

Sturminster Newton in the heart of the Blackmore Vale



Town Guide & Shopping Experience

Shops **Facilities** **Services** **Eat&Drink**

Culture & Recreation **Map** (edition 2 Mar '25)



Sturminster Newton is in the heart of the Blackmore Vale bounded on two sides by the river Stour. It is very much Thomas Hardy country – the StourCastle of Tess of the D’Urbervilles in the “Vale of the little dairies”. Hardy lived here for a while and played fiddle in rooms above the inns. The town was also the home of Dorset dialect poet William Barnes, Linden Lea is a famed work.

Stur (as it is known by locals) is one of the smaller towns of North Dorset but is blessed with a disparate range of destination and independent shops, eating places, facilities, a theatre/music/film/community venue – The Exchange, a museum and a mill with a 1000-year-old history.

Stur has enormous community spirit with many of its facilities run entirely by volunteers or a small management team with many volunteers including The Exchange, Sturfit Sports Centre, The Mill, The Museum, Stour Connect, The Library, The Emporium, The Boutique and 1855 (100+ Local traders in one space), The Family Hub, SturTech – Learning Centre, Scouts&Guides, Youth Centre.

Events throughout the year include a classic car run on New Year’s Day, a monthly car enthusiasts meet, the local amdram panto and plays, a wedding fair, a chocolate fair, a real ale & cider festival, a literary festival, art week, garden festival, ‘Big Weekend’, Riverside Family Festival, the famous Cheese Festival and Stur Sparkle Christmas celebrations including 70 local artisans at the Workhouse Chapel. There are several music, theatre and film shows every month in the Exchange.

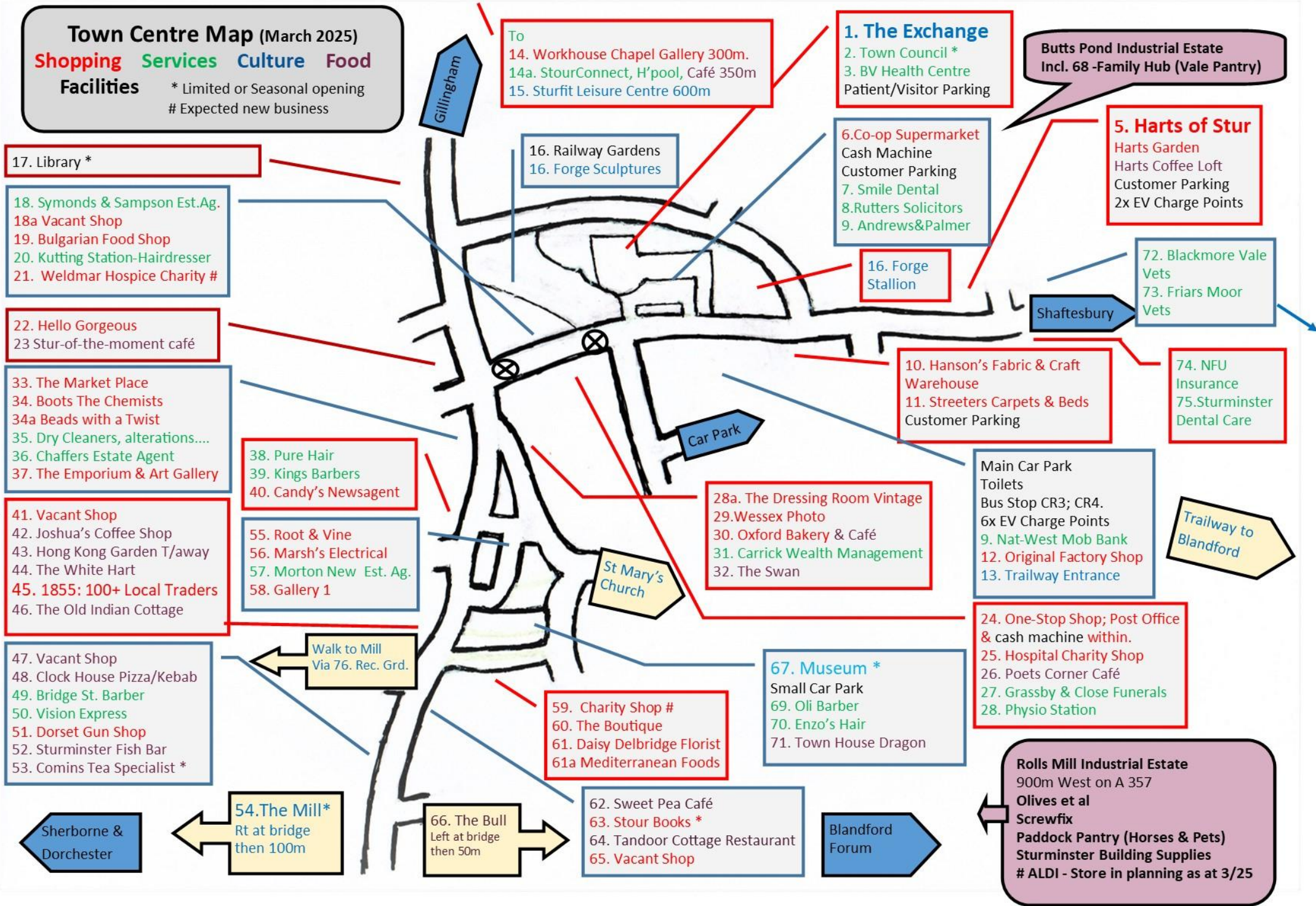
There are too many other community organisations to list here but pick up a bi-monthly Town Newsletter for a flavour or view online at snclc.org.uk and click the ‘What’s Happening in Stur’ panel.



Town Centre Map (March 2025)

Shopping Services Culture Food Facilities

* Limited or Seasonal opening
Expected new business



Facilities In the Town Centre

Main (Station Road) Car Park. Entrance in Barnes
Close via Station Road.

Small Car Park in Church Street behind Museum.

Handful of short-term spaces in Market Square.

Customer parking at Harts, Hansons, Streeters, Co-op,
The Exchange, Health Centre, Swan & Bull Inns.



6 EV Charge Stations in main (Station Road) car park.
2 EV Charge Stations at Hart's of Stur Car Park.

Toilets at the top of main car park.



Cash Machines outside Co-op (map 6) and
within One-Stop Shop (map 24).

Post Office within One-Stop Shop (map 24).



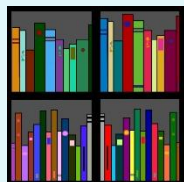
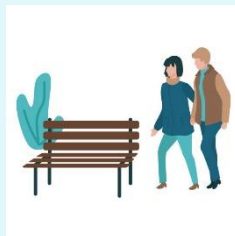
Dorset CR4 Bus to/from Blandford, Sherborne & Yeovil.

CR3 Bus to/from Gillingham via Marnhull

Bus Stop – top of main car park

Local Taxis: Mill Taxis 01258 472726

Take a Break: Railway Gardens, Town Centre
(map 16), views of Hambledon Hill, Dorset Forge Sculptures.
Or Recreation Ground (map 76), riverbank and view
platform at far side. Walk to Mill along riverbank, cross the
river on mill races.



Library (map 17).

Tourist information: The Emporium (map 37) or Town Council
Office (map 2 – weekday mornings)

COME & EXPLORE

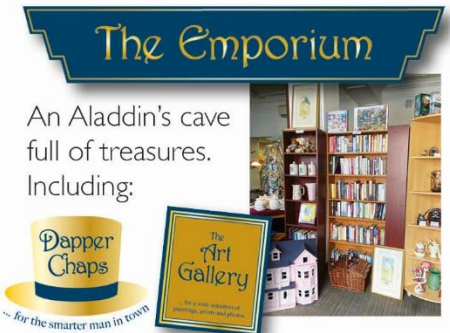
STURMINSTER NEWTON

A TOWN FULL OF DELIGHTFUL SURPRISES...

An exciting shopping experience, where
all the profits benefit the town

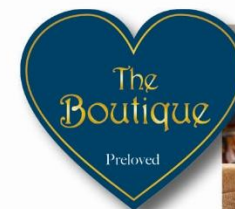


A quirky artisan store full of unique
and individual creatives from the
Dorset area.



The Emporium

An Aladdin's cave
full of treasures.
Including:



Quality clothing
a second time
around.



Save money
on good quality
pre-loved
furniture.



The Boutique: 07307 054354 • **The Emporium:** 07733 430105

1855: 01258 475612 / www.1855sturminsternewton.co.uk

The Shops Run by the Community

Profits from all 6 shops are re-invested into Sturminster Newton to make it a great place to live, work and visit. *SturAction – Sturminster Newton Benefit Society Ltd.*

(Map) 60 - The Boutique

A stunning Pre-loved Boutique selling high quality Ladies and children's clothing and accessories. On the first floor you will find a selection of high end/designer fashion for that special occasion. Mon-Sat 10-4.



37 - The Emporium

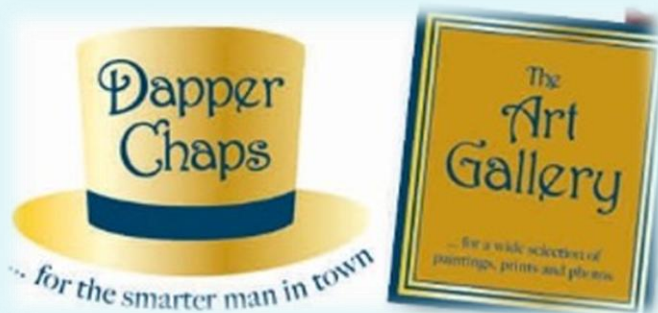


An eclectic mix of furniture, collectibles, antiques, kitchenalia, china & more.

The Emporium also houses Dapper Chaps – good quality gents clothing and accessories.

On the first floor of The Emporium, you will find a huge selection of pre-loved art, paintings and pictures.

We also work with The Vale Pantry to help stop food poverty and waste by housing a community fridge for any surplus food they may have which is accessible for all. Open Mon-Fri 9 till 5, Sat 10 till 4.



33 – The Marketplace

A wide selection of donated good quality second hand furniture and lighting. Also Housing a Uniform Hub – giving away free school uniform.

Open Ad-Hoc, if closed please go to the Emporium where a member of staff will open the shop for you.



45 - 1855



A unique and quirky shop which is home to over 100 local individual businesses, artisans, artists, makers and creators.

First Saturday of the month
'Meet the Traders & Tastings'

Open Mon – Sat 10 till 5.

1855 is the year the National Provincial bank opened in the building.

Food Shopping

Our Market Place contains a butchers, a bakers, even a candlestick maker (in 1855) and a dedicated greengrocer, and all closer together than the isles of a big supermarket!

33 - Holebrooks: Butchers, Delicatessen (A branch of the Udder Farm Shop):

We deliver high quality, local and fresh food to our very special customers. Much of our meat in our butchery is sourced locally and it is all the finest quality. From beef to pork, lamb and chicken and not forgetting our Dukes Hill bacon which can be sliced to your liking. You would be hard pressed not to find something tempting in our delicatessen section. Our cheese counter boasts more than 30 varieties of cheeses sourced locally, nationally as well as from the Continent a real cheese lovers delight.



30 - Oxford's Bakery: a fourth-generation family bakery. As you step into the bakery, you are greeted by the delicious aroma of freshly baked bread, cakes, and pastries. The shelves are stacked with a wide selection of bread, from sourdough to traditional white loaves, all baked in Alweston by our dedicated bakers. The bakery sources its flour from a local mill, and its fruit and vegetables come from nearby farms. In addition to its excellent bread and cakes, Oxford's Bakery also serves amazing coffee. If you're in the area, be sure to stop by for a taste of some of the best bread, cakes, and coffee around.



55 - Root & Vine: The only Independent Greengrocers in your local area.

Fresh stock every Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat. You select the quantities YOU want. Please give us a try if you have not already.



19 – Bulgarian Food Shop: There is something for everyone with a choice of over 2500 products from 6 different Eastern European countries. You will easily find delicious food that you love – and some interesting new tasty bits to try. We offer greater variety of food to our customers whilst providing them with the best possible prices.

6 - Co-op: Bakery; Local Flavours; Takeaway Hot Drinks; COOK Food Range; Paypoint; Amazon Locker; Cash Machine; Evri Parcel Shop.



24 – one stop shop:

Your local convenience store with an own label range at great value prices across chilled and grocery food, and your favourite branded essentials. Cash machine; Open long Hours. The **Post Office** is within the shop.

61a Mediterranean Foods: The Windows say it all!

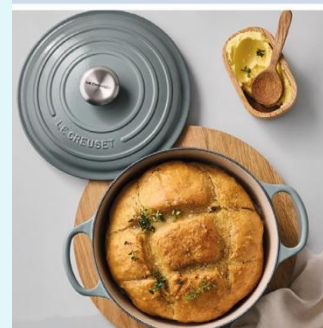


HARTS OF STUR

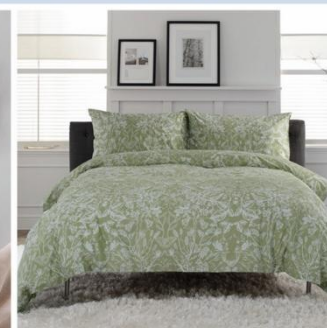
Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1BD



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LIVING

CLOTHING



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Decorative Outdoor Mirrors • Barbecues
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Wood Stain & Paint • Pet Food & Supplies
Wild Bird Care and lots more



Harts
Coffee
Loft

The ideal place to take a well deserved
break from your shopping or to meet up
with family or friends

**BREAKFAST • LUNCH
AFTERNOON TEA**

Coffee Loft Opening Times:
Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm.
Saturday 8.30am-4pm

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Household Shops

5- The Famed HARTS of Stur: are a fourth-generation family business established 1919. It is one of the UK's largest in store and on-line retailers of Cookware, Kitchenware and Kitchen Electrics, stocking a comprehensive range of unbeatable quality and value.



50,000 sqft of retail space houses: hardware, tools, paint, pets, clothing, bedding, trade counter, garden centre, coffee loft, EV charging. Famed for its helpful staff!



10- Hansons Warehouse: where you will find hundreds of metres of dressmaking, craft and soft furnishing fabrics,

a whole host of haberdashery pre-packed and loose. Sewing machines. We often have seasonal displays and creative ideas to inspire your next project in store, so come and pay us a visit.



11 -Streeters: Family run business trading in Sturminster Newton since 1969. Beds; Mattresses; Suites also specialising in reclining and lift & rise chairs. Carpets, Vinyls, Laminates, LVT Rugs & Matting.

(not open Wednesdays)

56- Marsh's: a local, family-run business that specialises in selling and servicing a wide range of electrical appliances. Our team of highly trained and knowledgeable sales staff are on hand to give you honest, friendly advice and help to find the right product for you.

We cover the whole of Dorset and provide free delivery and offer a full installation service, plus removal of your old product if required, all coupled with unparalleled aftersales support and a range of complementary services.



12 - The Original Factory Shop brings you big brands for all the family at factory shop prices. We offer up to 70% off leading brands across fashion, home, beauty and more.

Friendly staff will be sure to find you whatever you are looking for, whether that be everyday essentials or something that is fun for all the family.



58- Gallery 1: Ladies Fashion and homeware with an emphasis on bringing the most up to date and highly sought after brands to Stur. Robell trousers, Adini, Desigual and many more are always in stock and if we don't quite have what you're looking for we can quickly bring it from our larger Blandford shop. Cathy and Louise run the business and are always at hand to assist you.

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euronics
the home of electricals

*T&Cs apply. Offer ends 31.03.26



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🏠 59 Cheap Street, Sherborne, DT9 3AX ☎ Tel: 01935 389665
🌐 www.EB-Marsh.com

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We are a small independent family run business
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continuity of care.



For more details, please contact us on:

Tel: 01258 472293

Web: www.blackmorevalevets.co.uk:

Email: info@blackmorevalevets.co.uk



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decisions, our agents are the loyal companions
you need for all property matters.

Sturminster Newton 01258 473766

More Shops

29 - Wessex Photo: we offer a wide range of photo gifts where you can have your own pictures printed on to mugs, place mats, jigsaw puzzles, greetings cards, wrapping paper and canvases etc. We also have an extensive bespoke framing service for your precious pictures, paintings, tapestries, medals, sport shirts and much more. Why not pop in and see what we have to offer.



61 – Daisy Delbridge: we are passionate about bringing the surrounding countryside into our designs. We love texture and all things wild! Esme and her team are always happy to help to make your wedding, party and sympathy

flowers that little bit more special. We also offer local fresh flower deliveries, so pop into the shop or give us a call on 01258 475575.



34a – Beads with a twist: A wonderful jewellery & bead shop offering bespoke jewellery, pearl knotting, repairs, engraving, beads, gemstones and all the tools and findings to make your own. Petrina even runs classes to teach you how. Pop in for a chat and a very warm welcome.

34- Boots The Chemist
Branch of the High Street chain with Pharmacy



40- Candy's: Candys is an independent owned business run by mother and son and celebrates 52 years trading in the town. Specialising in newspapers, magazines, stationery, greetings cards, confectionery, tobacco & vapes.

41- Agnes & Vera: *At the time of publication business closed. Ideal position right in the centre of town for new business!*



63- Stour

Books: Small bookshop specialising in antiquarian and collectable books. Our main interests are local history, motoring, industrial archaeology, art, women's writing before 1969 and illustration but we are keen to buy interesting books in good condition on any subject in small or large quantities. Professional bookbinding and restoration services. If you are

making a special journey to the shop, please telephone beforehand to make sure we will be here. 01258 473561.

51- Dorset Gun Shop: Dorset Guns & Shooting Supplies are a small but friendly gun and shooting accessories shop. We sell a wide range of items for the Shooting enthusiast including Shotguns & Airguns, Airgun Targets, Scopes & lamps, Pellets & cartridges, Bags and holdalls, Decoys.



14- Workhouse Chapel Gallery: is the studio of local textile artist, Rose Hatcher. During November and December each year, the Chapel opens every day for Handmade for Christmas, when over 70 of the best hand-makers in the south-west join to create one of Dorset's best-loved Christmas shopping experiences.

Please check www.workhousechapel.co.uk for Exhibitions, Workshops, opening times, etc. The Workhouse Chapel, Bath Road, Sturminster Newton. DT10 1DS



35- Market Place Drycleaners. Not only do we do dry cleaning we also have a laundry service for personal bedding and shirts and holiday lets include duvets and bedspreads. We have an excellent repair and alteration service too. 01258 472391.

28a – The Dressing Room (Vintage Clothes)

Opening April 2025

21- Weldmar Hospice Charity Shop (planned as at 4/25)

Weldmar Hospicecare: A great range of sustainable fashion, accessories, toys and games, homeware and more are waiting to be discovered in our local Weldmar Hospicecare charity shop. All proceeds from our shops and outlets go towards supporting the charity, which provides specialist care for adults with a life-limiting illness in Dorset, and support for their loved ones. Find out opening times and contact details on our website weldmarhospicecare.org/shops/

59– Vacant Shop: At publication date a charity shop is considering these premises.

65 – Vacant Shop



68- Vale Pantry Now part of the Family Hub at 22b

Butts Pond Estate: North Dorset's only social supermarket helping any individual or household struggling financially with access to great fresh food along with a range of support services. A mobile service is available, and deliveries can be made for those without transport. The Vale Pantry is a registered charity and relies on the goodwill of its volunteers and donations.



25- Hospital Charity

Shop: Items to up-cycle, a special outfit, bits and bobs for your home, toys to keep little ones busy, craft and haberdashery items, jewellery, books, DVDs and CDs, cards and much more besides there is plenty for you to choose from in the Friends of Blandford Hospital Charity Shop. Everything we sell is pre-loved, but we do not compromise on quality despite keeping costs low.



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD HOSPITAL

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Community Services

Could you offer a few hours a week?

We run an extensive transport scheme, taking clients to and from medical appointments – fuel expenses reimbursed

To keep up with the demand we need more drivers to keep this vital service running

We also run a minibus which we use for shopping trips and social trips. Again, we are looking for minibus drivers and escorts

WE NEED YOU AND REMEMBER YOU MAY

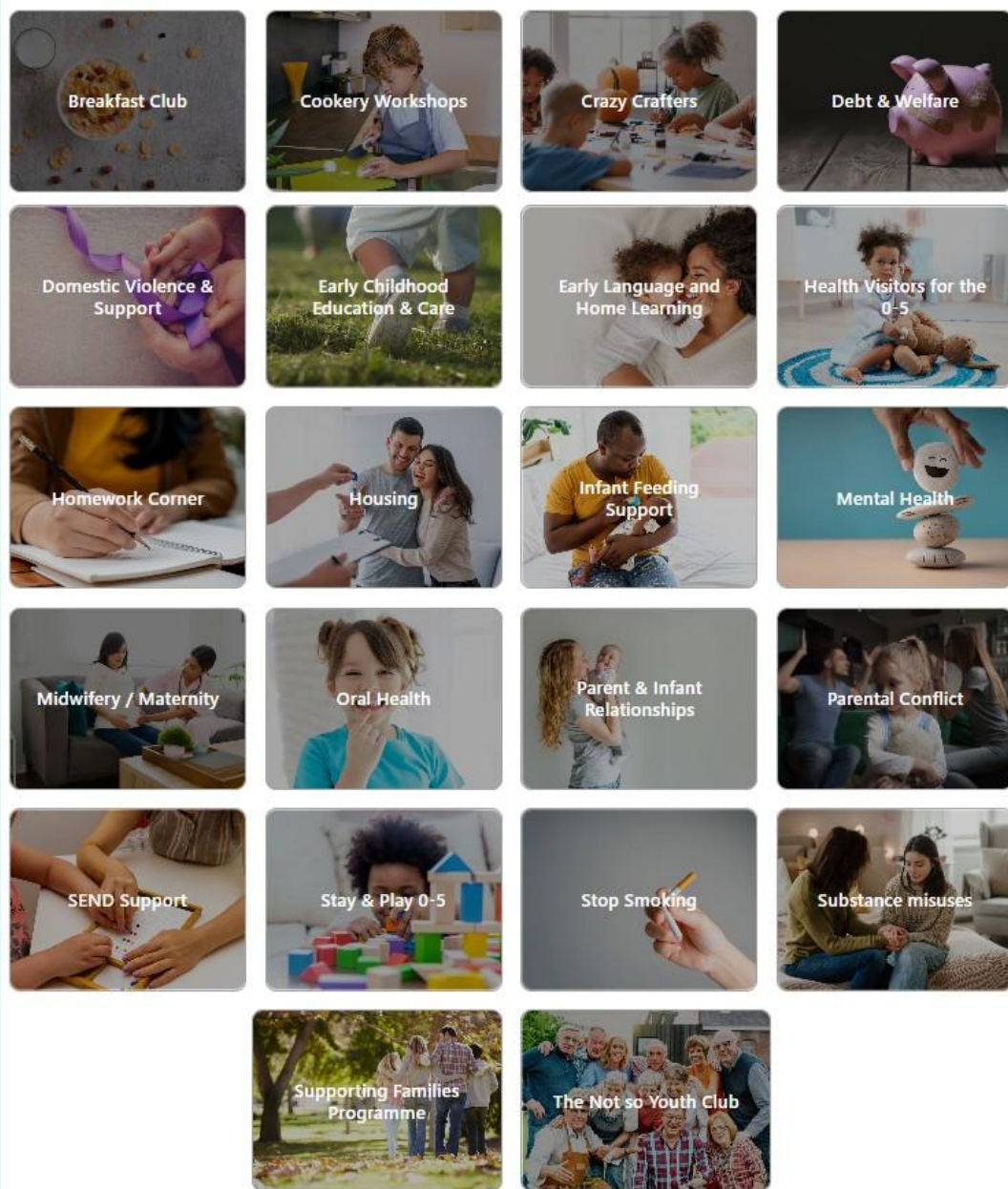
NEED US ONE DAY

If you would like to know more, please call for an informal chat - Lisa Deverell at The Friends Office in Blandford Hospital 01258 450095 for more information

Family Hub

22b Butts Pond Estate; 01258 920040

- Café, Social Supermarket, and all this:



Here for your family's legal needs

2 Bimport
Shaftesbury
Dorset
SP7 8AY

Spring Corner
High Street
Gillingham
Dorset SP8 4AW

Market Square House
Sturminster Newton
Dorset
DT10 1FG

01747 852377

01747 822005

01258 444481

www.rutterslaw.co.uk | enquiries@rutterlsaw.co.uk

Eat&Drink -Cafe's



(map)23- Stur of The Moment

The Stur of the Moment is a lovely vintage tea room café set in a wonderful grade II listed building. Offering tea, coffee, breakfasts, lunches and plenty of cake! Open Tuesday to Saturday, call 01258 473182.



62- Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea is a cosy cafe in Sturminster Newton, offering hearty breakfasts, tasty lunches, delicious homemade cakes, cream teas, our very popular barista coffee and other refreshing drinks! Our daily special board runs alongside our lunch menu and features our delicious, homemade quiches, pies, sausage rolls and more! We are also pleased to offer a wide variety of gluten free, vegetarian and vegan meals and cakes. Bookings are advised! 01258473006



5- The Coffee Loft at Harts of Stur

Seating over 40 people, the Coffee Loft at Harts of Stur is the ideal place to take a well-deserved break from your shopping or to meet up with family and friends, whilst enjoying a freshly brewed coffee and a slice of homemade cake or a delicious light lunch. The Coffee Loft is open from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 4pm on Saturdays. Many of the dishes on the menu can be adapted to be gluten free or vegan and all ingredients are sourced locally wherever possible. A children's menu is also available.



42- Joshua's Coffee Shop

A small independent business specialising in Italian style coffee and Marimba Chocolate Melts. We have light lunches of toasties, panini and flatbreads. Cake is always on the menu which includes our very own popular handmade amaretti and brownies.'



1-The Exchange (Bibbern Gallery) Café and Bar. Views to Hambleton Hill.

26 - Poets Corner Café

14a – Community Café at Stour Connect

53 – Comins Tea Specialist

Oxford Bakery (30) and Olives et Al (Rolls Mill) serve hot drinks with their bakery/deli foods.

Pubs; Restaurants



32 – The Swan Inn: Market Place

44 – The White Hart: Market Place

66 – The Bull (edge of town at Town Bridge) Hawksmoor (Jeremy Clarkson) beers.

64 – Tandoor Cottage Indian Restaurant

46 – The Old Indian House Restaurant



Take Aways

52 – Sturminster Fish Bar

71 -- Town House Dragon (Chinese)

43 – Hong Kong Garden (Chinese)

48 – Clock House Pizza & Kebab



Town Centre Services

More services on town website:
sturminster-newton.org.uk



MAP Health

- 3 • **The Blackmore Vale Partnership - NHS** 01258 474500
- 28 • **The Physio Station** 01258 473148; 07806566118;
info@thephysiostation.co.uk www.thephysiostation.co.uk
- 28 • **Sweet Solutions** at The Physio Station 07443 510564
- 14a • **Stour Connect:** Hydro pool; Community Resource ctr. Cafe 01258 472957
- 50 • **Vision Express** 01258 472291
- 7 • **Smile Dental** 01258 475142
- 75 • **Sturminster Dental Care** 01258 473397

Map Hair

- 38 • **Pure Hair** 01258 475444
- 70 • **Enzo's Hair & Beauty** 01258 473123
- 20 • **Kutting Station** 01258 472758
- **Hello Gorgeous** 07513 611437
- 69 • **Oli Barber** 01258 268118
- 49 • **Bridge Street Barber** 01258 472615
- **Kings Barbers** Market Place

Map Estate Agents

- 18 • **Symonds & Sampson** 01258 473766
- 36 • **Chaffers** 01258 473900
- 57 • **Morton New** 01258 473030

MAP Other Services

- 2 • **Town Council Offices** 01258 475136
- 72 • **Blackmore Vale Vets** 01258 472293
- 73 • **Friars Moor Vets** 01258 472314
- 9 • **Nat West Bank** (Mobile) Fridays 9:45-10:45am
- 68 • **The Vale Family Hub**, 22B Butts Pond, DT10 1AZ 01258920040
- 35 • **Dry Cleaners, Alterations, Shoe Repairs etc.** 01258 472391
- 9 • **Andrews & Palmer - Accountants** 01258 423300
- 31 • **John Carrick Wealth Management** 01258 475500
- 27 • **Grasby & Close Funerals** 01258 471024
- 8 • **Rutters Solicitors** 01258 444481
- 74 • **NFU Insurance** 01258 473299

GRASSBY & CLOSE FUNERAL SERVICE

4 Innes Court,
Sturminster Newton,
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01258 471024

www.grassbyclose-funeral.co.uk



At Butts Pond Industrial Estate

See feature on Newsletter website for more details



Family Hub	Including Vale Pantry	07968 348481
Bunce Body & Paint	Vehicle Repairs	01258 472446
Mark Billen	Vehicle Servicing & Repair	01258 473103
Newton Forge	Architectural Metalwork & Heritage Iron Work	newtonforge.co.uk 01258 472407
Royal Mail Parcels	Collection: Mon-Fri 8-10am; Sat 8-12	03457 740 740
Cranborne Stone	Architectural & Landscape Stone Features	cranbornestone.co.uk 01258 472685
Self-Storage	Sturminster Self Storage	01258 472288
Wynnstay Agri.	Agricultural products & retail shop	01258 471117
James&Co Fragrance	Infusers, Candles, retail at reception	01258 471700
DC Garden Machinery	Sales Servicing Repairs	01258 475600
Northover Fuels	Oil, Calor Gas, Logs, Coal, Oil Tanks	01258 472619
The Boxing Club		sturabc.co.uk
Pete's Fitness	Gym 6-11am, body weight classes	07977 859965
A&G	Joinery	01258 569562
Vale Fire Safety	For all your fire safety needs	01258 471871
Paragon	Cleaning Contractors	01258 472677

At Rolls Mill Industrial Estate (half-mile NW on A357)

Olives et Al	Delicatessen; Take-away	01258 474303
Paddock Pantry	Horse equipment & food specialist. Pet supplies.	thepaddockpantry.co.uk 01258 473336
Sturminster Newton Building Supplies	info@sturbuildingsupplies.co.uk www.sturbuildingsupplies.co.uk	01258 474934/5
Screwfix	Screwfix.com/stores	03330 112 112
Health Clinic	Complementary Health – opp. Rolls Mills I.E.	01258 473109
Aldi	Store in planning stage as at 4/25	

Markets



Monday morning is still market day – an historic descendant of the largest calf market in the country. Fresh fish; Pets; Plants; Watch batteries and all those other household bits and pieces.



On Tuesday mornings the Exchange Atrium hosts The Country Market. All local produce including meat, eggs, veg, baked goodies and crafts.

On the first Saturday of the month Mrs Potters Cakes is in The Exchange atrium.

1855 is effectively a permanent indoor market for 100+ local traders as is the Workhouse Chapel for 70 local artisans (Nov/Dec only) – both detailed in the shopping pages.

Nearby farm shops are listed on the Town Newsletter web page snclc.org.uk – what's happening in Stur.

The market sign is preserved in the atrium of The Exchange and the accompanying bell is still rung to signal five minutes to start of shows and end of intervals



Culture & Recreation

For a complete day out in Stur why not combine the shopping experience with a visit to the Mill and/or Museum or take one of the many walks into the countryside, along the river or around the old town. Pop into The Exchange to see what's on and book tickets at reception (upstairs).



THE MILL: This is a fully working water mill and a wonderful piece of industrial archaeology. The machinery runs every day the Mill is open, and the flour sold in the Museum and Mill shops is produced regularly (dates on web site). Our shop at the Mill also sells hot and cold drinks, ice cream, local souvenirs, gifts and toys. Our knowledgeable Mill Supervisors provide informal guided tours.

Parking at the Mill or walk from town via recreation ground, riverbank and mill races. Toilets on site.

THE MUSEUM is in the town centre (map 67), two floors of curated exhibits, shop. There are also two windows of exhibits in The Exchange atrium.

Get more details of the museum and mill, opening times and special events by searching online for '**Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust**'.



A chance to view three **Dorset Forge Sculptures** up close (map 16). A bull's head and horses head are in Railway Gardens and the complete rearing stallion at the bottom of Station Road / junction Old Market Hill. The ultimate in re-cycling!



THE EXCHANGE (map 1.) – a community building with meeting rooms of various sizes, an atrium (used for Tuesday am Country Market, Beer & Cider festival etc.). there is a first-floor café & bar with views to Hambledon Hill. Concerts, Film & Theatre events in Stour Hall.



Stour Hall in The Exchange, venue for the several music, theatre and film events each month.

www.stur-exchange.co.uk for more details and ticket bookings or call 01258 475137.

TAKE A WALK: We recommend taking the trailway (old rail-line) from the bottom of main car park. At the river bridge go down to the riverbank on your right and follow footpath beside river. Cross Fiddleford Mill races and walk down lane past old mill buildings. At Junction in lane turn right then immediately right again through Fiddleford Manor car park. Visit the ancient manor (English Heritage – free entry).



There are 8 Walkabout leaflets (pick up from Emporium or Council Office) or view online at sturminster-newton.org.uk/8-of-the-best-scenic-walks-around-sturminster-and-its-rural-history/ Note: On the MAP in leaflet 6 the blue line points to the Manor location.

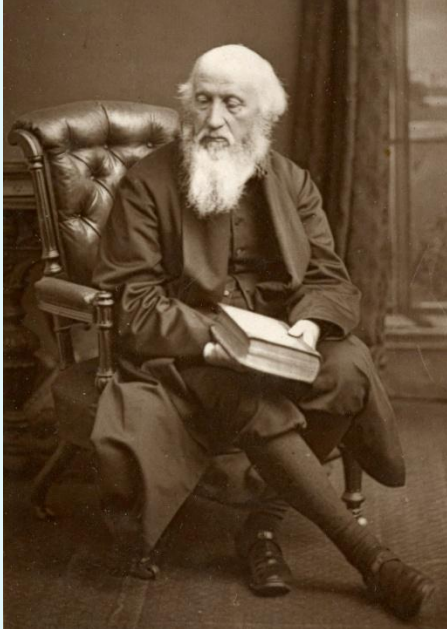
TAKE A RIDE: The Trailway goes to Shillingstone Station (museum) – 4 Miles, Stourpaine – 6m and Blandford Forum – 8m. Just south of Shillingstone you can even borrow bikes – Big Yellow Bus Project on trailway and A357.

SPORT & EXERCISE: Call at STURFIT leisure centre off Honeymead Lane to check out the gym and classes and clubs. 01258 471774. Other fitness classes and sports clubs – see town newsletter.



The Poets

William Barnes: 1801-1886 born Bagber. Priest, Polymath but famed for poems in the Dorset Dialect. The Town's primary school is named for him.



My Orcha'd in Linden Lea

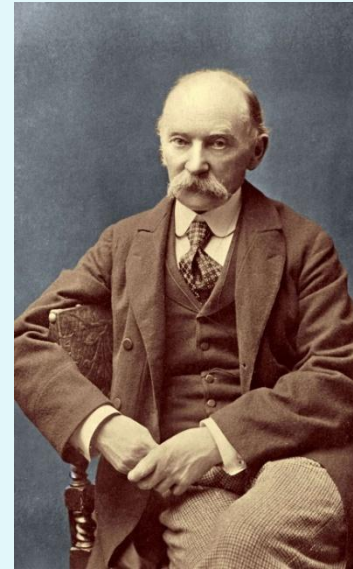
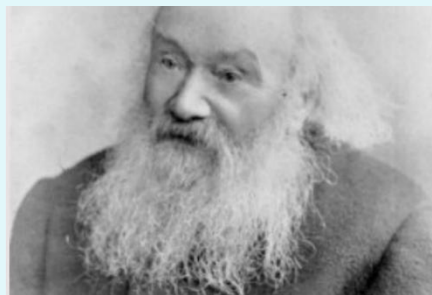
'Tthin the woodlands, flow'ry gleaded,
By the woak tree's mossy moot,
The sheenen grass-bleades, timber-sheaded,
Now do quiver under voot;
An' birds do whistle over head,
An' water's bubblen in its bed,
An' there vor me the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

When leaves that leately wer a-springen
Now do feade 'ithin the copse,
An' painted birds do hush their zingen
Up upon the timber's tops;
An' brown-leav'd fruit's a-turnen red,
In cloudless zunsheen, over head,
Wi' fruit vor me, the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

Let other vo'k meake money vaster
In the air o' dark-room'd towns,
I don't dread a peevish measter;
Though noo man do heed my frowns,
I be free to goo abroad,
Or teake agean my hwomeward road
To where, vor me, the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

Robert Young: 1811-1908 born Sturminster Newton. Known for comic writing in the Dorset Dialect and the 'alter ego' character Rabin Hill. A road in the town is named for him. Below 'Rabin Hill's visit to the railway'.

*'The enjun gied another scream,
The speed began to slacken now.
"Tis strange to I," said Rabin Hill,
"Thick hoss shood kick up sich a row."*



Thomas Hardy: 1840-1928

Hardy lived in Sturminster Newton for two years in a house rented from **Robert Young**, overlooking the River Stour and the far end of the now recreation ground. He wrote 'Return of the Native' there. Sturminster Newton appears in several novels as StourCastle, "dumbly somnolent under its thick brown thatch" as Tess passes through in the early morning.

Here is Hardy's description of **The Blackmore Vale** to which Sturminster is central.

"The traveller from the coast after plodding northwards for a score of miles over calcareous downs and corn lands .. is surprised and delighted to behold like a map beneath him a country different absolutely from that which he has passed through. Here in the valley the world seems to be constructed on a smaller and more delicate scale. The prospect is a broad rich mass of grass and trees, mantling minor hills and dales within the major. Such is the Vale of Blackmoor." *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.



Town & Around



Above Town Bridge and Mill

Below The Exchange and Railway Gardens



Sturminster Newton Orchestra

... perhaps one of Stur's best kept secrets? But did you know:

- The orchestra has been established for over 30 years.
- It is community based and attracts players, with a wide range of abilities, from all over Dorset (... and beyond).

Our aims are to enjoy ourselves making music together and improve our musicianship in the process.

The Sturminster Newton Orchestra is truly open: it doesn't matter what age you are or what grade you have achieved (as long as you can read music to a reasonable level). There are no auditions and everyone is welcome.

So, if you have a beloved instrument gathering dust in the attic, yearning to be played, why not pop in with it on a Saturday morning at **"The Exchange"** and see what we get up to?



www.sturminsternewtonorchestra.com



One of more than 50 organisations around the town catering for all interests from sport to music, gardens, books, to social and support groups and much more.



Above: Part of Market Cross & Market Place.

Left: The Market Column (outside the lower level of The Exchange)

Below: The Town Clock (above Boots the Chemist)



Free & Friendly Help with Technology All Welcome

Computers
Tablets
Digital Cameras
Smart Phones
Smart Screens
Smart Speakers
Smart Home
Microsoft;
Apple; Android.

OPEN

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9:00-12:30

Wednesday

9:30-4:00

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Upgrades
Internet
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Spreadsheets
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A member of the

Online Centres
Network for 10 years



#DigitalDorset

Memory Sticks;
Cables; Mice;
Tablet Pens etc.
available here



Sponsors



SturTech (The Learning Centre) – one of 25+ organisations providing events, culture and support for the Town using mainly volunteers.

The Town Newsletter – ‘What’s Happening in Stur’

The Town Newsletter is published Bi-Monthly (Feb/Mar, Apr/May etc.) with a copy date 15th of preceding month.

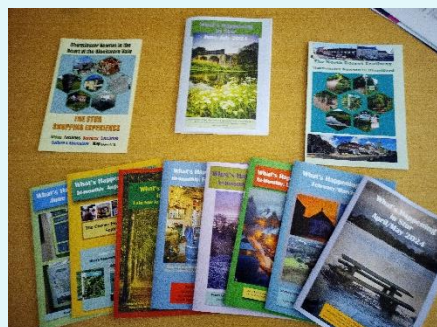
It contains local news and all the events happening in and around town as well all the regular weekly and monthly group meetings.

Its free to include events and for mentions of new and changed businesses.

To receive an Emailed copy as soon as its published, get added to the distribution list with a request to whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com .

A limited number of paper copies are printed by the Town Council and can be picked up at The Exchange, Library, TC Office, Emporium, 1855 & Church.

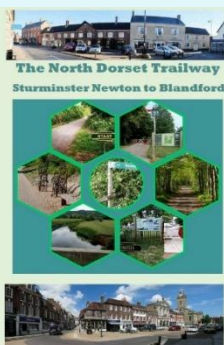
The Newsletter also produces special features from time to time including:



Volunteering in the Town:
There are 25+ organisations in Sturminster Newton welcoming Volunteers. The brochure (July 2024) is still available on our website (see below). Get involved, serve the community and make new friends!

And the guide to features, cafes and pubs along the 8-mile **Trailway** to Blandford Forum.

More on the Newsletter plus on-line copies, and past features are on our web page. Go to snclc.org.uk (The Learning Centre) and click the What’s Happening in Stur panel.



The “Town Guide & Shopping Experience” is produced as a feature of the Town’s Newsletter – “What’s Happening in Stur”. Our thanks to the local businesses funding this re-print for residents, new residents & visitors to the town with their advertising.

View the newsletter and all features on the Learning Centre web site snclc.org.uk and click the What’s happening in Stur panel.

Email us on whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com.

More information: Town Web Site – sturminster-newton.org.uk

Facebook – Sturminster Newton News

For a small town we are fortunate to be so rich in shops and facilities and all in a compact town centre. It’s all interdependent in generating footfall. No need to drive off to a big supermarket, save the planetand £5 of petrol towards your local shop.