

What's Happening in Stur

Volunteering Supplement

Issue 2 February 2026

VOLUNTEER



A lot happens in our small town, and it's all made possible by hundreds of volunteers.

From Technicians in The Exchange to Santa and his Elves! And from the daily running of the Community Shops, Mill, Museum and Exchange to the once-a-year Cheese, Riverside, Literary etc. Festivals

In this supplement are a selection of the current opportunities for you to get involved, serve the community and make new friends.



The Mill and Museum – See Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust



THE EXCHANGE

**Arts Venue, Theatre, Community Hub,
Conference & Meeting Centre**



We are located at the heart of Sturminster Newton and offer regular performances, cinema, café open daily (Mon-Sat), activity groups and more.

As a charity we are run by a team of 7 Trustees, 7 paid staff and about 40 volunteers.

The Exchange is always looking for volunteers and the roles we offer are varied, so why not come and join our friendly easy-going fun team.

- **Technicians** - We particularly need Technicians. Do you have experience of rigging, lighting or sound technician? We can of course train anyone who is interested.
- **Café and Bar Staff** - Our team of volunteers help in the café in the morning and/or the bar on performance nights and private events.
- **Hall Stewards/Meet and Greeters** - meet and greet patrons, check tickets and help them to their seats.
- **Moving Team** – Help us to set up and dismantle the theatre for performances and cinema evenings, and our rooms for the weekly Country Market, groups, meetings and conferences.
- **Admin Staff** - Help on reception, answering the telephone and selling tickets for the box office.

The hours for each role are very varied, flexible and depend on the performance and room bookings for each week.

Want to know more? Just pop in or call to speak with a member of staff, fill in an application form or visit our website.

Sharon Clifton – Manager

Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1FH. Tel 01258 475137

www.stur-exchange.co.uk. Email: info@stur-exchange.co.uk.

Winner of the Stur Business Awards 2024 – “Best Place to Work”!

Sturminster Newton Community Benefit Society



SturAction is a Community Benefit Society dedicated to serving the town where we live. We're not just an organisation—we're your neighbours, and we're passionate about making life better for everyone in our brilliant community. Our shops aren't your average high street stops; each one is a treasure chest of bargains, with all profits going straight back into local projects. Shop with us and watch your town thrive!

The Boutique – Preloved: Dive into a world of high-quality women's and children's clothing at knock-out prices. The Boutique is where fashion lovers discover their next show-stopping piece, all while saving money and supporting a good cause.

The Emporium - Calling all treasure hunters! Explore shelves packed with quirky bric-à-brac, charming collectibles, and every kitchen gadget you never knew you needed. Don't miss the gallery upstairs—art lovers, this one's for you!

The Marketplace - Searching for that perfect armchair or quirky lamp? The Marketplace offers brilliant second-hand furniture and homeware to bring a dash of character to your home—all at very pocket-friendly prices.

Our Volunteers:

SturAction runs on the amazing energy and kindness of our volunteers—our true superheroes! Without their cheerful faces and can-do spirit, our shops simply wouldn't be the friendly, welcoming places locals love. Fancy meeting new friends, learning new skills, and making a real difference? We're on the lookout for more legends like you to join our team. Not to mention, every penny you help raise goes right back into the heart of our lovely town.

Get Involved:

There's a spot for everyone in our merry band, whether you're a people person or prefer to work behind the scenes sorting treasures. If you're up for some fun and fancy being part of something special, pop into one of our shops for a chat, or drop Cheryl a line at comcheststur1@gmail.com. We can't wait to welcome you aboard!

The Vale Family Hub



✿ Join the Vale Family Hub Community! ✿

The Vale Family Hub on the Butts Pond Estate is looking for friendly, enthusiastic volunteers of all ages who want to make a real difference in their community. Whether you have a few hours to spare or want to get stuck in regularly, there's a place for you here.

What We Do

Our hub is a lively, welcoming space offering a range of support and activities for local families. Volunteers help us keep everything running — and there are plenty of ways to get involved:

In the Kitchen & Café

Our café is not only a warm, social space but also a vital source of income for the hub. If you enjoy cooking, baking, serving, or simply chatting with people over a cuppa, you'll fit right in.

Affordable Food Pantry

Each week we collect surplus food from supermarkets and distribute it to those who need it most. Volunteers help sort, organise, and share food — and sometimes even turn it into delicious meals in our kitchen.

Youth & Family Activities

From babies to teens, our youth sessions are always buzzing. An extra pair of hands makes a huge difference, whether you're helping set up activities, supporting play sessions, or bringing your own creative ideas.

What We're Looking For

A sense of humour; kindness and initiative; a passion for helping others; willingness to muck in and be part of a team.

What We Offer

While we can't provide payment, we *can* offer:
a warm, friendly atmosphere; new skills and hands-on experience; plenty of laughter; a chance to make meaningful connections; the joy of knowing you're helping your community thrive.

If you're curious, caring, or just keen to get involved, we'd love to welcome you to the Vale Family Hub family. Call Tracy on 01258 920040 / 07984 153395 or email at info@valefamilyhub.co.uk

Age Concern – North Dorset

We are a small charity supporting those in later life. We are run by a management team of 4 voluntary trustees, a part-time manager and community outreach worker, and a team of 10 community volunteers. We are looking for more volunteers to assist the charity in a variety of ways. Namely:



Community Befrienders/Welfare Support – Our befrienders offer valuable support to elderly people who, for several reasons, may feel isolated. We carefully match our volunteer befrienders to our clients to ensure a mutually beneficial ongoing relationship. We also have dedicated volunteers offering welfare support, such as completing attendance allowance forms. We would love to hear from people with 2 to 4 hours a week to spare.

Balance Class Support – We are seeking a dedicated volunteer specifically to assist with running our much-loved balance exercise classes on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. This unique role of around 3 hours weekly, will include meeting and greeting clients and assisting with serving refreshments.

Our volunteers are highly valued, and so important to the daily running of our unique and special charity. Expanding our network of volunteers will enable us to reach more elderly people in the local villages and hamlets, as well as enabling us to enhance and develop our existing successful service offering.

We welcome all volunteer applications. Successful volunteers will be required to provide references and undergo a DBS check at our own expense.

To apply to the charity as a volunteer please

email: info@acnorthdorset.org.uk or call 01258 475582 for an application form

Age Concern Office, Bath Road, DT10 1DR, Telephone No. 01258 475582
or info@acnorthdorset.org.uk Open 5 mornings a week from 9.30am – 1.30pm

Telephone Support Service; Welfare Support Service including Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance and Pension Credit; Befriending/Friendship; Balance Classes at the local gym; Foot clinics; Drop-in service at the office or for more locations please call the office.

Countryside Regeneration Trust at Bere Marsh Farm, Shillingstone



Volunteers are the backbone of the Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT), supporting everything from practical conservation to wildlife monitoring. At Bere Marsh Farm in Shillingstone, a dedicated volunteer community plays a vital role in regenerating the countryside and protecting local wildlife. The team of volunteers has once again done a fantastic job at the farm, making 2025 a highly successful year. A regular group meets every Friday to tackle hands-on farm tasks, while another gathers on Tuesdays in the workshop to create wildlife boxes. These are sold at the farm, with all proceeds reinvested into conservation work.

CRT Head of Volunteering Leslie Hackett said: “This year, our volunteers have taken part in a number of key projects. These include habitat restoration, hedge planting, tree planting and ditch clearing.

“Volunteers also help with wildlife surveys for moths, butterflies and birds as well as with our site maintenance and footpath repairs. They also assist us with community activities, such as our popular dawn chorus event.”

One of the big projects last year was the installation of the pond-dipping platform at Bere Marsh Farm. “This is a fantastic addition to the farm and a real asset for our education work,” Leslie added. “Our volunteers have also stepped up brilliantly to run The Buzz Café at Bere Marsh Farm. They love welcoming visitors, who come to enjoy a hot drink, a slice of cake and a well-earned rest.”

How can you help? We can’t do it without you. If you want to help us protect local wildlife, you can support the CRT in any number of ways, such as joining as a CRT Friend, volunteering, attending events and visiting The Buzz Cafe.

For more information about volunteering, please see <https://www.thecrt.co.uk/volunteering> or contact Volunteer Manager Leslie Hackett at volunteer@thecrt.co.uk

Friends of Blandford Community Hospital



Charity Shops – Sturminster Newton & Blandford Forum. Warehouse – Hinton St Mary

The Friends are based at Blandford Community Hospital, supporting both the hospital's staff and patients, the local community, and groups and good causes within the Sturminster and Blandford area.

We are looking for volunteers to be based at our popular Charity Shops in Sturminster Newton, Blandford Forum and Warehouse Facility in Hinton St Mary.

We have an amazing team of volunteers who assist greatly in the day-to-day running of our two charity shops and warehouse, and we are looking for a range of volunteers to help them in various roles.

Our charity shops and warehouse are an incredibly important means of raising funds for our charity, enabling us to support the hospital and community. We aim to provide a welcoming, rewarding and sociable working environment where a variety of skills can be put to good use.

Contact us at dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net marking your email Shop/Warehouse Volunteer. Alternatively, please contact Becca or Leonne on 01258 450095. We look forward to hearing from you!

Transport Scheme

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.

Royal Voluntary Service – Home Library Service

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

Our Home Library Service is exactly what it sounds like – we take the local library into people's homes. We are seeking more volunteers in the Sturminster Newton area, and across the whole of Dorset, to visit one or more readers every few weeks, or once a month, either short or long term and at a time that suits both reader and volunteer.



Volunteers take a selection of books and CDs of books to those who are less mobile, or who find it difficult to get to their local library. Readers can choose their own books, or the volunteer can use the online catalogue and do this for them. It's all based on what the client likes, and what the

Library can offer, and our Library in Sturminster Newton does provide an excellent service.

In a wider context, we don't just deliver an important source of entertainment and mental stimulation, we also offer a friendly face, a chance to chat and some very welcome social interaction for people who can't always get out of the house and pick up/drop off doorstep deliveries are always an option if that is preferred.

All volunteers are DBS checked, fully trained and supported, and travelling expenses are paid. If you think this is something you'd like to get involved with then please contact Maria Jacobson for more information:

maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk, 01305 236666; or Shan Edwards (local co-ordinator) shan.edwards@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

More information on the RVS and the wider services it can offer, e.g. a lunch club in Sherborne, is available at www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.



Sturminster Newton

RBL Branch



Existing in the town since the formation of the RBL in 1921, its role is to support the Service and Ex-Service community.

We look after welfare cases, provide support (either financial or emotional), organise the Poppy Appeal in the town each year, act as the custodians of remembrance in the town and organise remembrance events on behalf of the town council such at Remembrance Parade and the recent D-Day 80th Anniversary events.

Currently run by a management committee of 11, all of whom are volunteers.

We are looking for several people to assist with door-to-door collections and other tasks for the Poppy Appeal in late October/early November.

The Poppy Appeal volunteers will need to be available for about 4 – 5 hours over a two-week period in late October in Sturminster Newton. Full training/briefing will be provided.

Volunteers must be 18+. Apart from that all welcome to apply.

Contact point for the Branch is the Branch Chairman, Mr Trevor Legg, on 01258 821612 or sturminsternewtonRBL@gmail.com.

Volunteers for the Poppy Appeal Collectors please contact Mrs Tracy Walsh on 07967 412758 or poppyappeal.sturminsternewton@outlook.com





Blackmore Vale LIONS club (BVLC)

LIONS Club International, the World's largest service organisation has a motto of "We Serve". BVLC serves Blackmore Vale by raising funds to help local people.

The club meets on the second Monday or Tuesday of the month at the Hub Stalbridge (we cover the whole of Blackmore Vale including Stur). We also meet on the 4th Wednesday or Thursday for a social event.

Currently run by a management team of 8 members assisted by many volunteers and other helpers.

BVLC are looking for more volunteers to help with many tasks ranging from bucket collections to helping organise major events such as the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon.

We are always busy trying to raise money for local, national and international causes ranging from a few tens of pounds to help a local family in genuine need to several thousand pounds to alleviate the effects of disasters and conflict. We are very free ranging in what we do, and when, to help raise money for charity, youth development, medical support or helping local organisations and people. Anyone with a few hours of spare time, a smile and a willing approach to life who likes helping deserving or needy causes (which are not always the same thing) will always be welcome.

Contact points: Phone 0345 8337423; Website <https://bvlions.yolasite.com/>

The Learning Centre

The Learning Centre is in The Exchange and operates twice weekly drop-ins for help with computers, smartphones etc.

We are currently fortunate to have sufficient volunteers for most drop-ins but need additional volunteers with specialisms (e.g. website building) willing to meet clients for appointments or run seminars on specialist topics (e.g. Security/Scams, AI).

We would also welcome additional volunteers willing to substitute current volunteers in staffing the drop-ins.

You need not be an expert in everything – we are a team. Listening and general problem-solving skills just as important.

Drop-in for a chat (Mon am, Wed till 3pm) or call 01258 475272.



Volunteer Centre Dorset

Could you help with simple and flexible tasks like picking up shopping, making a friendly phone call or walking a pet for someone who needs short term support? You can choose how much you do and when you do it.

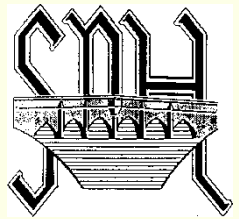


Volunteer Centre Dorset is looking for Community Response Volunteers in Sturminster Newton. Everyone can help in their community. If you've never volunteered before or have any worries, we're here to help.

We also advertise opportunities for any groups and organisations who need volunteers.

To sign up, ask questions or get support, contact us: 01305 269214
www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk support@volunteeringdorset.org.uk

Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust (Mill and Museum)



SNHT's purpose is to preserve the unique heritage of Sturminster Newton within the Town Museum and the iconic Mill. The aim is for heritage stories and artefacts to be readily available for public viewing and enjoyment.

The museum is adjacent to the Market Cross, opposite the White Hart and the Mill is situated 300m upriver from the historic Town Bridge.

The Trust is run by a small group of volunteer Trustees who are responsible for managing the two buildings. They are supported by a team of approx. 30 volunteers.

The Trustees are looking for more volunteers to help in any of the following roles:

- 1) Be part of the "meet and greet" team at either venue.
- 2) To join the curatorial team to help with research and assembling new exhibitions.
- 3) Help with DIY in the Museum, or practical help with events at the Mill, e.g. cake making or erecting gazebos for outdoor events.
- 4) Computer skills to help with our publicity.

We fully understand the demands on people's time, and we welcome as much help as you might be able to offer, be it one 3-hour front-of-house session or a regular slot, a one-off DIY job or regular involvement in the running of the venues and events.

The Mill and Museum are historic buildings and there are no lifts to upper floors, some floors are uneven and there are low beams in the Mill. The Mill atmosphere can contain dust and flour and asthmatics so those with coeliac issues should be aware.

We have a volunteer aged 17 and one of 90 and all ages in between.

Contact via contact page, www.sturminsternewton-museum.co.uk or zillabears@hotmail.co.uk or 01258 473178

The Rotary Club of Sturminster Newton

Rotary is one of the world's oldest and largest service organisations. It has 1.4 million members across 46,000 clubs in over 200 countries.



We are a friendly and sociable club offering a mix of get-togethers, event organisation and management, fund raising and distribution, and volunteering.

We support a variety of local and international charities and meet in the evening of the second and fourth Tuesdays each month.

The Club is currently run by 6 officers and has 17 active members and 5 senior (retired) members, who are all volunteers.

We are looking for new volunteer club members, and non-members, to help in the following roles:

Club Members - Join the team and help manage and run our events and the club, or just attend socials and volunteer at individual events, the more active the better.

Volunteers to help set up and take down for the following events

- Cheese Festival – Plus bar staff
- Big Lunch – Plus manning games for the children

To find out more about volunteering or meeting locations contact Club President Chris Hardiman email:

chris.hardiman@creativecontractsltd.co.uk



Riverside Fest

A family music festival held in Sturminster Newton raising money for Children with Cancer UK, The Vale Pantry and The Big Yellow Bus Garden Project.



Location: Riverside Meadows, Sturminster Newton DT102BS

The event is run by Ruth and Stuart Caldwell, including 3 volunteers.

We are looking for more volunteers to take on one or more of the following roles:

1. Entrance gate staff – taking entrance fees (cash handling), handing out wrist bands/programme & checking prepaid tickets.
2. Stewards/marshals – walking site during the event, assisting public where needed, checking bins, & litter picking
3. Car parking/road entrance gate – directing cars & parking, road entrance use of radio to manage two-way traffic in and out of entrance.

The roles: are min 2-hour slots (or more if able)

Volunteers are welcome to stay at the event free of charge (after/before volunteering slot), also included is a food and beverage voucher and 1 free adult ticket.

Volunteers must be over the age of 18 years old and able to follow instructions

Contact: Ruth Caldwell 07805136840/ riversidefamilyfest@outlook.com

Community Connections (Stour Connect)



Community Connections is a small charity in Sturminster Newton running projects for the local community, particularly aimed to help people who may be feeling lonely or isolated to get together and meet others.

Our Café Connect is a friendly and welcoming venue for people to meet and socialise whilst having one of our great value breakfasts and is also home to our twice weekly Lunch Clubs. We are looking for volunteers in all our projects, but particularly:

- **Meals on Wheels** – we need volunteer drivers to help deliver our hot lunch time meals, either on a regular weekday or ad hoc if you can't commit to a regular day (mileage allowance paid and a breakfast voucher for the café!)
- **Community Cars** – drivers to help with our car scheme providing transport to medical appointments
- **Twice But Nice Charity Shop** – volunteers to help in our small, friendly charity shop, sorting donations and serving customers
- **Café Connect** – volunteers to help in our friendly café
- **Lunch Club** – to meet, chat with and serve the meal to the folks who come to our Monday and Wednesday lunch clubs
- **Life Is For Living Memory Group** – volunteers to help in our memory/dementia support group which meets every Wednesday afternoon
- **Men's Shed Stour** – not volunteers, but members to join the Men's Shed, meet other people and share skills
- **Fund Raising** – if you are interested in ad hoc occasional volunteering to help at fund raising events such as jumble sales and evening events.

Any help would be very gratefully received and would help keep our services running smoothly and help us extend our projects to help even more people in our wonderful community.

Tel: 01258 471359 Email: admin@communityconnections.online

Dorset Blind Association

Could you spare a few hours a week to make a real difference?



Our Dorset Blind Association charity shop in Church Street, Sturminster Newton is looking for enthusiastic, friendly volunteers to join our lovely team.

Whether you enjoy sorting donations, creating eye-catching displays, chatting to customers, or helping on

the till – we'd love to hear from you!

No experience necessary – just bring a smile and a willingness to help. 20% discount for all volunteers.

We are also looking for home visitors and drivers to help our visually impaired members out in the community. Our mission is simple - to make life better for visually impaired people across Dorset.

Training offered and travel expenses paid.

For more information on all vacancies please call Leah on 07789997620 or email leah@dorsetblind.org.uk



Scouts and Guides

Are YOU looking for a new adventure? Want to make a real difference to others as well as giving yourself a positive buzz!!

We want more young people in Stur to have the chance to enjoy Scouting and Girlguiding (especially those on our waiting lists!). We are looking for all sorts of help so we can deliver a range of activities and fun, developing self-confidence, independence and leadership skills for all ages.

No prior experience or special skills needed, just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved.

- You could help regularly every week **or** occasionally
- You could be directly involved at meetings or support us in the background with tasks such as admin, such as badge records, accounts, fundraising or looking after/sourcing equipment.

Scouting is an organisation for both boys and girls from 4-18 years.

For more information www.Scouts.org.uk
or dazza717216@outlook.com



Girlguiding is for girls from 4-18 years

For more information www.Girlguiding.org.uk or sturguiding@outlook.com

Volunteering with us doesn't only help young people in our community, you will build your own skills too (even make a CV stand out!).

Please note that all roles involving contact with young people will involve background checks and safeguarding training.

Sturminster Newton Literary Festival

Sturminster Newton Literary Festival is in its sixth year and is growing. The festival promotes the historic writers in the town,



contemporary writers from Dorset and Wessex, and aspiring writers. All the management team are volunteers. Events include hosting inspirational speakers, themed days such as crime writing, and promoting the literary heritage of Sturminster Newton.

A management team of 7 volunteers meet in the Town Council offices in Sturminster Newton. We are looking for up to 4 more volunteers to take on one or more of the following roles:

Role1: Making podcasts for website and social media of the festival and speakers

Role2: meetings secretary

Role3: Co-ordination of programme distribution.

We are also looking for programme distributors and stewards at festival events. Our programmes are distributed across Dorset and parts of Somerset and Wiltshire.

The roles are for events in June each year with planning and marketing taking place from January. We welcome volunteers from the community. You'll get to meet writers, work with an enthusiastic team, and be part of a festival that is increasing in popularity. We welcome all enquiries and can discuss requirements depending on the role taken.

Contact Points: Rachael Rowe info@sturlitfest.com

More Opportunities

We are also aware that **Sturfit** uses volunteers to assist staff at the Gym/Sports Hall; and the **schools** are usually on the lookout for parent governors.

Big Yellow Bus Garden Project

Situated on the main Blandford to Shillingstone road at Gains Cross, this community garden is open to all 365 days a year and 24 hours per day. Originally a project for young people with mental health challenges, it has grown to so much more and is now a popular and vibrant community space.



Staffed entirely by volunteers, we grow fruit, vegetables and cut flowers, with 90% of our edible produce going to three food banks in the local area. We are also an educational venue for school and college groups, who come to us to learn about horticulture, wildlife and the value of volunteering.

We have a fleet of mountain bikes that are available to borrow, as we have access straight onto the Trailway from our site.

The Big Yellow Bus Garden Project is a not-for-profit community interest company set up by EQ Health & Wellbeing. The site covers four acres split into 3 areas: the landscape garden, a community growing space, and a wildflower orchard. Why not come and have a look around?

For more information, get in touch: paul@eqcic.co.uk
Or visit our website www.bigyellowbus.co.uk

Home Start

Home-Start Blackmore Vale supports parents with young children who are feeling isolated, overwhelmed or going through a difficult time. Could you spare just 2-3 hours a week to visit a family and help them cope better. You don't have to be an expert, just have parenting experience. Full training and ongoing support are provided. Make a difference and contact us for more information.

Full training provided contact us
on 01935 726438 or
office@homestartblackmorevale.org.uk



Sturminster Newton On-Call Firefighters

What is an on-call firefighter? On-call firefighters go about their everyday life (for example, at work, at home, during the day or the middle of the night) until the alerter sounds and they respond to the fire station. All firefighters are trained to the same level of competence, attending the same incidents, receiving the same hourly rate of pay and pension opportunities, and all working together with a one team approach. As an on-call firefighter, you will attend incidents such as fires, road accidents, floods, chemical spills and animal rescues. You will also support community events, school visits and prevention work.



How being on-call works: on-call firefighters need to live or work near to their local fire station and ideally provide a minimum of 40 hours each week when they are available to respond. When the alerter sounds, you need to respond promptly and safely to the station, usually on foot, bike or by car.

Around two thirds of the firefighters in Dorset and Wiltshire work on an on-call basis, making them hugely important to both the Service and the communities that they serve. Of our 50 stations, the majority are crewed only by on-call firefighters and on-call staff work alongside their wholetime colleagues at many of our other stations.

For more information, please contact the Sturminster Newton Fire Station Manager on Stuart.Frear@dwfire.org.uk



North Dorset Railway

The North Dorset Railway is a heritage railway based at Shillingstone Station, on what was the Somerset and Dorset Railway. The station opened in 1863, but was 'closed' 60 years ago, in March 1966.



The rail track, which ran through Stur, Shillingstone, to Blandford and beyond, was soon ripped up, and most of the infrastructure was demolished, but the station building at Shillingstone survived.



By the late 1990s the station was in a poor state after the most recent commercial tenant had gone bankrupt, but a group of dedicated volunteers formed a charitable trust to save it, and secured a 99-year lease from Dorset County Council. Its aim was to bring the station back to life, and it did.

In 2019 the charitable trust changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, renamed the North Dorset Railway, a broad hint at our new aspirations. Last year, after four years of work, NDR finished a 400m track extension—bringing the total to nearly half a mile—and secured permission to carry passengers.

Would you like to help?

2026 is going to be a big year and we have ambitious plans. To help us grow we're hoping to attract volunteers who can add skills, talents and enthusiasms to the mix, as well as support our current teams.



Everything that has been achieved so far has been thanks to the combined efforts of amazing volunteers, those who get their hands dirty, and those who don't. People happy with a pickaxe, paintbrush, or trowel, or more at home with a calculator, a spreadsheet and laptop. People who are using skills from their working backgrounds, and people who wanted to try something completely different. People who love being 'front of house', and those more comfortable behind the scenes. Almost every trade and profession has a part to play in running a railway. And all underpinned by the café crew, who not only bring in the vital funding that supports the day to day running of the station but also keep their fellow volunteers happily fed and watered.

It's a great time in the station's history to get involved, so if you have a few hours to spare on a fairly regular basis, have a look at the information for volunteers on our website (www.northdorsetrailway.co.uk), email us for more information (info@northdorsetrailway.co.uk) or come to the station and have a chat. The station is currently open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, between 10am and 4pm. (Though we'd love to open more often if we had enough volunteers to do so!)

Project 62 at Shillingstone Station

Ready for a challenge? Project 62 is a group based at Shillingstone Station dedicated to rebuilding two Class 62 'Yankee Tank' steam locomotives. One of these is now complete, but the other is just starting its journey.

Our mission is to make this:



Look more like this:





(Left: before and after!)

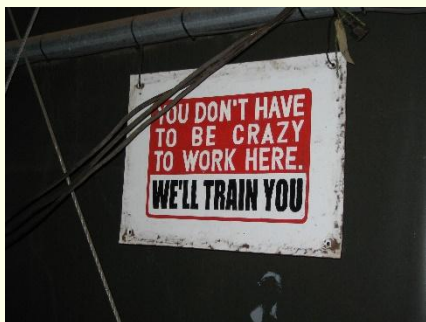
Loco 30076 has been untouched for many years - it had to wait its turn while classmate 30075 was finished. But work is now beginning and, as they say, many hands make light work.

Know nothing about how a loco works? Nor did many of the current volunteers when they started, and basic DIY skills will get you a long way. The team has learned – sometimes the hard way – and will be happy to support and share their experience. And sometimes a fresh eye on a problem can focus minds in useful ways.

So, fancy getting your hands dirtyish and enjoying good company? Well, progress would probably be quicker if the team didn't laugh as much, but they do get dirty.

Don't want to get your hands dirty but still want to be involved? A hot-shot fundraiser would be especially welcome, but spreadsheet-savvy people to keep accurate records of parts being dismantled also essential.

Most of the work is carried out on Wednesdays and the first Saturday of the month. Come and find us – in the big green tent at Shillingstone Station – to learn more about these unusual locos and how you may be able to help in their restoration.



St Mary's Church, Church Lane

Churchyard volunteers needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help keep our churchyard tidy, and to help develop our Living Churchyard Project (A Dorset Wildlife Trust Initiative).

We have a small team of friendly volunteers from the church



and local community and usually meet on the second Thursday of the month (weather permitting!). We work from 2-4pm, followed by tea and cake. Our churchyard is a peaceful green space, appreciated by local walkers and dogs!



If you enjoy working outside, and have some basic gardening skills, could this suit you? If you are interested in helping, or wish to know more, please contact Fiona Norman, Churchwarden, on 01258 472693.

Other volunteering opportunities to help support the church.

If there is anyone who is interested in volunteering, who has more specialist expertise or knowledge about the care of church buildings, our small fabric team would value your help and support. We have a significant beautiful Grade 1 listed building to maintain, both as an important community asset and as a place of worship. If you are interested, please contact Rev Mary Gubbins by email at rev.mary.gubbins@gmail.com to discuss further.

Marie Curie



Sturminster Newton (DT10)

Volunteer your time and make a real difference to local people at the end of life

Volunteer with Marie Curie as a local Collection Box Co-Ordinator. This volunteer role involves:

- Distributing collection boxes in local venues such as pubs and shops
- Banking donations and thanking venues/supporters
- Giving however much time you can!

Find out more about this volunteering role and other volunteering opportunities by contacting the local Community Fundraiser, Kara on:

kara.frampton@mariecurie.org.uk

07712 691510



Charity reg no. 207994 (England & Wales), SC038731 (Scotland)

Weldmar HospiceCare



volunteers wanted at our charity shop!

Meet new people and make new friends
Learn new skills and gain experience
A variety of tasks and hours to suit you
Be a champion for sustainable shopping
Support a local cause!

4 The Parade, Sturminster Newton
01258 440820

Just pop in and speak to a member of our friendly team!



weldmarhospicecare.org

Registered Charity No. 1009414

Blackmore Vale Partnership – The Health Hub



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
DO YOU ENJOY MEETING PEOPLE?

BE PART OF OUR "POP-UP" HEALTH HUB IN STURMINSTER NEWTON
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON TUESDAY MORNINGS
9.45AM - 12.15PM (ON A ROTA BASIS)

OFFERING REFRESHMENTS TO PATIENTS
SIGNPOST TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT
OFFER A LISTENING EAR AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION



WANT TO KNOW MORE?
PLEASE CONTACT THE WELLBEING TEAM ON
01747 856786

WE WILL PROVIDE THE SUPPORT, TRAINING AND GUIDANCE YOU NEED.



The Annual Cheese Festival – See Rotary Club
The 'Men's Shed' (and more) – See Community Connections



Support these organisations

Even if you can't commit to volunteer, you can support these organisations by using their shops and attending the events that they work so hard to put on and make the town a great place to live in.



Get to know what events are happening:

The Town Newsletter "What's Happening in Stur". The newsletter is published bi-monthly and emailed to 1200 residents (request your copy by emailing whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com). You can also read it on-line at website snclc.org.uk. The Town Council funds a limited number of printed copies which can be collected at The Exchange, Emporium, Library etc.

The Town's Website: <https://sturminster-newton.org.uk/>

Sturminster News Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sturminster.newton/>

The Exchange Brochure: Published three times a year this contains full details of all the Music, Theatre, Film and other events in The Exchange. Copies always available. Or check the website: <https://stur-exchange.co.uk/>

For queries about this brochure contact whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com

Paper copies are only published bi-annually but we can amend or add to on-line versions in the meantime.