

What's Happening in Stur Bi-Monthly: April/May 2026



The Market Place
Original photo courtesy of
The Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust
Restored and Colourised by Gemini AI
(see Learning Centre page for original)

News from Sturminster Newton Town Council– Kate Squire, Town Clerk



2026/27 Precept

Sturminster Newton Town Council has approved a precept of £514,582.00 for the 2026/27 financial year.

For a Band D household, this represents an annual increase of £30.61.

How the budget is developed

The Town Council recognises that any increase in council tax is a concern for residents. The budget for 2026/27 was therefore developed carefully over several meetings, beginning with a detailed review of operational costs required to continue delivering existing services safely and lawfully. The Council used the most up-to-date inflation, and the contractual and staffing information available at the time. Only once core services had been fully assessed were any additional project costs considered.

Limited income and local circumstances

Unlike many town councils in Dorset, Sturminster Newton Town Council has very limited opportunities to generate income to offset the cost of delivering local services. The Council does not operate chargeable car parks or income-generating facilities and does not have significant commercial or chargeable assets.

The Council receives only a modest level of income from sources such as room hire and cemetery fees, which is insufficient to make a meaningful contribution towards overall running costs. As a result, a greater proportion of expenditure must be met directly through the precept.

There has also been limited housing development in recent years, meaning fewer households over which costs can be spread. As new housing developments are completed and occupied, the tax base will increase, helping to spread the cost of services across a larger number of households in future years.

Grant funding and reducing the burden on taxpayers

Wherever possible, the Town Council actively seeks to secure external grant funding for projects to reduce reliance on the precept. During the current year, the Council successfully secured over £47,000 in grant funding towards the development of the new Youth Club. In the previous year, the Council raised over £20,000 in grant funding to support the installation of new play equipment. The Council will continue to pursue grant funding opportunities wherever they are available and appropriate.

What the Town Council provides



The Town Council's precept funds a wide range of services and facilities that directly benefit residents and contribute to the safety, appearance and day-to-day running of the town. These include Station Road public toilets, the town's CCTV system, two equipped recreation grounds and four smaller play areas, two nature reserves, the cemetery, the Mill, and the Youth Club.

The Council is also responsible for maintaining over 60 litter bins, more than 30 benches, street cleaning within the Town

Centre, several miles of public footpaths, two allotment sites, formal gardens and other open spaces, as well as street lighting, a community newsletter, and small community grants.

In addition to these visible services, the precept funds the administrative and governance costs required to deliver them lawfully, safely and to an appropriate standard, including inspections, contracts, compliance, and financial oversight. By managing these services locally, the Town Council ensures decisions are made close to the community and that residents receive value for money from the council tax they pay.



Sturminster Newton Town Council

Community Networking Events

In January we were delighted to host the first Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Networking Meeting in Sturminster Newton, held in partnership with the Volunteer Centre Dorset. The session was very successful, with those attending benefiting from the opportunity to hear what other local groups and organisations are doing, as well as to share their own ventures and future plans.

Building on this success, a programme of further networking events will be held throughout the year in Sturminster Newton, combining informal networking with short, practical training sessions to support volunteer-led groups with common challenges they face.

Venue & Time

The events are being held in the Town Council Office from 9.30am to 11.00am, with arrival from 9.15am. [VCS Networks: Sturminster Newton](#)

Focused Training Sessions

- 18 March – attracting and recruiting volunteers
- 17 June – grant funding and funding opportunities
- 16 September – future planning and sustainability
- 2 December – reflecting on the year and looking ahead

These sessions are intended to be supportive, practical and relevant, whether a group is well-established or just starting out.

All Community Groups Welcome

We are keen to stress that all community groups are welcome. No group is too small, and every organisation has value, from craft groups, history societies and Men's Sheds, through to larger charities and service providers. Any community group, covering any interest, plays an important role in the life and wellbeing of the town.



Volunteer Centre
Dorset

News from Dorset County Council – Cllr Carole Jones

Recent floods caused major disruption, especially at Rivers Corner and Chapel Road, Bagber, making Stur inaccessible from Hazelbury Bryan for several days. I have been working with our Highways Team on engineering solutions for drainage improvements, and I'm confident we can implement them. Whilst out with the jetting crew a couple of weeks ago, I learned that North Dorset alone had reports online of 900 issues, whether it was flooding, blocked gullies, or potholes, and the team has really been working flat out and continues to do so.



Having driven up and down to London recently, going through Wiltshire, Hampshire and Surrey – I honestly feel our roads are in a far better state than so many other areas.

I attended the new building site across from Rolls Mill recently, work is well underway with the building of 48 affordable homes. There will be a mix of 2-, 3-, and 4-bed properties, and they will be either affordable rent or shared ownership. I hope the houses stay affordable, but only those connected to Sturminster Newton can bid, likely not until year's end.

As we move forward with planning permissions for new developments, given the Government's targets and the lack of a 5-year land supply, it will become increasingly difficult to refuse permission. It is a real worry and, frankly, takes decisions away from local communities. If an officer's recommendation to approve is put forward and the committee refuses it, it is most likely to go to appeal, and costs are likely to be awarded to the applicant if the appeal is allowed.

Part of my time is taken up as a Governor at Sturminster High School, I joined the Governors back in 2018 under the old Head. During that time, I found that staff morale was low, and everything seemed rather negative. Since the school joined SAST (an academy) – so many improvements have been made. The staff now feel well supported and in good spirits & morale is high. There

is a real 'can-do' attitude, and students are expected to do their best. The school seems calmer, more organised, and best of all, the recent exam results in both Maths and English, were much improved and indeed exceeded our other North Dorset Secondary Schools. We are seeing the High School being chosen as the first choice now for those coming into year 7.

I have met with our local Fire Brigade Officers recently regarding the proposed closure of several stations and reducing the number of firefighters in the Dorset & Wiltshire Services by 96. Whilst I understand budgets, the need to reduce expenditure, transform services, etc. I am concerned that this could really disadvantage us in North Dorset because of its rurality. 3 engines need to turn up to a house fire, 2 to a car accident. We have one vehicle at Stur, so naturally, engines would be called from other stations. However, during hot weather, we have experienced heath fires which have left the service on its knees, with all resources from the area and beyond being on site. The number of firefighters has been reduced, yet the back-office support staff have increased, and there are no proposals to reduce those staff. There is a proposal underway, and the service is asking people to complete a survey – please do this at: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/about-us/your-fire-and-rescue-service/proposed-station-closures/>

Finally – I hear Planning has now gone into Dorset Council for the new Aldi Store on the Rolls Mill Site, the application is currently being validated – we are slowly getting there!

If I can help with any matter related to Dorset Council – give me a call! 07968 348481.

News of The Vale Family Hub (formerly Vale Pantry)

Open to all, 6 days a week, the Hub is a great place to meet up, enjoy some refreshments (our Coffee is so good!) bring the kids, the dog and come and see just what we are all about.

Children enjoy the soft play area, and adults can easily chat while kids play.

We are working closely with our GP Surgery, and we are looking to provide space for the surgery to provide childhood immunisations. As a main Family Hub in North Dorset, the idea is to bring all sorts of services under one roof, where many other forms of help, support, community interactions, and services are available – a one stop open door to many services.

Moving on from that thought, there is a real move with a project between the NHS and Dorset Council called 'Thriving Communities'. This is aimed at our older residents who may feel lonely and isolated. They may be at risk of falls and, therefore, of hospital admissions. Thriving Communities wants to work specifically to improve wellbeing and socialization, which is shown to reduce hospital admissions. This needs to be worked up from a community level. We believe we can play an important role in this & want to provide space for older residents to come together for socialization, to join activities, and meet regularly.

We are working with the surgery to provide a space for them to run their Leg Ulcer Clinic, which will give us the opportunity to provide tea & cakes and give people the chance to sit and chat before, during, and after. This will be called our Lucy Legs Club! We would like to go further but need your help. One of the greatest challenges in our area is transport – might you be able to pick up one or two people once a week or once a month to bring them to the Hub? Is there anyone out there who might like to join our team as a volunteer and help steer this project? Dorset has the highest population (31%) of those aged over 65 in the country, and this is expected to grow by 46% in the next 10 years. We want a community that can involve everyone - we have the space, the ideas – we just need a few more volunteers – so anyone who fancies spending some time with us, doing something that can truly make a difference – call us or drop in!

Our Youth Hub runs each Tuesday evening between 5.30 and 8pm and is for those aged 7 to 11. We have invested in a range of activities, games, VR sets, Xboxes, and more. We always offer some great food for the youngsters – last week we did Hot Dogs and Corn on the Cob, we ask for £1 entry, so it's great value as that includes the food too! (Yes, we run at a loss!!) Research shows that those who attend a youth club are far less likely to have poor school attendance. We would love a couple more volunteers to help us on Youth

Club Nights – if you might be interested, please get in touch with Chris, our Manager, on 01258 920040 or email chris@valefamilyhub.co.uk.

If you have a young birthday party to organize and don't fancy the mess at home, we hire out the Hub on a Saturday afternoon and a Sunday, whether you want us to cater, or bring your own food, we can provide party bags too - just have a chat with us – everything is possible. The hire charge helps us do what we do, so not only do you not have the mess to clear up, but you are helping a great cause as well!

I would like to finish by thanking a wonderful gentleman, Henry who has supported the Hub with his wife Maddie. Unfortunately, Maddie died last December, and Henry visited the hub wanting to donate in her name. Maddie was also known as Sophie Kinsella, the author. If you haven't read any of her books, I urge you to – they are funny and quite joyful. We plan to recognise this through creating 'Sophie's Wall'. A joyful wall created by the artist Wayne Savage, with Sophie sprinkling some magic and fairy dust into people's lives. Wayne hopes to start in the Summer, so watch this space. Thank you so much, Henry – it is the most wonderful gesture, and we really are so incredibly grateful.

We simply could not do what we do without the help of our community. Thank you to all those who donate to us.

Volunteering in Stur

The new edition of Volunteering in Stur is now online at [Volunteering Feature Feb 2026.pdf](https://snclc.org.uk/Voluntering%20Feature%20Feb%202026.pdf)

(<https://snclc.org.uk/Voluntering%20Feature%20Feb%202026.pdf>)

Or to avoid clicking links google Sturminster Learning Centre and head to the What's Happening in Stur page.

Paper copies will be available at the Volunteer Fair (April 25th) and in the Exchange, Library, 1855 & Emporium later in April.

What's Happening in Stur Volunteering Supplement

Issue 2 February 2026



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 Exchange

What do you know about The Exchange? Could it be Fake News?

A common question is 'What happens at The Exchange'. The answer is, more than most people think. But there are lots more questions about The Exchange, some as simple as 'What is it?'. The Exchange calls itself a 'Community and Arts Centre'. What is that? Can one building be both? Who built The Exchange? Who pays for it? What does it do for Sturminster? Is there anything there for me? Why should I bother about it anyway? There are lots of answers to these questions – but how many of them are the right answers?

The best answer of all is to come and find out for yourself. You may be new to the area and know nothing about The Exchange. You may have been in but not seen much. You may have been told things about The Exchange that are just not right. You may simply want to find out more. Whichever it is, there will be answers on Saturday April 11th.

Between 10.00am and 2.00pm on April 11th, The Exchange will be having an Open Day. There is no charge to come in – there never is – and there will be plenty going on. Find out what goes on every week – there will be music, exercise and dance you can watch and even join in with. Pick up information on all the regular classes and activities and all the coming shows. Hot drinks at



the café will be half price, with home-made cakes on sale. The café is also the art gallery, and Kirsty Baird whose work will be hanging on the walls will be there to talk about what she does. There will be guided tours of the building – hear what goes on, see where it happens, walk the stage, see the lights, and learn some local history. Trustees, staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and make you welcome. **And there will be free parking across Sturminster Newton all day.**

There will be no fundraising on the Open Day, but we will happily sell tickets for coming events. And there is plenty going on before April 11th – please look at the website or get hold of a brochure.

The Mill & Museum Opening Times 2026

The mill will be open from 28th March 2026, Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sundays from 11.00 am --5.00pm

The museum will be open extended hours from Saturday April 4th.

i.e. Monday and Friday, 10 am--4.00pm; Thursday 10.00am --1.00pm; Saturday 10.00am- 12.30.pm. Does not open on Good Friday or Bank Holiday Mondays.

Shillingstone Station

Shillingstone Station opens on Bank Holiday Mondays in April & May

In response to popular demand, Shillingstone Station – including its popular café – will be open on Easter Monday, Early May Bank Holiday and Spring Bank Holiday Mondays, between 10am and 4pm. Entry, as always, is free.

The station is normally open only on Wednesdays and Weekends, but its location beside the railway makes it a welcome stop for walkers, cyclists and riders to enjoy a pasty or home-made cake overlooking the Stour Valley and Hambledon Hill. There is plenty for both children and railway enthusiasts to enjoy.



Shillingstone Station is currently commemorating the 60th anniversary since its 'closure' recommended by the notorious Beeching Report which also saw the destruction of Sturminster Newton's station. It's the base of the North Dorset Railway, dedicated to preserving and recreating a section of the former Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway, and hoping to begin carrying passengers again before the year is out. The station also hosts Project 62, a steam loco renovation group.

North Dorset Railway will also be setting out its stall at the Three Okeford's Rally, over the weekend of 16/17 May, and hopes to greet friends, new and old.

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!

Our Shops

- **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.
- **1855** — We've also breathed new life into another empty bank, transforming it into a vibrant shop dedicated to showcasing and selling the work of local artists, makers, and creators. 1855 is the place to discover unique pieces and support the talented individuals in our community.

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!



Original B/W photo courtesy of The Heritage Trust

Love Stur: Celebrating the People Behind Sturminster Newton's Local Economy

A new community initiative is launching in Sturminster Newton with a simple but powerful message: when we support one another, our whole town thrives.



Love Stur is a new project designed to shine a spotlight on the people, passion and partnerships that make Sturminster Newton's local economy so vibrant. Rather than focusing only on individual businesses, the initiative celebrates the network of relationships that connects shops, services, charities and community groups across the town.

At its heart, Love Stur is about telling local stories.

"Love Stur is about people supporting people," said a spokesperson for the initiative. By letting local businesses share their stories and recommend others, we encourage residents to shop locally and help build Sturminster Newton's community spirit.

Each week, a new feature will be shared through local channels, introducing readers to the people behind the counter, in the workshop, or working quietly behind the scenes in community organisations. From independent retailers and service providers to charities and voluntary groups, the series aims to reflect the full breadth of local enterprise.

What makes Love Stur particularly distinctive is its *chain of connections*. Every featured business or organisation will be invited to recommend another local enterprise they appreciate or collaborate with. In doing so, the initiative will gradually reveal the web of relationships that helps the town flourish — the suppliers, partners, neighbours and friends who support one another every day.

For residents, it offers a chance to discover both familiar faces and hidden gems around the town. For businesses and organisations, it provides an

opportunity to celebrate their work, thank those who support them, and strengthen ties within the local community.

At a time when many high streets face challenges, initiatives like Love Stur remind us that the strength of a town lies not just in its buildings or businesses, but in its people and the connections between them.

By sharing these stories and encouraging residents to shop locally, Love Stur hopes to play a small but meaningful role in keeping Sturminster Newton thriving for years to come.

After all, when we support local, we're not just buying a product or service — we're investing in the community we call home.



WHAT'S ON IN STUR IN APRIL/MAY



The Exchange

- For full details of all Exchange events, including extra events, see website stur-exchange.co.uk - buy tickets on the website, on 01258 475137 or at reception in The Exchange.
- Start times vary - check your tickets.

Theatre & Dance

- Saturday 9th May 2:30pm **Tiny Tim's Family Adventures**. 250 Million views on social media - now live on stage.
- Saturday 9th May 7:30pm **Tiny Tim's Stand-up Adventures**. 250 Million views on social media - now live on stage. Suitable for age 16+.
- Fri/Sat 15th & 16th May SNADS present **ENTITY**.
- Coming on 11 July: **Codebreakers**

Film

- Some Thursdays 7pm £7.
- Thursday 2 April **The Choral**. Writer: Alan Bennett Director: Nicholas Hytner Starring Ralph Fiennes, Mark Addy and Taylor Uttley.
- Thursday 23rd April (Shakespeare's birthday). **Hamnet** Starring Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal and Emily Watson



Pick up a copy of the Exchange brochure with full details of forthcoming events.

This hugely important community asset – The Exchange - needs your support: Buy event tickets, use the café/bar, volunteer your help or make a donation.

Music

- Saturday 21st March 10:45am. **Sturminster Newton Orchestra Spring Concert**
- Saturday 21st March 7:30pm. **CODA West End Musical Concert.**
- Saturday 11th April 7:30pm **Abba Gold** "The UK's No 1 tribute to the world famous ABBA"
- Thursday 16th April 7:30pm **Budapest Cafe Orchestra.**
- Saturday 18th April 7:30pm. **Lipstick On Your Collar.** Sounds of the 50s and 60s.
- Saturday 25th April 7:30pm. **The Soul and Swing Big Band.**
- Saturday 2nd May 7:30pm. **Ninebarrow.** Award winning folk duo.
- Thursday 14th May 2pm. **Neil Sands - Remember When.**
- Friday 22 May 7:30pm. **Bill Shannon's Bag of Soul.**
- Saturday 23rd May 7:30pm. **Suspiciously Elvis.** Suspiciously Elvis AKA Ivor Potter with powerhouse live band.
- Saturday 30th May 7:30pm. **Opera at the Movies.** London Festival Opera.

And also in The
Exchange....
Monthly Prize Draw

Citizens Advice
Fridays 9am to 1pm

Exchange Open Day
Saturday April 11th
10am-2pm

Exchange
Quiz Night
Friday 1st May
7:30pm

April Art Exhibition
Kirsty Baird

Volunteer Fair
Sat April 25th
11am-1pm

Sturminster Orchestra Concert

- Wednesday 21st March 10:45am. The Exchange. Poster on community pages.

Twining Association Quiz

- Thursday 9th April 7pm for 7.30pm. The Exchange
- Spring Quiz Teams of up to 6. £4 per person
- To book a table: sturminster.twining@gmail.com 07967 411014

Artificial Intelligence Courses

- Introduction: April 8th or 22nd
- Next Steps: April 15th or 29th
- Wednesdays 2pm SturTech in The Exchange
Details on Community Pages

Exchange Open Day

- Saturday April 11th 10am - 2pm. Details on news pages.

Volunteer Fair

- Saturday April 25th.
- 11am-1pm. The Exchange.

Heritage Trust & Family History

- Saturday 15th April. 7:30pm. the Exchange
- Rachel Rowe: History of Frogerly**
- Details on Community Pages.

u3a

- Thursday 16th April 2:30pm. The Exchange.
- "A school girls war" Mary Smith.
- Details on community pages.

Garden Club

- Wednesday, 22nd April, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. Talk by Castle Gardens - Companion Planting. New Members and Visitors welcome. Raffle and Seasonal Competitions.
Contact:
sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

Three Okefords Steam Rally

- Sat/Sun 16th/17th May
- Fields on the A357 just South of Shillingstone

Choral Society Concert

- Rossini Stabat Mater, Schubert Mass in G
- Saturday 9th May 7 for 7.30pm
- St Mary's Church. Book 07975 57038
- Tickets £12.50 cash on the door

Heritage Trust & Family History

- Wednesday 20th May. 7:30pm. The Exchange Elizabeth Bletsoe. "Sweet sheeps nose & buttery door" Dorsets lost orchards
- Details on community Pages..

Heritage Trust

- Meet the Archaeologists. Finds Day. Thursday 28th May. The Museum. Poster on community pages.

Heritage Trust

- Saturday 30th May. Cream Teas at the Mill. 2-4pm.
- Details on community pages.

Garden Club

- Wednesday, 27th May, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. Talk by Groves Nurseries - Trekking in the Himalayas. New Members and Visitors welcome. Raffle and Seasonal Competitions. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

Charity Shop Fashion Show

- Friday 15th May 7pm Stour Connect
- Details on Community Pages

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS IN STUR



Mondays

New/Changed regular items in red

Community Learning Centre

- 9am to 12:30, The Exchange
- Help with Computers, Tablets, Phones etc.
- Learning from basic to advanced

Parent & Carer Support Group

- 9.30-11.30am Term Times, Stour Connect.

Rhyme Time (under 5s)

- 10-10.30am Term Time, The Library. Free.
- For more info, call 01258 472669

Blackmore Vale Lions

- 7 for 7.30pm 2nd Monday every month at The Hub, off Station Road, Stalbridge. Social / meal often on 3rd Monday at various locations. [facebook.com/Blackmore.Vale.Lions](https://www.facebook.com/Blackmore.Vale.Lions) contact bvlions@gmail.com New members keen to serve the community actively sought.

Choral Society

- Restarted Monday 12th January
- Contact 01258 472274

Parkinsons Cafe

- First Monday of each month at 10.30-12.30 at Sturminster Christian Fellowship. Free refreshments and a warm welcome provided.

Market Day

- Plants, Household goods/Watch Batterys etc. Morning - Market Place

ROKiT! Choir

- 7:30-9:30pm Town Council Chamber
- www.rokitchoir.com

Tuesdays

Country Market

- 9am till 12; The Exchange Atrium
- Local Craft, cards by Aide Ray, fresh meat, eggs, fresh baking, small portions suitable for one, fresh veg , plants & seasonal produce; Crafts.

Coffee Companions Hour

- 10 till 11am at The County Market in The Exchange
- Coffee Companions sit and chat and get to know folk. Very friendly, social morning.

Rotary Club

- 6.45 for 7pm; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- Details: secretary@sturminsternewton.rotary1110.org

Reminiscence Adult Craft

- Every Tuesday 2-4pm Adult colouring and puzzles.
- 4th Tuesday of the month 2-4pm Adult craft session. Open to all. Free.

Carers Coffee Morning

- Last Tuesday of each month at 10.30-12.30 at Sturminster Christian Fellowship. Free refreshments and a warm welcome provided.

Wednesdays

Community Learning Centre

- 9.30am-4.30pm The Exchange Drop-in for help, advice, problems with computers , tablets, smartphones... snclc@btconnect.com snclc.org.uk 01258 475272

Mother's Union

- 2.30 pm 3rd Wednesdays in members' homes, Brenda Stables 01258 471487

BCP Holy Communion

- 10am St Marys

Knit & Natter

- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays; 2-3:30pm; Free Drop-in.
- Now moved from The Library to The Exchange Cafe.

Creative Writing Group

- 3-5pm 2nd Wednesdays; Exchange Cafè
- Richard: 07535534295, rik.hewittAToutlook.com
- Jane: 01258 269508 scarletmermaidATyahoo.co.uk

Garden Club

- 7.30 pm, 4th Wednesdays
- The Exchange. New Members welcome
- sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

Blackmore Vale Family History Goup

- 7:30pm 3rd Wednesdays,.
- Felicity Harrison 01258 472942. The Exchange

Bell Ringing Practice

- 7:30pm St Mary's Church; New Members Welcome.
- Nick Dallison 07532 092030

Thursdays

Lego Fun Ages 3+

- 3-5pm; The Library; Free Drop-in.
- For more info, call 01258 472669.

Fridays

Cuppa & Company

- Every Friday The library. Free drop-in.

Homestart Early Family Connections

- A stay & play group for families with children 0-5 yrs
- The Exchange, ground floor.
- 10am - 11.15am. Donations welcome.

Citizens Advice

- Friday mornings. The Exchange.
- Book by emailing advice-nd@centralca.org.uk
- Free independent, impartial & confidential advice

Saturdays

Free Parking continues 1st Sat of month.

Sturminster Newton Orchestra

- Do you enjoy playing a musical instrument? Why not join us in The Exchange 9.30am
- No auditions. All levels and ages welcome
- Contact: Diana Harris 01747 854 481
SturminsterNewtonOrchestra.com

Bargains & Banter

- 7-11 am The Exchange/Co-op Car park. Draws together a regular flow of like minded folk who enjoy a rummage through Dave's latest Tools and Curios or bringing their own for him to buy and value, always with friendly chat. Established 1989!

Craft Market

- 1st Saturdays, Exchange Atrium

Car & Bike Enthusiasts

- First Saturdays 9am till 12 noon
- Town Centre car park or Recreation Ground

Sociable Arts & Crafts

- 10.30am-12.30pm Once a Month
- The Exchange
- Shelly 01258 817682

1855

- First Saturdays of the month: "Meet the traders" 10am-12 noon.

Mrs Potters Cakes

- Last Saturday of month am. Exchange Atrium

Code Club

- Alternate Saturdays Code Club 10:00 to 11:30
For children 8-13 years, free please contact the library to book in on the sessions
- Alternate Saturdays Creation Station 10:30-12:00 Free, open to all children under 8 years old must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS IN VILLAGES

Please tell us about other regular
events in your village.



Mondays

- **3rd Mondays 7:15pm Marhull Music Society.** Village Hall. Yvonne on 01258 820247 or mikyonATaol.com . More on community pages.
- **Yoga 10:15am Stourpaine Village Hall** - Chrissie 07757627692

Tuesdays

- **Short Mat Bowls Okeford Fitzpaine** 7:15pm Village Hall Equipment provided; Barbara 01258 861524
- **Stretch & Tone Classes Ibberton** 9:30am Village Hall; £7; Contact: James Self 07985 194994
- **Vinyasa Flow Yoga Hazlebury Bryan** Village Hall 9:30am. Mixed Ability. sairaATmelluah.co.uk 07809 141815
- **Badminton - Stalbridge Hall** 7:30pm. Contact Phil 01963 362799

Wednesdays

- **10 am, Art 4 Pleasure, Manston** Village Hall; Pat 01258 721467
- **2pm Blackmore Vale Flower Arrangers** 2nd Wednesdays Royal British Legion Club Marnhull (no meeting in August). Sandy 01747 685837 sandramilne22@gmail.com

Thursdays

- **Youth Club** (10-14s), Shillingstone Church Centre, Last Thursday
- **Short Mat Bowls Okeford Fitzpaine** 7:15pm Village Hall
- **Stretch & Tone Classes Ibberton** 9:30am Village Hall; £7; Contact: James Self 07985 194994

Fridays

- **7.30pm Barn Dance.** First Fridays. Portman Hall, Shillingstone 01258 861184
- **2nd Fridays 10:30-3:30 Blackmore Vale Arts Group.** Marhull Village Hall.
Yvonne on 01258 820247 or mikyona@taol.com
- **Last Friday; Hazlebury Brian, Community Lunch,** Noon, Village Hall, min £5

Saturdays

- **Blandford Hospital Shop:** Collection point incl. larger items. First Saturdays. 10am-12noon Old Poisedale Building, Hinton St Mary.
- **Village Market/ Coffee Morning;** Shillingstone Church Centre; first Saturdays

Sundays

- **9:30am & 6pm Mass RC Church Marnhull:** Fr Francis Straw 01258 820388
marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

Daily

- **Boules Pitches** and equipment now available. The cricket pitches Hinton St Mary. Anytime *except* 4-6pm. Janet 01258 472300
- **Shillingstone Station:** Open Weds / Sat/ Sun 10-4

SPORT, HEALTH & WELLBEING



Badminton (over 50s)

- Mondays and Thursdays 7:30-8:30am at Sturfit
- Candy 07503 198960 or Jeremy 07500 145530



Sturminster United Football Club

- Youth Teams
- Spectator Facilities www.snufc.com



Zumba with Abby

- Mon 6:30-7:30pm Stour Connect (sports hall)
- 07901597129 zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com



Short Mat Bowls

- Tuesdays 6.45 to 9.45pm. Sports hall of Stour Connect. New members very welcome – just turn up. Bowls loaned & instruction given. David Birt 01258 472219



Pilates

- Wednesdays 11-12 am - The Exchange
- Zane 07730380471



Chair based exercise

- Wednesdays 2-3pm, The Exchange
- Jenny Wise 01258 451311



Pilates

- Thursdays 9:15 or 10:30 - The Exchange
- All levels welcome. Francesca 07342 886500
- info@whymovepilates.co.uk www.whymovepilates.co.uk



Hinton & Sturminster Cricket Club

facebook.com/StintonCC/
Shillingstone Cricket Club Youth and Womens teams.
shillingstone.play-cricket.com



FitSteps - Dance based exercise class

- Wed 9.30-10.30am The Exchange
- Nicola 07887 921717



(Age Concern) Balance Classes with coffee morning on Wednesday mornings at Sturfit. Call 01258 475582 or email info@acnorthdorset.org.uk to book a place.

Now two additional Balance Classes on Mondays.



(Age Concern) Weekly foot care clinics at Stour Connect, Sturminster Newton. Call 01258 475582 or email info@acnorthdorset.org.uk



Pete's Functional Fitness Club at Butts Pond.

- Morning Gym 6-11am Rowers, Ski, Bikes etc.
- Body Weight Classes
- Deep Tissue & Sports Massage
- 07977 859965 peteroper@live.co.uk petesfunctionalfitnessclub.co.uk



The Boxing Club at Butts Pond

- Many age groups.
- The club has graduated a current world champion.
- sturabc.co.uk



Martial Arts Club (various locations in town)

Unity Martial Arts offer a range of Martial Arts including TaeKwon-Do, Iaido, Kenjutsu and a new fun martial art that combines elements from 9 Japanese arts into one fun syllabus. Age 4years upwards.

Full accreditations. Details on unityma.co.uk



Nearest Bowls clubs: Blandford - blandfordbowlingclub.com

- Gillingham - bowlsdorset.org.uk/dorset/8/gillingham
- Shaftesbury - Shaftesburybowlingclub.co.uk
- Sherborne - sherbornebowling.club



Adult Walking Football

Thurs days 12pm-1pm. Stour Connect, Bath Road



Much more at Sturfit: Well equipped Gym, Exercise Classes, Sports Clubs, Dance Studio.

Call for details 01258 471774; Honey mead Lane DT10 1EW.

At Sturfit:

There is a new Pickleball Club – meeting Sunday mornings.

Call for details 01258 471774; off Honeymead Lane DT10 1EW.

Support Groups including Blackmore Vale Partnership (BVP) Health Champion led Support and Peer Support Groups, contact details: bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk, 01747 856756

Parkinsons Cafè

- 1st Monday 10:30-12:30
- Christian Fellowship Hall- The Row
- bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

Bereavement Peer Support

- Last Wednesdays 10-11:30am
- Stour Connect
- bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

Caring for Carers

- Last Tuesday 10:30-12:30
- Christian Fellowship Hall- The Row
- bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

Age Concern Advice

- Drop in & telephone advice service
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm at
Stour Connect, Sturminster Newton. Call
01258 475582

STURBIZ – NEWS OF BUSINESSES & SERVICES



SturBiz Breakfasts

An excellent opportunity for business and voluntary bodies to catch up and discuss what is happening in the town, what events are planned, who is doing what. All are welcome. Odd Months first Tuesday at Stour Connect Café 8-9am. Even months first Thursday at Newstone House 8-9am.

FEATURED BUSINESSES

The Newsletter is happy to mention new or enhanced businesses in & around town.

The Swan Inn is now fully open.

Menus and other details go to:

[The Swan Inn](http://www.theswaninstur.com)

(www.theswaninstur.com)

Browser searches may bring up older web sites.



**Sturminster Newton
Country Market**

www.country-markets.co.uk

**Every Tuesday Morning:
The Exchange Atrium**



Forgotten Frowns has won a Global Health & Pharma Award.

From our little corner in Sturminster Newton! It honestly feels surreal. It just shows what can happen when you dream big, believe in what you're building, and keep going even when it feels impossible.

Forgotten Frowns was never meant to be just a beauty and aesthetics studio. It's grown into something so much bigger, a hub, a space, a community where others can grow too.

I'm beyond grateful to the incredible people who have supported and believed in this journey.

I truly couldn't have done it without:

- Henry: Porter Plastering,
- Por: Old Thai House Massage,
- Elizabeth: E A Counselling,
- Pippa: Green Meadow Counselling,
- Joe: Joe Shanks Physiotherapy
- Leigh: Imara Glow
- And Matilda: MatildaMed Aesthetics - Independent Nurse Prescriber.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us, trusted us, and been part of the journey so far. This is only the beginning. Cassie

Forgotten Frowns Aesthetics and Beauty

Global Excellence Awards 2026

Best Aesthetics & Wellness Studio 2026 - Dorset

Forgotten Frowns is a Save Face accredited, fully licensed premises dedicated to safe, professional aesthetics and beauty treatments. Founded by Registered Nurse Cassie Feist, Forgotten Frowns was created as a welcoming space where clients can feel confident, comfortable, and completely themselves. More than just a clinic, it's also a supportive hub for local self-employed therapists to grow and thrive in their own businesses too! Professional. Safe. Empowering.
www.forgottenfrowns.co.uk

Winner

Forgotten Frowns Aesthetics and Beauty

Best Aesthetics & Wellness Studio 2026 - Dorset

Global Excellence Awards 2026

Beauty Treatments; Aesthetic Treatments; Counselling; Physiotherapy; Manual Lymphatic Drainage; Massages - Relaxing, Deep Tissue, Sports, Thai, Hot Stones. Cryotherapy for benign lesions (skin tags, moles, verrucae, Warts and more!)

ToffsTroffs

Recently established and working from Applins Farm, Farrington. ToffsTroffs prides itself as a local Company who handmade artisan garden planters and troughs for any garden or balcony. Their lightweight products fool any passerby, as they convincingly resemble genuine stone.

ToffsTroffs have a unique product with an insulating core enabling plants to flourish and thrive. Unlike other garden planters on the market, their products can be kept out in all weathers without the fear of cracking, fading or spalling. The original was created almost 30 years ago and remains in great condition, even after being moved to three different places and enduring all the various elements over the last three decades.



Light enough for a music stand!

If you would like to find out more, please visit www.toffstroffs.com or call Stevie on 01258 722202

Sturminster Newton businesses let's explore re-launching the Chamber of Trade & Commerce in our town and surrounding villages!

Several local business owners are exploring a re-launch of the Sturminster Newton Chamber of Trade & Commerce to once again support our local shops, services, trades and home-based businesses across Sturminster Newton and surrounding villages. The idea is to create a common voice to promote our town, share information, run joint promotions and raise issues with local councils — from parking to town events, to our businesses.

We would like to hear from every kind of business: independent shopkeepers, businesses on the trading estates, freelancers working from home and anyone who trades in or from Sturminster Newton and surrounding areas. Please take two minutes to complete a short questionnaire that will help shape the Chamber's priorities and whether there's enough interest to form a group.

Link: <https://sturminsterchambersurvey1.lovable.app/>

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS
& EVENTS



Sturminster Newton Orchestra

Why not put a musical “spring” in your
step at our

Spring Concert

at

“The Exchange”

on Saturday Morning

21st March at 10.45

*Stour Hall doors open at 10.30, but you can enjoy a
coffee in the Exchange Café beforehand.*

**making
music**

www.sturminsternewtonorchestra.com



SturTech—The Community Learning Centre.

Open Mon 9-12:30; Wed 9:30-4:30 (last drop-in 3pm). The Lydden room in The Exchange.

snclc@btconnect.com

snclc.org.uk 01258 475272



A.I. Seminars: Very popular Introductory and Next Steps courses are continuing in April: dates currently planned are Introduction 8th and 22nd April, Next Steps 15th & 29th April. All at 2pm in The Lydden room, The Exchange. Please book using the contact points above or call in when open.

Not ready for a formal seminar yet? Call in for some quick demos on The Exchange open day Saturday 11th April.

Uses of A.I. are only limited by your imagination. One example is restoring and colourising old photos:



Left is an original photo of the Town Market Place from the archive of The Museum (Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust).

Its faded and a bit damaged in parts.



Right is the picture restored by Google Gemini A.I.

On the front cover of this newsletter is the same picture 'colorized' by A.I.

The Learning Centre is fortunate to have 8 volunteers with a variety of computer experience ready to help with advice, problems and learning on computers, smartphones and all digital devices. All welcome to the Drop-ins. We can also upgrade computers and we have a small stock of computer accessories—cables, mice etc.

SturTech is a charity—no charges, donations appreciated.





Sturminster (over 50's) Badminton Club

New year, new activity? Past Player? Why not return to Badminton?

We have a thriving and fun badminton club playing at Sturfit at 7.30 am on Mondays and Thursdays. That might seem a little early for some, but it is a great way to start those days. We have space for maybe another 3 or 4 players. We are looking for people (aged 50 plus) who have some racquet experience. We do not have any coaching facilities so beginners probably wouldn't suit. We have an annual barbecue and Christmas dinner. We pride ourselves on being friendly and having fun — and, with varying skills, we all love our badminton.

If you or anyone you know might be interested, please call Candy on 07503 198960 or Jeremy on 07500 145530.



Our Next Meeting:

Thursday 16th April at 2.30pm (AGM)

In the Exchange

A Schoolgirl's War – Mary Smith



I have spent my career in education, most recently as headteacher of a large secondary school. I have worked also as a freelance journalist, author, lecturer, presenter and trainer. This talk tells the story of school life during WW2, arising from two fascinating recent discoveries. The first was the uncovering of an extensive set of tunnels used as underground classrooms, and the second was the discovery of an exquisite set of paintings created as the war unfolded. These are the work of a wartime art teacher who set out to document the lives of school pupils and their teachers in paint and pencil as the war unfolded. Her paintings and sketches provide a unique and intriguing insight into wartime school life.



Entry

Free for members

£2 for visitors

Refreshments afterwards!

What's happening at Community Connections, Stour View, Bath Road (Next to the Chapel)

Café Connect

Open Monday to Friday 9.00 -1.30 A relaxed and friendly meeting place for all. We offer Full English breakfasts, Baps, Paninis, amazing cakes, and lots more. For our full menu see our facebook page.

"Twice But Nice" Charity Shop.

Open Monday to Friday 9.00 – 1.30

Mens Shed Stour

A woodworking / recycling project, where all can meet to socialize and learn new skills or share existing ones. Open to Ladies and Gentlemen. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 to 3.00.

Life is for living

For those with memory issues/dementia diagnosis every Wednesday from 1.30. Welcome to join us earlier for lunch and socializing from 12.30. (advanced booking needed).

Lunch Clubs

Monday & Wednesday 12.30 meals from £6.50. (booking required) Transport available.

Meals on Wheels

Hot meals delivered directly to your door on weekdays from £6.50

Bereavement Group

Once a month, Last Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to 12:00 is a friendly place to have a chat.

Free Energy Advice from Citizens Advice

Advisor available the 1st Monday of the Month 11.00 to 1.00 Billing issues, meter problems, Supplier questions, and lots more (Free CO monitors while stocks last).

For more information **01258 471359** on the above.

Sturminster Newton Community Cars

Volunteer drivers offering to transport people to Hospital, Doctors, Dentist and other forms of medical transport. We request a contribution of 60p per mile to cover fuel etc. Drivers give their time for free. To request a trip phone **01258 473154**.

If you're interested in helping, please call us or drop by to chat. We are always looking for fresh faces to be part of the team.

**Sturminster
Newton**

u3a
learn, laugh, live

Across the UK, u3a members are discovering new things, staying active and having fun in later life. It's local, social, friendly, and open to all!

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work by exploring new ideas, skills and interests with Sturminster Newton u3a – from walking to wine tasting!

Please visit our website at:

<https://sturminster-newton.u3asite.uk/>



Age Concern North Dorset, based in Sturminster Newton, is your local age-related charity offering a variety of services to support later life in North Dorset.

Our services

- Befriending/Friendship
- Welfare Advice and Information including Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance and Pension Credit support
- Telephone Advice and Support Service
- Weekly Balance Classes Monday and Wednesday at the Sturfit gym – 11.15am and 12 noon
- Weekly Foot Care Clinic on a Thursday in our office
- Community Outreach/Networking and Promotion

• Drop-ins

- ✓ Our office in Bath Road, Sturminster Newton open 5 mornings a week from 9.30am – 13.30pm
- ✓ Stalbridge Library 3rd Tuesday in the month 2pm – 4pm
- ✓ Tuesday Country Market in the Exchange Sturminster 4th Tuesday in the month 10am – 12pm

If you need our support:

Call us on 01258 475582

E-mail us on info@acnorthdorset.org.uk

www.acnorthdorset.org.uk



Click here to link to our website



STURMINSTER CHORAL SOCIETY

Quiz Night and raffle

**Film & TV
Musicals**

**Light Classical
Pop Music (20th C)**

**Thursday 14th May, 7pm
Marnhull Village Hall, DT10 1PP**

**Bring your own soft drinks, alcohol,
nibbles. Tea/coffee provided**

**Tickets £7. Book at
dchill4444@gmail.com**



Rossini STABAT MATER

Schubert MASS IN G

SATURDAY
9th MAY
7 for 7.30pm
St Mary's Church
Sturminster Newton

Tickets £12.50
CASH on the door
Book 07975 570381

Annemarie Lees
conducts

**STURMINSTER
CHORAL SOCIETY**

ANNA GREGORY soprano
CHARLOTTE COLLIER alto
ROBERT FORREST tenor
GEOFFREY HORTON bass
CAROLINE D'CRUZ accompanist



STURMINSTER NEWTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Thursday 9th April 7pm for 7.30pm. The Exchange

Spring Quiz Teams of up to 6. £4 per person

To book a table: sturminster.twinning@gmail.com 07967 411014

Three Okefords Preservation Society

16th & 17th May 2026

<https://www.threeokefordsrally.co.uk/>

Charity Shop Collaboration Fashion Show

Local charity shops in Sturminster Newton are coming together to host a **Charity Shop Collaboration Fashion Show** celebrating sustainable fashion and community spirit.

The event will take place on **Friday 15th May 2026 at Stour Connect, Bath Road**, with doors opening at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

The evening will showcase outfits styled from items available in the town's charity shops, modelled by local volunteers.

Tickets are £10, which includes a **drink on arrival**, and will be available from participating charity shops:

Vale Family Hub - Dapper Chaps - The Boutique - Dorset Blind Association - Friends of Blandford Hospital Shop - Weldmar Hospice care Charity Shop - Twice But Nice

Sturminster Newton Volunteering Fair

Residents are invited to the **Sturminster Newton Volunteering Fair** at **The Exchange** on **Saturday 25 April, 11am–1pm.**

This free event is a great opportunity to meet representatives from local groups, learn about their work, and discover a wide range of volunteering opportunities in the community.

Visitors can also pick up a copy of the **newly updated Volunteer Brochure**, highlighting many of the organisations looking for volunteers locally.

Drop in, have a chat, and find out how you can get involved and give something back.

For more information email sturbiz18@gmail.com

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING LOCAL?

Find out what's on offer at the
**STURMINSTER NEWTON
VOLUNTEERING FAIR**
Saturday 25th April 2026
11am-1pm
THE EXCHANGE

GET INVOLVED. GIVE BACK. VOLUNTEER LOCALLY.

 01258 920425

 sturbiz18@gmail.com

SturAction
For the good of the Town

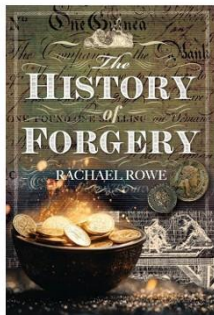


&



Rachael Rowe

A schoolmaster



An Exciseman

An Architect

"A forger in the family!"

15th April, 2026 Entry £4

7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange

Hot and cold drinks available at the bar



&



'Sweet Sheep's Nose' and 'Buttery Door'



Dorset's
lost
orchards

Speaker

Elisabeth Bletsoe

Wednesday 20th May, entry £4

7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange

Hot and cold drinks available at the bar



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Meet the Archaeologists



Bring your finds along for
Ciorstaidh Hayward-Trevarthen
and Claire Pinder to identify as they
make a welcome return to the **museum**

By **appointment only 10 -12**
contact

finds@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

12 – 1.00pm drop in session

Thursday 28th May 2026



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Cream Teas at the Mill

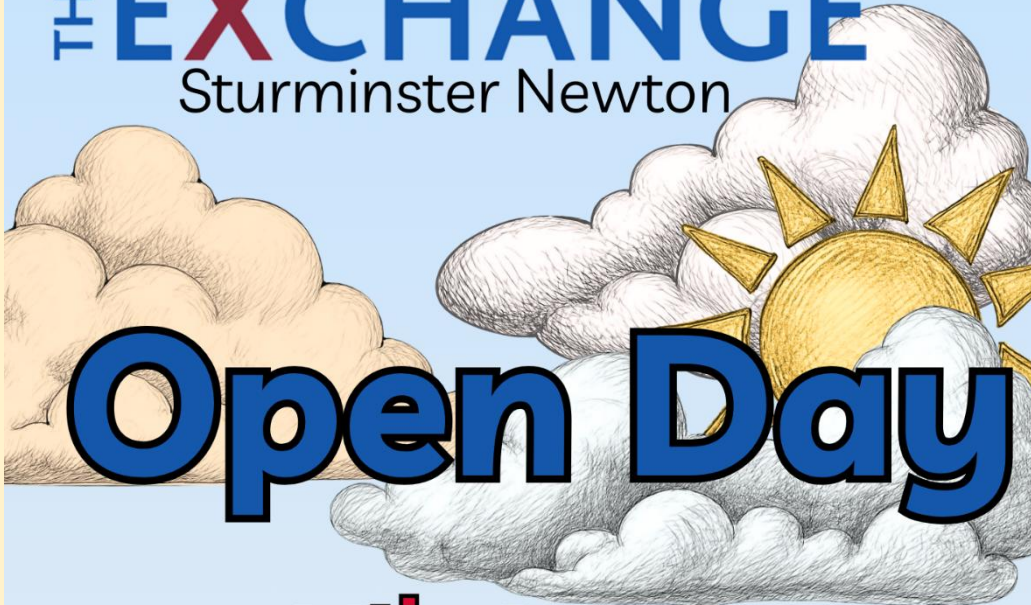


Cream kindly provided by
Blackmore Vale Dairy

Saturday 30th May
2-4pm.

THE EXCHANGE

Sturminster Newton

An illustration of a bright yellow sun with triangular rays, partially obscured by a large, fluffy white cloud. To the left of the sun is another large, billowing white cloud. The background is a light blue sky.

Open Day

11th April

10am-2pm



WHAT'S ON NEARBY

Is there more going on? It's a Free ad reaching at least 1500 people. Send us your June/July events.



HAZELBURY

HEDGEHOG RESCUE FUN DAY!

30th May 2026 1-5pm

The Pavillion, Alec's Field,
Hazelbury Bryan, DT10 2EB

What3Words: [///rozier.order.paddlers](https://www.what3words.com/rozier.order.paddlers)



Local craft stalls
Refreshments
Ice Cream • Pizza
Raffle • Games
FREE ENTRY

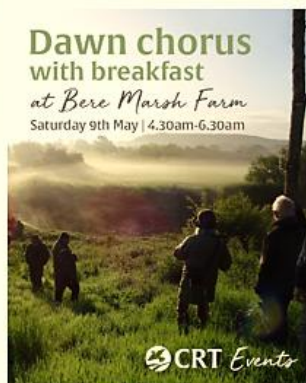
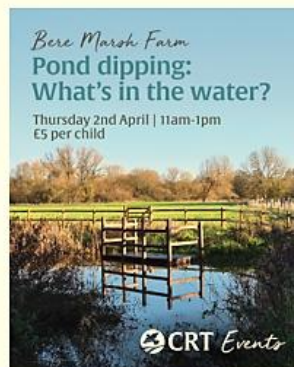
40 Signs 01258 817878

The Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT) has announced a varied programme of spring events **Bere Marsh Farm, near Shillingstone**, inviting local people to enjoy wildlife, farming and the countryside through hands-on activities, guided walks and community events. For information about all events at Bere Marsh Farm, please see <https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Pages/Events/>

Bere Marsh Farm Farmers' Market Saturday April 11, 11am-3pm

Browse stalls selling pies, baked goods, jams, organic vegetables, flowers, gin and more. The Buzz Café will also be open with hot drinks and delicious cakes made by our CRT volunteers. We look forward to welcoming you.

More information: <https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/farmers-markets>



FES FILM FESTIVAL

**Thursday
9th April
18:30pm**

Tickets Adult £5 U18 £2.50

phone 07771561099
email ibbertonvillagehall@gmail.com
Visit for more details
<https://www.ibbertonvillagehall.co.uk/Events/>

Join us for an evening of
entertainment, showcasing
Award-Winning Films &
Documentaries

A sign for Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Village Hall.A large yellow cup of popcorn with the word "POPCORN" written on it.

TURNWORTH DT11 0EE
SUNDAY 24TH MAY 11:00 – 16:30



PLANTS & PRODUCE CAKES & A CUPPA
LIVE MUSIC & FAMILY FUN



IN OLD RECTORY GARDEN
PLEASE COME & SEE US!!!

Free Parking & Entry; Dogs on Leads Welcome; Cash Preferred

FUNDS RAISED FOR REPAIRS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH



NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

St Mary's Sturminster

...



SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
APRIL 2026			
Wednesday 1 April	10am Holy Communion		
MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 April	7pm Benefice Holy Communion		
GOOD FRIDAY 3 April	12 noon Christians together in Stur Good Friday Service in the Marketplace 2pm Last Hour at the Cross	10am Good Friday Service	10am Good Friday Service
EASTER SUNDAY 5 April	11am Easter Holy Communion	6pm Easter Evening Holy Communion	9.30am Easter Holy Communion
Wednesday 8 April	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 12 April	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 15 April	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 19 April	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 April	10am Holy Communion		

Vale Methodist Church (based in Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag)
 Sturminster Newton Methodist Church services @ 10.30am every Sunday.
 Kings Stag Methodist Church services on the 2nd ;4th & 5th Sundays in the month @ 6pm.

SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
April 2026			
4th Sunday 26 April	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Pet Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 29 April	10am Holy Communion		
MAY 2026			
1st Sunday 3 May	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 6 May	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 10 May	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 13 May	10am Holy Communion		
Ascension Day 14 May	7pm Benefice Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 17 May	11am Holy Communion	6pm Rogation Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 20 May	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday Pentecost 24 May	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Morning Service BCP	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 26 May	10am Holy Communion		
5th Sunday Trinity Sunday		11am Benefice Holy Communion	

Diary of Church Events:

Tots'n'Toast Under 5's Toddler Group. St. Mary's Church Hall, Tues 9.30am - 11.30am during term time. £1 donation per child towards refreshments. Contact Revd Mary Gubbins 07440680387

St. Mary's Monthly Coffee Morning. St. Mary's Church Hall. First Friday of the month. 10.30am - 12 noon. A warm welcome open to all. Free. Contact Revd Mary Gubbins 07440680387.

St. Mary's Coffee Morning



Please join us
for coffee and
a chat

A friendly
welcome –
Open to all

Held regularly
on the First
Friday of every
month.

	Place	• St. Mary's Church Hall
	Time	• 10.30am - 12 noon
	Dates	• Friday 10th April • Friday 1st May • Friday 5th June

For any queries please contact Revd. Mary Gubbins on 07440680387,
or email revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com

Sturminster Christian Fellowship

offers a warm welcome to
Sunday services at 10.30am (beginning with
refreshments) and
**Wednesday morning Bible study/
Prayer and Share times**, also at 10.30am.
(For more information contact 07919338105).

KINGS STAG METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER TEA PARTY

APRIL 4th (SATURDAY) from 2.30- 4pm



DO COME AND JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION

FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP.

KINGS STAG METHODIST CHURCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2nd, 2026

@ 6pm



` WATCHING WITH JESUS. `

A short service of music & meditations

EDITORIAL

We have updated and re-published “Volunteering in Stur”. The new version is online at:

[Voluntering Feature Feb 2026.pdf](https://snclc.org.uk/Voluntering%20Feature%20Feb%202026.pdf)

<https://snclc.org.uk/Voluntering%20Feature%20Feb%202026.pdf>

Or to avoid clicking on link's: Google Sturminster Learning Centre and head to the What's Happening in Stur page.

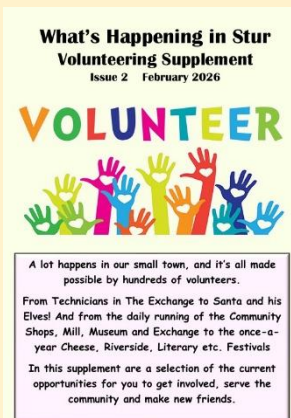
Printed version available soon.

The full edition of the newsletter is on line (at snclc.org.uk then click [What's Happening in Stur](#)) together with previous editions and features; or to request copies to be Emailed to you, contact whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com .

The compact version in A5 booklet format is funded by the Town Council and is available to collect from The Exchange, Emporium, Library, 1855, Church and Family Hub and available to read in cafés & pubs.

To include your regular or one-off event and other contributions, please Email it to whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com See our webpage (snclc.org.uk and click 'Whatshappeninginstur') to view acceptable and desirable formats for your item. If you need help with your entry or anything else regarding the newsletter, please call in to the Learning Centre in The Exchange on Mon(am) or Wed.

Production & Distribution Team: David Shepherd; Penny Mountain; Kate Squire.



COPY DATES

**15th of the preceding
month:**

May 15th for Jun/July

July 15th for Aug/Sept

CONTACT

whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com

snclc.org.uk/whatshappeninginstur.html

Please note that all @ symbols in **personal** Email addresses are displayed as **AT** and leading zeros in phone numbers are letter 'O' in this on-line newsletter. This is to prevent automatic harvesting of numbers & addresses in on-line documents and their use in spam.

We found this: lovely website dorsetweeklywonders.com

**There are already a dozen pages with photo and accompanying
succinct guides – pay a visit**

Studland village cross



Many Dorset village crosses are very old, but one of the newest embraces its modernity, portraying Concorde, the double helix and a World War 2 bomb among ancient features such as vines and knots. It stands near St Nicholas's church, Studland.

This masterpiece was created by the late Trevor Haysom, arguably the greatest Purbeck quarryman of his generation and author of the definitive *Purbeck Stone*. The stone for the cross came from his quarry between Worth Matravers and St Aldhelm's Head.

The carving was not finished by the date when the Bishop of Salisbury was booked to dedicate the cross, so it was erected temporarily and rather precariously, and choirboys were positioned round it to stop it being knocked over.

Nearest postcode: BH19 3AJ

OS reference: SZ036824

What3words: devoured.vowed.bill