

What's Happening in Stur Bi-Monthly: Feb/Mar 2026



The Mill (Envisaged)

**The Swan Inn
Re-opening
In February
See business pages**



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



Allotments

The Town Council is currently exploring the possibility of extending the Filbridge Rise allotment site to help meet the needs of our growing town. We are looking at the Coles Close green space, which is currently underused and largely a monoculture, and considering how it could be better utilised. Our vision is to create a mixed-use space, combining new allotment plots with areas of wildflowers and fruit trees to increase biodiversity and enhance the local environment.

Funding for this project would come from monies agreed from new developments in the town, not from Council funds. We are also very fortunate to be working alongside the Allotments Association on this project. They already do an amazing job, and their enthusiasm and commitment are truly contagious. Further details will be shared on our website and Facebook page in due course.

Youth Club

Unit 2 Youth Club continues to go from strength to strength, with attendance increasing each week. Alongside the café area, there is a well-used games room featuring table tennis, pool and table football, as well as video games and board games. There is also a quiet room available for relaxing and crafting.

The sessions are run by the Youth Connect Southwest team, all qualified youth leaders who work across many local towns, providing a safe and supervised place for young people to spend time with friends, have fun and try something different. Years 7 and 8 meet on Fridays from 4–6pm, and Years 9 onwards meet on Wednesdays from 7–9pm. There is no need to prebook – just turn up.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Hall & Woodhouse for their generous Community Chest Grant of £1,500. This funding will be used to purchase gaming chairs and bean bags, as requested by the young people themselves, as well as a dishwasher and washing machine. These appliances will support a project focused on developing important life skills. Thanks also go to my colleague Jasmine, for securing this and other funding for the club.



Working with the Volunteer Centre

Sturminster Newton is incredibly fortunate to have a wide range of voluntary organisations, from small local groups to larger, well-established charities. The Town Council has begun working with the Volunteer Centre to explore how we can better support these groups.

Although we cannot provide significant financial support, we would like to know if we can assist through training, networking, or better collaboration. The Volunteer Centre will be helping us explore how better communication and collaboration can support voluntary organisations across the town.

Increasing Community Engagement

Over the past few years, we have been working to strengthen our online presence and reach out better to the community, taking professional advice on how best to share relevant and useful information with those who need it. Alongside funding the printing of this publication, we have also increased the amount of information shared online.

However, we want to do more. I am pleased to say that Portia, another member of our office team, has agreed to take on an additional role focused on community engagement. She will be working closely with Town Councillors to reach out to residents, gather feedback and help ensure that the work of the Town Council is shaped by the needs and views of our community.

Council Meetings

Members of the public are always welcome to attend Town Council meetings, which take place at **7.15pm in the Council Chamber, Old Market Hill.**

February

- 4th – Full Council
- 18th – Planning & Environment Committee

March

- 4th – Town Council
- 18th – Planning & Environment Committee
- 25th – Amenities Committee



Contact the Town Council

01258 475136

reception@sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk



News from Dorset County Council – Cllr Carole Jones

Firstly, may I start with wishing everyone a Happy and most importantly, a Healthy New Year.

It's been a cold start, and for those struggling to keep up with energy bills, firstly, the Vale Family Hub is happy to offer a warm space where you can drop in, spend a few hours in the warm – there is a great café there, the food is good and affordable too, and plenty of people to chat to! There is also a Citizen's Advisor available each week (appointments needed) if you are struggling to keep on top of your bills and have accumulated any debt or want to check you are receiving everything you are entitled to receive – don't be afraid to reach out.

The government's settlement to Dorset Council for the next financial year and the two years beyond brought no surprises (or good news!), and work has been underway over the Christmas period to ensure the Council has a balanced budget. It is disappointing that our current administration has not managed to make any savings in the last year, which they had planned for. Therefore, I am afraid you will most likely see an increase of 4.99%- 5%. This still must go to the cabinet and then to the full council. I am afraid that being on the opposition is a hard place to be!

I appreciate that Dorset remains in the top areas for council tax levels, but we continue to be poorly served by this, and indeed by all governments, who appear to take no notice of our demographics and the area's rurality.

From May this year, phase 1 of the new Renters Rights Act will take effect, removing Section 21 No-Fault Evictions, and all tenancies will be assured periodic tenancies. Possession grounds should be reformed to be fair to both parties. Bidding wars will be banned, and it will be illegal to discriminate against renters with children or those receiving benefits. It will require the landlord to consider a pet, and there should be only one rent increase per annum. No rent should be payable in advance. All this information is

available online, but I can send you a comprehensive document if you would like more details.

If you are at risk of homelessness, you must call Dorset Council straight away. You will receive help - check out:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/homeless-help>

Finally – I know so many people are hoping and waiting on news on Aldi coming to Stur. The results of their consultation were very positive, with 95% in favour, and a planning application is expected to be submitted at any time now. It is hoped this will be determined in Spring/Summer, with building commencing in the Autumn. It would be great if it were to open before the end of this year – but it is more likely to be very early 2027.

Carole Jones 07968 348481 / cllrcarole.jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk / carole4stur@gmail.com

News of The Vale Family Hub (formally Vale Pantry)

Firstly, a HUGE Thank You to everyone who has supported us over the past year, whether you have donated food, goods, or money, or simply spent money in our Café – we couldn't do it without you! We have been so pleased with the Hub becoming a great community space that welcomes everyone, 6 days a week.

We were incredibly sad to say goodbye to our amazing manager, Kim, in December. She has been a force of nature with plenty of good humor, and we will miss her, but you will still see the same friendly faces, and we have a terrific new manager starting in February. Tracy Foster is our Deputy Manager and Front-of-House Manager.

We are now scaling back membership to our affordable food program in our social supermarket to Sturminster Newton and the surrounding villages, (Marnhull, Hinton, Child Okeford, Okeford Fitzpaine, Hazelbury Bryan, and hamlets in between). We have always been 'people', not 'postcodes', wanting to help as many people as possible who are in greatest need, but the rising cost of food means we need to scale back to reduce the significant expenditure we incur (IRO £150K last year). We must remain sustainable. There is no doubt that we are the food project of choice due to the

restrictions through the food bank model. Our Family Hub though remains open to all.

Our program of drop-in's events and activities is growing, and if you are on social media you can get the up-to-date information on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheValePantry/>

We are working up our website <https://valefamilyhub.co.uk/> to show a more comprehensive planner of what's on.

If you are a parent or carer of small children, our soft play area is totally free, we have Toddler Group running on Wednesday mornings and we are due to launch a further session 'Read & Rhyme', we are currently running Baby Massage groups (honestly, the room twinkles with fairy lights – it's just gorgeous!). MIND is running 'Connected Mind', a program of weekly sessions for youngsters aged 11 – 13 with anxiety. The Incredible Years program is evidence-based, which helps to strengthen parenting skills, build healthy relationships with your child and reduce inappropriate behaviors.

Our Youth Hub is on a Tuesday evening from 6 – 9 pm and open to those aged 7 and upwards - food is always served!! Our Youth Hub evening runs alongside further provision on Wednesday 7 – 9 pm, for those in years 9 upwards, and Friday afternoon/ evenings 4 – 6m for years 7 & 8 at Unit 2 on the Richmar area of Butts Pond, commissioned by the Town Council.

Access to Wellbeing is in our Hub every Tuesday, -

We would LOVE some new volunteers to help in our kitchen and café area, if you have a few hours to spare and want to be part of a great team – please come in and see us, or give us a call on 01258 920040.

People often wonder about some of the issues we help with, and I thought this would be a great testimonial to finish on:

"The Vale Family Hub put me back on my feet from a potential suicide due to domestic abuse. They helped make my life easier and they continue to support me with the ongoing challenges I face. They have:

- Provided me with food at an affordable cost
- Provided me with a cooker
- Provided me with emotional support
- Helped me with fuel to get to court

- Helped me with appointments with the Citizens Advice Service
- Helped me back into employment with a local company
- Provided me with a Mckenzie friend at a formal hearing
- Ongoing cups of tea when it gets hard

Thank you to everyone who supports, and all those who help run the Hub.
 You saved my life and secured a future for me and my children.
 This is why we do what we do - we are here for everyone.

£12,000 cheque to Julia's House Children's Hospice

Local charity SERO was proud to present a £12000 cheque to Community Fundraiser Charlie from Julia's House Children's Hospice at their recent Christmas Wreath Making day, where 30 beautiful creations were put together. Guests were aided by homemade shortbread, cake, soup and of course a glass of Prosecco to aid their crafting skills



Now in its 22nd year SERO is often asked the meaning of their title. It is a Latin word and one of its meanings is to 'link up'. With just a small Committee of ten ladies, this is just what they try to do—hosting and running events with a view to raising funds for Julia's House and other local charities. 2025 has been another busy year. Regular fundraising has included a bric-a-brac stall at Child Okeford Hey Day and refreshments at the village Art Trail, as well as during the Sturminster Cheese Festival weekend. Other events were an entertaining Race Night and a VE Quiz evening earlier in the year. 2026 promises to be another bumper year. As well as the usual dates, SERO is planning an antique-themed tea party and valuations opportunity at the Tithe Barn, Hinton St Mary, on 11th March. Antiques expert Tim Wonnacott, BBC Bargain Hunt and Antiques Roadshow expert will be on hand to talk about his favourite pieces and to give advice and valuations. Details will be available by emailing serocharity@gmail.com.

The Exchange

Happy New Year from The Exchange Team, we hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the holidays as much as we have. 2026 is already shaping itself into a busy year for us!



We have plenty to look forward to and we would love for you to join us.

This year's fundraising goal is to raise £35,000 to go towards new Stall seats in the Stour Hall. After 18 years of bums on seats our chairs are looking tired. So, if you're a regular theatre goer, or someone who joins us for one of our many groups, get stuck in and Pull Up a Seat!

As you've come to expect, to achieve our goal we've come up with all kinds of fun ideas. Starting with our Monthly Prize draw (We know how much you love a raffle), expect lots of great prizes, from bottles of Bubbly to Cinema Tickets, check each month to see what's up for grabs. Each draw will take place on the last Friday of each month.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year,

The Exchange Team

The Swan re-opening

At the time of publishing the exact re-opening date is not confirmed but new owner – John Romans – is confident it will be in February.

See much more on the Business pages.

Volunteering in Stur

We will be updating to Town's "Volunteer" brochure early in the new year. **Last copy date 31st January.**

Please confirm your current entry or send us details:

- if you are an organisation that was not in the first edition
- If your organisations need 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 then click the 'What's Happening in Stur' panel.

Please send confirmation/ contributions / updates to whathappeninginstur@btconnect.com or call on the editor in The Learning Centre (Weds & Mon am).

The Mill & Museum Opening Times 2026

The Mill: Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 11am to 5pm from 28th March to 27th September.

The Museum: 2nd Feb to 4th April – Monday, Friday & Saturday 10-12:30.

April to December – Mondays and Fridays 10am-4pm (except Good Friday and Easter Monday). Thursdays 10am-1pm. Saturdays 10-12:30.

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.

Shillingstone Station

60 years after it was officially 'closed', Shillingstone Station will be letting off steam on the 7th and 8th of March, with both a steam loco and steam traction engine in action.



On the 6th of March 1966, the railway line running through Sturminster Newton, Shillingstone and onwards was closed. The track was quickly lifted, and Stur's station buildings and platforms were soon demolished. But even though the signal box and some other buildings at

Shillingstone disappeared, the station itself survived, while new owners Dorset County Council decided what to do with it.

The buildings were rented out for a few years, but by the late 1990s they were semi-derelict. Thieves had stripped lead from the roof, damaged the roof, and Dorset County Council wanted shot of it.

A group of locals and enthusiasts formed themselves into a trust and applied for a 99-year lease which was finally awarded in 2005.

The years since have been very busy - much rebuilding, reviving, diverting, reconstructing, and re-energising. It's now 60 years since Shillingstone station 'closed', but it's very much open for business, and the anniversary weekend will be a celebration of survival against the odds.

A newly refurbished steam loco will be strutting its stuff along the new track extension on the Saturday. On Sunday it will be steaming, but in respect for the neighbours, will remain within the



station. On both days it's hoped a steam traction engine will be on site, and there will be lots to see, including guided tours of the station and signal box.

The weekend is the brainchild of Project 62 (P62), the group dedicated to restoring two 'Yankee Tank' steam locos which has been based at North Dorset Railway's Shillingstone Station for the last 10 years. One is now almost fully restored but the other is just starting a long schedule of restoration. Volunteers from P62 and NDR are available to discuss current projects and future plans with visitors.

The station will be open between 10:00 am and 4:00pm on both days. There are some accessible parking spaces at the station, but the main car park is just off the A357 on the Child Okeford Road. Entry to the station is free, but donations are always welcome!

WHAT'S ON IN STUR IN FEB/MAR



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

- 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
- 11th-14th February: **SNADS Mother Goose.** 7:30pm. 'Relaxed' performance on 11th. additional matinee on 14th at 2:30pm.
- Thursday 19th February 10:30am. Childrens theatre (5+) **The Misadventures of Thor.**
- Friday March 13th 7:30pm. **An Audience with Edward Fox.**

Film

- Some Thursdays 7pm £6, £7 from March
- Thursday 19th February **The Roses.** Starring Olivia Coleman and Benedict Cumberbatch.
- Thursday 26th March **The Choral.** Writer: Alan Bennett Director: Nicholas Hytner Starring Ralph Fiennes, Mark Addy and Taylor Uttley.



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 24th January 8pm. **Dos Amigos**
- Saturday 21st February 7:30. **Bootleg Shadows**
- Sunday 22nd February 3pm. **Tea with William Barnes.** Ridgeway Band and Singers. Cream Tea. Pop-up market 11am-3pm.
- Saturday 28th February 7:30pm. **Coldplace.** Coldplay Tribute.
- Saturday 7th March 7:30pm. **Alice The Sounds of Smokie.**
- Wednesday 11 March 11am. **BSO Tea Time Trio Cake Concert.**
- Friday 20th March 7:30pm. **Seriously Collins.** Tribute to Phil Collins and Genesis.
- Saturday 21st March 10:45am. **Sturminster Newton Orchestra Spring Concert**
- Saturday 21st March 7:30pm. **CODA West End Musical Concert.**

And also in The
Exchange....

Monday 9 Feb
10am-1pm
**Dorset Button
Making**

Food & Drink
Makers Market
11-3 Sun 22 Feb

Wedding Fair
31st January

SNADS
Mother Goose
11th-14th Feb

Monthly
Prize Draw
Details: see Exchange
news page

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 pages

SNADS Pantomime

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

Artsreach

- Sunday 15th February 7:30. Ibberton Village Hall. Luke Wright - Later Life Letter. Details Village events pages.

Heritage Trust

- Wednesday 18th February. The Exchange.
- AGM 7pm. 7:30pm Talk by author of "Downstream Dorset"
- Details on Community Pages.

u3a

- Thursday 19th February 2:30pm. The Exchange.
- "Look into my eyes" Alan Jones.
- Details on community pages.

Garden Club

- Wednesday, 25th February, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. A Talk on Eco Friendly Growing & Gardening for Biodiversity by Blooming Wild Plant Nursery. All Welcome. Raffle and Seasonal Competitions. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

SERO: Tim
Medhurst
Antiques Expert

- Wednesday 11th March 2:30pm. The Tithe Barn, Hinton St Mary. Details on community pages.

Artsreach

- Thursday 12th March 7:30. Ibberton Village Hall. Three Cane Whale. Details on Village events pages.

Heritage Trust &
Family History

- Wednesday 18th March. 7:30pm. The Exchange. Anne Brown. The Tolpuddle Martyrs & Shire Hall.
- Details on community Pages.

Sturminster
Orchestra
Concert

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

Artificial
Intelligence

- Next Steps
 - Wednesdays (18th/25th) in February 2pm
- Details on Community Pages

Garden Club

- **Wednesday, 25th March**, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. **Spring Show.** Visitors welcome. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

STURBIZ – NEWS OF BUSINESSES & SERVICES

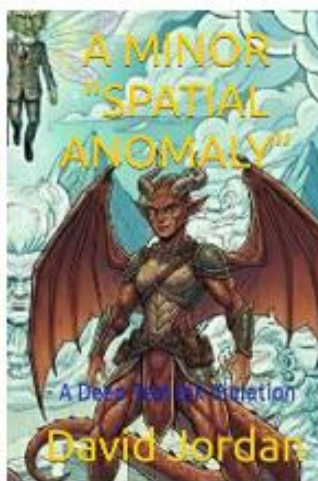


SturBiz Breakfasts

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 The Exchange Café 8-9am. Even months first Thursday at Newstone House 8-9am.

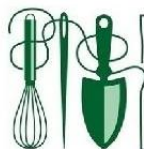
FEATURED BUSINESSES

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



David Jordan, Sturminster Resident and volunteer at the learning centre in The Exchange, currently running Artificial Intelligence courses, has written a series of three books with the aid of generative Artificial Intelligence.

See samples in The Learning Centre and buy from Amazon



**COUNTRY
MARKETS**
COOK • CRAFT • GROW

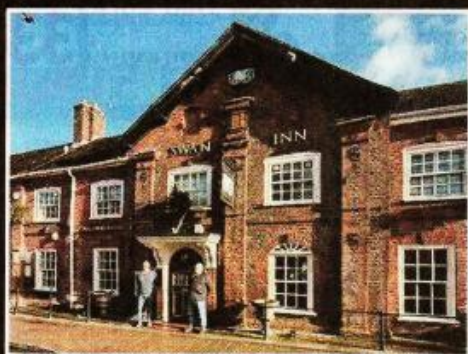
**Sturminster Newton
Country Market**

www.country-markets.co.uk

**Every Tuesday Morning:
The Exchange Atrium**



OPENING SOON



The Swan Inn

Sturminster Newton

A 300-year-old coaching inn at the heart of the town will be reopened in February, thanks to local businessman John Romans and seasoned landlord Barrie Jones. The inn will offer great food starting with breakfast from 8.30am, followed by tea and cakes, lunches and dinners.



Market Place, Sturminster Newton DT10 1AR

contact@swaninnstur.com

The Swan was built soon after a 1729 fire destroyed much of the town centre, it adjoined two more pubs – The Crown closed 1880 and The Carpenters Arms closed in the 1930s. The landlords for over two centuries were the Rivers family.

Thomas Hardy attended functions, concerts and played fiddle himself in the assembly room above the pub.

Hall & Woodhouse bought the freehold in 1949.

The Swan Inn closed in 2025, it is the largest building in the town centre and was in danger of being snapped up by developers and probably turned into flats, which would have been a huge loss to the town centre and not an exaggeration to say it would have ripped its heart out.



Fortunately, John Romans has stepped in to buy and re-open the Swan as a pub and with its 5 bedrooms.

John will be known to most Stur residents as the owner of John Romans Park Homes and having already stepped in to buy the old bank buildings, one of which he signed over to Stur Action as The Emporium and two others leased to Stur Action as 1855 and The (furniture) Marketplace.

The Swan will be managed by Barrie Jones who has successfully run The Fiddleford for the last seven years. It will be a free house. Pool tables and dartboards make way for dining space in the refurbishment.

Thank you, John! We all look forward to the opening.

WHAT'S ON NEARBY

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



LUKE WRIGHT

'Later Life Letter'

Sunday 15 February 2026

7.30 pm



Acclaimed poet Luke Wright shares his adoption story – of the life he leads, and the one he might have done. What's it like to stumble across your birth mother on Facebook?

How do you honour the parents who have raised you while satisfying a curiosity about where you came from? Does marrying a social worker say something about you? Wright navigates his audience through a warm and honest hour of poems and stand-up with the wit, pathos, and silliness that has made him one of England's most popular live poets. Expect raucous laughter, tear-stained cheeks, and a smattering of drum n bass. A regular support act for John Cooper Clarke, Luke often appears on Radio 4, and has won a Fringe First for writing, and a Stage Award for performance.

"Witty observation and rollicking acuity" **** The Guardian

Doors open 6.45pm: bar, light refreshments & raffle (cash / card).

Standard Ticket £12.50

U16 £6

Telephone booking: Tel 07771 561099 or email ibbertonvillagehall@gmail.com

Thank you for booking for the Artsreach Event below
BACS payments for tickets please to
Mrs Mary Annette Newman 40-16-63 91128841
Ref: Luke/your surname

Or post a cheque to Woolland View, Ibberton, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0EJ
Pre-evening meals @The Ibberton' phone [01258 817956](tel:01258817956)



THREE CANE WHALE 'Hibernacula'



Thursday 12th March 2026

7pm for 7.30 pm

Bar, light refreshments, raffle.

Per-show meals book at The Ibberton

<https://www.theibberton.com/> Phone 01258 817956

Adult £12.50, Under 18 £6, Family £35

Three Cane Whale is a multi-instrumental acoustic chamber-folk trio based in Bristol. Intricate, uplifting and elegiac in equal measure, their music encompasses both a cinematic sweep and an intimate delicacy, and is rooted in landscape, with many pieces inspired by places in Dorset and Somerset. Expect a stage strewn with upwards of a dozen instruments, some familiar, such as mandolin, harmonium, and acoustic guitar; and some beguilingly unusual, including the eerie bowed psaltery, the baroque-esque Eb trumpet, and the delicate Finnish kantele - striking multiple instrumental combinations create a soundworld unlike any other. For this tour, Three Cane Whale will be performing tunes from their sixth album, *Hibernacula*, as well as favourites from their back catalogue. "a glorious adventure into new folk" Cerys Matthews, BBC Radio 6

Tickets ibbertonvillagehall@gmail.com Artsreach <https://artsreach.co.uk/whats-on>

Pre-evening meals @'The Ibberton' phone [01258 817956](tel:01258817956)

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

The Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT), which owns Bere Marsh Farm near Shillingstone, is hosting two free online talks, inspired by the charity's hands-on conservation work across its nature-friendly farms.

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.

Farming with ecology with regenerative farmer Matt Elphick from Brays Farm in Nutfield, Surrey, 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.



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. Booking is essential to receive the link. Donations are welcomed to support the work of the Countryside Regeneration Trust.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS
& EVENTS



Sturminster Newton Orchestra

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

Spring Concert

at

“The Exchange”

on Saturday Morning

21st March at 10.45

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

**making
music**

www.sturminsternewtonorchestra.com



SturTech—The Community Learning Centre.

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

snclc@btconnect.com

snclc.org.uk 01258 475272



A.I. Seminars: Very popular Introductory and Next Steps courses are continuing in the New Year.

Dates currently planned are Introduction 21 Jan; Next Steps 28 Jan, 11 Feb, 18 Feb, 25 Feb. All at 2pm in The Lydden room, The Exchange.

Please book using the contact points above or call in when open.

New/ Replacement Computer/Phone? We can help you set it up and learn to use it. You will need to know your Email password to set up Email. If you have an old device its replacing please bring both along with power supplies. To copy everything from your old device you will need your account (Microsoft/Google or Apple) password.

Power Banks: Never run out of power for your phone or similar device. The Learning Centre has power banks that charge themselves on solar power as well as by cable. Torch and compass also built in for the more adventurous. £7.



SCAMS: Don't forget you can dial 159 to be sure to be safely connected to your bank if you think you are being or have been scammed. Nearly all telephone and mobile networks provide this service. You can also help reduce SPAM/Scams: Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk. Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 - it's free. (7726 spells SPAM if keys have letters).

Microsoft 365: Microsoft have increased their annual subscription (for Microsoft Office, Cloud Storage and Advanced A.I. services) to £105. There are free to use cloud versions of Office apps at Microsoft365.com

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

SturTech is a charity—no charges, donations appreciated.





Sturminster (over 50's) Badminton Club

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

We have a thriving and fun badminton club playing at Sturfit at 7.30 am on Mondays and Thursdays. That might seem a little early for some, but it is a great way to start those days. We have space for maybe another 3 or 4 players. We are looking for people (aged 50 plus) who have some racquet experience. We do not have any coaching facilities so beginners probably wouldn't suit. We have an annual barbecue and Christmas dinner. We pride ourselves on being friendly and having fun — and, with varying skills, we all love our badminton. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please call Candy on 07503 198960 or Jeremy on 07500 145530.



Our Next Meeting:

Thursday 19th February at 2.30pm

In the Exchange

Alan Jones – “Look into My Eyes”



Mention the word hypnotism and people fear being turned into chickens. Hypnotists are expected to swing watches and stare deep into the eyes of their victims, bending their mind to whatever they demand. But the history of hypnosis dates back to the dawn of civilisation. The aborigines called it “dreamtime” and other cultures had their own names to explain the strange experience. Science has uncovered a better understanding of hypnotism and how blending it with special psychological techniques can create a therapeutic approach capable of achieving rapid changes for a wide variety of personal problems. Find out more about the history and mystery of hypnosis and the benefits of Hypnotherapy. You won't have to look into my eyes, and nobody will cluck like a chicken!

Entry

Free for members

£2 for visitors

Refreshments afterwards!

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

Café Connect

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

"Twice But Nice" Charity Shop.

Open Monday to Friday 9.00 – 1.30

Mens Shed Stour

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

Life is for living

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

Lunch Clubs

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

Meals on Wheels

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

Bereavement Group

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

Free Energy Advice from Citizens Advice

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

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

Sturminster Newton Community Cars

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

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

Sturminster Newton Library

"We have lots going on in the library. This year is National Year of Reading and there will be things happening all year round. We have a 'graffiti wall' and we would love you to come in and add what your reading intentions are for this year. We have adult colouring every Tuesday afternoon, and adult craft on the last Tuesday of the month. We also have Cuppa and Company every Friday morning. Please join us for a chat and take home a book! We also run lots of events for children. We have Code Club alternate Saturday mornings and Creation Station on the other alternate Saturdays, Lego club every Thursday after school. We also run Craft sessions every school holiday. Please come and see us for exact dates. And don't forget to sign up for Extended Access, for those days when you desperately need a book, but the staff are off playing elsewhere."



Blackmore Vale Lions Club
"We Serve"
The Whole of the Blackmore Vale

Blackmore Vale Half Marathon Sunday 1 Feb

It's February so the must do event is the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon and Fun Run. Blackmore Vale Lions Club is organizing this annual event on Sunday 1st Feb at 11.00 at Bishop's Caundle Recreation Ground with Race HQ in the village hall DT9 5NG (opposite sides of the A3030).



The route will be the usual route from Bishop's Caundle to Holwell then via Glanvilles Wootton, Pulham, King's Stag and Holwell again and back to the Recreation Ground. The fun run (in dots on the map) branches off this route just after 3 miles and takes a shorter return to the recreation ground and is just over 5 miles (8 km). The routes are signed well in advance.

Please show your usual patience, tolerance and courtesy to the runners and race staff. If driving please give runners and staff a wide berth and please keep animals under control, restricting planned movement until the race is over at about 15.00.

If you think there is an issue, please speak to one of the race staff or come to race HQ. If you want to help, sponsor or support details are on the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon web site [www. https://bvlhm.yolasite.com/](https://bvlhm.yolasite.com/) We would love you to do any or all of these but do dress appropriately.



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

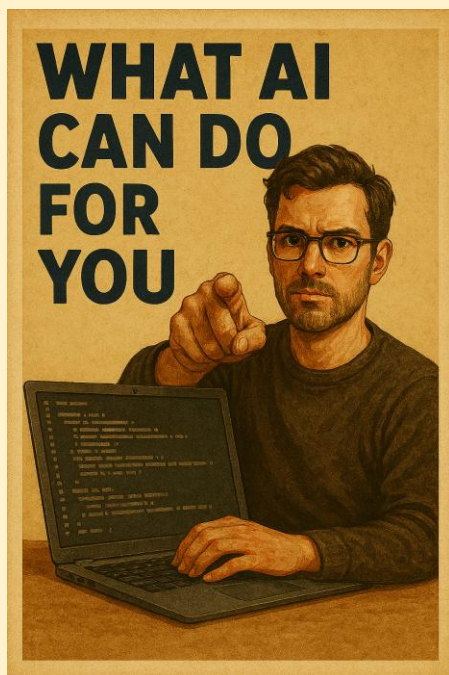
(MINIMUM TWO UNDER 18S)

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 Next Steps are:

Wednesdays Feb 18th & 25th for 'Next Steps'. Just a few places left.

2:00 to 3:30pm in the Lydden Room/The Exchange. No fee, small donation appreciated. Please book by emailing 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/>



Youth Club



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

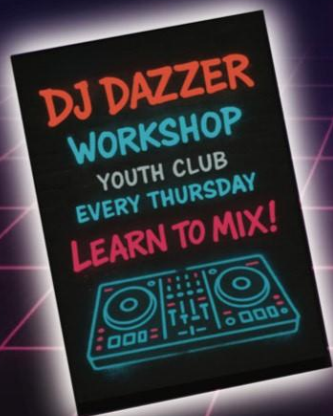
Tuesday - Yr 4/5/6 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Thursday - Yr 7+ 6.00pm - 9.00pm

It's the place to be!!!

ENTRY £1

TUCK SHOP



SERO*

Invites you to an afternoon with



Timothy Medhurst

renowned antiques expert and TV personality, who will be sharing his journey, passions and views on antiques

Wednesday 11th March

2.30 pm (doors open at 2 pm)

The Tithe Barn, Hinton St Mary Estate,

Sturminster Newton DT10 1NA

Tickets £17.50

to include full afternoon tea

Raffle

To purchase tickets email: serocharity@gmail.com

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.)



SERO Donated £12,000 to Julias House in December – see news pages.

Football Club Fixtures

07/02/26 15:00	Bitton First		VS		Sturminster Newton United First
14/02/26 15:00	Sturminster Newton United First		VS		Calne Town First
17/02/26 19:30	Sturminster Newton United First		VS		Cheddar First
21/02/26 15:00	Avonmouth First		VS		Sturminster Newton United First
28/02/26 15:00	Sturminster Newton United First		VS		Keynsham Town 1st Team
07/03/26 15:00	Almondsbury First		VS		Sturminster Newton United First
14/03/26 15:00	Sturminster Newton United First		VS		Cadbury Heath First
21/03/26 15:00	Sturminster Newton United First		VS		Devizes Town First
28/03/26 15:00	Shirehampton First		VS		Sturminster Newton United First
03/04/26 15:00	Warminster Town First Team		VS		Sturminster Newton United First
06/04/26 15:00	Sturminster Newton United First		VS		AEK Boco First
11/04/26 15:00	Radstock Town First		VS		Sturminster Newton United First
18/04/26 15:00	Bristol Telephones First		VS		Sturminster Newton United First

Spectator Stand, Refreshments and Bar available.
Coach seats available to some away games.

STURMINSTER GIRLGUIDING

Our Guides (10–14-year-olds) have chosen to work on different Interest badges in their Patrols this term. We have groups doing photography, vlogging, confectionary, hobbies, food science etc. Running alongside that will be work on communication skills using tools such as BSL, Phonetic Alphabet, symbols etc to get messages across clearly. In March we will be taking part in Cityscapes – a massive 'game/treasure hunt/adventure' taking place in Portsmouth. Several thousand Brownies Guides and Rangers and Adults from across Southwest England who will be following clues, taking part in challenges from England Rugby & STEM, finding things in the D-day Museum or HMS Victory or a laser maze!

Brownies (7-10year olds) will be taking part in Cityscapes too! This term we are focussing on 'Skills for my Future'. Brownies will be making planters from recycled wood using drills and screws, learning about money in a series of challenges, cooking skills, science challenges and some interior design! We are visiting Newstone House Care Home for a torchlit treasure hunt followed by some singing and other activities with the residents many of whom have been involved in Girlguiding

We are always looking for help so that we can offer more opportunities. We are looking for 2 or 3 people who might be willing to open Rainbows (4–7-year-olds) and are really looking for more leaders/helpers with the Guide Unit as we have 30 girls. Support and training will be given but we get a lot of enquiries but have no Leaders. You do not have to commit to every week to be a helper! More information is on www.girlguiding.org.uk or email sturguiding@outlook.com for any offer of help.

STURMINSTER SCOUTING

Sturminster Scouts (10 ½ to 14-year-olds) are working on the Survival badge this term, this will involve learning care, maintenance and use of knives and axes and how to build different types of shelter, the importance of purifying water and ways to do this. Key personal survival skills for a variety of scenarios and basic survival 1st Aid will also be covered.

Sturminster Scouting is looking for help with running the Troop. Numbers are very limited due to this reason. If you are able to offer help either with supporting the unit in the background with admin etc, or could help occasionally at meetings, please contact dazza717216@outlook.com

Are there any potential Cub or Beaver Helpers out there? – there is a big demand for activities for these age groups, but we do not have enough helpers for this to happen. Plenty of support is there for anyone interested, just contact us if you might be able to help.



*Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust*

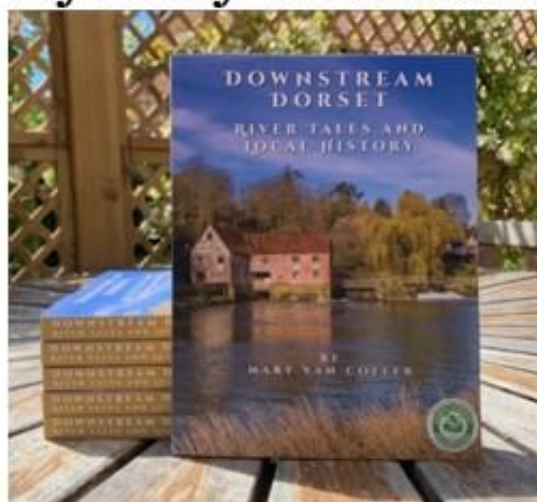
AGM

Wednesday 18th February

7.00pm in The Exchange

Followed by a talk at 7.30pm

By Mary van Collen



Explore our beautiful county, hear tales of historical events, find out about the meanings of place names. A journey of discovery for those who love Dorset.

£5 on the door (£4 for members)

The Blackmore Vale Group
of

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

President: DAVID THORNTON

Registered Charity No. 1059571



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Registered Charity No. 1191222

The Tolpuddle Martyrs and Shire Hall:

We will, we will, we will be free!



James Loveless John Standfield James Brine
James Hammett George Loveless Thomas Standfield

Talk by Anne Brown

Wednesday 18th March, entry £4
7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange
Hot and cold drinks available at the bar

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 New members keen to serve the community actively sought.

Choral Society

- Restarted Monday 12th January
- Contact 01258 472274

Parkinsons Cafe

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

Market Day

- 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

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 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 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 though 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.



Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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



Zumba with Abby

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



Short Mat Bowls

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



Pilates

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



Chair based exercise

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



Pilates

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



Hinton & Sturminster Cricket Club

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



FitSteps - Dance based exercise class

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



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



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



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 petesfunctionalfitnessclub.co.uk



The Boxing Club at Butts Pond

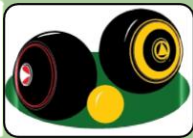
- Many age groups.
- The club has graduated a current world champion.
- sturabc.co.uk



Martial Arts Club (various locations in town)

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

Full accreditations. Details on unityma.co.uk



Nearest Bowls clubs: Blandford - blandfordbowlingclub.com

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

At Sturfit:

There is a new Pickleball Club – meeting Sunday mornings.

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

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

Parkinsons Cafè

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

Bereavement Peer Support

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

Caring for Carers

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

Age Concern Advice

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

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

St Mary's Sturminster ...



<i>SERVICES AT:</i>	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
<u>FEB 2026</u>			
1st Sunday 1 February	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 4 February	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 8 February	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 11 February	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 15 February	11am Holy Communion	4pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
ASH WEDNESDAY 18 February	10am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes		7pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
4th Sunday 22 February	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Mattins	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 25 February	10am Holy Communion		

Vale Methodist Church (based in Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag); -
 Sturminster Newton Methodist Church Services @ 10.30am. every Sunday morning. Kings Stag Methodist Church services on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday evenings of each month at 6pm.

SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
MARCH 2026			
1st Sunday 1 March	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 4 March	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 8 March	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 11 March	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday MOTHERING SUNDAY 15 March	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong for Mothering Sunday	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 19 March	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday 22 March	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Morning Service BCP	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 26 March	10am Holy Communion		
5th Sunday PALM SUNDAY 29 March			11am Benefice Holy Communion

Diary of Church Events:

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

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

St. Mary's Coffee Morning



Please join us
for coffee and
a chat

A friendly
welcome –
Open to all

Held regularly
on the First
Friday of every
month.

Place	• St. Mary's Church Hall
Time	• 10.30am - 12 noon
Dates	• Friday 6th Feb • Friday 6th Mar • Friday 10th April • (NB 2nd Fri in Apr)

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

Sturminster Christian Fellowship

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



Becoming like Jesus

A Lent Study Guide



Langham
PARTNERSHIP

STURMINSTER NEWTON `CHRISTIANS TOGETHER`

2026 LENT COURSE

Meeting at STURMINSTER NEWTON METHODIST CHURCH

Each **Friday Morning 10-12 noon**

from **FEBRUARY 13th to MARCH 27th**

And Also **Monday Evening 7-9pm**

from **FEBRUARY 16th to MARCH 30th**

Thought for the day? January blues have a gold trim!

I love the quiet of this month, its long nights and limited sunlight. After the busyness of Advent and Christmas, I relax and sleep long hours like a hedgehog in hibernation, happy to retire early with a book. An open window even when below zero outside with drawn back curtains admitting brilliant moonlight, I feel more animal than human listening to the haunting owl cry between church clock chimes.

It's been suggested that winter born babies (I'm one) enjoy this time of year. I've noticed it is often the month of passing for winter births – perhaps the end of the year's cycle is a natural time to go. Might one predict one's own date?

I like feeling cold, burning calories to get warm, layering insulation without and within; heavy foods consumed and natural fibres to clothe. Of course, I appreciate this may change as the ninth decade approaches but I will enjoy it as long as I am able.

Coming indoors as 40°C darkness falls feels like the physical day's work is done with time now to indulge the mind letting it wander creatively and how it does! Leave off television and instead explore one's imagination. Our creative sub-consciousness amazes in the early hours before dawn when one's conscious state is sufficient to direct one's thoughts though not their ways. From my window I watch the glow of sunrise between hills down the Stour valley or the mist that will pervade all day; both through open window till, teacup in hands, I clamber back into bed with notepad and pencil to plan for the new day and the year ahead.

Dilys Gartside

EDITORIAL

**We're updating and re-publishing
"Volunteering in Stur".**

**Organisations are requested to review
their present entry and either update or
confirm the entry is still valid.**

Additional organisations very welcome.

Last copy date 31st January.

View the current Volunteering edition on-line at:

<https://sncl.org.uk/Volunteering%20Feature%20June%202025.pdf>

[Volunteering Feature June 2025.pdf](#)



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

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

To include your regular or one-off event and other contributions, please Email it to whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com See our webpage (sncl.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:**

Mar 15th for Apr/May

May 15th for Jun/July

CONTACT

whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com

sncl.org.uk/whatshappeninginstur.html

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