named after him) without any elections. The summer's harvest, like that of 1829, had been dismal due to poor weather. Food prices had soared, especially for bread.

In August a wave of direct action protests by agricultural workers began in Kent. These followed a distinctive pattern. Anonymous letters (some signed by the fictitious "Captain Swing") were sent to landowners, magistrates, and clergy demanding higher wages, lower rents for tenant farmers, better poor relief, and a halt to the use of labour-saving machinery particularly threshing machines. They threatened direct action if ignored.

The protests rapidly spread across Southern England, East Anglia and the Midlands with hundreds of machines destroyed. With no permanent rural Police Forces, local magistrates tried to maintain order. Hundreds of arrests were made. The new Home Secretary took a hard line and began authorising use of volunteer Yeoman and regular cavalry to crack down on the rioters. A law of 1827 made breaking threshing machines a felony with 7 years Transportation available to the judge. Obtaining money by threat or intimidation was considered theft and the punishment for theft was hanging.

Threshing by hand had been the major source of winter employment for field workers. After harvest, sheaves were stored off the ground in ricks and small batches were threshed using heavy flails to extract the grain to provide winter feed for livestock or be sold for flour. Using a horse powered threshing machine could in one day do what it would take 40 days to do by hand.

In November rioting spread into the Blackmore Vale from Wiltshire. On 24th November machinery was wrecked on one of Lord Anglesey's farms at Six Penny Handley and there were protests at Wimborne and Bere Regis.

On 25th November the Dorset and Somerset Association for the Protection of Property held its 2nd Annual Meeting and dinner at the Virginia Ash, Henstridge. Established in 1829 its aim was to coordinate and fund the response to rural unrest in the Blackmore Vale. Its Patrons were Lord Rivers (owned 24,000 acres in NE Dorset) and Lord Anglesey (10,000 acres in NW Blackmore Vale including Stalbridge Park). The President was Rev HF Yeatman of Stock Gaylard a Justice of the Peace (JP) on the Sturminster Bench. Vice Presidents included Sir WC Medlycott Esq of Venn House, Milborne Port, Benjamin Gray Esq of Henstridge, William Boucher Esq of Thornhill (High Sheriff of Dorset), Rev N Bridges of Henstridge, Rev J Venables JP (Cerne Bench) of Buckland Newton, and W Castleman, Lord Anglesey's Land Agent who lived in Winborne. From what happens next it seems they had agreed plans on how to respond to further unrest and share intelligence (often obtained from informants).

Two days later a mob attacked farms at Pulham, Mappower and Buckland Newton. Lord Anglesey had received an anonymous threatening letter on the 27th and one was also sent to Mr Castleman's home in Wimborne.

The only threshing machine in Stalbridge was kept at the farm in Stalbridge Park. Expecting this to be the next target Mr Castleman and the Dorset magistrates took steps to recruit special constables, many on foot but some on their horses. Training sessions were organised. Stalbridge was ready.

Meanwhile, in Henstridge, preparations by the Somerset magistrates were much more relaxed, despite the parish having three threshing machines. Early in the morning of Wednesday 1st December in Henstridge John Gatcombe and William Case were sworn in as Specials by two JPs. Soon after the JPs left a small crowd began gathering outside the gates to Pond House Farm. People from surrounding villages including Stalbridge and Templecombe joined. Some reports say over 200 people gathered. By noon the crowd had plucked up enough courage to go through the gate into Benjamin Gray's farmyard. I don't know if he or his wife or children were at home. The threshing machine was attacked and burnt.



Two hours later Robert Warr spotted a mob making a lot of noise on the Turnpike (A30) heading towards Toomer Farm owned by Sir WC Meddlycott. He hurried ahead to warn the tenant William Coombs and his sons George and Joseph. As they went up the farm's drive Charles Ryall, a carrier from Henstridge, saw William Chant hand an iron bar to James Hillyer. Ryall was Hillyer's brother-in-law. The mob was met at the farm gate by George Coombs and his brother at around 3.30pm. George asked what their business was. "C*ome to beat down the threshing machine if you please*" someone shouted. "*We cannot hinder you so you must do it I suppose*" replied George.

The mob went through to the barton and began beating the threshing machine to pieces. James Hillyer struck the first blow on a metal wheel so hard that his iron bar broke. Sansome was seen to carry an iron bar into the farm but a witness said he dropped it on the barn floor as he went in. Others had brought hammers and axes. Charles Belbin from Combe helped carry the wooden body of the machine out to the field where it was broken and set on fire. Edward Turner was seen standing close to the fire. Hellyer continued breaking the cast iron parts before going to the fire where there was shouting and celebration. Sansome was heard to shout "*Hurrah"* and "*Silence let Squire Yeatman speak*" a sarcastic comment about Rev HF Yeatman JP. Belbin said "*Should have done this years ago*".

Sunset was just before 4pm so in the twilight the men's thoughts turned to cider. Some went looking for the two haymaking machines and not finding them asked George where they were. "*What business is that of yours?*" he replied. The mob said that if they were given ½ pint of cider each they "Would say no more about haymaking machines".

No doubt coached by the magistrate, George when he made his statement, said he had been intimidated when he then gave them about 4 gallons of cider before they dispersed into the dark to drink by the fire embers.

What did the mob do next and how did the authorities respond? Read the conclusion of this extraordinary story in the next edition of Wot's On.

William George Eaden
Home Farm Yenston

Wot's On – How did it all start?

We are all very proud of our magazine. Thanks to our many contributors and the team, it is a great publication and fulfils a great role in the village. But how did it all begin?

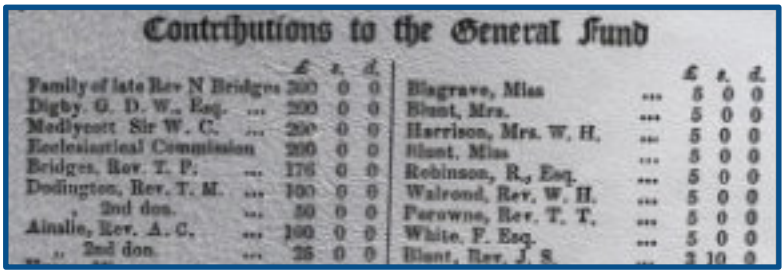
Not surprisingly, it started with a need for money!



Restoration of the Church

ON Monday, October 7, the workmen took possession of the Church, and the work of demolition commenced: nor has it been found a very difficult job. The old timbers of floors and roofs have been found in a most decayed condition. The sleepers of the floors rested on no proper supports, but were laid upon the ground, or upon the rotten covers of unvaulted vaults. In one place the level had been made up to the very boarding of the floor by a collection of human bones and broken coffins! Over-head matters were no better. The ribs of the ceiling, the bosses, the wall plates were rotten and worm-eaten, and the rafters generally fell to pieces from their own decay on falling to the ground. The masonry of the walls matched the timber in weakness and decay. The mortar—if it was mortar—had quite perished, and the walls had no better cement than a loose soft sandy powder. No wonder such walls were unable

In 1871 the new vicar arrived, (Reverend Ainslie) who wanted a way to communicate with the parish. They had a big building programme underway. Not only did they need funds for the new church school (St Nicholas School to you and me), but they also needed funds for restoration of the old church. The magazine provided a monthly report on the progress of the church repairs and the school building project. Included was the list of donors – talk about peer pressure! Every donation from £1 to £300 was listed… Best be generous!



Contributions to the General Fund

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Family of late Rev N Bridges	200	0	0	Blagrave, Miss ...	5	0	0
Digby, G. D. W., Esq. ...	200	0	0	Blunt, Mrs. ...	5	0	0
Medlycott Sir W. C. ...	200	0	0	Harrison, Mrs. W. H. ...	5	0	0
Ecclesiastical Commission	200	0	0	Blunt, Miss ...	5	0	0
Bridges, Rev. T. P. ...	176	0	0	Robinson, R., Esq. ...	5	0	0
Dodington, Rev. T. M. ...	100	0	0	Walrond, Rev. W. H. ...	5	0	0
2nd don. ...	50	0	0	Parowne, Rev. T. T. ...	5	0	0
Ainslie, Rev. A. C. ...	100	0	0	White, F. Esq. ...	5	0	0
2nd don. ...	25	0	0	Blunt, Rev. J. S. ...	3	10	0

Once the funds were raised, publication fell off, to be reinstated in the early 1900's. Some of these very early magazines are still available – they have been rescued from the cupboard in the Vicarage study by Jane Jeanes who has a selection, and by Bridget Hallett who has sent some to South West Heritage Records office for storage in their archive - Catalogues and Indexes – Somerset archives and local studies



HENSTRIDGE

Parish Magazine

In 1953 Jack Swingler arrived as the new vicar. (Many will know that Jane Jeanes is his daughter). He was the vicar until 1985, when Peter Hallett took over (in 1986). Both of the vicars were instrumental in writing much of the copy for the magazine, the wives, children and anyone else on hand helped with duplicating and collating. Who remembers the old stencils and duplicating machines from their youth! One turn of the handle per page…And as for auto collation – surely that is what young children are for!

Even in those days, the magazine was delivered to people's homes, mostly through church members. The willing band of distributors walked from door to door, some magazines were posted to church members who had moved away, and copies

were for sale in the church. (No excuses, if you want a copy, you'd better pay, or risk the wrath of Grace Jackson who kept the books!) Aside from a few sales and a bit of advertising though the main costs were met by the church. (Note the price on this early edition – 2 pence for the whole magazine, or 1 penny for just the cover and news section!)

The next significant date was in 2001. After the ordeal of foot and mouth, there was a need to rebuild life in rural Britain. A questionnaire was produced by the Arthur Rank Centre and shared across the village. (Perhaps you remember filling in this questionnaire?) The results were not surprising - people wanted more connection! They wanted local updates and news. Parish Councils were required to update their parishioners four times per year, so a new partnership came into being. The Parish Council agreed to underwrite a grant to help with the costs of producing a magazine with local news that would be delivered to every house in the parish (church member or not).

A member of the Parish Council, Gerald French, stepped up, and so a new era of Wot's On began. The "modern" days of magazine production using a home computer were upon us … to read about the next stage, you will have to tune in next issue, when we will tell the story from 2003 onwards…

Gail Cullum



From Able Seaman to Commander – A Life in the Royal Navy



Isha arrived in the UK from Trinidad in 1988 together with her mum, two brothers and one sister. They lived close to their family in Yeovil for a short time before moving to Henstridge in 1990 when Isha was aged six. She is the youngest of the four, all of whom still live in this area.

Having been home taught in Trinidad, her first school was Charlton Horethorne Primary with King Arthur's after that. Academic achievement was not at the top of the agenda, preferring something practical and at the age of 14 decided that she would join the Royal Navy (RN). Her application to join was made at the age of 15 yrs and 9 months – the lowest age that applications were permitted.

On joining in July 2001, the first location was HMS Raleigh at Torpoint, Cornwall for eight weeks basic training - learning to be a sailor and passing out in the rank of Able Seaman. Having joined as an engineering trainee, it was then on to HMS Sultan in Gosport for aircraft engineering training. Isha quickly realised that engineering was not for her and changed branch to become a "Writer". The name Writer dates back to the time when everything was recorded by hand. A Writer provides personnel and pay administration and other clerical services. So, it was back to Raleigh to qualify before joining HMS Nelson in Portsmouth, her first ship. Deployment quickly followed in 2004 on HMS YORK a Type 42 Destroyer. This brought lots of travelling including being the first and last British warship to visit Zhanjiang Naval Base in China. A six-month deployment was the first time away from home for a long stint. This was tough at times but some life-long friendships were established. On such trips responsibilities included making sure people were paid correctly, checking numbers when arriving and leaving port, providing local currency, first aid, and additional sentry and fog look-out duties.

Following promotion to Leading Hand, JSU Northwood was the next station as a Leading Writer. The next long trip was to Afghanistan: a very challenging experience. Isha will never forget the total silence when coming into land in a totally blacked out aircraft wearing body armour and helmet. It was frighteningly clear that they were entering a war zone. On the second night a siren signalled a mortar attack; out of bed, get into body armour plus helmet, then back to bed waiting for whatever was next. Having joined the Navy, it was strange to be in a landlocked country and being bombed. This deployment was with the Joint Force Logistics HQ, responsible for all British forces in Afghanistan. A very difficult experience with regular funerals and repatriations of three, four or five coffins at a time. Camaraderie was an essential support.

While with that unit, Isha was encouraged to apply to be commissioned via the Upper Yardman scheme, which is a commissioning pathway that allows serving RN ratings to transition into the officer corps. The main difference between a RN Officer and a Rating is their role: commissioned officers focus on strategic management, leadership, and command, while ratings perform hands-on technical, operational, and practical duties. This was a big step. There was a short stint at Yeovilton in 2009, before heading to Britania Royal Naval College (BRNC), Dartmouth for officer training. She arrived at BRNC in April 2010 as a Sub-Lieutenant and trained alongside the direct entrants who joined from university. Her training included some academic elements but also fleet time with HMS OCEAN in South America and Africa. She Passed Out (graduated) in December 2010. She then completed her trade training as a Logistics Officer at HMS Raleigh, including time on HMS DARING, a Type 45 Destroyer, as an ALO - Assistant Logistics Officer. Then, in September 2011, came her first "proper job" as a qualified Logistics Officer at Navy Command HQ at Portsmouth in Establishments, working on future planning and

workforce requirements, deleting positions to meet the reduction in workforce as directed by the Government. This was a time of major change in the RN. The aircraft carriers ARK ROYAL and HMS ILLUSTRIOUS were decommissioned along with all four Type 22 Frigates. Isha gained a commendation from the Second Sea Lord for her work here.



She joined HMS ECHO in September 2013, her first ship with her own department, where she was the only Logistics Officer on board and in charge of all Supply Chain, HR, Catering and Medical functions. Deploying to the Middle and Far East again, her time included searching for the missing Malaysian Airlines MH370 aircraft.

In 2015 she joined Yeovilton as the Executive Assistant to the Commanding Officer of the Commando Helicopter Force while they were transitioning from Sea King to Merlin helicopters. For the first time since getting married in 2012 she was able to live at home in Henstridge. Another commendation was given from the Fleet Commander, second in operational command of the RN. Isha was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 2017 and deployed to Tampa, Florida, USA where she formed part of the staff of the Senior British Military Advisor to US Central Command. This posting included leading the evacuation of 24 British military personnel, two dogs and 16 cars to escape hurricane Irma.

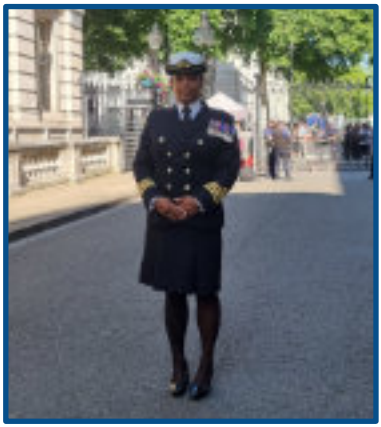
More training followed with the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham Defence College where she learnt about UK Defence management, naval strategy, maritime capabilities, and the "Big Navy" – the masterplan. While there, Isha was selected for Professional Command as the Logistics Officer on HMS ARGYLL. A nine-month deployment to the Far East and the South China seas followed. In March 2019 as they returned to the UK they rescued 27 people from a burning, sinking vessel, the Grande America, in rough seas off the Bay of Biscay in the middle of the night.



In 2020, as Covid restrictions were introduced, there was a short notice deployment to the Gulf. It was a big challenge to make sure the vessel was organically sustainable as ports were closing and it was impossible to know where they might next be able to dock. Time on HMS ARGYLL was a career highlight.

Next, onto MOD Abbeywood Maritime Operations near Bristol, acting as the interface between deployed ships and the MOD support enterprise, co-ordinating movements of spares and workforces globally, including during the maiden Carrier Strike Group 21 deployment and COVID restrictions. Joining Permanent Joint Headquarters in late 2022

she supported over 400 deployed personnel in 6 disparate locations across the African continent and shaped the MOD's strategy for the withdrawal of UK troops.



Promoted to Commander in July 2023 she was appointed as head of the RN Supply Chain Improvement Programme and was responsible for ensuring that, by 2026, the RN had 80% of its ships fully operational and ready to deploy at any given time, introducing better forecasting and demand planning. This was a big job but then came a bigger one.

On September 7th 2026, Isha took over at Yeovilton as Commander Logistics Naval Aviation. She is the most senior logistician, managing and enabling all logistics and sustainability for both Yeovilton and Culdrose – the two primary Royal Naval Aviation Stations in the UK. Currently all eyes are on the First Sea Lord's plan - War Fighting Readiness 2029; ensuring that both Air Stations are ready for warfighting as the Royal Navy transforms into a high-readiness, hybrid combat force, focused on countering rising Russian threats in the Atlantic and Arctic, modernising leadership, and integrating autonomous systems.

This job has always been the dream and now the dream has come true.

John Graham

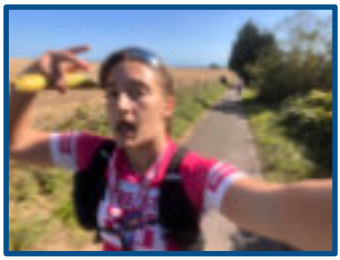




Ultra Martha: Smashed It! Henstridge Teen Completes 100km Ultra Marathon

If one was standing around Bramley Camping Park around 7.00am on Saturday September 5th one could not have failed to notice an extraordinary melee, as 510 runners and walkers prepared to take on the 100 km challenge organised by UltraChallenge. Of these, 400 had taken on the challenge of completing it in one day, while 110 were probably a little wiser and aimed to take two days.

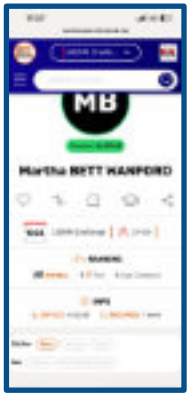
Among them was Martha Bett Wanford, 19 years old, resident of Henstridge, past pupil at The Gryphon School, who is well known in the village; working at the Bird, helping Kate with her teas, bellringing, and plenty more besides, and currently studying at Brighton University. What Martha was not, was a marathon runner; fit, yes, sporty yes, with all the fearlessness of youth, but no marathon experience.



The course presented a few problems. While it was run over the South Downs, anyone who has even walked there knows that there appear to be more ups than Downs! In fact, the runners had to climb approximately 2,100 metres over the 100km. This is the equivalent of almost 7 times the height of the Eiffel Tower or climbing 600 storeys in a high-rise building! So, we asked Martha a few questions, starting with the obvious:

Why did you sign up to this?

She said "I saw the flyer at the University, and knew it was that extra challenge, both physical and mental. I was understandably apprehensive about it, especially when most people seemed shocked when I told them. While doubts lingered, I wanted to prove to myself and others what we can be capable of if we put our minds to it."



Did you hit "The Wall"?

"Yes, a massive wall at 50 km- I was crying and it was not a pretty sight. A spectator asked if I was OK, I said no, and kept running, and another female runner kept me company until the 60 km mark. From the 80 km mark I did walk/hobble quite a lot, but I tapped into music and thought of my friends at the finish line."

The record shows that Martha finished in 14 hours and 12 minutes after the start; 20th overall of the 510 starters, and the 3rd female! 78 did not finish. She has a medal and a free entry to the next Ultra-Marathon!



Would Martha recommend this?

"No; making eye contact with my blisters post run was not a pretty sight, but the sports massage and free food cheered me up. On reflection, I would not recommend anyone attempting to run 100km with no experience, but I would recommend signing up to something that you are afraid of."

Martha ran the ultra-Marathon to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness, in memory of her grandmother, who died in 2017.

You can support her amazing efforts by going to JustGiving and typing in martha-bett-wanford.

I think she has earned our support.

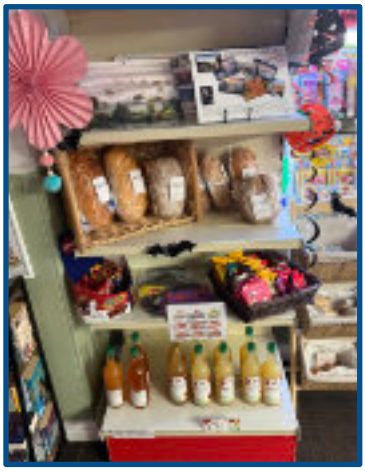
Simon Cullum

Congratulations!

Local Business Celebrates Milestone Anniversary

Our Congratulations to Wayne Pullen on 20 years ownership of his shop.





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

(1) Nitrogen
(2) Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
(3) Camel
(4) Qatar
(5) Norman Greenbaum; Dr. and the Medics & Gareth Gates
(6) Avocado
(7) Casino Royale
(8) Six (in a 3x2 pattern
(9) Montevideo
(10) The Battle of Gallipoli

Freya at the Fringe with Kismet

Choosing an art as your profession is becoming increasingly difficult. There's little money, less support, and the knowledge that it's a precarious way to live. Not to even mention the terrifying growth of AI and technology, and the threats to human creativity that come with it. But the ultimate reward is worth all of the hurdles. The feeling that you are connecting to people that you've never met, making them feel something and perhaps question the world we live in, is enough. Changing someone's mind, or even just providing a space of release and comfort. Art is for everyone.



I felt its magic from very young, when as the granddaughter of Bridget Hallett, who you may know as once being the vicar's (Peter Hallett, my Grandad) wife, took me along to her performances of the local pantomime in Stalbridge. I would sit crouched in the wings with a script, enamoured by the transformation of these normal people into these huge and extravagant characters. My Granny Bridget has always been bonkers, but she also has an affinity for bringing people together through village events and community relationships. She loves the theatre, and is often found being an extra for Casualty or a new BBC drama. I'm not quite as outwardly confident as she is, but I find that theatre gives me a way to express my own thoughts and feelings, in a world that is sometimes difficult to understand.

This summer, myself and the theatre company I am part of (named Kismet, which means 'fate') took our first show to the Edinburgh Fringe. 'Codetta' is a musical focused on growing up as a girl in the 2000s; a time of massive change and the birth of the internet. It's wild, fun, moving, and unique in a way that a lot of coming-of-age pieces aren't. However, the Fringe is extremely expensive - to put on a show costs thousands, and it's very rare you make a profit. It sounds mad to even consider it, but the Fringe is where theatre shows lift off.



We simply would not have gotten there if it wasn't for the immense support we had from friends, family, and strangers who put their trust (and money!) in us. We cannot believe we managed to make a profit… of £3!

The experience was one of a kind, and enabled us to see so many shows, and foster some very important connections that are now helping us make our next steps. We even had the director of The Globe theatre see the show - she loved it!

Thank you again to all those who have helped us on our journey so far. Many exciting things lay ahead! I am so proud to be part of the South-West's creative scene, and we as a company look forward to making it thrive.

Freya de Villiers

Explorers



Explorers have enjoyed settling back in after the summer and welcoming new friends. We have been as busy as ever, with a range of wonderful activities and set ups provided by the team and of course our volunteer ladies. These wonderful activities, range from art and craft activities to small world set ups, sensory activities, physical activities and much more!

Our overall theme has been Autumn where we have been exploring what happens during this season and we now enjoy singing some new songs we have learnt, especially 'Autumn Leaves'.

As part of National Apple Day, we visited Quiet Corner Farm (the day after due to the pouring rain) and we had the best time collecting apples and going through the process to turn them into Apple Juice, which we all thought was Yummy!

We also had a fantastic Halloween party, on the last day of term, with lots of spooky fun and games and creepy fancy-dress costumes, the children all looked amazing, I am sure you agree!



After half term, we are looking forward to taking part in National Nursery Rhyme week and Children in Need. We are super excited for National Princess Day on 18th November, and I am sure we will have lots of Princesses (and Princes) in on that day!

We will be learning about what Remembrance Day, Diwali and World Kindness Day mean and we will explore these, through a range of activities.

We are also planning and learning around the children's own interests, which is a wonderful way of learning and extending on what matters to them, as the little individuals they are.

We have a busy half term coming up, in the lead, up to Christmas, but it will be a special and wonderful half term, and we look forward to sharing our adventures of this time with you in the next Edition.

We would love to welcome you all to our fundraising bingo on Saturday 5th December, we are raising funds for a much needed toilet area refurbishment, so please do come along and support us.

If you would like to find out more about our lovely pre-school, please call us on

07792 240804 or email explorers.supervisor@hotmail.co.uk

We would love to show you around or answer any questions.

Please do contact us on 07792 240804

explorers.supervisor@hotmail.co.uk

Debbi Norwood

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

We have had a really good start to the term as Brownies along with Guides, Rangers, Young leaders and adults enjoyed a wonderful weekend in September at Mendip Activity centre. The girls met others from across the county and some rekindled friendships made 2 years ago at the same venue and at a Brownie holiday in February. These events give the girls a chance to realise there are members of Guiding in other places. One of our Rainbows has been to a World Guiding event in Ghana during half term as her mum works for The World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. Our Rainbow unit has a bear who had a big adventure to The House of Lords in half term when Bishop Michael was introduced as one of the Lords Spiritual. She behaved very well and had her picture taken on the train, next to the Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben and in a fireplace in the family room we used until it was time to sit in the seats above the throne in the Lords Chamber.

The girls are all working hard on the varied programme and playing old much loved games when there is time. Thank you to village clubs who have given us donations and to CAMEO for the donation after speaking to them a few weeks ago. Ken and I provided first aid cover at Joe Tizzard's Open day and a music event in Milborne Wick and they each gave us a donation.

We have a waiting list for both units and try our best to make sure it is up to date. Guides also meet with us and are very short of girls at the moment. Guides start from 10 till 14 when they can move to Rangers. Guides offers girls a chance to grow and gain confidence in a girls only space, where they can be themselves without outside pressures. They can help with other units as part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and often find this opens other doors. There are international events as well and lots of opportunities to take part in things in the UK as well.

Jane Jeanes aka Woodpecker or Brown owl 07712824747 janejeanes78@gmail.com

Christingle

Our Christingle Service will take place on Sunday 6th December at around 4pm. This is the only service of the day in Henstridge Church so it would be good to see adults there who are not parents or grandparents of children who will be taking part in our Messy Christingle which starts at 3pm. Christingle services are a wonderful way to start a Christmas journey if you didn't start on Advent Sunday. They also raise money for The Children's Society which is doing so much to help children and families all over the UK. From providing help for young carers or family centres or a drop-in centre for teenagers who have run away from home, the society is needed just as much today as it was when Edward Rudolf started The Waifs and Strays Society in 1861. Collection envelopes and cardboard candles will go out through the school and playgroup at the end of November. There will be some in the church for anyone who has children in the village who go to other schools as the afternoon is open to all. I am asking if anyone could help by providing a simple Christmas craft which the children always enjoy . They make their own Christingles, do some craft and we all stop for tea before the service . We ask that all children are well supervised by a responsible adult, so that no one is hurt especially as we light our candles during the service.

It would be lovely to see you there on Sunday 6th December as this is also our patronal festival as it is St Nicholas Day.

Jane Jeanes

Lots to Celebrate at St Nicholas!

Small school. Big opportunities. A community that cares.

St Nicholas Church School in Henstridge has plenty to celebrate, from welcoming a strong intake of Reception children this September to exciting trips, sporting opportunities and generous support from the village community. We extend a warm welcome to all our new children and families. Their arrival reflects the school's appeal to local parents, and we hope families will continue to spread the word about what St Nicholas offers.

We may be a small village school, but we have big ambitions for our children. We want every child to discover new interests, build confidence and make lasting memories through experiences that take learning beyond the classroom.

Already this year, pupils have had the opportunity to visit London and experience the excitement of the capital city. Closer to home, sport has been another highlight, with specialist cricket coaching and football coaching through our work with Yeovil. Whether exploring somewhere new or trying a sport for the first time, these opportunities help children broaden their horizons, develop their talents and believe in what they can achieve.

With more experiences still to come, there is plenty to look forward to.

£363 Raised by Our Community

Alongside these opportunities, support from the Henstridge community is helping us enrich school life. Our thanks go to everyone at the Bird in Hand and all those who have contributed to its fundraising for St Nicholas. Together, they have raised £363 for the school: £125 from the monthly quiz and £238 from the collection bottle. The money will go towards updating our school library and purchasing other resources to support and enrich our children's curriculum.

As a community-owned pub, the Bird in Hand shares our place at the heart of village life. We look forward to strengthening this relationship and exploring further ways to bring the school and wider community together.



The Wilson family have also made a generous donation towards much-needed books for our children, and we would like to thank them for their support. Reading is central to school life. Each new book gives children another chance to discover a story, explore ideas and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Above and Beyond: Well Done, Kelly!

We are incredibly proud of our member of staff Kelly Groves, who quite literally took fundraising to new heights by completing an amazing wing walk to raise funds for a very special family in our community. What an incredible achievement and a wonderful demonstration of courage, kindness and community spirit. A huge well done, Kelly!

Thank You to Our Volunteers

That same community spirit is evident in the offers of help we have received from volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has come forward to support the school. The time, skills and enthusiasm you share can make a real difference to children's experiences, and we are grateful to belong to a village that cares about its school.

Could St Nicholas Be the School for Your Child?

As our school community grows, we would love more children and families to discover St Nicholas. Here, children are known and valued as individuals, with trips, sport and wider experiences helping to make their primary school years memorable. Whether you are looking for a school place, considering a change of school or simply curious about what we offer, we invite you to visit. Meet our children and staff, explore the school and see what makes St Nicholas special.

We would love to welcome you - enquiries@henstridgestnicholas.bwmat.org

A Very Special Thank You

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all our TLC members for the time and energy they give behind the scenes to support our children. Their contribution strengthens so much of what happens in and around St Nicholas, and we are grateful for everything they do.

As I come to the end of my first official term at St Nicholas, I would like to add my personal thanks to our children, families, staff, TLC, volunteers and wider village community for their welcome, support and encouragement. It has been a privilege to lead this school. I am proud of what we have achieved together and excited about the opportunities ahead.

Holiday Provisions

St Nicholas School is looking to start holiday provisions for parents in the area. If you are interested, please contact enquiries@henstridgestnicholas.bwmat.org.

Christmas Is Coming to St Nicholas!

Looking ahead to Christmas, we hope to host a St Nicholas Christmas Concert for the Henstridge community, bringing children, families and the wider village together for a festive celebration.

PROPOSED DATE: THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Tickets will be available soon. Look out for more information at the Bird in Hand and the Village Hall or email us on enquiries@henstridgesstnicholas.bwmat.org . We hope you will join us!

Come and discover St Nicholas Church School, Henstridge.

Rebecca Lihou
Head Teacher

Historic Houses for a Family Day Out

Lytes Cary Manor



Situated just past Yeovilton sits a stunning medieval manor with a fascinating history and amazing architecture of both man-made structures and carefully crafted gardens. The manor houses a range of buildings each with their own history, for example the chapel was built in 1348, making it even older than the manor itself. Additionally, the manor is surrounded by stables, a parlour and cattle houses where local barn owls roost. The gardens look like the perfect place to hold a traditional English garden party with a croquet lawn and an orchard. Opening times vary; the house is open from 11:00am – 2:30pm whereas the estate walks and garden are open from 10:00am – 4:00pm. The site is closed for the year from November 29th. However, there will be a Christmas market on the 14th and 15th of November from 10:00 am – 3:00pm so the manor will not be missing out on seasonal festivities.

There are lots of activities onsite, an adventure trail and picnic area for children, a second-hand bookshop housed in an old cowshed and tea rooms that serve hot and cold drinks as well as light snacks. As this is a National Trust property, members have free access while for non-members it is £15.00 for an adult and £7.50 for a child. For more information please visit the website at: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/lytes-cary-manor.

Athelhampton



Whilst this is not a National Trust site, this grade one listed property has a stunning site and is very much worth mentioning. The property is open from 10:00am – 5:00pm but the closing time changes to 3:30pm in December and January. It is open every day apart from Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The standard admission price to view both the gardens and house is £24.50 for an adult and £6.00 for a child and this includes access to the house, gardens and guided tours within the house. The festive period seems like the idyllic place for a winter evening, luckily there will be a festive late night tour available to book on the 11th and 17th of December from 7:30pm – 8:00pm and this involves a tour of the decorated house conducted by the estate manager. Halfway through the tour, you can indulge in mulled wine and mince pies by the fire in the great hall. There are limited spaces per night. Tickets are £21.50 per person. Another festive treat is the onsite restaurant offering a seasonal weekday carvery together with house and garden admission for only £25.00 per person. For more information please visit their website: https://www.athelhampton.com/

Lights at Stourhead



From 27th November until 3rd January a flurry of lights will be arranged in a spectacular array of scenes from a "sea of light" to a "fire garden" to a "winter cathedral". Stourhead will light up their ethereal gardens once again. The walk around the gardens and the various traditional Christmas stalls is the perfect way to start the festive period. There are numerous time slots available from 4:00pm – 7:00pm in 15 minute intervals. For the on-peak slots, the cost is £26.50 per adult and £19.50 for a

child. The off-peak times are considerably cheaper at £18.00 for an adult and £13.00 for a child. The spectacle at Stourhead is extraordinary and is the perfect way to begin the Christmas magic. The house will also be decorated to celebrate A Nutcracker Christmas. For more information visit: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/stourhead/christmas-lights-at-stourhead

Hope New

Youth Representative Report

Another busy few months in our Parish meeting with our young people and those who support them. I was delighted to attend the Youth Connect South West Young People's Awards at Sturminster Youth Club. Many awards were given out for young people who had worked through significant challenges. I met the Mayor and Mayoress of Sturminster Town and was heartened to hear their unwavering support for provision for the young people of Sturminster. I also met with two of our LCN (Local Community Network) workers who are particularly focused on young people and wellbeing. We plan to meet up and continue these discussions as to how we can work together to pool resources to further support young people within our LCN.

Brownies & Rainbows: Please see Jane Jeane's Report in this magazine.

Youth Funding Group - this is a new group in the parish, set up to raise funds, including through grants, to create further provision for our young people. We are discussing an outside table tennis table as one of our first projects. Further details to follow. If you would like to know about this group, please contact Jane Rose, Representative for Youth: 01963 362048 or 07761185630.

Jane Rose

Henstridge Youth Club Update

Henstridge Youth Club continues to go from strength to strength, with young people attending regularly each week and new members joining throughout the summer, highlighting the need for a welcoming place for local young people to meet, socialise, and take part in positive activities.

This term has been packed with opportunities for young people to learn new skills, build friendships, and have fun. Popular activities have included football, volleyball, archery, golf target challenges, arts and crafts, and cooking sessions. Having the space to explore their creativity in an encouraging atmosphere has helped in developing the young people's confidence, independence, and ability to work as part of a team.



A summer trip to Brean Leisure Park was also a huge success and gave many young people the opportunity to enjoy an experience they may not otherwise have had.

We are particularly proud that two of our young people have been nominated for the Youth Connect South West Young People's Awards in recognition of their volunteering and positive contribution to the community.

Looking ahead to Christmas, young people are already helping to plan festive activities, seasonal crafts, cooking sessions, and community-based events.

We look forward to continuing to welcome new members and providing opportunities for local young people to connect, learn, and thrive.

For Youth Club Enquiries contact Claire Bailey, Senior Youth Support Worker on 07977 859700

Rob Rumming-Pain, Area Youth Worker

Handy Hints

Winter Driving Tips from Alastair at Vale Auto

Cold temperatures, heavy rain, fog, frost and ice can expose weaknesses in a vehicle that may go unnoticed during warmer weather. A few sensible checks before winter can reduce the risk of a breakdown and help keep drivers, passengers and other road users safe.

Tyres and Road Grip

Your tyres are the only part of the vehicle in direct contact with the road, so their condition is particularly important in wet and wintry weather. Check that each tyre has plenty of tread, is inflated to the correct pressure and shows no cracks, bulges or other damage. Uneven wear may point to incorrect wheel alignment or a fault in the steering or suspension. Finding the cause early can improve handling, extend tyre life and reduce the chance of a problem developing when road conditions are poor.

Battery Condition

Cold weather places extra strain on a vehicle's battery. If the engine turns over slowly, the lights appear dim or the battery is several years old, arrange to have it tested. A straightforward battery check can prevent the inconvenience of a vehicle that will not start on a cold morning.

Coolant and Antifreeze

The cooling system needs the correct level and strength of coolant to protect the engine against freezing, overheating and internal corrosion. Check the level only when the engine is completely cold. If the level continues to fall after being topped up, have the vehicle inspected for a leak or another underlying fault.

Lights, Wipers and Visibility

Good visibility matters during dark mornings, heavy rain, fog and low winter sunlight. Make sure every exterior light works correctly and keep the lenses clean. Wiper blades that smear, judder or leave unclear areas should be replaced. Use a suitable winter-strength screen wash rather than plain water, which may freeze. Keeping the inside of the windscreen clean also reduces glare and helps the demisting system work effectively.

Brakes and Suspension

Brakes and suspension work particularly hard on wet, icy and uneven roads. Unusual noises, vibration, pulling to one side or a change in the feel of the brake pedal should be investigated promptly. An inspection can identify worn or damaged components before they become a more serious safety concern.

Driving for the Conditions

Allow extra time for every journey, reduce your speed and leave a greater distance between your vehicle and the one ahead. Avoid harsh braking, sudden acceleration and sharp steering movements. Before setting off, clear every window fully and use dipped headlights whenever visibility is reduced. A basic winter kit is also worth carrying. Useful items include warm clothing or a blanket, a torch, an ice scraper, de-icer, a high-visibility jacket, drinking water and an in-car phone charger.

Preparing Yor Vehicle for Winter

Vale Auto Services Ltd can prepare your vehicle for the colder months with professional servicing, maintenance and safety inspections. We can check the tyres, battery and charging system, brakes, suspension, lights, wipers, coolant and essential fluid levels. Dealing with a small problem now may prevent an inconvenient breakdown or a more expensive repair later in the winter.

Please drop in and see us with any queries. Our friendly advice is always free.

Alastair Elder
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VEHICLE TESTING STATION

From the Churchwardens

The search for our new priest-in-charge continues

Once again, we have advertised our vacancy but the deadline has passed without our attracting an application. The situation is complicated by the neighbouring benefices of Wincanton and Milborne Port also being in vacancy. In the meantime, we rely on Lay Worship Assistants or retired clergy to conduct our services and we are very grateful for all that they do.

Gift Day

This year, the church's annual gift day falls on 12th December and this edition of the magazine carries a leaflet explaining why we need to raise money and an envelope. We hope you can contribute to the funds necessary to run the church (every little helps, to pinch a well-known slogan). You can drop your envelope into the church on Gift Day, when there will be someone there to look after it, or at any church service.

Church Services

The services for Christmas are published in *Wot's On*, and on the Christmas card, which is enclosed with this edition of the magazine, but we need to give you a warning about services in January and February. There may be changes to the usual pattern as we are trying to find ways of reducing the workload that is being placed on lay worship assistants and retired clergy. Do, please, check the notices on the church noticeboard and in the church doorway for services in the New Year.

Hugo Barton & Jacky Manning, Churchwardens at St Nicholas

Church Flowers

A big thank you to the now very small number of people who decorate our lovely church for festivals . The harvest decorations were much admired even though the dry season has



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@gmil.com

meant less flowers available this year. We have more dahlias now than at any time this summer. We will continue having flowers in the church until Advent Sunday ,29th November . Decorating for Christmas will be on Saturday 19th December for the carol service on 20th. If anyone would like to decorate a window or any other vacant spot please let me know . We have a small flower fund which can be used to help with cost if needed but a gift of flowers or greenery is always welcome.

Jane Jeanes
01963370769, 07712824747
janejeanes78@gmail.com

Services in November, December, January & February

November

22nd	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Henstridge
	6.00pm	Evening Service
29th	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Holton
	3.00 pm	Music and Words

December

6th	3.00pm	Messy Christingle
	4.00pm	Christingle Service
13th	10.30am	Holy Communion
20th	6.00pm	Carol Service
24th	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.00pm	Midnight Communion
25th	10.00am	Morning Worship
27th	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion at North Cheriton
	6.00pm	Evening Service

Wot's On went to press at the end of October before the Benefice churchwardens and lay worship assistants had their planning meeting on 13th November. So, the services listed below may or may not happen. Please check the church website: Events - St Nicholas, Henstridge - A Church Near You or the notice in the church porch or in the churchyard from January for the up-to-date schedule.

January

3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship
10th	10.30am	Holy Communion
17th	10.30am	Morning Worship
24th	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion
31st	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Music and Words

February

7th	10.30am	Morning Worship
14th	10.30am	Holy Communion
21st	10.30am	Morning Worship
28th	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion

Parish Council

Planning Rules Are Changing – What Does This Mean for Henstridge?
An important update for residents from Henstridge Parish Council

Henstridge Parish Council
Contact the Parish Clerk
Ann Lee
Mob: 07841 392242
Email: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Web: www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

From 31 October 2026, new national planning rules are expected to change how planning applications are decided in England, including here in Henstridge. The Government's aim is to make planning decisions quicker and more consistent. The changes will also mean that fewer applications are decided by elected councillors sitting on Somerset Council's Planning Committees, with more decisions made by professional planning officers. We want residents to understand what is changing, what influence they still have, and what Henstridge Parish Council can realistically achieve on their behalf.

Who actually decides planning applications?

One common misunderstanding is that the Parish Council can approve or refuse planning applications. It cannot and never has been able to.

Somerset Council is the local planning authority. Henstridge Parish Council is consulted on applications affecting our village and can submit comments, support proposals, raise concerns or formally object. Somerset Council must consider relevant planning matters, but it is not required to agree with the Parish Council's recommendation.

What is changing?

Under the new rules, many applications will be decided by Somerset Council's planning officers rather than a Planning Committee. These include many smaller developments, householder applications and certain technical applications relating to existing permissions.

Larger developments may still be considered by a Planning Committee, but an objection from the Parish Council or a request from a councillor will not automatically secure a committee hearing. Referrals must meet the new rules and procedures.

Residents should therefore not assume that a controversial application will necessarily be debated and voted upon at a public committee meeting.

What about new housing developments in Henstridge?

Residents understandably have concerns about the combined effects of additional housing. Relevant planning matters may include:

- Traffic, road safety and pedestrian access
- Flooding, drainage and pressure on sewerage systems
- Capacity of local schools, healthcare and other services
- Effects on wildlife, countryside and village character
- Location, design and mix of homes, including affordable housing

These concerns remain relevant. The new procedures do not give developers automatic permission to build or remove Somerset Council's duty to assess applications against applicable planning policies and legal requirements. However, local opposition alone may not be enough to secure a committee hearing.

Does a petition or a large number of objections stop a development?

No. A petition or many objections can show the strength of local feeling, but the number of objections does not determine the outcome. Planning decisions must be based on relevant planning considerations. Evidence about a dangerous junction, inadequate drainage or harm to a conservation area can be important. A general statement that the village does not want more houses, without identifying planning harm, may carry less weight. The strength and relevance of evidence matter more than the number of objections.

Can the Parish Council still challenge applications?

Yes. Henstridge Parish Council can still examine applications, listen to residents, submit detailed objections, request information and raise concerns with Somerset Council. Where appropriate, it can seek support from Somerset councillors and request committee consideration where the rules allow. But the Parish Council cannot force Somerset Council to refuse an application or guarantee a committee hearing. A decision by a planning officer does not, by itself, mean that local comments have been ignored.

What happens to applications already being considered?

Applications submitted but not yet decided when the new rules take effect may be affected. Residents should not assume that an earlier request for a committee hearing will automatically remain valid. The Parish Council will seek clarification from Somerset Council where existing applications or referral requests may be affected, taking account of any transitional provisions.

What happens if permission is granted despite objections?

Residents and parish councils do not generally have an ordinary right of appeal against the grant of planning permission. Applicants normally have appeal rights if permission is refused or in certain other circumstances. A legal challenge may sometimes be possible, but it concerns whether a decision was lawful, not simply whether people disagree with it.

What will Henstridge Parish Council continue to do?

We will continue to scrutinise applications, identify their possible effects on our community, raise evidence-based concerns and seek appropriate safeguards. We will encourage residents to make their own representations: individual comments can provide valuable local knowledge. We must also manage expectations fairly. Representing residents does not mean the Parish Council has the legal power to deliver the outcome everyone wants. Our responsibility is to ensure local concerns are properly expressed, relevant evidence is presented and correct procedures are followed.

How residents can help

Read the published plans and submit comments directly to Somerset Council within the consultation period. Explain specifically how the proposal could affect the area and provide factual evidence wherever possible. You can also bring concerns to Henstridge Parish Council for councillors to consider in preparing the Parish Council's response.

Our commitment to Henstridge

These national changes are not decisions made by Henstridge Parish Council. They alter the procedures Somerset Council must follow. Although the process is changing, our commitment to protecting the interests of the village is not. We will continue to speak up for Henstridge, challenge proposals where there are sound planning grounds, and keep residents informed. Our voice remains important, but everyone should understand the limits of our legal powers and the changing planning process.

Henstridge Parish Council

Meet the Parish Council:

Chair - Veronica Smith (Ronnie)

Ken Courtenay	Dennis Finch	Adrian Gaymer	John Graham
Barrry 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.

The View From Somerset Council

Access for Somerset Residents to Dorset Recycling

I have again asked the Cabinet Member responsible for any progress on talks with Dorset on this issue but have received no answer. This is very disappointing as I first asked for progress on this in August of 2025, and three times since. All I have been told in previous communications is that discussions are taking place between officers.

Car Parking Charges to Increase

Despite over 4000 people signing a petition to oppose increases in charges, the Somerset Council's Executive has approved increases in car parking charges across the county. From January all parking fees in paid-for Somerset Council car parks will increase by 10 per cent. A new tiered charging system, applicable seven days a week, and agreed in March by the Council's Executive Committee, will come into effect from autumn 2027.

Key recommendations include:

- Approval of up to £350,000 from the Parking Reserve to replace payment machines across Somerset.
- Proposals to extend town-centre residents' parking schemes and on-street restrictions from 6 to 7 days, to be in place before any 7-day off-street charging is introduced.
- A framework enabling city, town and parish councils to support local parking objectives if they wish to do so.

No decisions will be taken at this stage on introducing charges at car parks which are currently free. The Council would first engage with communities, local councillors, businesses and other stakeholders on free car parks, on-street parking, permits, concessions and future payment arrangements. Any proposals requiring changes to parking orders or traffic regulation orders would also go through the relevant statutory process, including consultation and consideration of objections. I remain opposed to these increases. Anyone visiting Yeovil will know how shops are struggling to get sufficient customers and extending and increasing car parking charges will not improve this.

Do Something Amazing for Someone Amazing

Somerset's Lord-Lieutenant Mohammed Saddiq is launching a campaign to get more people from the county nominated for national honours. He is writing to every town and parish council and community organisation across the historic county of Somerset, with the message "Do something amazing for someone amazing." And he wants every member of the public to think about the people they know who deserve recognition. Anyone can nominate and anyone can be nominated. More details about how to make an Honours nomination can be found on the Lord Lieutenant's website: https://somersetlieutenancy.com or email honours@somerset.gov.uk.

Somerset Council Warns Financial Position Remains "Deeply Fragile"

Somerset Council's latest Medium Term Financial Plan shows a £40.3 million budget gap for 2027/28, rising to a cumulative £63.5 million by 2031/32, even after revised assumptions and planned savings. The position could deteriorate further, with the Chief Finance Officer warning that pressures emerging this year could add around £30 million to next year's gap if they prove ongoing, potentially taking the challenge to around £70 million. The Council is already forecasting a £29.1 million overspend this year, its reserves remain below the minimum level recommended by the Section 151 Officer, and it has required Exceptional Financial Support to balance its budget in each year since 2024/25. The Council rates its medium-term financial sustainability risk at the maximum 25, "very high", and warns that failure to identify sufficient recurring savings and transformation could mean seeking further Government support or, if a balanced budget cannot be achieved, the issuing of a

Section 114 report, which would impose controls on non-essential spending and could require significant service reductions.

Somerset Council Backs Dementia Friendly Commitment

Somerset Council has unanimously backed plans to become a more dementia-friendly organisation and improve support for people living with dementia and their carers. The motion commits the Council to increasing dementia awareness among councillors and staff, encouraging participation in dementia awareness training and the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme, and working with the NHS, charities and community organisations to strengthen support. The Council Leader will also write to the Health Secretary supporting a national 18-week referral-to-diagnosis target.

Chancellor Confirms Support for Devolution in Wessex

The Budget statement included confirmation of the government's support for devolution for Wessex, i.e. a Wessex Mayor which would include Somerset Council. This is a significant vote of confidence in our region and recognition that decisions affecting local people are best made closer to their communities. It can mean greater local control over decisions affecting transport, housing, skills, regeneration and economic growth, enabling new, significant funding and investment to be directed towards the priorities that matter most to our communities. There are many questions about what today's devolution announcement means for the Wessex region. We await further detail from Government and will share information and updates as it is made available.

Hayward Burt, Somerset Councilor for Blackmore Vale

07543 854391 or

Hayward.Burt@somerset.gov.uk



Henstridge Village Hall

The Henstridge Village Hall Committee has been very busy over the last few months with the upkeep of the building in terms of various tests and risk assessments as well as updating policies.

We have commissioned a new logo and hope to get that more visible over the next year. We are having the hall and the lounge decorated over the next few months and possible future projects include a website and refurbishment of the kitchen.

Our hall and lounge are still popular for booking parties and celebratory events but we also host a good selection of different groups – fitness and wellness, crafts and sewing, games afternoons, The Flyers – our village Ladies' group, and Bridge, as well as our own fundraising activities such as Race Night.

Please come along to our car boots sales on the first Sunday of each month where you can get a hot drink and a bacon butty for a bargain price and our film matinees every third Sunday of each month. Some corkers coming up with The Rocky Horror Picture Show as our Christmas film – please feel free to dress up!

We are currently a very small team of volunteers so consequently we need three essential voluntary roles to be filled – Health, Safety & Fire Advisor, Buildings Manager and key holders. Please contact Amanda Shirlin-Brown at ajbrown1@hotmail.co.uk for more information on these roles.

We celebrated Halloween with Race Night at the Village Hall, a great success. Thank you to our sponsors – Grace Haines, Flexible Reflexology, The Chiropody Clinic, Awaydays Travel Company and Crossroads.

Amanda Shirlin-Brown

Chairman

News from the Bird in Hand

The musical link with the Bird continues. Following the amazing concert in the church in April in which guitarist Tom Toomey played a couple of sets, he suggested a return to Henstridge for a concert in which he would share the profits with the Bird. The result was a great evening on 9th October when Tom and his band recalled the 60s and 70s and the church rocked. A change of mood was provided by piano music, Cuban style, from Tom's wife, Milly Riquelme and the finale was a rousing Sanctus and Benedictus from local composer Martin Emslie's Rock Requiem with local singers Elysium providing the choir.

While the summer was hot and dry the pub provided an ideal location to slake our thirsts. Trading was brisk over the entire summer period, bolstered by events such as clog dancing and the regular Food Truck Fridays. Now the nights are darker we have investigated ways that we can continue to provide food on Fridays without people having to stand for long periods outside. We introduced Bingo on the first Sunday of the month and this has proved very popular. Eyes down at 7pm.

There has been a change on the Management Committee. With the resignation of Hugo Barton, Trevor McComish was elected Chair, and John Graham has become Vice-Chair in addition to his responsibilities regarding fundraising. The Management Committee is confident that it can cover all its responsibilities without recruiting another member. A great deal of work has been carried out behind the scenes. Just a few examples: we have installed a new electronic till system behind the bar which will keep track of all bar and food sales

without having to write them down on paper, part of the roof was repaired before the rains returned, and some of the kitchen equipment has been updated.

We have welcomed several new shareholders in recent weeks and we'd like to remind you that the only way you can become a member of the Bird in Hand Society Ltd is by investing in at least £100 of 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 in due course.

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 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 https://www.facebook.com/TheBirdinHandHenstridge.

contact@birdinhandsociety.org.uk

Jacky Manning
01963 548292 or jvmanning@uwclub.net



News from the Hive

Time for a rest from foraging after a hot, dry summer which saw diminishing pollen and nectar sources. We have all worked very hard especially those bees who were asked to keep the hive cool. They constantly have to fan their wings to keep the air flowing and use the water brought in by others to help with the process. We can't flick a switch to turn on air con. Early autumn rain meant a sudden flush of flowers and lots of food was available for us to bring in. Most hives will be going into the winter with lots of stores and Ken has been visiting to feed newer colonies and ones which are a bit weak. Thank you for all the flowers you have grown in your garden and for letting some weeds flourish. Bindweed although a menace to gardeners is very pretty and the flowers make foraging a joy. We hope you have planted lots of spring bulbs especially snowdrops and aconites as they will be so good to visit on our first trips out in the spring. Primroses are also welcome but the heat has meant many have not survived.

You may have seen in the news that nests of the yellow legged Asian Hornets were found in Somerset a few weeks ago. Members of the public are asked to look out for them and report them. There will be cards and posters in the church for you to look at and take away so you will be better informed

We hear there is honey for sale and if you buy from local beekeepers you can be sure you are buying a premium product. There will be beeswax candles, fudge and other hive products available in the weeks before Christmas. Ken will be at Templecombe Markets and at North Cheriton Christmas Fair.

The sun is shining so we are off out for a fly around and Ken will probably be visiting to make sure we still have our roofs on.

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

Henstridge Flyers Ladies' Group

Henstridge Flyers Ladies' Group is going from strength to strength as we have recruited some new members. Our plans for next year are well in hand as we continue to enjoy the usual fun and games! Please feel free to come along to a session or two (for a small fee) to try us out.

At our next meeting on November 17th, we will be making Christmas table centres with the obligatory mulled wine and mince pies. In December we have planned a murder mystery party which is for members only.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall lounge. Our yearly subscription is £35 which is less than £3 a time. Excellent value!

Come and join us!

Sue Latimer, Secretary

01963 365765

u3a

By the time Wot's On is out Charlotte Carty will have told of her grandfather's, Lt Colonel Bruno Brown Commanding Officer of the Assam Regiment, experiences in India and Burma during WWII and her own adventures recreating aspects of his remarkable campaign during the talk on 3rd November.

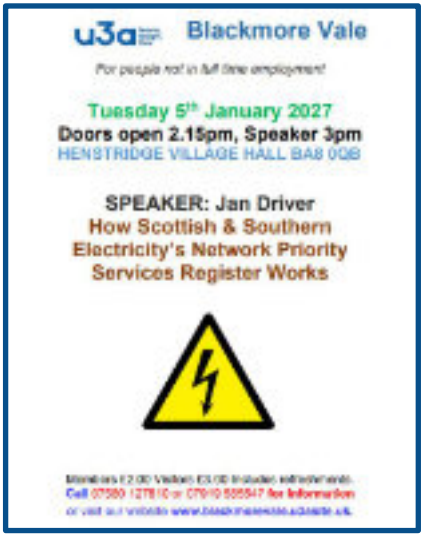
Next year, on 5th January, Jan Driver will explain how the Scottish and Southern Electricity Network Priority Services Register operates. While on March 2nd Anthony Gaster from Somerset Spirit near Castle Cary will delve into the mysteries of spirit making.

There is still an opportunity to join our committee. Please call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 for more information. All meetings are held at Henstridge Village Hall BA8 0QB where doors open at 2.15pm.

Call 07940 831998 for information or visit our website www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk.

Susan Kidd Publicity

Skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com



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Wessex Activity Group

What has WAG been up to?



Now that the nights have drawn in and the Bird in Hand has 'quiet night' on a Wednesday evening, a few of us are regularly meeting there for a mid-week drink and conversation. With no big screen or loud music, it's great for those of us that don't have the best hearing, are noise sensitive or just enjoy a quieter atmosphere. Thanks to the Bird for making this available.

The cooler autumn weather has been lovely for our walks and Bridget has been doing a great job getting us out on local footpaths. In fact everyone in our group who organises activities from bike rides to skittles nights and knitting to rugby have been doing a great job – a big thank you from all of us that attend!



Some of these activities have led to sub-groups forming over the past year or so:

Sip n Stitch - for crafters and people who are interested in having a go. We've been knitting and crocheting mostly but other crafts welcome. Come and share work, ideas and a glass or two at the Bird, every 3rd Monday of the month, 7pm.

Walking Touch Rugby – no previous experience required, just general fitness and a good sense of humour! We meet on Sundays at the top of the rec, 11am till midday.

Motorcycle group, both on and off road – we head out for rides around the Wessex area. There's usually a coffee and cake stop involved on road bike trips or take a flask when out on the green lanes on dirt bikes. If your motorbike's been sitting in the garage gathering dust, why not bring it out and join us.

If anyone is interested in joining WAG or any of the above groups, please get in touch with Steve (details below).

As well as organising and taking part in activities, many of the Wagsters get involved and contribute to our community including those who help to deliver the Wot's On and do litter picking around the village. Thanks to everyone who does their bit!

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.

Henstridge Line Dancers

We have been busy as usual with a very full group.

Our Christmas get together is on Wednesday 25th November. We finish on December 2nd and return on January 21st. As always weather permitting.

So just to wish everyone A Merry Christmas and Happy 2027.

Ros Browning
01963 363016

Update from the Village Shop

Well, your village shop has now been open for nine months, which have flown by, and things are still developing.

The Post Office Counter has been a wonderful success, as we knew it would, offering all the usual postal services for Royal Mail, ParcelForce, DPD and Amazon (sorry, not Evri) plus banking services, bill paying, electric, gas and telephone top ups, gift cards, travel money cards and more. We hear from you every day how much you all appreciate it being open again and are so pleased to be able to provide it for you.

In the shop, as we've said before, we're so grateful for your continued support, custom and friendly chat. We are delighted to announce that from the start of November we'll be providing hot food – bakes, slices, sausage rolls, etc. – and we hope to be able to offer a hot drink vending facility shortly too.

We still have delicious locally made goods; artisan bread and pastries, fresh apple juice and flavoured fudge. And we're always interested in any new local producers who might like to have their products available in the shop too. Talking of which, we are currently stocking David Thompson's wonderful 2027 Calendars that showcase his fantastic photographs of local scenes you will all recognise.

We also have a large range of convenience foods and household and stationery products to meet your everyday needs. All keenly priced to help you in these difficult times.

It would be lovely to see more of you of course, so if you haven't been in, come and see us and if there's anything you need on a regular basis that we don't have, please let us know and we'll do our best to stock it.

We hope we're not just the village shop but more a community hub; a place to connect, catch up, as well as get what you need every day.

A Heartfelt Thank You to all

Lesley & Andy



CAMEO

Our small group keeps going and we meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2.00pm till 4.00pm.

In January there is no meeting and as yet and the calendar is to be confirmed.

However, on February 9th John Smales will give us a talk, subject to be confirmed.

If I can get enough interest, I hope to do a trip to see The Victorian Bayeaux Tapestry in Reading.

Well just to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ros Browning

01963 363016

Advent Windows – Add a Bit of a Challenge to Your Village Walk!



We will again be revealing the Advent windows around the village. Starting on 1st December, a new window celebrating Advent will be revealed somewhere in the village each day. See if you can find them all! Towards the end of the period, you will be able to download a map showing the locations to help you find all of them. There were some really great offerings last year, looking forward to finding my favourite this December.

Gail Cullum

Christmas Trees in Henstridge

Seventy small Christmas Trees are on order from Grassroots for delivery in the last week of November. We are very grateful for all who donate to the trees and lights

as the village always looks splendid throughout December. The Bird Quiz has very generously agreed to donate funds from the next quiz to the tree fund.

We are immeasurably grateful to the kind stalwarts who volunteer to put the trees up. If anyone new would like to volunteer to put up one or two trees then please let us know. This commences the weekend of the 21st/22nd of November.

There will be tea, coffee and bacon sandwiches.

Hopefully Somerset Council will be happy to take away one used tree per green bin at the start of January as usual.

Helen Howlett: helenbeale27@hotmail.co.uk 077917 99998

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

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Village Fete 2027



Plans are well underway for 2027. The Fete will move to the field next to the Virginia Ash car park. All our suppliers are very happy with the change, as are all the stallholders who have so far replied.

The Ash will be running the Bar and BBQ. We have last year's pizza van and an ice cream van, as well as the Café run by the Henstridge Flyers (formally the WI).

The Stalbridge cheerleaders, Line Dancers and Raucous Chorus will also be returning. If finances allow, we will have a huge bell ringing set up which everyone can try out.

The Fête costs about £4,000 to put on. Entry is free of charge as is the majority of the entertainment so we are primarily dependent on sponsorship from local businesses and individuals.

If you would like to sponsor a specific item such as the evening band (Mustang Sally) or the mobile bellringing then please get in touch. If you are a business or organisation that would like to sponsor the Fête then we will promote you on our web site, on social media, on the fête banners and in the free programme. In the past people have donated between £50 and £500.

In 2026 we held our first Fundraiser which netted about £600. We are repeating the "It's a Kind of Magic" evening again on 13th February 2027 in the Village Hall. In 2026 we sold out and thanks to our Early Bird offer we've already sold about 20 tickets. If you fancy an evening of roulette, blackjack, table magic, an illusion show on the stage and an auction then £17.50 will get you entry and food! There will of course be a bar. Tickets are available in the Village Shop or from Ashley.

We have some Auction items already but need some more so please get in touch if you have anything interesting to spare.

Please look at the Fête web site www.henstridgefete.org for more information and regular updates.

Ashley Shirlin



2027 Seasonal Landscapes Calendar



Welcome to my 2027 Seasonal Landscapes Calendar, capturing some of the breathtaking natural countryside and nature around us. This year marks an exciting milestone as it's my 10th year of creating a calendar. The images in this year's edition showcase some of my favourite locations over the years, each one holding a very special and cherished memory for me. It also gives me great pleasure to be able sell my work at our wonderful Village Shop/Post Office in Henstridge.

David Thompson

Gryphon Football Team Wins £19,000 Funding for Henstrige Recreation Ground Turf

After successive summers with very long periods of hot weather and almost no rain, the playing surface on the recreation ground has suffered badly with many large grass-free areas. Bad news especially for cricketers and footballers.

The good news however is that a long-term restoration project is now underway. Our local football club, Team Gryphon (with a little assistance from HPC) have been successful in bidding for funding from the Football Foundation for treatment that will support new growth. The treatment involves aeration, fertilising and reseeding. The grant provides £19k spread across the next 6 years



This is very good news for all users of this area - sportsmen and dog walkers alike.

Treatment will take place throughout the football season. To ensure maximum success during this time, use of this area will be carefully controlled. Casual soccer practice is available on the pitch at the top of the Rec. Anyone thinking of using the main pitch must contact the Parish Clerk to ask for permission.

We are indebted to Team Gryphon for having the initiative to set up this project.

John Graham

Walking Rugby

Where: At the Recreation Ground

When: Summer months: Wednesday Evenings - 7pm - 8pm

Winter months (i.e. when it is dark by 7pm): Sunday Mornings 11am until noon

Fancy upping your fitness levels with a fun, inclusive, and non-contact version of the game that allows players of all ages and abilities to participate at a slower pace? As well as fitness it promotes teamwork, social interaction and camaraderie whilst learning a new skill or honing some old ones.

If the answer is "yes" then please feel free to join us. We are currently a small, friendly, mixed gender group with the regulars ranging in age from mid-50's to early 70's, some with rugby experience and some complete beginners. Sessions are played on a smaller than usual rugby pitch, we learn all of the things that make the game of rugby so special, the shared effort of working the ball towards the try line without the full physical toll that drives so many older players away from the game.

We do promote the social side of the game and, for those that want to, we will usually gather post training in The Bird after a rugby session.

Hope to see you soon, you know you want to……..

Chrissy Taylor

Book Club Book Review

Many years ago, a friend recommended a book on the grounds that every word in it was perfect. This has made the subsequent years something of a challenge; I now judge every book against this standard.

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles easily passes the test and also has the greatest protagonist of any book I have read. Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov is living a life of luxury in the Metropol Hotel in Moscow a few years after the Russian Revolution. He seems to have escaped the fate of other members of the aristocracy. However, the new authorities catch up with him. He is spared the firing squad on the condition that he never leaves the hotel and is confined to an attic room instead of the suite he has been living in. The story follows the Count up to 1954 as he adapts to his new situation and touches the lives of the staff and hotel guests. As his philosophy is that "a man must master his circumstances or otherwise be mastered by them," the tale is one of positivity and even triumph. Towles wrote about the perfect happiness of "plot, substance and the judicious use of the semi-colon"; A Gentleman in Moscow supplies all three.

In the interests of full disclosure, I should confess that my brother thought the book was a bit boring. One of us is clearly a changeling.

(In case anyone was wondering, the book that set the bar so high was The Surgeon of Crowthorne by Simon Winchester – "a tale of murder, madness and the Oxford English Dictionary.")

Mandy Bee

Rotary International – End Polio Now - Thank You



On a very wet & windy Saturday evening, October 24th, a number of residents from Henstridge came together, at the Village Hall, for a charity quiz to raise funds for Rotary International - End Polio Now.

A fantastic amount of £407, was raised on the night. Subsequent, individual, donations took the total to over £500. Then the Bird in Hand pub quiz took the total to an amazing £700. With the Gates Foundation matching 2-1, an even more amazing £2100 is the final total. This means Henstridge has sponsored the polio vaccination for 2100 children.

Thank you to everyone who participated, either at the Village Hall or the Bird in Hand. You are a remarkable group of people who have helped to make history.

Ronnie Smith & Elspeth Graham

Community Awards

Hayward Burt presents Community Awards to Ros Browning and Chris Savage in recognition of their outstanding service, dedication and commitment to the community of Henstridge.



Gail Cullum

Blackmore Vale Lions

As we approach the winter bad weather we must all be thinking of the vulnerable at this time and, in particular, those in Ukraine who, as a result of war, have no means of heating or cooking.

Fortunately, Lions Clubs are an international organisation and by clubs coming together major help can be given to assist when disaster strikes.

The Winter Is Coming To Ukraine Project (WICTU) has to date provided some 23,000 wood burning stoves which enable Ukrainian families stricken by war to keep warm and cook a hot meal. The stoves are made in Finland and distributed throughout Ukraine.

Our collections at the Cheese Festival specifically targeted this initiative and as a result, together with a very generous donation from the Henstridge Line Dancers and another by the Henstridge CAMEO club, we have been able to help to fund a generator as the aim is to supply much needed generators which will be delivered in time for the onset of winter in Ukraine. A grateful thanks to all those involved!!

We will be out with our collection buckets again this Christmas so please spare some change for us.

We are already planning our annual Easter Egg Draw collections. Easter is early in 2027, so expect to see the eggs in venues from early February.

Our now famous half marathon is planned for Sunday 7th February 2027. More details will be advertised soon.

Next year brings a visit from our twin club, Hannover-Tiergarten Lions Club, in June so we are busy preparing a calendar of events for the visit.

To all those who have made donations for our good causes and especially for those who pitch up time and again to help us A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!!

Our motto is “we serve”.

Lion Peter Oswick

01963 363281peter.oswick@btinternet.com

Almshouse Chapel in Sherborne

Located at the ground floor entrance to the Almshouses next to Sherborne Abbey, this is an interesting and unique part of the town's history. The building dates back to 1440 and the residential area is currently being upgraded to suit modern needs, including a tea room. The chapel housed an amazing triptych on the altar, an artistic treasure of national importance. The original is being restored, but a photograph is currently in place on the altar.

The historic chapel is now open for visitors to view on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm.

Elspeth Graham





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Recipe

Kate's Winter Kitchen
Retro Yule Log

Yule log or Bűche de Noël — whatever you call it; it is a great Christmas treat and fun to make too. I've made a fair few for customers and thought I would share my go-to retro recipe, from Nigella Christmas. Embellished a little, here and there.

Ingredients:

Cake

- 6 large eggs (separated)
- 150g caster sugar
- 50g cocoa powder
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp icing sugar (to decorate)
- Optional decorations: pick 'n' mix mushrooms, choc buttons or truffles, edible glitter, real holly, small reindeers or robins.



Icing

- 175g chopped dark chocolate
- 250g icing sugar
- 225g softened butter
- 1tbsp vanilla extract
- A few tbsp raspberry jam (optional)

Method:

1. Preheat the oven: 180°C/ 160°C Fan/ gas mark 4/ 350ºF.
2. In a clean bowl whisk the egg whites until you get thick peaks, then whisk in 50g of the caster sugar, ensuring the peaks hold.
3. In another bowl, whisk the egg yolks & remaining caster sugar till pale and thick. Add the vanilla, sieve the cocoa, fold.
4. Carefully fold in all of the egg white until combined.
5. Line your 30x20cm / 32x18cm Swiss roll tin with baking parchment.
6. Pour in the cake mixture, bake for 20 minutes. Let it cool 5-10 mins before turning out onto another piece of baking parchment. Cover loosely with a clean tea towel.
7. To make the icing, melt the chocolate and let it cool. Blitz the butter and icing in a processor or with whisk & spoon, then gradually add the cooled chocolate & vanilla.
8. Trim the edges of the Swiss roll if you need to (keeping the bits), then spread on a thin layer of the icing (swirling on your jam, optional).
9. Then use the paper to help you roll the sponge lengthways, right to the other edge.
10. Cut a chunk off of the log roll to combine with any trimmed sponge to make a smaller bit of branch. (I like quite a sizeable side branch). Assemble on a long plate your main log roll and branch, positioned on an angle.
11. Spread the remaining icing all over the log and branch, using a cocktail stick or skewer for your tree rings and markings.
12. Before serving, sieve on some icing sugar as snow, or liberally scatter on some edible decorations, as listed.

Make ahead / freezing tips: make up to a week ahead or freeze for up to 3 months, either way keep in a rigid airtight container.

N.B. If you're less confident in the kitchen, find the original recipe in full on nigella.com/recipes/yule-log

Kate Crowther

Finding Calm in Times of Chaos: How Pilates Can Restore Your Well-Being



Life has a way of throwing unexpected curveballs that shake the foundations of our local communities. A poignant example of this is the sudden and permanent closure of Leweston School. For hundreds of families, students and staff members the abrupt news during half-term has brought an immense wave of shock, anxiety and uncertainty regarding the future. When foundational pillars of our daily routines disappear overnight our bodies naturally absorb that collective stress, leaving us feeling overwhelmed, tense, and ungrounded.

During periods of profound upheaval, taking proactive care of your mental and physical health is paramount. While we cannot always control external disruptions, we can control how we process them internally. This is where a mindful movement practice like Pilatess serves as an exceptional tool for well-being.

Pilates directly counters the physiological impact of stress. When you encounter sudden life changes, your nervous system triggers a "fight-or-flight" response such as muscle tightness, shallow breathing, and exhaustion. Pilates actively breaks this cycle by forcing you to pair slow deliberate movements with deep rhythmic diaphragmatic breathing. This combination signals your brain to lower cortisol levels and shift back into a restorative parasympathetic state.

Furthermore, Pilates builds vital physical resilience through its focus on core strength, postural alignment, and body awareness. Because every single movement requires precise concentration, it acts as a form of moving meditation. For one hour on the mat, your mind is entirely anchored to the present moment, creating a necessary buffer against overwhelming external worries. Navigating major transitions requires a great deal of emotional stamina. By dedicating time to Pilates you aren't just building physical endurance, you are actively carving out a safe predictable anchor to preserve your mental clarity and protect your health.

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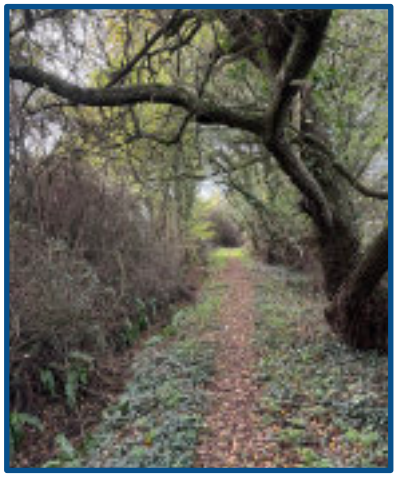


Hackthorne Bridleway

Thank you to those people that have played a part in clearing this bridleway. It is now good to walk and maybe a horse will get through, but there are a couple of narrow spots. Where is Hackthorne bridleway? Walk out of Henstridge via Blackmoor Lane and straight ahead up Plott Lane. At the junction at the bottom of Plott Lane turn right onto Marsh Road. Walk 50 yards, and the Bridleway is on your left marked by a metal gate. It goes all the way to Hackthorne Farm and places like James Day Engineering and the Airfield off of Camp Road. The more it's walked, the clearer it will remain. The return walk is approximately 1.5 hours.



Winter Walks



Dates for your diaries -

Monday 7th December

Tuesday 12th January

Wednesday 10th February

These walks will be about 7k. taking a couple of hours to complete. I'll decide closer to the time exactly where we will go. Meet at Henstridge Church at 10am.

Please send me an email or a What's App message if you plan to walk, so I can cancel or postpone if needs be. I will put up a poster on the Notice Board by the Church, a couple of days ahead of the planned walk, with information on the walk and whether it's looking Good to Go.

Bridget Hallett
bridgetelizabeth@btinternet.com
07702694469

Jottings From The Lady Shed



Regardless of what lies ahead weatherwise, autumn is the time of year to take stock and prepare for all the possibilities that the next year will bring. Looking at what worked and didn't for us this year. Will we buy more hydrangeas? As the name suggests, these require a fair amount of water, so no, and those we do have will be moved to a shadier place. Few runner beans grew and were rubbish with no taste. These were taken down quite early. As tasty beans were one of our staples these will be sown again.



The pot outside the front door did very well as we emptied our water bottles there after going to the gym twice a week. An easy strawberry, Ruby Ann, grown in a tub, was aesthetically pleasing in every sense. The pretty red flowers kept away the birds, so no netting was required, and the small fruits were flavoursome. The first time sowing of aubergines was successful and this vegetable, either baked or stuffed then frozen, is becoming a good emergency meal in our household.

Several shrubs took a turn for the worse but, as for everyone else, roses were prolific and more bare root ones were purchased. So gardening is a mixture of failure and success as always. On Strictly Come Dancing it is "Keep Dancing", so I say "Keep Gardening".

A pleasant walk at any time of year is The Tree Trail at Sidney Gardens, at the park in Yeovil, BA20 1DX. It is hard to beat and a downloadable map showing the fourteen different trees is available. From 20th November onwards Langford Lakes Christmas Tree Farm near Wells, TA21 0RS has a Christmas Trail.

From 28th November onwards, and free to National Trust members, there is the Nutcracker Trail at Prior Park Landscape Gardens, Bath, BA2 5AH.

Susan Kidd née Billitt

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Christmas is perhaps the most exciting time for us. We carefully hand select our poultry, dry aging and hanging beef and make our home-made sausages and pigs in blankets.

Not only meat counters but our deli counter will be full of delicious different cheeses , home cooked hams, pork pies and so much more.

Our meat hamper is a firm favourite with our regular customers. Enough for a family of four, it contains:

turkey breast boned & rolled, gammon joint, beef joint, 8 pigs in blankets, a sleeve of home-made sausage meat, a gourmet pack of stuffing and a fabulous reusable bag all for £75. Fabulous value for money!

If you have never been to our shop, please do, as not only does it have a fabulous display but you can meet our very friendly team who can help and advise you if you're uncertain of your choice.

Our turkeys come from Stourton Caundle, geese from Milborne Wick, ducks, geese and chickens, all free range from Langport, Somerset from farmers who care about their birds which are lovingly hand-reared.

Christmas orders are being taken now. Please pop into the shop, email info@elsefamilybutchers.com or call 01963 362276.

Julian & Heidi Else

Else Family Butchers

Else Event Catering





Rag Wreath



This is a fabulous way to use up scraps of fabric left over from other projects or you can pick fabric for a specific theme e.g. Christmas, Easter, birthdays etc. It is also a great craft to do with children who can make mini wreaths to hang on the tree, door handles or hooks.

Materials

Cardboard
Fabric
Ribbon
String
Scissors

A quick note for families: To keep this craft fun and safe, please ensure an adult handles all the cutting. Remember to pop the scissors safely out of reach of little hands once you're done!"

Instructions

1. Cut a ring to your desired size from strong cardboard – it needs to be strong as it will be forming the structure of your wreath. For a large wreath a maximum width of 4cm to tie around works best.
2. Cut the fabric into strips approximately 2cm by 15cm (smaller if this is for a mini wreath).
3. Tie the fabric strips together around the ring. Push the knots together so that they form a good covering over the cardboard. You can either tie a traditional knot or a lark's head knot for different finishes. For a lark's head knot fold the fabric in half, place around the cardboard with the centre loop underneath, put the two loose ends through the loop and pull tight as per the little images.







4. Keep adding strips until the cardboard is fully covered. Push them together to ensure no cardboard shows through.
5. Punch a hole in the top of the cardboard and attach string or more ribbon to hang.
6. Tie a bow and attach it to the bottom of the wreath. Add any other embellishments that you would like.

The final two steps are best left to the end so that you can decide which way up you want the wreath to hang.

Have fun.

Sara Bodkin

Opening Times

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

Numbers to Note

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District Councillor, Nicola Clark	07429 831737
Doctors, Milborne Port Surgery	01963 250334
Dog Warden, Linda Jones	01935 713745
Electricity distribution	105 (power cuts) 0800 072 7282 (emergencies)
Hospital, Sherborne Yeatman	01935 813991
Hospital, Yeovil District	01935 475122
Local MP, Sarah Dyke	020 7219 4975 sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk
Parish Council, Ann Lee (Parish Clerk)	07841 392242
Parish Council Youth Representative, Jane Rose	jane.rose@henstridge-pc.gov.uk
Police, non-emergency and PCSOs	101
Somerset County Council—Single number	0300 123 2224
Somerset County Council, Hayward Burt	07543 854391 hayward.burt@somerset.gov.uk
St Nicholas Church School, Secretary	01963 362308
Village Hall bookings, Mair Graham	henstridgebookings@gmail.com
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