

# What's Happening in Stur

## Bi-Monthly: Dec/Jan 2025/6



### **Fiddleford Mill Races**

#### **N. Dorset Photo competition by Sandra Way**

**Stur Sparkle:** Events leaflet attached to emailed copies of this newsletter. Printed copies available throughout the town.

Light switch on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.



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



### New faces and new beginnings for Sturminster Newton

Sturminster Newton Town Council is delighted to welcome Susan Trim and Liam Jackson, who were co-opted at the council meeting held on 5 November 2025. This means the council is now back to a full house.

Susan has previous experience as a parish councillor and brings valuable knowledge in neighbourhood planning, finance and IT



communications. Liam is keen to represent all aspects of the community and offers skills in effective communication, decision making and networking.

The council is pleased to welcome both to the team and looks forward to working with them.



### Unit 2 Youth Club – a community success story

There have been lots of changes at Unit 2, Richmar Trading Centre on Butts Pond Industrial Estate. A huge thank you goes to our grounds team, who have done an amazing job converting the unit — putting in partition walls, cupboards, seating and a kitchen to make the space welcoming and functional. It is a fantastic transformation.



Youth Connect South West have been busy spreading the word around town, and the opening night is planned for Wednesday 26 November 2025, with a session from 7–9pm for years nine and onwards. On Fridays, there will be a session from 4–6pm for years seven and eight.

We have been supported by so many generous people and will make sure they receive recognition when everything is up and running. Youth Connect South West are also working behind the scenes with other youth organisations to strengthen local provision for our young people, and the council is delighted to be partnering with them.

### **Supporting local groups – grant applications now open**

From Monday 17 November 2025 to Monday 19 January 2026, Sturminster Newton Town Council is inviting grant applications from local community groups. Grants of up to £750 are available to support projects, activities and services that benefit residents.

We encourage any group with a good idea, a valued service or a project that needs a boost to apply. Full details and an application form are available on the council's website at [www.sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk).

### **Working together across our community**

The town council has also made progress on works to the Mill and will soon begin the next phase of the renovation project. We are collaborating with the Allotment Association on future plans, and we are also pleased to welcome the Rokit Choir, who will be starting a new group in the Council Chamber.

It is wonderful to see so many community groups working together on both existing and new projects. The council welcomes members of the public to its meetings and shares regular updates on the Sturminster Newton Town Council Facebook page.

Free Parking continues 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of month.  
Also, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov; & 6/13/20 & 24 December  
Funded by Stur Action and The Town Council



## News from Dorset County Council – Cllr Carole Jones

The temporary traffic lights at the bridge, I know, are causing some delays. I have asked Dorset Council to monitor the length of time it is taking to get people through. It will take longer as it is a three-way system rather than the two-way system we have in normal times. Please breathe deeply

and be a bit patient!

There is a great deal of concern about the proposed / possible application that may come through for the site at Rudge Hill Farm for a synthetic fuel facility. This would use around 65 acres of farmland, and in effect, this land will become an industrial site. Until a planning application comes through, there is very little that can be done. For those keen to be kept in the loop and understand more about the proposal, you can email:

[keepnorthdorsetbeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepnorthdorsetbeautiful@gmail.com)

The budget setting process at Dorset Council is underway and a detailed and consultative procedure that takes place annually. Councillors and officers work together to assess the financial requirements for the coming year, considering statutory responsibilities, local priorities, and feedback from residents and stakeholders. Draft budgets are prepared, considering both expected income (such as government grants and council tax) and planned expenditure across services including education, social care, highways, and waste management.

Following the drafting stage, the proposed budget is scrutinised in committee meetings and by Cabinet, with opportunities for public consultation to ensure transparency and gather community views. After revisions and debate, the final budget is approved by a meeting of the full Council, in February. This process ensures that resources are allocated efficiently and that Dorset Council can continue to deliver essential services to residents.

On the issue of council tax, most people do not really see or benefit from where most of the money must be spent. Children's Services - consider that

in 2014, 1414 children had an EHCP; that figure is now 3920, and it is anticipated to grow to over 5700 by 2034. The extra help and resources, special places and more that need to be put in place for every child are huge, and it is a system that frankly is utterly broken throughout the UK. Home to School transport for those with very high additional needs runs into the tens of millions – some children need a taxi with two carers – it's a statutory responsibility. We have 467 children in care, with 256 with child protection plans – these are areas that simply cannot be cut. The forecast for the outcome this year is 88 million.

Adult Social Care is another huge spend. We have 4363 adults with long-term care; the average weekly cost is £886 per person... the number of older people in Dorset is around 30% against a UK average of 19%. In 2019, 4025 people had their care paid for, costing 89M this year; that number is now 4369, costing 131M. It's so easy to think that all your council tax gives you is your bins emptied – but I hope this gives you a flavour of the challenges.

With new government targets, our land supply has dropped to 2.53 years—favourable for builders but concerning for residents weary of ongoing construction. Smaller developments offer no infrastructure gains; only a new settlement would address this need. I continue to raise concerns where possible, but planning law requires specific, valid objections—issues like property value or views are not sufficient grounds.

We anxiously await the upcoming budget, hoping for some positive news amid current challenges. Please do get in contact with me if I can help in any way. I am happy to hold a monthly surgery at the Family Hub if people might find that useful – if you might like that – can you pop me through a message?

### **Finally, are you interested in joining a Good Neighbourhood Scheme?**

It would be wonderful for Stur if we could establish such a scheme, bringing people together local volunteers who are willing to help when someone urgently needs support, whether that's a friendly visit, shopping, picking up a prescription, or any other kind of assistance. The idea is to create a system, where, if the need arises, we can quickly reach out to someone who is nearby who's able to lend a hand. This system is particularly needed for those who

live alone and are older. If you are interested in joining or helping me set up such a scheme, please give me a call or drop me an email. Your involvement could make a real difference!

Carole Jones 07968 348481 / [cllrcarole.jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcarole.jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) / [carole4stur@gmail.com](mailto:carole4stur@gmail.com)

## News of The Vale Family Hub (formally Vale Pantry)

There really is so much going on, it's difficult to know where to start!! But, before I do – please know that the Hub is open to everyone, - we welcome dogs too! So, if you are out walking and fancy a great coffee – you must come in. It's the most wonderful, warm, and welcoming place where lots of friendships are formed, activities, crafting, and much more are constantly happening!

We have a great number of organisations that come in and work alongside us, delivering services, running drop-in events and more. These include Homestart, MIND, Babigloo, Access to Wellbeing, Livewell Dorset, the Social Prescribing Team, Family Workers, CAMHS, School Nursing Team – and of course we have our own Citizens' Advisor here all-day Wednesday and on Thursday afternoons, (appointments needed).

Our soft play area is well used and much loved by the little ones - it's completely free to use – and it's also a great opportunity for Mums or Dads to be able to sit and have a coffee while the little ones all play quite happily.

We hold crafting sessions for adults and for children, so if this is up your street, come in and find out more. Incidentally, crafting supplies are always in great demand – if you have anything you think we could use that's no longer needed, please bring it in! It's costing us a pretty penny to purchase supplies.

If you work in Stur – did you know we can deliver you a hot lunch, ditch the boring sarnies! And enjoy perhaps a jacket potato, or whatever else is on our menu, you just need to give us a call on 01258 920040 and we will get it right to you! Fridays is our Fakeaway day – last week it was Chinese – this week it's Indian!

Our Youth Hub is buzzing with around 80 awesome young people! We've switched up our sessions to Tuesday nights, so there's no need to worry about clashing with other clubs. The doors are open from 5–9 pm. The little ones (ages 5–7) kick off the fun from 5–7 pm, while the older crew takes over from 7–9 pm for good times and amazing vibes. Come hang out—there's always something exciting happening!

For parents with children who want Birthday Parties! – We are the venue that does it all, - Catering, Goody Bags – and we clear up the mess! Give us a call or pop in if we can help in this area.

With Christmas fast approaching, we would love for people to consider taking part in our activity 'Reverse Advent Calendar' – helping us fill the shelves and deal with what we know will be a difficult time for many. Simply collect one product each day for a month and bring it into the hub just before Christmas - that would be greatly appreciated. At this time of year, we are seeing a growing number of people struggling with rising energy costs, and this is now affecting an increasing number of older individuals.

You might also consider buying one of our 'Baubles'—we offer a range with set prices, and your purchase will go towards gifting someone a special treat this Christmas.

For families, we're hosting 'Breakfast with Santa' for young children; if you'd like to reserve a spot, just call us at 01258 920040. Lastly, on the 21st and 22nd of December, we have funded holiday activities for children receiving FSM, but everyone is welcome to join—there's something for everyone!

## The Exchange

Hello from everyone at The Exchange!

You will be pleased to know that we have restocked our supply of Gift Voucher Envelopes in time for the holiday season. Gift Vouchers make a great Christmas gift, perfect for anyone who enjoys culture, entertainment or trying something new. Vouchers offer the flexibility choice and help support us too. So, if you are giving Vouchers this Christmas why not ask for a Gift Envelope at the Box Office, which are available for a small donation, to help cover print costs.



But why not join the party yourself? We have lots of ways to get into the festive spirit this year. The **Ridgeway Singers** will be with us for a Christmas Concert (Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7:30pm), you may recognise them as the choir who perform at our annual “Tea with William Barnes”. Or perhaps **One Night of SKA** is more what you are looking for, they always deliver energy fit for the Christmas party (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7:30pm).

Of course, the fantastic Neil Sands will be back with **Christmas Memories** (Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2pm) a show filled to bursting with Christmas nostalgia, perfect for those who enjoy singing along. Our last offering for Christmas will be **Good Times** (Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7:30pm) a glittering tribute to the music of Nile Rodgers and Chic.

Check in on our website or at the Box Office to see what we have programmed for 2026. We are particularly looking forward to welcoming Charlie Bicknell and Louise Innes for **Cabaret with Balls** (Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7:30pm) which is sure to be a refreshing departure from real life.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year, however you celebrate.



## ***New Town Event: Stur the Cauldron 2025 Brings Spooktacular Fun to Sturminster Newton!***

***By SturAction   Photos: Iain Penney***

Sturminster Newton's Stur the Cauldron celebration cast its magic over the town on **Friday 31st October 2025**, drawing in more than **200 excited children** and their families for an evening of Halloween fun, creativity, and community spirit.

The Railway Garden came alive with colourful costumes, glowing pumpkins, and the sound of laughter as children followed the popular Pumpkin Trail, took part in the fancy dress competition, and joined in craft activities and games hosted by local groups and volunteers. The spooky storytelling tent was a particular



hit, with eerie tales told by the Mystical Monk that sent just the right number of shivers down little spines!

Special thanks too to Friars Moor Veterinary Clinic and SouthWest Wills and Probate Ltd for sponsoring the hugely popular Bugfest.

A huge thank you goes to all our local businesses who took part in decorating their shopfronts and displaying numbered pumpkins for the popular Pumpkin Trail created by Laura Drew.

Thanks also to the Sturminster Newton Town Council, the Riverside Festival, Home-start Blackmore Vale, SNADS, Community Connections, The Exchange and all our volunteers, Sharon, Gary, Freya, Lee, Zoe, Tim, Megan and Matt who gave their time to ensure everything ran smoothly and safely. Your enthusiasm helped make the late afternoon such a success.

It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the town centre together. Events like Stur the Cauldron really show what makes Sturminster Newton special — a strong, creative community that comes together to celebrate, support, and have fun. **SturAction aims to organise or facilitate one major event in the town every month.**

We can't wait to see you all again next year - Saturday 31st October 2026 - for an even bigger brew of Halloween magic!

## Volunteering in Stur

We will be updating to Town's "Volunteer" brochure early in the new year.

Please send us details:

- if you are an organisation that was not in the first edition
- If your organisations needs to update their existing entry
- Or if you know of an organisation in the first edition that no longer functions or needs new volunteers.

The first edition can be viewed on the Learning Centre Web Site [snclc.org.uk](http://snclc.org.uk) then click the 'What's Happening in Stur' panel.

Please send contributions / updates to [whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com](mailto:whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com) or call on the editor in The Learning Centre (Weds & Mon am).

**What's Happening in Stur**  
**Volunteering Supplement**  
August 2024

**VOLUNTEER**



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

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

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



# MAKE STUR SPARKLE

STURMINSTER NEWTON AT CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

A full programme of events throughout the day  
including...

Christmas Tree Light Switch On at 5pm

Illuminated Tractor Parade at 6.15pm



Photo: Ade Ray

Full Nov/Dec Stur Sparkle programme accompanied this newsletter if emailed to you or plenty of printed copies all about the town.

New this year to add on to the light switch on, lantern parade, tree festival etc. on November 29<sup>th</sup> is an **Illuminated Tractor Parade**"



# WHAT'S ON IN STUR IN DEC/JAN



## The Exchange

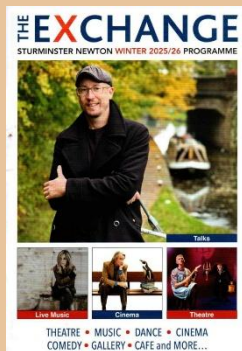
- For full details of all Exchange events, including extra events, see website [stur-exchange.co.uk](http://stur-exchange.co.uk) - buy tickets on the website, on 01258 475137 or at reception in The Exchange.
- Start times vary - check your tickets.

## Theatre & Dance

- Saturday 17th January 7:30pm. Living Spits **Beauty and the Beast**
- Thursday 29th January 7:30pm. **Cabaret with Balls.** "Witty, wanton, wonderful – shamelessly sexy, murderously funny. You have been warned!" The Observer [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk)

## Film

- Some Thursdays 7pm £6
- Thursday December 18th **Last Christmas**



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 22nd November 7:30 **Beyond the Barricade** -Musical Theatre Concert
- Saturday 29th November 8pm **Los Pacaminos**. Round off Stur Sparkle events in town & lights switch on with this concert in the evening!
- Friday 5th Dec 7:30 (doors open 6:30) **Moonlight Swing Band** Xmas Concert.
- Saturday 6th December 7:30pm. **Rock for Heroes Xmas Anthems**.
- Thursday 11th December 7:30pm. **Ridgeway Singers Xmas Concert**
- Saturday 13th December 7:30pm. **One Night of SKA**. Original 1960s Jamaican scene as well as the 2 Tone English Revival of the late 1970s.
- Wednesday 17th December 2pm. **Christmas Memories** with Neil Sands.
- Saturday 20th September 7:30pm. **Good Times Christmas Party**. Raw funk, soul & disco dynamics of Nile Rodgers' music.
- Saturday 10th Jan 7:30pm. **Copacabana Magic**. Barry Manilow Tribute
- Saturday 24th January 8pm. **Dos Amigos**

And also in The Exchange....

Saturday 29th Nov  
**Christmas Market**  
10am to 2pm

Moonlight Swing  
Band –  
5<sup>th</sup> December  
Fund Raiser

**Wedding Fair**  
31st January

**SNADS**  
**Mother Goose**  
11th-14th Feb

**Bootleg Shadows**  
21st February

## Youth Clubs

- New Youth Club starts 26th November in addition to Family Hub Club. Posters on community pages.

## Stur Sparkle

- Saturday 29th November. Lights switch on and all the usual events. New this year (6:15pm) an Illuminated Tractor Parade!!

## Sturminster in the 1940s

- Thursday 4th December 2:30pm Newstone House
- An afternoon with The Heritage Trust
- Details on Community Pages

## Christmas Concert

- Friday 5th December.
- Moonlight Swing Band
- The Exchange

## Christmas Carols

- Saturday 6th December 7.30pm
- St Mary's Church
- Details on Community Pages

## Stained-Glass Window Nativity Play

- Saturday 13th Dec, shows from 1pm - 7.45pm
- St Mary's Church
- See News of the Churches pages for details

## Sturminster Orchestra Concert

- Saturday 13th Dec 10:30 for 10:45. The Exchange.
- Free Entry. Collection for The Exchange.
- Details on Community Pages

## Festive Paws

- Saturday 13th Dec 11am-4pm at Sturfit
- Details on Community pages.

## Garden Club

- **17th December, Christmas Party – Members Only** at Stur of The Moment at 1.00 pm. Competition: A Seasonable Table Arrangement. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.

## Handmade for Christmas

- Every day till 24 December
- 75 Makers at The Chapel, Bath Road
- Details on Business Pages

## Nearby: Farmers Market

- Sunday 7th December 11am-3pm
- Countryside regeneration Trust, Bere Marsh Farm. Poster on Village Pages.

## Nearby: Christmas Wreath Making

- Friday 5th December
- Hazebury Bryan Village Hall
- Details on Village pages

## Vintage & Classic Vehicle Run

- New years day
- From main town car park, leaving at 11 am.

## Artificial Intelligence

- Introductions and Next Steps
- Wednesdays in January 2pm
- Details on Community Pages

## Choral Society

- Restarts 7.30pm, Monday, 12th January
- The Exchange
- Contact 01258 472274 or via website
- [sturminsterchoralsociety.co.uk](http://sturminsterchoralsociety.co.uk)

## Garden Club

- **Wednesday, 28th January, Annual General Meeting** at The Exchange at 7.00 pm. Speaker: Irina Grina – Crafts. New Members and Visitors welcome. Seasonal Competitions. Contact: [sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com)

## Wedding Fair

- Saturday 31st January 10am-3pm
- The Exchange
- Free Entry

## Half Marathon

- Sunday 1st February 11am
- From Bishops Caundle Recreation Ground, details - see community page

## SNADS Pantomime

- Mother Goose. 11th-14th February
- Poster on community pages.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS  
& EVENTS



**Sturminster Newton Orchestra**

Please join us for a little  
Musical Sparkle at our

**Christmas Concert**

at, and in support of,

**“The Exchange”**

**Saturday Morning**

**13<sup>th</sup> December 10.45**

**FREE ENTRY!**

**Doors Open at 10.30**

.. but you can enjoy a hot drink in the Café  
from 9.00 !

# SturTech—The Community Learning Centre.

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

[snclc@btconnect.com](mailto:snclc@btconnect.com)

[snclc.org.uk](http://snclc.org.uk) 01258 475272



**BEWARE SKIMMERS:** Skimmers carry devices that can read a credit/debit card chip and make a charge to it- a thief (skimmer) has only to get their device near enough to your cards to take a chip payment. Public transport, shopping centres or any busy place are high risk.



The solution is to add an RFID blocking card to your wallet/purse.

We have some in the Learning Centre—a little extra Xmas present just £1.

Alternatively put a Wallet/purse with built in blocking on your Christmas list.



Images generated by co-pilot

**Last drop-in before Xmas Monday 22 December**

**First drop-in after Xmas Monday 5th January**

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.



JOIN US TO OUR

# FESTIVE PAWS

## DOG PHOTOSHOOT & MARKET

13TH DECEMBER 2025 11AM - 4PM

### PROFESSIONAL DOG PHOTOSHOOT

GET YOUR POOCH PHOTOGRAPHED WHILST  
SUPPORTING A CHARITY HELPING SRI  
LANKAN CATS & DOGS

NO DOG? NO PROBLEM! COME ALONG AND  
ENJOY OUR CRAFT MARKET, CAKES, AERIAL  
ENTERTAINMENT, CANINE MASSAGE, TOMBOLA,  
SANTA PAWS AND MORE.

**Book on: [www.lucashelpsdogs.com](http://www.lucashelpsdogs.com)**

**STURFIT LEISURE CENTRE, STURMINSTER NEWTON, DT10 1EW**



**Festive Paws** Sturfit Leisure Centre, DT10 1EW

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025 11am – 4pm

Join us for a festive day of fun with Lucas Helps Dogs! 🐾

Enjoy a professional dog photoshoot, Christmas craft market, cakes, aerial entertainment, canine massage, tombola, Santa Paws, Bulgarian dancing, and so much more — all while supporting street dogs and cats in Sri Lanka.

Book your photoshoot now <https://www.lucashelpsdogs.com/upcoming-events>

## Free Online Talks Celebrate UK Nature and Farming with The Countryside Regeneration Trust

Leading rural charity The Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT) is hosting a new series of free online talks this winter, inspired by the charity's hands-on conservation work across its network of nature-friendly farms.

The monthly talks will feature experts from across the conservation and farming community, exploring topics from conservation grazing to protecting bats, butterflies, farming with ecology and the much-loved hazel dormouse.

The CRT owns Bere Marsh Farm, near Shillingstone, as well as Babers Farm and Harmshay in Marshwood Vale.

Each one-hour talk takes place online at 7pm, offering an engaging opportunity to learn from conservationists, ecologists and farmers working at the forefront of countryside regeneration.

On **December 11**, Ruth Moss, the CRT's Conservation and Mapping Officer, will delve into the fascinating world of hazel dormice, covering their ecology, behaviour, threats and important role within the ecosystem.

She will discuss the different ways in which their population is monitored, the CRT's plans to support them even more in the future, as well as what you can do to help this adorable species from further population decline.

Bat expert Chris Doubell will discuss **The World of Bats** on **January 22**, looking at what bats need, where they roost, why there is a decline in all UK species and measures taken to protect them - including how we can help them. Chris will also talk about the evolutionary development of bat orders and how tectonic plate movements slowly formed the pattern of continents we know today.

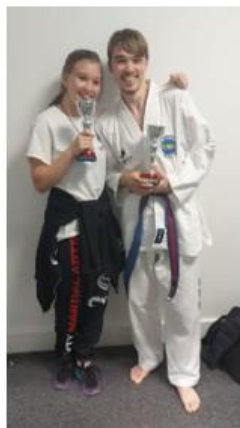
**Farming with ecology** with regenerative farmer Matt Elphick will take place on **February 17**. Matt will explain how he utilises and encourages insect, plant and animal diversity on his farm. He will explore the impact of this on carbon storage, soil and cow health, and the quality of our food.

The last talk of the series called **Helping butterflies: practical action** will take place on **March 18** with the CRT's wildlife expert Vince Lea. He will look at a range of butterflies and how we can support their habitat. From holly blue butterflies in your garden to marbled white on our farms, Vince will look at a range of species and share what we are doing at the CRT to encourage biodiversity.

To find out more about the free online talks and to book your place, see the CRT website at [www.thecrt.co.uk/Pages/Events/Category/online-talks](http://www.thecrt.co.uk/Pages/Events/Category/online-talks). Booking is essential to receive the link. Donations are welcomed to support the work of the Countryside Regeneration Trust.



## Early Success for Unity Martial Arts



The new Martial Arts club at Stour Connect and Sturfit is off to a great start. Two of their students competed in the English Opens last month and both took home Bronze - well done!

The club then picked up the Shaftesbury Business Award for Innovation in recognition of their use of technology to improve member's experience. The 8-week beginners' course is ending, and with the club's first grading in November, we wish all students' good luck.





## Blackmore Vale Half Marathon 2026 (BVHM 26)

Race Director; Tim Otter 07748 090802 [www.https://bvldhm.yolasite.com/](https://bvldhm.yolasite.com/)

Proceeds to Blackmore Vale Lions Charity Trust Fund. Registered Charity No.1019759

### Blow the Christmas and New Year Cobwebs Away!

Blackmore Vale Lions Club (BVLC) are delighted to announce that the BVHM 26 has been provisionally registered with the athletics authorities and will take place on Sunday 1 February 2026 starting at 11.00 am at Bishops Caundle Recreation Ground (DT9 5NG). Race HQ is in the Village Hall, Holt Lane, Bishop's Caundle on the other side of the A3060. The course is the usual one and we hope it stays dry this year. Our major charities this year are Prostate Cancer related but there will be other local good causes.

BVLC are always looking to help with this and any of our other activities. If you want to help please contact Tim Otter on 07748 090802 or the contact form on either of the web sites: for the BVHM [www.https://bvldhm.yolasite.com/](https://bvldhm.yolasite.com/) or BVLC <https://bvlions.yolasite.com/> which has details of the club. We would love to see you.

To enter go to the BVHM site [www.https://bvldhm.yolasite.com/](https://bvldhm.yolasite.com/) and register online or by post. On line is much easier and helps us to organize the event. Alternatively you can go to <https://englandathletics.sport80.com/public/wizard/e/28524> which is even easier. The race limit is 450 and entries close at 14.00 on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 or once we have reached 450 runners first come first served. You must be over 18 on 1 Feb 2026 to take part. There is also a 5¼ fun run which starts 10 minutes later.

### Calling all crafters!

Sturminster Newton Library will be hosting a series of Festive drop-in Creation Stations on the run up to Christmas. We will be making a whole host of lovely Christmas decorations for you to take home. They will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 10.30 till 12, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10.30 till 12, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10.30 till 12 and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2.30 till 4. All are welcome, but under 8s must be accompanied by an adult. Please feel free to pop into the library to speak to a member of staff if you have any questions.

### Sturminster in the 1940s

An afternoon with Sturminster Heritage Trust looking back at Sturminster in the 1940s. All welcome. Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30. Newstone House.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## The Football Club

### Fixtures

## December & January

50 seat stand

Refreshments

Bar

|                   |                           |                                                                                     |    |                                                                                     |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 06/12/25<br>15:00 | Hythe & Dibden            |  | VS |  | Sturminster Newton United |
| 13/12/25<br>15:00 | Sturminster Newton United |  | VS |  | Radstock Town             |
| 20/12/25<br>15:00 | Bristol Telephones        |  | VS |  | Sturminster Newton United |
| 26/12/25<br>15:00 | Sturminster Newton United |  | VS |  | Warminster Town           |
| 03/01/26<br>15:00 | Sturminster Newton United |  | VS |  | Cheddar                   |
| 10/01/26<br>15:00 | Keynsham Town             |  | VS |  | Sturminster Newton United |
| 17/01/26<br>15:00 | Hengrove Athletic         |  | VS |  | Sturminster Newton United |
| 24/01/26<br>15:00 | Mendip Broadwalk          |  | VS |  | Sturminster Newton United |
| 31/01/26<br>15:00 | Sturminster Newton United |  | VS |  | Shirehampton              |



Inspiring Young People

# STURMINSTER NEWTON YOUTH CLUB

JOIN US FOR MUSIC, GAMES,  
SPORTS AND MORE

**YEAR 9+**  
**EVERY**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**7PM - 9PM**

**YEAR 7&8**  
**EVERY**  
**FRIDAY**  
**4PM - 6PM**

**STARTS**  
**26TH**  
**NOVEMBER**

**UNIT 2, BUTTS POND  
INDUSTRIAL EST, DT10 1AZ**

For more info get in touch with Claire:

☎ 07977859700

✉ [claire.bailey@ycsw.org.uk](mailto:claire.bailey@ycsw.org.uk)



Scan to join our  
WhatsApp group  
for updates!



This is proudly supported by Sturminster Newton Town Council with funding  
from The Charity of William Williams.

*By arrangement with Stage Right Creative Ltd*

*Written by Alan P Frayn*



**NODA**  
For every stage

*SNADS Presents*

# MOTHER GOOSE

***Tickets on sale now!***

**WEDNESDAY 11TH FEB - 19:30**  
(RELAXED PERFORMANCE)

**£12. FOR ADULTS**

**THURSDAY - 12TH FEB - 19:30**

**£10. FOR CHILDREN**

**FRIDAY - 13TH FEB - 19:30**

**SATURDAY - 14TH FEB - 14:30**

**£35 FAMILY TICKET**

**SATURDAY - 14TH FEB - 19:30**

**(MINIMUM TWO UNDER 18S)**

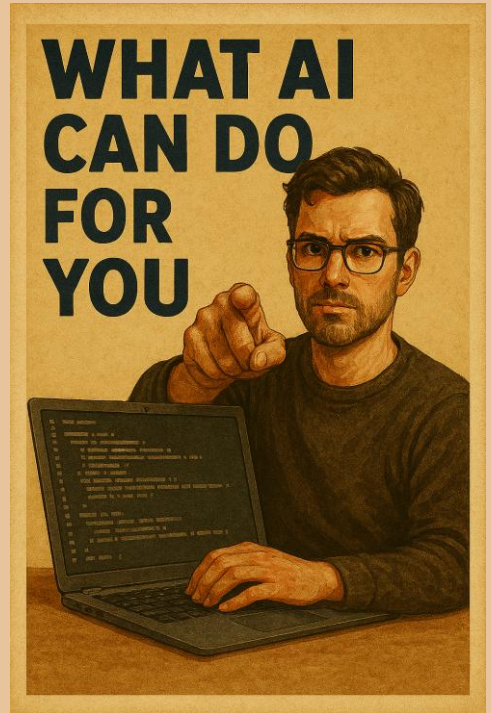
**Curious about how artificial intelligence can make your life easier or help your business thrive? Over 40 people booked our short introduction.**

**Further bookable dates for Introductions and Next Steps are:**

**Wednesdays Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for Introductions.**

**Wednesdays Jan 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for 'Next Steps'**

**2:00 to 3:30pm in the Lydden Room/The Exchange. No fee, small donation appreciated. Please book by emailing [snclc@btconnect.com](mailto:snclc@btconnect.com) or phone 01258 475272 (Weds or Mon am). SturTech – The Learning Centre.**



**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/>**



# A FEAST of CAROLS

with  
**STURMINSTER  
CHORAL SOCIETY**

Annemarie Lees  
Caroline D'Cruz

**SATURDAY  
6th DECEMBER  
7.30pm**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**  
Sturminster Newton

**TICKETS £10 to include  
REFRESHMENTS**  
on the door or from 01258 820755  
[sturminsterchoralsociety.co.uk](http://sturminsterchoralsociety.co.uk)



# Youth Club



**Unit 22B Butts Pond Trading Estate  
Sturminster Newton DT10 1AZ**

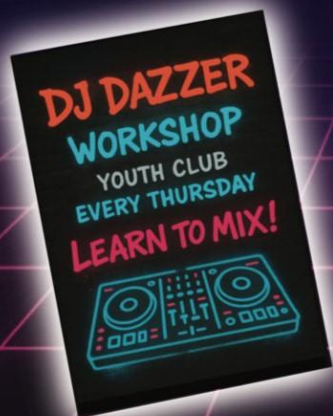
**Tuesday - Yr 4/5/6 5.30pm - 7.30pm**

**Thursday - Yr 7+ 6.00pm - 9.00pm**

***It's the place to be!!!***

**ENTRY £1**

**TUCK SHOP**



# 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 The Exchange 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 the town.

### New for the Business Pages

We are pleased to offer to list Job Vacancies in Sturminster and within 5 miles.

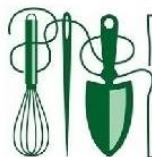
No charge but basic details only with contact point for more information .. e.g.

**Company / Organisation**

**Job Title**

**Location**

**Contact(s) for more details**



**COUNTRY  
MARKETS**  
COOK • CRAFT • GROW

**Sturminster Newton  
Country Market**

[www.country-markets.co.uk](http://www.country-markets.co.uk)

**Every Tuesday Morning:  
The Exchange Atrium**



## Forgotten Frowns Aesthetics & Beauty.

A safe, inclusive space where you can truly be yourself.

Our salon brings together a team of experienced professionals offering a wide range of treatments and services to help you look, feel, and live your best.

Here's what you can find under our roof:

Forgotten Frowns – Licensed and Save Face Accredited.

Cassie Beauty Therapist & Registered Nurse offers:

- Beauty and aesthetic treatments
- Massage therapy (including sports massage)
- Advanced skincare and education for all ages
- Pamper parties
- Tropic Skincare products



Old Thai House Massage – Por: Relax and rejuvenate with Por's specialised Thai massages designed to release tension and promote recovery.

Joe Shanks Physiotherapy – Joe: A Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist with extensive experience in managing persistent pain and complex conditions.

EA Counselling – Elizabeth: Providing support for abuse, anxiety, autism, bereavement, chronic illness, depression, and more.

Green Meadow Counselling – Pippa: Offering counselling focused on addiction, trauma, anxiety, and emotional wellbeing.

Sylvs Specs - Discover a beautiful range of glasses that reflect your personality, simply bring your prescription and find the perfect pair that's truly you!

Come visit us, say hello, or reach out to learn more about our services.  
You can find us and all our partners on social media too!

[info@forgottenfrowns.co.uk](mailto:info@forgottenfrowns.co.uk) [www.forgottenfrowns.co.uk](http://www.forgottenfrowns.co.uk) 07487 746666



Local Author Jane Wade, of Sturminster Newton, is fond of the colour red. Writing as Jane Wade Scarlet she has recently completed her trilogy of novels with the publication of *Shadow's Land*. Together with *Wolf Wind* and *Wolf Shadow*, the books recount the life and loves of a troubled man, and those with whom he is associated – be them family, friend or foe.

*Wolf Wind*, *Wolf Shadow* and *Shadow's Land* are all available in 1855 and from Amazon in Paperback and eBook.



# Sparkling at the Museum Shop

The Museum Shop has been given the full Christmas treatment and is packed with gifts at a very reasonable price – especially presents and stocking fillers for children. You can also get your Christmas cards here. Come and support your local museum and stock up for Christmas at the same time!



**Handmade for Christmas at the Workhouse Chapel**, Bath Road is an annual extravaganza of loveliness, bringing together a diverse and exceptional range of fairly priced, properly handcrafted, completely unique gifts. Work from over 70 incredibly talented makers and artists from Dorset and neighbouring counties. Open from 9.30 - 4.30 every day until Christmas Eve.

**Handmade**  
for **CHRISTMAS**

A glorious mix of unique and beautiful gifts  
from local designers, artists and makers

**1 November – 24 December 2025**  
**OPEN EVERY DAY**  
**9:30AM – 4:30PM**

**THE WORKHOUSE CHAPEL**  
Bath Road, Sturminster Newton DT10 1DS  
[workhousechapel.co.uk](http://workhousechapel.co.uk)

## What's Happening at Harts?

The festive season is in full swing at Harts! We're now open on **Sundays**, giving you even more time to browse our beautiful range of Christmas gifts and ensure you have all the cookware you need for the biggest meal of the year.

But that's not all—join us for a series of **in-store demonstrations** showcasing top brands:

- **Saturday 29th November** – Melitta Coffee Machines
- **Saturday 6th December** – KitchenAid
- **Saturday 13th December** – Sage Coffee Machines
- **Saturday 20th December** – KitchenAid

Plus, don't miss these special events:

- **Late Night Opening** – Saturday 29th November
- **The Big Sale** – Starts Saturday 27th December

We can't wait to welcome you—come and make this Christmas extra special at Harts!

## Festive Wishes from **SturAction**

Jingle all the way from The Boutique, The Emporium, The Marketplace, and 1555—where every preloved treasure and handmade creation helps our town sparkle! With 110 local artists, makers, and creators, your support brings joy and reinvests right back into Sturminster Newton.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—full of laughter, love, and a little local magic!

With gratitude and cheer from all of us to you!

# WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS IN STUR

## Mondays

New regular items in red type



### 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](mailto:bvlions@gmail.com) New members keen to serve the community actively sought.

### Choral Society

- Restarts 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

- Fresh Fish, Pet supplies, Plants, Household goods/Watch Batterys etc. Morning - Market Place & Station Road

## 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](mailto:secretary@sturminsternewton.rotary1110.org)

### Reminiscence Adult Craft

- 2nd Tuesday 2:30-3:30 Library
- 4th Tuesday 2:30-3:30 Library. 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](mailto:snclc@btconnect.com) [snclc.org.uk](http://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 Café
- 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

### Learning Together

- 10-11:30 Thursdays in term time The Library; Free Activities for Children 18months - 5yrs, Info 01258 472669

### Lego Fun Ages 3+

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

### Friends & Neighbours

- Beginning at Sturminster Newton Methodist Church
- Thursdays once a fortnight: Nov 2-16-30; Dec 14-28
- Come and join us any time from 10.30am. – 3pm

### Dance Group for over 60s

- 2-3:30. 12 Week Dance class from 25 Sept. FULLY BOOKED another planned in January. The Exchange.

## 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.

## Saturdays

Free Parking continues 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of month.  
Also, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov; & 6/13/20 & 24 December

### 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

### Code Club

- 1st & 3rd Sats 10-11am.
- For children 8-13yrs. Computer Activities.
- Free at The Library, 01258 472669 for info & booking.

### 1855

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

### Mrs Potters Cakes

- Last Saturday of month am. Exchange Atrium

## 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

### Wednesday

- **10 am, Art 4 Pleasure, Manston** Village Hall; Pat 01258 721467
- **2pm Sturminster Newton Floral Group** 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

# 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.snuafc.com](http://www.snuafc.com)



## Zumba with Abby

- Mon 6:30-7:30pm Stour Connect (sports hall)
- 07901597129 [zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@whymovepilates.co.uk) [www.whymovepilates.co.uk](http://www.whymovepilates.co.uk)



## Hinton & Sturminster Cricket Club

[facebook.com/StintonCC/](https://facebook.com/StintonCC/)  
Shillingstone Cricket Club Youth and Womens teams.  
[shillingstone.play-cricket.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@acnorthdorset.org.uk)



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

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



## 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](mailto:peteroper@live.co.uk) [petesfunctionalfitnessclub.co.uk](http://petesfunctionalfitnessclub.co.uk)



## The Boxing Club at Butts Pond

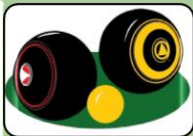
- Many age groups.
- The club has graduated a current world champion.
- [sturabc.co.uk](http://sturabc.co.uk)



## 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](http://unityma.co.uk)



## Nearest Bowls clubs: Blandford - [blandfordbowlingclub.com](http://blandfordbowlingclub.com)

- Gillingham - [bowlsdorset.org.uk/dorset/8/gillingham](http://bowlsdorset.org.uk/dorset/8/gillingham)
- Shaftesbury - [shaftesburybowlingclub.co.uk](http://shaftesburybowlingclub.co.uk)
- Sherborne - [sherbornebowling.club](http://sherbornebowling.club)

## 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](mailto:bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk), 01747 856756

### Parkinsons Cafè

- 1st Monday 10:30-12:30
- Christian Fellowship Hall- The Row
- [bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk](mailto:bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk)

### Bereavement Peer Support

- Last Wednesdays 10-11:30am
- Stour Connect
- [bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk](mailto:bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk)

### Caring for Carers

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

## WHAT'S ON NEARBY

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



# SERO'S Christmas Wreath Making

Friday 5th December 2025

Village hall, Hazelbury Bryan

### Morning session

10.00-1.15 Arrive, welcome coffee and shortbread, followed by a demonstration and wreath making. Followed by lunch with a choice of vegetable soups and rolls with a glass of bubbly

### Afternoon session

12.45- 4 pm Lunch of a choice of vegetable soups and rolls with a glass of bubbly. Demonstration and wreath making

Places will be limited to 15 per session

Everything needed to create a beautiful festive decoration included

**£40 per session**

email [serocharity@gmail.com](mailto:serocharity@gmail.com) for booking and further information

**Or ring Julie on 01258 861218 or 07749 486733**

**Or Kate on 01258 863695 or 07725 245066**

**(SERO – raising funds for local causes and Julia's House Children's Hospice.)**

## The Countryside Regeneration Trust at Bere Marsh Farm Shillingstone

### Get in the festive spirit at our Farmers' Market

Come along between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 7th December and choose from a selection of local products:

- Hannah's Bakery - sourdough loaves
- Potheary Gin - organic, handcrafted, artisan gin
- Purbeck Ice Cream - award winning Dorset Ice Cream
- The Secret Garden - traditional Italian cheeses
- Marilyn Peddle - prints and cards
- Mikey's Dog Rescue Dog Treats - homemade dog treats
- The CRT - 2026 wall calendars and Gift Friendship

The Buzz Café will be open selling mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and delicious cakes made by our CRT volunteers.

We look forward to welcoming you.



## Footprint tunnels for Hazel dormice in Dorset this Christmas: CRT launches festive appeal to protect one of Britain's most vulnerable mammals.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people to give something truly meaningful this Christmas.

"Every £5 donation can buy a tunnel to help us detect dormice on our farms, while larger gifts will contribute to the creation of a shelter belt that benefits dormice and many other species, including the farm's livestock. Healthy hedgerows and connected woodlands provide food, shelter and navigation routes for birds, bats and hedgehogs too."

How can you help? Donations can be made online at:  
[www.thecrt.co.uk/dormice-appeal](http://www.thecrt.co.uk/dormice-appeal)





# *Bere Marsh Farm* **Farmers' Market** **CHRISTMAS EDITION**

**Sunday 7th December | 11am-3pm**

Shop from a selection of tasty local produce and get in the festive spirit.

Enjoy mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and more at the Buzz Café.

Bere Marsh Farm  
Shillingstone, DT11 0QY

 **CRT** *Events*  
[www.theCRT.co.uk/events](http://www.theCRT.co.uk/events)

# NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

St Mary's Sturminster ...



| <b>SERVICES AT:</b>                 | <b>St Mary's</b>                                            | <b>St Thomas'</b>           | <b>St Peter's</b>                 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b><u>Dec 2025</u></b>              |                                                             |                             |                                   |
| Wednesday<br><b>3 December</b>      | 10am Holy Communion                                         |                             |                                   |
| 1st Sunday<br><b>7 December</b>     | 11am Holy Communion                                         |                             | 9.30am Holy Communion             |
| Wednesday<br><b>10 December</b>     | 10am Holy Communion                                         |                             |                                   |
| 2nd Sunday<br><b>14 December</b>    | 9.30am Morning Prayer<br>6pm Evensong                       | 11am Holy Communion         | 9.30am Morning Prayer             |
| Wednesday<br><b>17 December</b>     | 10am Holy Communion                                         |                             |                                   |
| Friday<br><b>19 December</b>        |                                                             |                             | 6pm Carol and Christingle Service |
| 3rd Sunday<br><b>21 December</b>    | 11am Holy Communion<br>4pm Carol Service                    | 6pm Carol Service           | 9.30am Morning Prayer             |
| <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>24 December | 4pm Crib Service<br>11.15 Christmas Midnight Holy Communion | 9pm First Mass of Christmas |                                   |
| <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b><br>25 December | 11am Christmas Holy Communion                               |                             | 9.30am Christmas Holy Communion   |

| <b>SERVICES AT:</b>               | <b>St Mary's</b>                                                                             | <b>St Thomas'</b>                  | <b>St Peter's</b>               |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>4th Sunday<br/>28 December</b> | <b>11am</b> Holy Communion                                                                   |                                    | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>31 December</b>  | <b>10am</b> Holy Communion                                                                   |                                    |                                 |
| <b>January 2026</b>               |                                                                                              |                                    |                                 |
| <b>1st Sunday<br/>4 January</b>   | <b>11am</b> Holy Communion<br><b>3.30pm Christingle<br/>Service</b>                          |                                    | <b>9.30am</b> Holy<br>Communion |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>7 January</b>    | <b>10am</b> Holy Communion                                                                   |                                    |                                 |
| <b>2nd Sunday<br/>11 January</b>  | <b>10.30am Joint<br/>Covenant Service at<br/>Methodist Church</b><br><br><b>6pm</b> Evensong | <b>11am</b> Holy<br>Communion      | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>14 January</b>   | <b>10am</b> Holy Communion                                                                   |                                    |                                 |
| <b>3rd Sunday<br/>18 January</b>  | <b>11am</b> Holy Communion                                                                   | <b>4pm</b> Evensong                | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>21 January</b>   | <b>10am</b> Holy Communion                                                                   |                                    |                                 |
| <b>4th Sunday<br/>25 January</b>  | <b>11am</b> Holy Communion<br><b>6pm</b> Evensong                                            | <b>11am</b> Morning<br>Service BCP | <b>9.30am</b> Holy<br>Communion |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>28 January</b>   | <b>10am</b> 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 5th Dec<br>• Friday 2nd Jan<br>• Friday 6th Feb |
|                                                                                    |       |                                                          |

For any queries please contact Revd. Mary Gubbins on 07440680387,  
or email [revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com](mailto: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).



# A FEAST of CAROLS

with  
**STURMINSTER  
CHORAL SOCIETY**

Annemarie Lees  
Caroline D'Cruz

**SATURDAY  
6th DECEMBER  
7.30pm**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH  
Sturminster Newton**

**TICKETS £10 to include  
REFRESHMENTS**  
on the door or from 01258 820755  
[sturminsterchoralsociety.co.uk](http://sturminsterchoralsociety.co.uk)

**Church News from Vale Methodist Church** (based at Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag)

Dec 20th 4pm Carols by Candlelight at Kings Stag Methodist Church

Dec 21st 10.30am. Carols with Mr Chris Smith

Dec 25th 10am. United Methodist (Short Service) at Marnhull Methodist Church with Vale Methodist Church. Led by Rev Margaret Oxenham

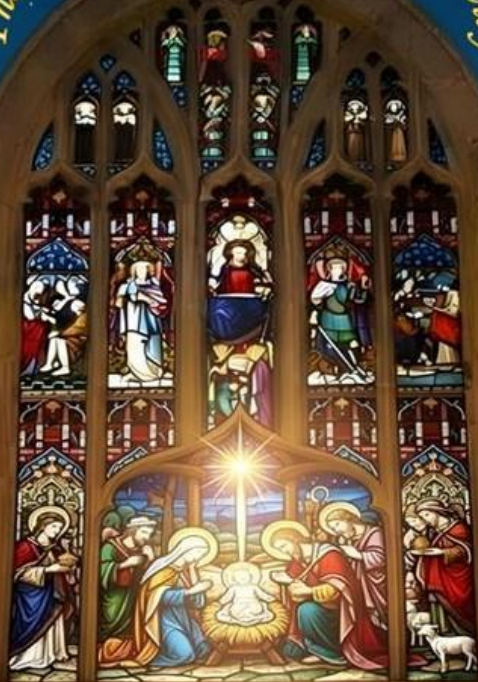
During Dec- February 2026. All services at Sturminster Newton Methodist Church are at 10:30am, Services at Kings Stag Methodist Church 6pm on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday in the month

A Christmas Tree and lights will be placed outside Sturminster Newton Methodist Church from Nov 29th. The usual displays will be in the windows of Kings Stag's Methodist Church throughout the Christmas Season.

St Mary's Church & SNAOS present:

# *The Stained-Glass Nativity*

A play by  
Hilda P. K.  
Chamberlain



On SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025

To raise funds for the preservation of St. Mary's Stained-Glass Windows

Shows run throughout the day on 13/12/25  
between 13:00 and 19:45

Tickets available from:

[www.StainedGlassWindowNativity.co.uk](http://www.StainedGlassWindowNativity.co.uk)

**EARLY BIRD OFFER – only £5**

**BOOK BEFORE 23<sup>rd</sup> November**



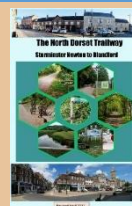
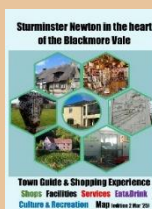
## **Sturminster Christian Fellowship**

Thursday 18th December: Sturminster Christian Fellowship Carols by Candlelight service at 7pm. This will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day service at Sturminster Christian Fellowship at 10.30am.

# EDITORIAL

New editions of the Town Guide and Trailway Guide are on-line, and paper copies are available in The Exchange, Emporium, 1855, Library etc. Multiple copies for accommodation providers are available from The Learning Centre.



The Around Guide is focussing more on Stur than in the past. It has a wide paper circulation. Contact [info@aroundguides.co.uk](mailto:info@aroundguides.co.uk) or 01202 882277 to offer copy & community events directly or discuss advertising.

The full edition of the newsletter is on line (at [snclc.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com) See our webpage ([snclc.org.uk](http://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:**

**Jan 15<sup>th</sup> for Feb/Mar**

**Mar 15<sup>th</sup> for Apr/May**

## CONTACT

[whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com](mailto:whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com)

[snclc.org.uk/whatshappeninginstur.html](http://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.