

What's Happening in Stur Bi-Monthly: Aug/Sept 2026



Outstanding Community Service

Sharon Clifton retired as Manager of The Exchange in July.

Starting as a volunteer, becoming deputy-manager and latterly manager, the town owns Sharon an enormous thank you for her stewardship of the town's principal asset.

Apart from managing the building itself and all the events that take place there, Sharon's tenure included keeping The Exchange afloat during covid and rebuilding afterwards - a mammoth task And on the side organising the critical vaccination clinics in the Exchange at some personal risk. **Thank You!**

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



Could you be our next Town Councillor?

We currently have a vacancy for a Town Councillor. If you are passionate about Sturminster Newton and would like to get involved in local decision-making, this could be a great opportunity to help shape the future of the town. Please see the vacancy poster for more information about the role and how to apply.

What does the Town Council do?

Sturminster Newton Town Council is the first tier of local government for the town. It represents residents, responds to community issues, and manages a range of services and facilities including the cemetery, play areas, public toilets, allotments, open spaces, street-cleaning and town centre services. The Town Council is also consulted on planning applications and works with partner organisations to support projects and services for the community.

What does Dorset Council do?

Dorset Council is the larger unitary authority for the county and is responsible for many services that affect day-to-day life, including council tax, waste and recycling collections, highways and road maintenance, planning services, housing, adult social care, children's services, education, libraries, environmental health and public health. If you are experiencing problems with a Dorset Council service, you can also speak to your Dorset Council ward councillor; their contact details are included in the information guide.

Who should I contact?

It is not always obvious which council deals with which issue, so this newsletter includes a handy signposting section for common concerns raised by residents. This should help you find the right contact more quickly, whether your query is for the Town Council, Dorset Council, or another organisation.

Meetings in August and September

Full Council – 12 August

Full Council – 2 September

Planning and Environment Committee – 16 September

Amenities Committee – 23 September



Meetings take place in the Council Chamber on Old Market Hill at 7.15pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

Contact the Town Council

Telephone: 01258 475136

Email: reception@sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk

Address: The Council Office, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1FH

Website: www.sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk

News from Dorset County Council –

Cllr Carole Jones

Anti-Social Behaviour

Life continues at pace, and as ever I'm here to help wherever a steady hand — or occasionally my hob-nailed boots — is needed to move things along. The warmer weather has unfortunately brought a rise in anti-social behaviour that is affecting neighbouring households. One very real concern raised with me is the smoking of weed, with the smell drifting through open windows and permeating adjoining properties. For some residents this is now blighting daily life, and I know how distressing and exhausting that can be.



I would strongly encourage anyone experiencing these issues to report them to the Police, to their Housing Association if relevant, and to Dorset Council's

online reporting system. I am passing all incidents on to the Police and will continue to do so. It is deeply upsetting to hear that some residents feel they may have to move away because things have become so bad, and I am determined to keep pushing for action.

SEND Reform and the Vale Family Hub

I'm following the government's new white paper on education and SEND reform closely. I know many parents of children who find mainstream school settings difficult are watching this space with real concern — particularly around proposals to move away from EHCPs, on the basis that a child shouldn't need one to get the support they require unless their needs are severe. I understand why this is causing worry for some families, and I'll continue to share updates as the picture becomes clearer.

On a more positive note, I'm pleased that the Vale Family Hub will have a dedicated SEND support worker later this year. We'll share more details as they're confirmed, but I expect this to be a valuable resource for local families.

I recently asked our Head of Children's Services how many of the 500 children currently in specialised settings might be suitable for mainstream inclusion hubs — the estimate was around 64. Going forward, the emphasis will be on early intervention, which is one of the key reasons Family Hubs are being rolled out across Dorset.

Land at Coles Close

I have been contacted by several local parents with small children who are upset that this land, where their children play, is to be given over to allotments. People have gotten together and organised a petition asking the council to reconsider. Whilst I have been asked to get involved, this is a Town Council issue and any correspondence on this should be sent to the Town Clerk and copy in the Chair of Amenities, Peter Marks who will be happy to help. I will continue to support residents where I can, but the ultimate decision will have to be taken by the Town Council.

Planning Reform

Our current Government is under pressure to keep their promise of building 1.5 million homes in England over this parliament. Progress so far has been slow, between July 24 and March 25 only 342,100 net additional homes were built, so they have decided that pesky councillors and neighbours must be the blockers and have subsequently decreed that:

All Schedule 1 Applications **MUST** be delegated to officers. The applications will include general householder ones, minor residential and commercial, and reserved matters for applications for less than 500 dwellings.

Schedule 2 Major Applications will also be delegated to officers **UNLESS** a Gateway Test can be met, meaning one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance can be proven.

Residents will still be able to comment as well as Town & Parish Councils, but the Planning Committee will not be as it was, - personally, I don't like the move to what I feel could be less democracy. After all, what point are councillors if they don't represent their area and their residents?

Finally – a Councillor Surgery takes place at the Vale Family Hub on the first Saturday of each month between 10 and 12, so do please come along if I can help – otherwise, drop me an email at cllrcarole.jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or call me on 07968 348481.

News of The Vale Family Hub (formally Vale Pantry)

A warm hello from all of us at the Vale Family Hub. There is so much happening, so much growing, and so much to look forward to — and as ever, it's all powered by our wonderful community.

A Big Welcome to James – Our New Chef!

We are absolutely delighted to welcome James to the Hub — an experienced chef whose food is already causing quite a stir. His dishes are fantastic, and we're brimming with ideas for our kitchen and café area.

We're developing a **grab-and-go lunch offer** for those working locally who want something tasty and convenient, and we're expanding our **surplus food collections**, turning rescued ingredients into delicious meals that can be shared back into the community. This is sustainability at its best — practical, local, and nourishing.

Sustainability & Community Support

Driving and building new revenue streams is essential to the future of the Family Hub. We are determined to leave no stone unturned in securing long-term sustainability.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who supports us through monthly donations and standing orders. Truly, we could not do what we do — and would not be here — without your generosity and the strength of this community.

Events & Fundraising

Our regular **Bingo Nights** continue to be a huge hit — the next one is **30th July**, doors open at **6pm**, eyes down at **7pm**.

We'll also be running stalls at **RiverFest** and the **Cheese Festival** this year, and we're developing plans for a **Supper Club** and other exciting events. There's plenty in the pipeline, so keep an eye out!

We are currently awaiting the outcome of our **National Lottery bid**, which, if successful, will help us strengthen our sustainability through new revenue creation. If awarded, we will be looking to recruit an **Events & Fundraising Co-ordinator**. If you think this could be you, please drop me an email — and if the bid is successful, we can take the next step together.

A Cool Space During Hot Weather

The Hub is wonderfully air-conditioned, and we welcome anyone who needs a cool, comfortable space. Bring your laptop and work from here, meet friends, enjoy refreshments, or simply relax with your children. Our doors are open.

❤️ **Launching the 'Young at Heart Club'**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new **Young at Heart Club**. The first session will be **Tuesday 21st July at 11am**, offering a **two-course lunch plus tea or coffee for £9.75**.

Our aim is to create a regular lunch club with activities for older residents — many of whom live alone — offering friendship, social interaction, and a welcoming place to spend time.

If you know someone who might enjoy this, please spread the word. Transport can be a challenge for some, and we will help wherever possible. To find out more, call **Tracy on 01258 920040**.

If you could occasionally help with local transport, we would *love* to hear from you.

Summer Holiday Clubs for Children

It's that time of year again! Our summer programme begins **Tuesday 4th August at Goldhill Organic Farm**, with tractor rides, outdoor games, harvesting and more.

To find out what's happening on other days or to book a place, call or WhatsApp **Lizzie on 07348 732395**. Free with a **HAF code**, or **£15 per day**.

We are also keen to find some help with the running of our Tuesday night Youth Club – it runs from 5 – 7pm and is aimed at those aged 7 – 11. We would love some help..... call Lizzie on the number above.

Could You Help With Surplus Food Collections?

We are looking for volunteers to help collect surplus food from supermarkets in **Blandford** or **Shillingstone**. Even once a month would make a real difference. If you'd like to join our friendly volunteer team, please get in touch.

♥ Support, Advice & Community Connection

There is so much available at the Hub — from our **affordable food pantry** to our **Citizens Advice support**, community activities, events, and a warm welcome for everyone.

We are here for you, and we'd love to see you.

info@valefamilyhub.co.uk / Tel: 01258 920040

The Exchange

Hello from us here at The Exchange!

Summer is shaping up to be a season of new for us.

Our hope is always to play a part in nurturing a healthy community. So, we are expanding our programme to include events that bring families together, designed to be fun for kids and their grown-ups! We're jumping in with both feet, starting with a **Family Silent Disco**, on Sunday 9th August, we would love to see lots of our local families enjoying a summer afternoon with us.

We are also trailing the something very exciting: *Retro Cinemas!* We're bringing beloved family classics back to the big screen so you can share the timeless joy of cinema's most legendary family films. Kicking this feature off is **Honey, I Shrunk the Kids** on Thursday August 13th at 2pm. Whether you're reliving your own childhood or introducing the kids to the magic of the Szalwinski family's wildest mishap, it's going to be a wonderful, nostalgic treat for everyone



Finally, with a heart full of love, we say a big “Happy Retirement” to our beloved Sharon!

Over the last 19 years, Sharon has nurtured a thriving community with a steady warmth that has created a safe space for regular groups, visitors, Volunteers and Staff alike. In fact, our Volunteers refused to let her go without celebration! We had the absolute pleasure of organising a surprise party (we’re amazed we managed to pull that one off!) which included both cake and a surprise appearance of the Rokit Choir Leader Mark! It was a wonderful afternoon, and we wish Sharon all the best. We sincerely hope she enjoys everything retirement has to offer- she’s certainly earned it!

Meet the new manager Susanna Greenwood in the next issue.



Shillingstone Station

If you haven't visited Shillingstone Station recently, you'll notice two new arrivals.

One, a brake van, has been on site for some years but mostly out of view. Built in 1950, it arrived at Shillingstone in 2017, and everything from the chassis upwards has had to be rebuilt. Now little is left to do but replace the roof, which couldn't be done in the workshop. But bringing it out was a bit nerve wracking, with just 300mm headroom and only a 75mm margin on either side. Breathe in!

Just when nerves had settled, more excitement when a special railbus arrived. Only six of this shape were ever built, but only this one was designed for non-passenger work. It



was kitted out for rail inspection, work which had previously been done manually, which was slow and delayed normal passenger services. Clever electronics on this railbus meant it could record any track problem and compare in real time any changes since the last inspection. It went to work in 1959 and was so useful that it wasn't retired until 1991. It has since done the rounds of heritage railways, eventually fitted out with seating for the first time in its long career, before coming to Shillingstone. It's a bit scruffy, but it's hoped that's mostly cosmetic.

These two vehicles will be an important part of the railways near future, because North Dorset Railway now has the necessary permissions to begin carrying passengers. But before you rush to book your tickets, there is still much to do. To start with, the brake van will be the first coach to be used for passengers, and there are four to six weeks' work to make it ready, to be followed by a similar period of training volunteers to operate it and the

associated paperwork, so there won't be much time to run before winter sets in. (The van has no heating!) The plan is to start regular rides next year, and NDR will also be working to get the railbus ready, increasing passenger capacity from just 12 in the brake van to nearly 60.

But if you can't wait to see trains running at the station, come along to a model railway exhibition on Saturday 26th September. There will be 12+ layouts in various gauges, divided between the station itself and Shillingstone Church Centre, a short walk (or drive) away. Both will be open between 10am and 4pm, with refreshments available at both. Entry to the Church Centre will be £6 for adults, £10 for families, and free for under-16s. Station entry is free as usual, though donations will be very welcome, and will go towards the ongoing maintenance and development of the railway.

Oh, and don't forget that the station will open especially on August Bank Holiday Monday.

SturAction

Chamber of Commerce

Local Business Awards Success Fuels Momentum Behind Sturminster Newton's Returning Chamber of Trade

As Sturminster Newton celebrates a strong showing at this year's Local Business Awards, the town's business community has another reason to feel optimistic: the return of the Sturminster Newton & District Chamber of Trade and Commerce, currently being relaunched by a steering group of local businesses.

Among those leading the effort is Tim Downer, co-owner of award-winning retail business Smiley Myley Dog Accessories, which was named both 'Business of the Year' and 'My Favourite Business' at this year's Sturminster Newton Local Business Awards.

"Seeing so many local businesses recognised at the Awards is exactly the kind of thing the Chamber is here to build on," said Tim. "It shows what's possible when a town gets behind its independent businesses. The Chamber's job now is

to make sure that support isn't just a once-a-year moment, but something ongoing."

Rebuilding a Voice for Local Trade

The push to restart the Chamber began with a survey of local businesses, which found a strong appetite for a renewed, active trade organisation in the town. A steering group has since been meeting regularly to shape the Chamber's return, drafting a constitution and laying the groundwork for a formal relaunch.

The Chamber's reintroduction will be marked by two key dates later this year: a soft launch event on **18 September 2026** (venue TBC), followed by an official launch on **22 October 2026**. A further steering group meeting is scheduled for **28 July** as planning continues.

Strength in Numbers

"You only have to look at the businesses celebrated at the Awards to see the talent and determination that exists in this town," he said. "A strong Chamber gives that talent a collective voice — on everything from footfall and events to the kind of practical support that helps independents survive a tough trading year."

The Chamber's early messaging has echoed that theme of community support, with organisers encouraging residents to back local businesses wherever possible — a sentiment captured in the group's developing "Buy Local or Bye Local" campaign.

Get Involved

Local businesses interested in getting involved with the Sturminster Newton & District Chamber of Trade and Commerce, attending the upcoming launch events or wanting further information about joining the chamber, are encouraged to get in touch with the steering group at sturbiz18@gmail.com

Local Business Awards 2026



Customer Service –
Unity Marshall Arts

Hospitality Business –
The Swan Inn & Stur of
The Moment

Community Service –
Stur Fit

Green/Eco – The
Strange Apothecary (in
1855 & web)

Family Business –
Back2Market
Removals), & BULMAG
(Bulgarian Shop)

New Business –
Forgotten Frowns

Young Entrepreneur –
Irina Grina, Green Lake
Craft Studio

Independent Business
– Morton New

Best Place to Work –
NFU Mutual

Business of the
Year – Smiley
Miley

WHAT'S ON IN STUR IN AUG-SEPT



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

- Thur/Fri 23/24 Jul 7:30pm **SNADS** present "All Over Lovely" and "Easy Access"
- Thursday 17th September, 7pm **National Theatre Live** - Les Liaisons Dangereuses.
- Coming soon:
- Living Spit - "Omlet"
- Amazing Guyz - Amazing Animals. Family Show

Film

- Some Thursdays 7pm £7.
- 30th July **H is for Hawk**
- 17th Aug **Epic Elvis in Concert**
- **NEW! Retro Family Cinema.** Thursday 13th August. 2pm **Honey I Shrank the Kids**
- Often arranged at shorter notice - check website for more.



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 25th July 7:30pm. **ROCKiT from the Musicals. (Sold Out)**
- Saturday 8th August 7:30pm. **The Alter Eagles.** "No Finer Tribute"
- Saturday 15th August 7:30pm. **A Night of Blues 'N' Boogie.** Three Acts.
- Saturday 22nd August 7:30pm. **NOASIS.** "The definitive OASIS tribute band".
- Saturday 29th August 7:30pm. **Showaddywaddy.**
- Saturday 5th September 7:30pm. **The Tannahill Weavers.** Celtic Music.
- Saturday 12th September 8pm. **Jamie & The Falcons.** "The ultimate party band" - Brian May.
- Saturday 19th September 7:30pm. **Marty Wilde & The Wildcats.**
- Friday 25th September 7:30pm. **Kerry Ellis Rock Anthems.**
- Saturday 26th September 7:30pm. **The Sound of Springsteen.**
- Saturday 3rd October 7:30pm. **The Irish House Party.**

And also in The
Exchange....

Citizens Advice
Fridays 9am to 1pm

Family Silent Disco
Saturday Afternoon
9th August

Monthly Prize Draw

Country Market
Tuesday Mornings

Computer Help
Drop-ins
Mon 9-12:30
Wed 9:30-3:00

Discovering Bats

- Saturday 8th August 8:15pm
- Bere Marsh Farm
- Details on Village Pages

Family Silent Disco

- Sunday 9th August
- The Exchange

Music at The Cafe

- Saturday Morning 15th August
- Exchange Cafe
- Poster on Community Pages

Riverside Festival

- Saturday 15th August. Noon -10pm
- Poster on Community pages.

Willow Weaving Garden Sculptures

- Sunday 16th August
- Bere Marsh Farm
- Details on Villages Pages

Art Trail

- 8-31 August 11am to 4pm
- Child Okeford
- Details on Village Pages

Heritage Trust & Family History

- 3rd Apprentice Day August
- 8th/9th Milling Weekend
- 12th Beyond Market Day (Talk by Jacqui Wragg)
- Details on Community pages

Garden Club

- Wednesday, 12th August. Afternoon Tea at Sweet Pea at 2.30 pm. Members only.
- Contact:
sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

The Cheese Festival

- Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September
- Full details on the Community pages

The Runway Rebels

- New Group starting Tuesday 8th September 6:30pm. All abilities play around music group. More detail on Communities pages.

Model Railway Exhibition

- Saturday 26th, September 10 till 4.
- 12 plus Model Railway Layouts
- At the Station and at Shillingstone Church Centre. More detail on news pages.

Farmers & Makers Market

- Saturday 5th September
- Bere Marsh Farm
- Details on Village Pages

Heritage Trust & Family History

- 18th Free Open Day September
- 24th Meet the Archaeologist
- 26th Cream Tea
- Details on community pages

Garden Club

- Wednesday, 23rd September. A talk by Ian Condon - Isles of Scilly at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. New Members and Visitors welcome. Raffle and seasonal competitions. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

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.

SHARPENING SERVICE

Kitchen knives, secateurs, chisels,
scissors and much more...



Leave us a review



Google
Reviews ★★★★★

**CALL GERRY ON
07747 488587**

OR EMAIL
INFO@GERRYSKEYCUTTING.CO.UK

New Service outside The
Exchange on Tuesday
Mornings (when The Country
Market is in The Atrium).

- ❖ Key Cutting
- ❖ Sharpening of Tools of
all kinds.

Use it or Lose it!



STURMINSTER NEWTON & DISTRICT

Chamber of Trade & Commerce

CONNECT. INFLUENCE. SUPPORT.

SturAction

For the good of the Town

Fancy Joining Our Lovely Bunch?

Volunteer opportunities at The Marketplace, The Emporium and The Boutique

Got a few hours to spare? Love meeting people, having a chat, creating lovely displays or helping customers find a bargain? Then we might just have the perfect volunteering role for you!

The Marketplace, The Emporium and The Boutique are all looking for more wonderful volunteers to join the SturAction team. Our shops are much more than places to shop — they are friendly community spaces full of preloved treasures, interesting finds, familiar faces and, quite often, a good laugh. They also help raise money that can be reinvested back into Sturminster Newton.

No retail experience needed — just a friendly face and a willingness to help.

Where could you help?



The Marketplace

Love furniture, practical tasks and helping customers discover just the right piece for their home? There are plenty of ways to get involved, and not every role involves heavy lifting!



The Emporium

A proper treasure trove where you never quite know what will come through the door next. Volunteers help welcome customers, organise and display stock, and keep the shop looking inviting.



The Boutique

Love clothes, colour and creativity? The Boutique is a lovely place to volunteer. You could help create eye-catching rails and displays, welcome customers and help keep the shop looking fabulous.



Volunteering is a brilliant way to meet new people, build confidence, learn new skills and become more involved in the community. Whether you can help regularly, occasionally or just for a few hours here and there, it can make a real difference.

Pop into **The Marketplace, The Emporium or The Boutique** for a chat and find out more.

Come for the volunteering. Stay for the people, the laughter and the occasional very strange donation.



COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS & EVENTS



A Weekend of Food, Fun and Family Entertainment!
Join us on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2026
for the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival,
one of Dorset's most popular food and family events.



Discover a fantastic selection of artisan cheeses, local food producers, crafts,
live music, children's entertainment, real ale, cider, wine, and much more.
With something for all ages, the festival offers a great day out for families,
food lovers, and visitors looking to experience the very best of Dorset's food and drink heritage.



Sturminster Newton, Dorset
Tickets available online
For more information and tickets visit:
www.cheesefestival.co.uk
Or via the QR code



Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival 2026

Sturminster Newton Recreation Ground, Sturminster Newton, Dorset

Saturday 12 September and Sunday 13 September 2026, 10:00am – 5:00 pm each day.

Join us for one of Dorset's most popular family-friendly events, celebrating local food, drink, music, crafts, and community spirit. The Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival brings together artisan cheese makers, food producers, craft exhibitors, charities, live entertainment, children's activities, and much more. Run entirely by volunteers, the festival raises funds for local charities and community organisations while providing a fantastic day out for visitors of all ages.

Advance tickets available online at discounted rates when bought early, with on-the-day prices of £10 for an adult admission. Children aged 15 and under enter free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Website: www.cheesefestival.co.uk

Tickets: <https://cheesefestival.ticketsrv.co.uk/tickets/61>

Email: tickets@cheesefestival.co.uk

Facebook: Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival

Instagram: @sturminstercheesefest

AN ACCOUNT O' THE STURMINSTER NEWTON CHEESE FESTIVAL

As told by yer friendly new Stur correspondent, Ravin Bill (who claims decent from Rabin Hill).

Now then, if you've never bin to the Stur Cheese Fest, you'm missin' out on one o' the finest gatherings this side o' the Stour. 'Tis the sort o' place where folk turn up from miles around — some from as far as Shaftesbury, though

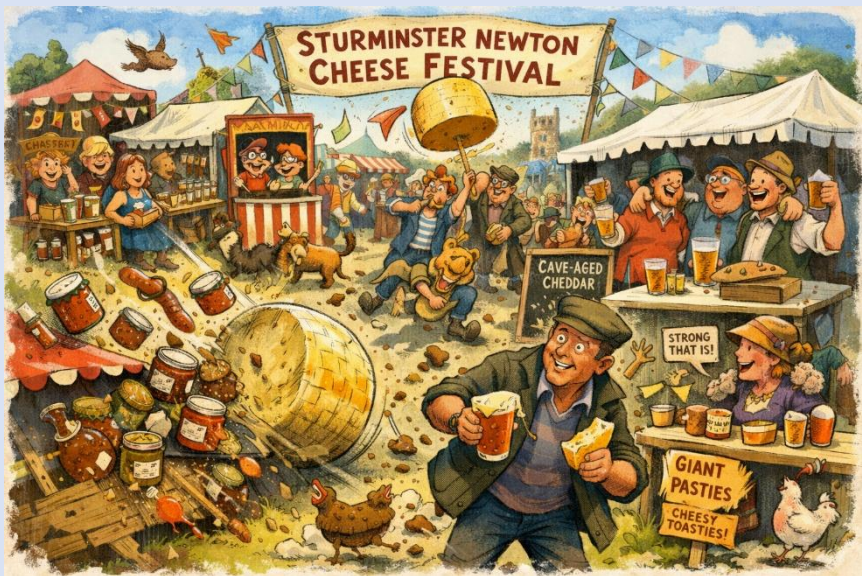
they do look a bit travel-worn — all keen to stuff their faces wi' dairy products till they'm fair bulgin'.

The day starts early, wi' stallholders settin' out their wares: wheels o' cheddar big enough to use as patio furniture, soft cheeses what look like they'm about to slide off the table, and blue cheeses so strong they could knock a grown man backwards if he sniffs 'em too close.

I wandered in meself, feelin' brave, and was greeted by a cheery farmer shoutin', "G'wan then, try a bit o' this — 'tis matured in a cave, mind!" I weren't sure if he meant a proper cave or just his cousin's damp garage, but I took a nibble anyway. Lovely stuff, though I did lose feelin' in me left ear for a moment.

Further along, there's always that one stall what claims to sell "experimental cheeses." Last year they had one infused wi' nettles, one wi' ale, and one wi' what they called "hedgerow essence." I asked what that meant, and the lad behind the counter said, "Well, we jus' waved it near a hedge, really." Fair enough.

By midday the whole place smells like a dairy dream — or nightmare, dependin' on yer constitution. Folk wander about wi' paper plates piled high, lookin' dazed, mutterin', "I'll jus' try one more bit," even though they've already had enough cheese to stun a small pony.



There's music too, o' course. A local band strikes up a tune, usually somethin' lively, though the accordion player tends to get carried away and frighten the children. And there's always a demonstration o' how to make cheese the proper Dorset way, involvin' a big vat, a wooden paddle, and a man who looks like he's been stirrin' since 1983.

Craft Stalls: The Land o' Things You Didn't Know You Needed

First stop: the craft stalls. 'Tis a magical place where you can buy knitted ferrets, driftwood shaped like celebrities, and tea towels printed wi' inspirational quotes like "*Live Laugh Stilton*." One woman tried to sell me a candle what smelled o' "Dorset dusk." I sniffed it and said, "That's cow muck, that is." She nodded proudly.

Beer Tent: The Centre o' Cultural Exchange

Then I ventured into the beer tent — a structure held together entirely by hope and cable ties. Inside were men who'd clearly arrived at 9am and decided to stay until the cheese started talkin' back. A chap offered me a pint o' something he called "Sturminster Stout." I took one sip and immediately forgot me own postcode.

Hot Food Stalls: A Culinary Assault

The hot food stalls were in full swing, each one shoutin' louder than the last. "SAUSAGE ROLLS!" "VENISON BURGERS!" "CHEESE-ON-CHEESE-ON-CHEESE TOASTIES!" I bought a pasty the size o' a small badger and ate it while watchin' a man try to juggle three scotch eggs. He dropped all three, but the crowd cheered anyway — Dorset folk appreciate effort.

By the end o' the day, everyone's full, happy, and slightly wobbly. You stagger home thinkin', "I'll not touch cheese again for a month," but by breakfast next mornin' you'm back on the cheddar like nothin' happened.

So if you've never bin, get yerself down to Stur next time. 'Tis a proper Dorset day out — full o' laughs, full o' locals, and full o' cheese. What more could a body want.

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

Open Wednesdays only in August.

The Learning Centre is now a drop-off point for redundant digital devices in partnership with Fixy and Donate IT. Items are collected from us by Fixy and refurbished or re-cycled by Fixy and Donate IT. Items are fully cleansed of personal data, please ensure they are unlocked to enable re-furbishing.



There are over 200 million unused electronic devices in UK homes

Fixy is a mobile, awareness-raising repair van and has liberated over 7,000 unused devices since launching in 2022.

95% of UK households are below the minimum digital living standard.
95% of a shared London transport is in a digital transformation.

DONATE IT

Donate IT is a charity that provides digital support in the South West

Helping people and the environment through your generosity

100+ (Long OT locations in the South West)
3,000+ (Devices donated to various charities)
17,000+ (Electronic devices donated from people)

Sorry, no thank you

- Plug-in Phones, Non-Tech Electricals
- Printers & Scanners, Photocopiers
- TVs, Monitors (limited number)

Yes, Please Unlock or reset.

- Freeview recorders, External disc drives, Smart Speakers, Smart Tech (watches etc.)
- Digital Cameras, Routers, Game Controllers, Hard Drives
- Mobile Phones, Smart Phones
- Laptops, Desktops, Tablets

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.





RIVERSIDE

FEST

DORSET

The Vale Family Hub & Big Yellow Bus Garden Project

15TH AUGUST 2026

★ 12 NOON - 10PM ★



COWSVILLE HUMMINGBIRDS



CONOR SMITH



THE COUNTRY STRONG BAND

RED NOT REALLY PEPPERS



THE REPLICAS

THE FOO FAKERS

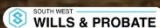


- ★ MAD 4 ANIMALS
- ★ FREE CIRCUS WORKSHOP
- ★ RODEO BULL
- ★ BUG FEST
- ★ BOUNCY FUN RUN
- ★ MARTIAL ARTS DISPLAY



- ★ MOUNTAIN BIKE DISPLAYS
- ★ EATING CONTESTS
- ★ BAR
- ★ STALLS
- ★ CLASSIC CARS
- ★ ICE CREAM

FREE PARKING
STURMINSTER NEWTON DT102BS





STURMINSTER CHORAL SOCIETY

Try us out!

***We're a friendly, welcoming choir,
rehearsing carols and
Chilcott's CHRISTMAS ORATORIO
for our 5th December concert.***

No auditions!

**MONDAYs from
21st September
7.30 pm**

**at THE EXCHANGE
Sturminster Newton**

**More details from 01258 472274 or
sturchoralsoc@gmail.com**



Music at the Café Saturday Morning 15th August

***Enjoy coffee, cakes, conversation
and easy listening music***

... and all in support of "The Exchange"

The Runway Rebels

An All-Abilities Play-Around Music Group

**The Clubhouse
Henstridge Airfield
BA8 0TN**

This is a new group for musicians who want to blast. There are no noise restrictions on the airfield. Bring any instrument – electric guitars, keyboards, woodwinds, strings, brass, and percussion. All are welcome.

We will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, starting from 8th September 2026 at 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start.

Refreshments will be available. The clubhouse is wheelchair accessible, and there is plenty of parking.

The best bit? There will be no charge for the meeting, but an honesty box for any drinks and nibbles will be there. This is by kind permission of the airfield owner, Mr Geoff Jarvis.

For further information please contact Carol at caroleavis123@btinternet.com

Sturminster Newton's

Knit & Natter



Invite fellow Crafters of all abilities
to join them at...

The Exchange Cafe

Every Wednesday, 2pm until 3.30pm

Please just come along or contact
07791604007 for more information

u3a
Sturminster Newton

learn, laugh, live

All across the UK, u3a members are discovering new things, staying active and having fun in later life.

"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!"

We currently have 22 activity groups, offering a wide range of opportunities to make new friends and enjoy common interests. There really is something for everyone!

For more information, visit our website:

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

Harbours Cycle Tour and Big Bike Revival this summer

BIG BIKE REVIVAL returns this Summer for Adults to learn or improve their cycling skills or join group rides to gain confidence to cycle on road.

Open to all adults, but aimed particularly at parents and carers of children, this Government funding enables me to offer small group sessions in Shillingstone DT11 in Aug and Sept maybe Oct. CONTACT ME by email if you would like more information or to reserve a free place.



Our Easter Harbours Cycle Tour was everything we'd hoped . . . and more.

This was my third annual tour for those who had learned or rediscovered cycling in older age but never considered a bicycling holiday.

I secured good hotel rates by early booking, staying two nights at each location, but weather is not something I could plan, only pray, for. After a very wet March, forecasts kept improving as our early April week approached giving not just sunshine but wind direction to fill our spinnakers (a banner on my bike!)

My intention was to showcase Hants and Sussex' beautiful but intricate coastline.

Dilys Gartside 1st4sport Level2 NSIQ
Bikeability Training Provider CyclewiseDorset.co.uk

What's Happening in Stur does not do detailed reports of past events, but no doubt Dilys would be happy to copy the full report of the Harbour's tour to any interested party.

We are looking forward to welcoming lots of children into the library during the summer holidays to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge organised by the Reading Agency. Children under 13 are invited to take part in the challenge to read six library books over the summer earning stickers for each book they read and winning a medal if they complete their challenge! For those children who will be at school in Dorset in September, we can send the certificate to school to be presented in a special celebration assembly, or certificates can be printed in the library if children prefer or for those not at school yet.

There are musical themed craft sessions running every Thursday in the library, open to all, free of charge, under 8's must be accompanied by a grown up. We hope to see you all in the library this summer!



Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Illustration © Gary Thompson 2026. Bookmarks & Bookmarks Ltd. The Reading Agency 2025. Reproduced by permission of the National Literacy Trust.

The Heritage Trust

3rd August. Junior Apprentice Day (7-12 years)

11.00am -1.00pm or 2.00-4.00pm

An opportunity to spend time with the miller to learn how the mill works from top to bottom!

Find out the whole process of for producing flour from sacks of grain to a bag of flour.

Find out more, booking essential, contact zillabears@hotmail.co.uk

8th/9th August Milling Weekend

12th/13th September Cheese Fest. Both mill and museum open

Friday 18th September Free open day at the Mill and museum as part of Dorset Architectural Heritage Week

24th September Meet the archaeologist. At the Museum

An opportunity to bring your finds to be identified by the Dorset Finds Officer.

By appointment between 10.00am -12.00 mid-day, contact finds@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Or drop-in session between 1.00 and 2.00pm

Sept 26th Cream tea at the mill 2.00- 4.00pm

Watch for poster and updates on the website

An opportunity to add to the Lions Collection in aid of Ukraine.

Firstly, thank you to one and all who took part in, helped with or supported the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon on a scorching Sunday 12th July.

Secondly over the August Bank Holiday Lions will be collecting to help the people of Ukraine over the coming winter (it's only a few months away!) Our targets are helping to provide simple improvised stoves and midwifery/birthing kit bags. Please if you see our bucket collectors do give generously. Alternatively, please make donations to any Lions Member you know. Cheques **Payable to Blackmore Vale Lions Club** can be sent to Tim Otter President Blackmore Vale Lions Club, The Byre, Red Lion Court, Church Hill STALBRIDGE DT10 2LR

Thirdly. Fancy joining us to help change people's lives. Contact our website <https://bvliions.yolasite.com/> or phone 0345 8337423

The Blackmore Vale Group
of

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 1973 / 2019/2024

Registered Charity No. 265223



&



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Registered Charity No. 118429



Sturminster Newton
Museum and Mill Society

Registered Charity No. 1044018

Beyond Market Day



Sturminster's Forgotten Cattle Shows
(1832 - 1880s)

Speaker: **Jacqui Wragg**

Wednesday August 12th, entry £4

7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange

Hot and cold drinks available at the bar

Cream Teas at the Mill



Cream kindly provided by
Blackmore Vale Dairy

Saturday 26th
September
2pm-4.30pm



WHAT'S ON NEARBY

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



Child Okeford Art Trail 2026 28-31 August

Now in its 6th Year!

An easy-to-follow trail through our picturesque North Dorset Village.

11 am to 4 pm daily

Teas, coffee, cakes and light lunches
available at the Village Hall.

Proceeds to local charity SERO

(raising funds for

Julia's House Children's Hospice)

A showcase of work by 23 local artists
at 4 venues throughout the village.

Our popular Art Trail is now in its sixth year! Once again, we will be hosting 23 talented artists and craftspeople in their own homes, studios and community spaces. The trail offers visitors the opportunity to explore our beautiful village at leisure, allowing you to view and purchase a diverse collection of paintings, prints, pottery, and crafts.

This year, we are welcoming several new and exciting artists to the trail. Barry Hulme paints warm, beautiful watercolours, bringing out the best of this sensitive medium, choosing a great range of subjects from landscapes to luminous interiors, coastal scenes to city centres in different light, capturing atmosphere and moments in time with fantastic skill. He is a winner of the Society for All Artists Amateur Artist of the Year, and his work was chosen as Best Professional Landscape & Woodland scene for the SAA (Society of All Artists).

Another new artist also exhibiting in the Community Centre is Holly Berlyn, a local artist specialising in fine liner pointillism, which is a technique of using only dots to create a work. Her unique artworks are inspired by nature and often involve insects, animals and botanicals. Commissions for pet portraits and all animals are also welcome. She enjoys being able to meet and have conversations with people face to face as well getting to discover fellow artists, creators and makers. So do come along and have a chat with her!

There will be a group of eleven artists in the Village Hall where local charity SERO (raising money for Julia's House Children's Hospice) will be offering light refreshments, homemade cakes and sandwiches throughout the four days. Julie Little will be selling her paintings, with all proceeds adding to their funds.

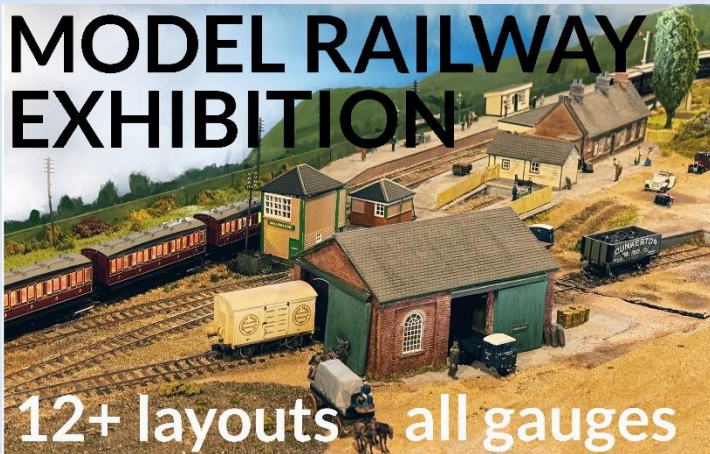
Another new talented village resident who is exhibiting in the Village Hall is Nick Selby Bennet whose sporting and rural cartoons are inspired by the events and folk of the British countryside. With a love for rural life, he enjoys nothing more than creating fun and humorous cartoons to brighten up the home or as gifts for friends and loved ones.

Alongside him will be Jesse Marshall a jeweller who claims to have a 'wildly overactive imagination' and lovingly handcrafts magical works from silver and gold.

We are lucky to have Rose Hatcher joining us. Rose is best known for using silk fibres to create joyously colourful images of unlikely botanical specimens. But she also makes 'Rubbish' Jewellery, using beach finds or locally salvaged scrap, all set off with semi-precious stones, or vintage beads. Not forgetting the Weaving and the Bookbinding! So many talents!

With such a wide variety of artists, from painters to jewellers, photographers to potters and much more, there is something to interest everyone. The trail provides an opportunity to meet talented artists in person in their creative worlds and discover new and surprising aspects of their work.

Follow us on social media for artist profiles and more information about the trail and pick up a leaflet from a variety of locations for details about all participants. You can find us on Facebook at Child Okeford Art Trail 2026 and on Instagram at childokefordarttrail2026.



Saturday 26th
September 10 till 4.

The Station and
Shillingstone Church
Centre

Details on News
Pages



Summer programme of nature, wildlife and community events at Bere Marsh Farm

The Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT) has announced a varied programme of summer events at Bere Marsh Farm near Shillingstone, inviting local people to enjoy wildlife, farming and the countryside through hands-on activities, guided walks and community events.

The programme begins with a summer workshop: grow mushrooms on wood on July 29 from 10am to 1pm. Led by passionate mycologist Andy Knott, of Jurassic Coast Mushrooms, the session offers the chance to learn the art of log plugging, a traditional low-cost, high reward method of growing mushrooms on wood. Everybody will have the opportunity to produce their

own mushroom log, while learning all about cultivating fungi, along with other simple methods for encouraging mushrooms in your garden and green spaces.

Discover Bats in Summer will take place on August 8 from 8.15pm to 10pm with guest expert Mariko Whyte from the Dorset Bat Group. Participants will be able to use heterodyne bat detectors and learn lots of fascinating facts along the way.

A Cyanotype workshop will take place on August 15 from 10.30am to 3.30pm. This is a photographic printing method that produces images with a distinctive Prussian-blue colour

A creative workshop teaching willow weaving garden sculptures will take place on August 16 from 9.30am to 4pm with willow artist and basket maker Yanina Stockings. Participants will learn how the willow is grown, harvested and processed, and learn several key weaving techniques to produce their own garden sculpture.

On August 27 from 10am to 1pm, an inaugural Moth Tetra Pak printing workshop will take place with Arty Genny at the farm's Threshing Barn. The printmaking workshop will give participants the opportunity to observe the 25 moth species recorded at Bere Marsh Farm and select ones they would like for their prints.

The summer programme will conclude with The Farmers and Makers Market on September 5 from 11am to 3pm, showcasing local produce with The Buzz Café open selling tea, coffee and soft drinks as well as delicious cakes made by our CRT volunteers.

The CRT will also continue with its weekly Friday Farm walk, which is a free event from 2pm to 3pm and led by Hannah and other experts. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day.

For more information about CRT events, including ticket prices, and to book where required, see <https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Pages/Events/>

Rebecca Dutton PR & Policy Officer

r.dutton@thecrt.co.uk 07496 091695

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

St Mary's Sturminster ...



SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
<u>AUG 2026</u>			
1st Sunday 2 August	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 August	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 9 August	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 12 August	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 16 August	11am Holy Communion and visit from Church Army representative	6pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 19 August	10am Holy communion		
4th Sunday 23 August	11am Holy Communion with Holy Baptism 6pm Evensong	11am Mattins	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 26 August	10am Holy Communion		
5th Sunday 30 August	11am Benefice Holy Communion		

Vale Methodist Church (based in Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag)
 Services @ Sturminster Newton 10.30am. every Sunday morning. Services @ Kings Stag every 2nd,4th &5th Sunday in the month @ 6pm

SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
<u>SEPT 2026</u>			
Wednesday 2 September	10am Holy Communion		
1st Sunday 6 September	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 9 September	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 13 Sept	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 16 Sept	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 20 Sept	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 23 Sept	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday 27 Sept	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Morning Service BCP	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 30 Sept	10am 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.

Other Religions (or None) are available.

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 fitness class

- Wed 9.15-10.15am The Exchange
- Georgina Greenwood Tel:No: 07582 634911
- E-mail: gfit2dance@gmail.com



(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

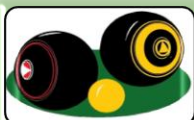
- Many age groups.
- The club has graduated a world champion.
- sturabc.co.uk



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

Thursdays 12pm-1pm. Stour Connect, Bath Road



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

Call for details 01258 471774; 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 856786

Parkinsons Cafè

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

Bereavement Peer Support

- Last Wednesdays of every month 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

Military Veterans

- First Thursdays of alternate months (from May)
- The Swan Inn 10-11:30
- See Poster Below

Pop-Up Health Hub

- 3rd Tuesdays 10am-12noon.
- Waiting Room - Sturminster Medical Centre
- See Poster Below



MILITARY VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP AND DROP IN SESSION



APRIL 2ND SHAFTESBURY RBL 12:30-2PM	MAY 7TH STUR. NEWTON SWAN INN 10-11:30AM	JUNE 4TH SHAFTESBURY RBL 12:30-2PM
JULY 2ND STUR. NEWTON SWAN INN 10-11:30AM	AUGUST 6TH SHAFTESBURY RBL 12:30-2PM	SEPTEMBER 3RD STUR. NEWTON SWAN INN 10-11:30AM
OCTOBER 1ST SHAFTESBURY RBL 12:30-2PM	NOVEMBER 5TH STUR. NEWTON SWAN INN 10-11:30AM	DECEMBER 3RD SHAFTESBURY RBL 12:30-2PM



**ALL BLACKMORE VALE PATIENTS WHO HAVE
SERVED ONE DAY OR MORE IN THE FORCES
ARE WELCOME!**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE
CONTACT THE WELLBEING TEAM ON 01747
856786 OR EMAIL**

BVPWELLBEING@DORSETGP.NHS.UK

“POP-UP” HEALTH HUB

- 
- **FIND NEW INTERESTS**
 - **MEET NEW PEOPLE**
 - **GET LOCAL SUPPORT**
 - **CHAT WITH OUR PRACTICE
HEALTH CHAMPIONS**
- 

3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
10AM-12PM
IN THE WAITING ROOM
STURMINSTER NEWTON
MEDICAL CENTRE, OLD MARKET HILL
DT10 1QU

ALL WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



SEE YOU THERE



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

- Restarts Monday 21st September. 7:30pm. The Exchange. Poster on Community pages.
- 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 pm 3rd Wednesdays** in members' homes, Brenda Stables 01258 471487

BCP Holy Communion

- 10am St Marys

Knit & Natter

- Free drop in every week 2-3.30pm. Exchange Cafe
- all skill levels and wool crafts welcome
- contact 07791 604007 for more info

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 8-13years, 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.



Monday

- **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

Tuesday

- **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
- **Play Around, All abilities music group. Second Tuesdays 6:30** Henfield Airfield. *contact Caroleavis123@btinternet.com*

Wednesday

- **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@aol.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

EDITORIAL

The full edition of the newsletter is online (at sncl.org.uk then click [What's Happening in Stur](#)) together with previous editions and features.

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.

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



COPY DATES

15th of the preceding month:

Sept 15th for Oct/Nov

Nov 15th for Dec/Jan

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