

What's Happening in Stur Bi-Monthly: June/July 2026

Remember this museum
picture from the front
page of the last issue
restored and coloured by
A.I.? Below is the
L.S.Lowrie version!



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



The annual Town Council meeting took place on 6 May 2026. This is a legal requirement, along with a minimum of three other meetings during the year; however, we hold monthly meetings.

At the annual meeting, the first agenda item is for councillors to elect a Chair/Town Mayor from among the members. The Council also elects a Vice-Chair/Deputy Mayor and appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs for its three committees: Amenities, Finance and Policy, and Planning and Environment. All positions are decided by vote at the meeting, and any member may stand.



Top row: Susan Trim; Charles Fraser; Helen Lacey; Lee Cooper.

Bottom Row: Peter Marks; Andrew Donaldson; Mayor: Joe Rose

For this civic year, the appointments are:

- Mayor: Cllr Joe Rose (the longest-serving councillor), who volunteers with the William Williams Trust and Community Connections, and is a driver for Dorset Community Transport.
- Deputy Mayor and Chair, Planning and Environment Committee: Cllr Andrew Donaldson, an experienced councillor and volunteer driver for the Community Connections Meals on Wheels service.

- Vice-Chair, Planning and Environment Committee: Cllr Charles Fraser, a long-standing councillor who advocates for nature and open spaces in the town.
- Chair, Amenities Committee: Cllr Peter Marks, Lead Coordinator of the Community Emergency Response Plan.
- Vice-Chair, Amenities Committee: Cllr Lee Cooper, Tree Officer and Footpaths Officer, leading the Rights of Way group.
- Chair, Finance & Policy Committee: Cllr Helen Lacey, a long-standing member of the Council who represents the Council as a William Williams Trust volunteer and is also a trustee of The Exchange.
- Vice-Chair, Finance and Policy Committee: Cllr Susan Trim, one of the newest members of the Council with previous experience as a parish councillor, and a trustee of both the Sturminster Newton Community Land Trust and Community Benefit Society.

All Town Councillors' contact details are available on our website www.sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk or from the Town Council Office on Old Market Hill. They are always happy to discuss views and suggestions from residents and members of the community.



From Sturminster Newton Town Mayor

I would like to welcome the Town Council team of councillors for the next year. They represent a mix of experience, some with a great deal of knowledge of Sturminster Newton and some younger councillors who have proved themselves over the last year and have stepped up to take on more responsibility.



Sturminster Newton is a small town of around 4,400 residents living in 2,000 households. As a Town Council, there is much we can do to support the town, but some responsibilities lie elsewhere. For example, building an extra bridge or bypass to reduce heavy traffic is a matter for government departments or Dorset Council. We can support the business community in general, but because we use public funds, we cannot assist individual businesses directly, open specific shops or restaurants, or decide which businesses may operate on the high street.

What we can do is create a new and exciting playground in the Rec; a skate park in Rixon; a youth club on Butts Pond; and look after the public spaces that are so important for our health and wellbeing.

Everything we do is rooted in the same aim: to support a thriving town where people of all ages can feel connected, safe and proud of where they live. We think listening to young people is extremely important. We meet with the Youth Council at the High School and are planning to extend this to Yewstock and William Barnes Primary Schools so we can hear from an even wider range of young people.

This year has meant a strong focus on opportunities for young people, investments in community spaces and practical work to keep valued local assets safe and accessible. So, I am proud of what we have achieved through the hard work of our staff:

- ✓ The new Youth Club at Unit 2, Butts Pond Industrial Estate
- ✓ Resurfacing the Ricketts Lane play area
- ✓ Funding and organising safety work at one of our greatest assets, the Mill, so milling could restart.
- ✓ Working with the Allotments Association to increase the number of allotments available.
- ✓ Working with the Volunteer Centre Dorset to support local community groups.
- ✓ Grant funding the Literary Festival, Cricket Club, Allotment Association, Choral Society, The Exchange, Brownies and Guides, Stepping Stones Pre-School

- ✓ Funding the print edition of the town's events magazine, What's Happening in Stur.
- ✓ Appointing a member of staff responsible for communications.
- ✓ Hosting the weekly ROKIT Choir in the Council Chamber.
- ✓ Increasing areas of biodiversity.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our Town Clerk, our office staff and our grounds team. They are a superb bunch of people who go extra miles for the town. The Town Council does not organise the monthly car meet, Christmas, Halloween or Remembrance events, but our staff will be out there, marshalling and handing out refreshments, unpaid and in their own spare *time*, not because they have to but because they want to do this for the town.

Joe Rose

News from Dorset County Council – Cllr Carole Jones

We are approaching our Dorset Council Annual Meeting which generally provides new and different opportunities for elected members. I will be working in the Shadow Cabinet with the Children's and Education Directorate. This should be challenging as it's one of the main areas of spend and one which affects so many families. I am closely reviewing the Government's briefing on the Schools White Paper, which focuses on SEND reform. I have worked with many families who want better for their children, some are not in the right setting at all, others must often wait months for the right setting. My real worry is that our mainstream schools will have to take on more children with higher needs without the resources to do it properly. It's early days on this, but I am going to look at all the details, challenge and support every parent to access the education their child needs. I see possible issues with the pushback on EHCPs... so watch this space! As part of my brief, I will also be sitting on Corporate Parenting, the Schools Forum, Transport Appeals, the People & Health Scrutiny Committee, and Planning. I must confess it can be frustrating working in opposition, and frankly, I don't agree



that zero carbon and climate change should be the leading item for everything, but this is the policy set by the administration.

Dorset Council is progressing a multi-year program to install residential on-street electric-vehicle charge points. The site assessment and design process has started. Working with 'Connected Kerb' the plan is to install around 100 sites within the next 12 - 18 months. I am waiting to hear about local locations – I will keep people informed.

I understand that a council in the North is now abandoning plans to switch its waste lorries to electric power because they have not proved efficient and have broken down too often, so it is returning to diesel. Ultimately, most people are concerned about their bins being collected, potholes being repaired, their children receiving a good education, local services running efficiently, and council tax being kept as low as possible. Please do tell me if you think I am wrong, but I can see many people struggling, and rising costs are becoming unmanageable for far too many households.

I am helping a number of local residents with a range of issues, ranging from anti-social behaviour from neighbouring properties to footpaths, housing issues, and areas that involve Sovereign (SNG), I also assist parents if they need an advocate with them in meetings with social workers, schools, etc., and I am more than happy to help when I can.

Finally, I am recommencing a Councillor Surgery on the first Saturday of each month starting in June, so **June 7th** – I will be at the Family Hub at 22B Butts Pond (go right to the top of Butts Pond and the Hub is tucked along the right-hand side of Northover Fuels) between 10 and 12 noon. They serve great coffee – so if you need some action on something, please do come on in. If you simply want a chat about something, please don't hesitate to give me a call! 07968 348481.

News of The Vale Family Hub (formally Vale Pantry)

We have been so pleased to have been able to help a lovely gentleman who had been living in his car for several months. Sometimes things happen in life that you never plan for, and life can change in an instant. It took some time, but as I write, next week we will help him move into accommodation in

Dorchester, along with everything we have been able to find, so he can live independently with all the basics. People's perception of Dorset is that we are all quite nicely off, we all live in quaint thatched cottages, and no deprivation exists. The reality is that the average take-home pay for someone on minimum wage will be in the region of £ 1,600-£ 1,800 a month. Average Rent £800-£1200, council tax – add another £300 on, electricity, water, etc. – let's say another £150, mobile phone – debt, filling up the car with fuel all adds up, and if you have a child or children, it's challenging. Then, when something goes wrong with the car, & you are faced with a bill of a few hundred pounds, everything goes out of the window. Facing things like a child's school trip or a new pair of shoes can be impossible. Universal Credit will help, but it's probably still not enough to cope with any ease. Whilst this is life across the country, it's just that here, in our lovely rural area, we can help and will always go the extra mile. Whether someone needs a Citizen's Advisor appointment, wants help with their mental health, needs support in accessing the right education for their child with SEND, needs help with their housing application, or simply help in terms of budgeting, nothing is off the table, and we will always find a way to help.

Whilst we have our affordable food pantry, it represents just one of over 30 areas of support available here in this community.

So, what else is on offer at the Vale Family Hub:

- Debt & Welfare help
- Budgeting
- Parenting support
- Supporting Families Program
- Breastfeeding Support
- Play activities for children
- Free soft play for toddlers
- Toddler Group
- Home Education Group
- SEND support
- Housing help
- Domestic Abuse Support
- Mental Health Support



- Crafting Groups
- Access to Computers and Digital Inclusion
- Café
- Youth Hub for ages 7 – 11, (Tuesday evenings)
- Holiday Activities for children during school holidays
- Space to hire for meetings, events, children's parties, etc
- Access to Wellbeing, one-to-one help



Our Tuesday evening Youth Hub is extremely popular, with lots of activities and always includes a meal at £1 entry it's a bargain! They really do have the best

time, - no need to book, just come along. 5.30 – 8pm.

We are delighted to be working more closely with our local GP Surgery, which comes in regularly to discuss childhood immunisations. We also held a leg ulcer clinic recently and worked towards turning what was perhaps considered a medical procedure into a social one, with plenty of chat, tea and cake! We hope to be working together to run what we are calling the 'Lucy Legs Club'

We are now just organising 3 days of holiday fun and activities in the May half-term, and then beyond that, the summer holidays will be packed with all sorts of exciting adventures for children, keep in touch with us for more information.

Finally, we are working to do more and do better in our Café area and to that end, we will be advertising for a Catering Manager – and hope to launch some new tasty delights with a smile soon – watch this space!

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

The Exchange

Hello from us at The Exchange.

We would love to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make our Open Day such a wonderful day. It was incredible to see our lovely groups get together and talk about what they do and for us to

showcase the variety of what happens here! We've seen lots of new faces wanting to get involved as volunteers as well as requests for more classes and groups, what a success!



The Exchange – envisaged by A.I.

of

Speaking of success stories... Our first National Theatre Live screening was a hit. We have had some wonderful feedback from the audience of "The Audience" and we will be making some technical refinements for future screenings, rest assured. Our next NT Live screening is Thursday 25th June, with **All My Sons**, starring Bryan Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste, if you haven't tried a screening before now is a great chance. Enjoy National Theatre productions right on your doorstep!

Our fundraising efforts continue, with our primary goal this year being to replace the chairs used for the stalls. If you stop by, you'll notice the return of Daisy, our fundraising thermometer enjoying a seat and some popcorn.

Our next big fundraiser is the **Real Ale Festival**, which is fast approaching! This year the event is held over the 5th, 6th and 7th of June, with festivities commencing from 5pm on the Friday. As our biggest event of the year, we are looking forward to welcoming lots of you through the doors!

We are pleased to say **The Moonlight Swing Band** are back for another fabulous evening of music and fun. This time they will be taking us on a journey through the icons of swing, celebrating the Big Band sound, covering everything from the 1940s golden age to the modern stage. Featuring the music of Glenn Miller, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Michael Buble....and More!

Don't forget, **Sir Derek Jacobi** will be making an appearance on our stage, on Wednesday 10th June, in conversation with Richard Clifford. This will be an engaging evening offering insight into one of Britain's most distinguished actors. We're even adding a bonus cinema of **Gosford Park** on Tuesday 2nd of June ahead of Sir Dereks visit.

Whatever your interests are, we hope to see you at an event!

The Exchange Team

Shillingstone Station

Party time at Shillingstone Station

North Dorset Railway (NDR) is preparing for a busy summer, kicking off with a 1960s Gala Weekend at Shillingstone Station to showcase how far it's come since it was 'closed' in 1966.

The weekend of 6th and 7th June will be very much a party to celebrate all that's been achieved: when the conservation group came into being, the track was long gone, the signal box demolished, and the station buildings were semi-derelict, so it's taken an immense volunteer effort. But the Station is alive and thriving and even hoping to go operational within the year.



As well as tours of the station and the signal box (which was completely rebuilt by volunteers), there will be guided walks of the new track extension. There will be a couple of model railway layouts, including a steam version.

Also joining the party, the station will be welcoming displays by the Big Yellow Bus Project, the Countryside Regeneration Trust, the North Dorset Trailway and the Blandford Fashion Museum, along with other heritage railway projects, the Spetisbury Station Project and the Somerset and Dorset Railway Trust.

And, of course, it wouldn't be a party without home-made cake and some toe-tapping music. Thanks to special permission from the Performing Rights Society, the station will be bopping to a soundtrack of 1960s pirate radio classics.

There will be a free shuttle bus to and from the gala, thanks to Damory Buses and Pete Kearsey, starting from the Trailway end of Station Road car park. The service will run between 09:45 and 11:15, departing roughly every half hour, when the driver has enough passengers. (Diesel's expensive these days!) Return buses will start from 2:00pm.

Other attractions are in the pipeline, so keep an eye on the S&DJR Facebook page for updates.

The station will be open both days from 10:00am until 4:00pm and entry is free - though donations are welcome, to aid the ongoing development and maintenance of the station and railway.

The Mill & Museum Opening Times 2026

The Mill is now open Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sundays from 11am to 5pm. Chance to explore the building, and its centuries of history, relax by the river with tea, coffee and ice cream.

Milling weekends 13th/14th June and 11th/12th July: an opportunity to see the flour being produced.

Thursday 23rd July 11am David House in conjunction with Wessex Photography will be at the Mill to demonstrate cameras and telescopes to use in wildlife photography. Examples of David's work will also be on display.

The Museum is now open Mon and Fri 10am - 4pm; Sat 10am - 12.30pm
An opportunity to catch up on "Stur's" history, look the meticulous detail in the working model railway of Sturminster Newton Railway Station and reminisce about by gone days with the exhibition of Retro Domestic Equipment.



The Vintage and Classics car rally (first Saturdays of the month – recreation ground) recently exceeded 300 vehicles for the first time.

SturAction

— ♦ For the good of the Town ♦ —

Help Shape the Future of Sturminster Newton



SturAction is the public name of our Community Benefit Society – run by the community, for the community.

Every penny raised through our shops is reinvested back into projects and improvements that benefit the town and the people who live here.



We want to make sure those profits are being used in the areas that matter most to YOU.



That's why we've launched our new **community questionnaire** – giving local residents, visitors, volunteers and businesses the chance to share their thoughts, ideas and priorities for the future of Sturminster Newton.



Questionnaires are available in all of our shops, including **The Emporium, The Marketplace, The Boutique Preloved and 1855.**



Please support us by taking a few minutes to complete one and help shape the future of our town. **Together**, we can continue building a stronger, more vibrant community for everyone.



Community-run.



Community-supported.



Community-led.

WHAT'S ON IN STUR IN JUNE JULY



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

- Wednesday 10th June 7:30pm **Sir Derek Jacobi in conversation with Richard Cliffords.**
- Thursday 25th June 7pm **National Theatre Live - All My Sons by Arthur Miller.**
- Saturday 11th July 3pm **Codebreakers.** This show by Dr Mark Baldwin is one of the Second World War's most fascinating stories, that of the Allied Codebreakers.
- Thursday 16th July 7pm **National Theatre Live - The Playboy of the Western World** by John Millington Synge

Film

- Some Thursdays 7pm £7.
- 21st May **The Ballad of Wallis Island**
- 11th June **Song Sung Blue**
- 30th July **H is for Hawk**
- **Tuesday** 2nd June **Gosford Park**



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 23rd May 7:30pm. **Suspiciously Elvis.** Suspiciously Elvis AKA Ivor Potter with powerhouse live band.
- Saturday 20th June 7:30pm. **The Ultimate Mod Review.** 60s to 90s era.
- Friday 26th June 7:30pm. **The Moonlight Swing Band.** Exchange Fundraiser.
- Saturday 27th June 7:30pm. **Legends of Motown.**
- Saturday 4th July 7:30pm. **Bye Bye Baby.** Celebrating Frankie Valli.
- Saturday 25th July 7:30pm. **ROCKiT from the Musicals.**

- Coming soon:
- The Alter Eagles
- A Night of Blues 'N' Boogie
- NOASIS
- Showaddywaddy

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

Citizens Advice
Fridays 9am to 1pm

Real Ale Festival
5-7 June

**Moonlight Swing
Band**
Friday 26th June
Fundraiser

Country Market
Tuesday Mornings

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

International Towel Day

- The Don't Panic Festival, Stalbridge 25th May. www.dontpanicfestival.org
- Poster on Village events Pages

The Big Weekend

- Friday 5th to Sunday 7th June
- Real Ale Fest., Markets, Community Fair
- See more on Community Pages

Railway 1960s Gala Weekend

- 6-7 June, 10-4, Shillingstone Stn
- Details on news pages.

Literary Festival

- 12th to 21st June
- Details on Community pages

u3a

- Thur 18th June 2:30pm. The Exchange
- Cracking the Care Conundrum
- Details on community pages.

Hinton St Mary Open Gardens

- 20 & 21 June
- Details on Community Pages

Heritage Trust & Family History

- Wed 24th June 7:30. The Exchange.
- "Beyond Market Day"
- Details on Community Pages.

Garden Club

- **Wednesday, 24th June**, Visit to The Old Rectory, Manston and Talk about the Development of the Garden at 2.30 pm. Members only.

Arts Weeks

- 4th -19th July
- Venues all around the town.
- Details on Community Pages

Summer Concert

- Saturday 18th July, 10:30am
- Sturminster Newton Orchestra
- Details on Community Pages

Heritage Trust & Family History

- Wed 15th July 7:30pm. The Exchange.
- "Hospital Blues"
- Details on community Pages..

Crafty Destash Market

- Saturday 27th June 9-12:30. The Exchange Atrium
- Poster on community pages.

Blackmore Vale Half Marathon

- Sunday 12th July
- From Bishops Caundle
- More on community pages.

Garden Club

- **Wednesday, 29th July**, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. **The 47th Annual Member's Summer Show**. Visitors welcome. Please come along and see our many Exhibits. Admission Free. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS
& EVENTS



Sturminster Newton Orchestra

Please join us for our

Summer Concert

“The Exchange”

Saturday Morning 18th July

With an eclectic selection of well-known
classical, popular and show music

Free Entry!!

10.45 - Doors open 10.30

The Exchange Café is open from 9.00 for
you to enjoy a coffee beforehand.



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



Artificial Intelligence: A remarkable 109 local people attended the A.I. Introduction and Next Steps courses. Sturminster is not being left behind! (only a handful turned up expecting Artificial Insemination instruction).

We will schedule some more later in the year (register interest at snclc@btconnect.com). In the meantime call in to the drop-ins to have fun generating images, prose, poems, storybooks, restore photos etc. or generate publicity etc. for your business or voluntary organisation.

We have over 30 're-painted' and 're-imagined' images of Stur. Pop in for a look. We can have them printed for you should you wish.

Smartphones: Never had a smartphone? Still got an old flip phone? Need to upgrade your Smartphone. Our current recommendations for good basic Smartphone are under £70. We'll help you set it up or transfer from an old smartphone. We think Smartphones are easier to use than older phones, you can just talk to them to ask them questions, compose message and ask how to do stuff.

Hardware problems & upgrades: We have replacements for lost and broken cables, adaptors for converting old cables to new sockets (and vice versa) amongst many other computer accessories (memory sticks, mice, a pot luck box of power supplies etc).

We can upgrade laptops/desktops with extra memory and replace hard disks with solid state. We can carry out some hardware repairs.

Passkeys: (As opposed to passwords). These are generated by some on-line sites/services. They are stored on your device with total security and always log you in securely and automatically. But don't lose your pass**words** you may need them on a new or different device. Drop-in to learn more.

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.



Our Next Meeting

Thursday 18th June at 2.30pm
In the Exchange, Sturminster Newton

SILVERTIME LEGAL **“Cracking The Care Conundrum.”**



Care Fees, Care Homes and Estate Planning

During this enlightening session, our speaker will delve into the intricate world of estate planning, shedding light on topics such as Inheritance Tax Planning, Long-Term Care considerations, and the significance of having a comprehensive plan in place.

Entry Free for members
£2 for visitors
Refreshments afterwards!



Sturminster Newton Literary Festival

War Artist, Historians and Crime Writers Headline Sturminster Newton Literary Festival 2026

The internationally acclaimed war artist, George Butler, will discuss his illustrative work in Ukraine and other conflict zones at the 2026 Sturminster Newton Literary Festival. George Butler is known for his thought-provoking work that goes beyond the headlines and highlights stories that never reach the news.

Military historian and author Damien Lewis will be highlighting daring tales of the SAS. Kate Werran's talk promotes her research into Black American troops stationed in the Westcountry in World War Two and who were often treated inequitably by the US Army.

Dorset writer and journalist Faith Eckersall will discuss cosy crime and her latest book set in Wimborne while Mark Bridgeman returns with his popular interactive true crime event where the audience become the jury. Travel writer Nick Jubber will be taking the audience on a global journey of monsters. Giles and Annie Henschel of Olives et Al will be speaking about their 10,000-mile journey revisiting olive groves and the impact climate change is having on the harvest.

This year there are literary walks, a showcase of local writers, and a special writing workshop in partnership with the University of Exeter for people from Ukraine and their host families. Festival chair Pauline Batstone said: "This is our seventh literary festival and again we offer a varied and interesting mix of authors and events - we hope as many people as are able come to enjoy. Thank you to the team, especially Rachael Rowe, who have brought this about".

The festival runs from 12-21 June 2026. Tickets and the programme are available at www.sturlitfest.com and from 1855 Sturminster Newton.

Sturminster Newton
Literary Festival

12th - 21st
June
2026

BOOK HERE

Black Yanks

WINTERLAND

TUULA

A VIEW FROM THE GABLES

OPERATION WATERLOO 2

Winston Churchill

EM SCOTT
THE MAN
NEXT
DOOR

The Fleetwood
Half-Orphan

The Body
on the
ROUNDABOUT

JESS BURSETT
BONE GARDEN

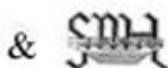
For information visit: www.sturlitfest.com   

The Blackmore Vale Group
of

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 1978

Registered Charity No. 104071



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Registered Charity No. 128428

Beyond Market Day



Market Day, Sturminster Newton.

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

Speaker: **Jacqui Wragg**

Wednesday 24th June, entry £4
7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange

Hot and cold drinks available at the bar

The Blackmore Vale Group
of

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

President: DAVID T. BUCKLE 2018

Registered Charity No. 1039075



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Registered Charity No. 1134078

'Hospital Blues'



Dorset VADs and
Red Cross nurses in
the First World War

Speaker: **Luke Mouland**

Wednesday July 15th, entry £4

7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange

Hot and cold drinks available at the bar



HINTON ST. MARY GARDENS OPEN 2026

SATURDAY 20 & SUNDAY 21 JUNE
2:00PM TO 5:00PM

Explore **the Manor House gardens** along with **15-20 beautiful private gardens** throughout the village — all within easy walking distance. A colourful, relaxed afternoon discovering unique planting, creative spaces, and hidden corners.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **Plant Stall** with locally grown favourites
- **Teas & Homemade cakes** served in the historic **Tithe Barn**
- **Wheelchair access** available in selected gardens
- **Free** parking
- Donations on arrival supporting Hinton St Mary Church

The Library

We are very busy at Sturminster Newton Library. We have our regular events on as usual; Cuppa and Company every Friday morning, adult colouring every Tuesday afternoon, Rhyme Time every Monday morning, Lego club every Thursday afternoon, Code Club and Creation Station alternate Saturday mornings. We also have adult crafts on the last Tuesday of the month, and Home Educators on the last Friday of the month. It's also getting close to The Summer Reading challenge which starts up in July. Please come in nearer the time to find out more about it. We're also very excited to be hosting an author event with Ben Kane in July. Details will be provided in the library nearer the time.

And finally, if you haven't already, then do sign up for Extended Access, to use our library out of staffed hours.

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/extended-access-libraries



**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/>

Sturminster Newton's
Knit & Natter



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

The Exchange Cafe

Every Wednesday, 2pm until 3.30pm

Please just come along or contact
07791604007 for more information

**Crafty
Destash
Market**
Crafty Stur

Crafty Stur Destash market
on Saturday 27th June at 9am until 12.30.

In the Lower Atrium at the Exchange,
Sturminster Newton.

Cost is £10 per table
Booking is essential!

Get in touch with us by craftystur@gmail.com

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

Blackmore Vale Half Marathon and Fun Run Confirmed for Sunday 12th July at 10.00 at Bishops Caundle DT9 5NG Race HQ in the village hall, start on the recreation ground

Blackmore Vale Lions Club are delighted to confirm the location and start time for the rescheduled half marathon on Sunday 12th July with **an earlier start time of 10.00** to reduce the number of people running in the hottest part of the day. The fun run will start shortly thereafter to deconflict the two events. A map of the routes is attached.

Entries at <https://bvthm.yolasite.com/> If you want to help out please go to <https://bvllions.yolasite.com/Contact-Us.php> or phone 0345 833 7423

SHILLINGSTONE

1960s GALA WEEKEND

6 & 7 JUNE, 10AM TO 4PM

In aid of North Dorset Railway

FREE ENTRY

Sturminster Newton Art Weeks – 4th to 19th July

This July, Sturminster Newton will once again come alive with creativity as Sturminster Newton Art Weeks returns from 4th–19th July.

More than 20 talented artists will be exhibiting their work across 30 venues throughout the town, offering visitors the opportunity to explore a diverse range of artistic styles and mediums while discovering local businesses and community spaces along the way.

To launch the 2026 event on Saturday 4th July, visitors are invited to The Exchange Atrium, where a wonderful selection of local artists, creators and makers will be showcasing their work.

Throughout the day there will also be workshops and live demonstrations, giving people the chance to see creative skills in action, try something new themselves, and browse a variety of handmade items available to purchase.

Organisers are once again delighted to include artwork created by students from William Barnes School, celebrating the creativity and talent of young local artists alongside more established exhibitors.

Printed Art Trail brochures will be available from local businesses around the town, helping visitors follow the trail and plan their visits. Further details and updates can also be found on Facebook and via the Sturminster Newton town website.

The Art Trail is made possible thanks to funding from SturAction (Sturminster Newton Community Benefit Society Ltd), the charitable organisation that raises money for the benefit of the town. SturAction supports the local community through donations and through sales at its shops – The Emporium, The Boutique – Preloved, The Marketplace and 1855 Sturminster Newton.

These much-valued shops not only help fund community initiatives, but also attract additional visitors to Sturminster Newton, helping to support and strengthen the wider local economy.

Residents and visitors alike are warmly encouraged to come along, explore the trail, and enjoy the wonderful artistic talent our community has to offer.



Sturminster Newton's much-loved **Big Weekend** is back from 5th–7th June, bringing three days packed with fun, music, food, and community spirit for all ages to enjoy.

Over at The Exchange, you can relax with a pint at the popular Real Ale & Cider Festival while enjoying a fantastic line-up of free live music throughout the weekend. On Saturday 6th June, the Railway Garden will be buzzing with community stalls, while the indoor and outdoor markets will be packed with local crafts, produce, gifts, and tasty treats to browse. Meanwhile, the Recreation Ground will host an impressive display of classic and interesting cars and bikes – perfect for enthusiasts and curious visitors alike.

The celebrations wrap up on Sunday 7th June with Rotary's annual family-friendly Big Lunch in the Railway Garden – a lovely chance to get together with friends, neighbours, and family to share food and enjoy the community atmosphere.

Even better, there's FREE parking on Saturday and Sunday, making it even easier to come along and enjoy the weekend.

Pop the dates in your diary and join us for what promises to be a fantastic weekend in Sturminster Newton!

Find out more here: <https://sturminster-newton.org.uk/event/sturminster-newton-big-weekend-5th-6th-7th-june-2026/>

Follow updates on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SturminsterBigWeekend/>

STURMINSTER NEWTON BIG WEEKEND

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th June 2026

FRIDAY 5TH REAL ALE & CIDER FESTIVAL + LIVE MUSIC
5PM-LATE THE EXCHANGE

SAT 6TH CAR & BIKE ENTHUSIASTS
9AM-12NOON RICKETTS LANE

OUTDOOR MARKET
10AM-2PM STATION ROAD

INDOOR MARKET
10AM-2PM THE EXCHANGE

COMMUNITY STALLS
10AM-2PM RAILWAY GARDEN

REAL ALE & CIDER FESTIVAL + LIVE MUSIC
12NOON-LATE THE EXCHANGE

SUNDAY 7TH ROTARY'S 'THE BIG LUNCH'
12NOON-3PM RAILWAY GARDEN

REAL ALE & CIDER FESTIVAL + LIVE MUSIC
12NOON-3PM THE EXCHANGE

Email: sturbi18@gmail.com



The Sturminster Newton

BIG LUNCH

Join us for a family fun day at the Railway Gardens on
Sunday 7th June 2026 at 12.00 noon until 3.00 pm

Bring a picnic or just yourselves to enjoy company and various events which includes:

Free Ice Creams

Games for the children

Singing from Shaftesbury Rock Choir

Performance from local Bulgarian Dancers

Sea-Action
for the young at heart

Thomas Hardy 100 Celebrations

On 11th January 2028 it will be 100 years since Thomas Hardy died and the market towns of North Dorset are determined to commemorate the life of one of Dorset's most famous sons. Starting in 2027 with the anniversary of his birth on 2nd June and that of his death on 11th January 2028 the North Dorset Tourism Group will be welcoming any ideas to remember this remarkable man and publicising those projects. He was not only an architect, an author, a poet - and a keen cyclist by which means he explored this area. A commemorative cycle ride from his home, Max Gate, to Turnworth Church has already been proposed. He used our towns (renamed) in his stories and films have featured our area. To know more contact Cllr Pauline Batstone cllr.p.batstone@btinternet.com.



WHAT'S ON NEARBY

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



HAZELBURY HEDGEHOG RESCUE FUN DAY!

30th May 2026
1-5pm

The Pavillion, Alec's Field,
Hazelbury Bryan, DT10 2EB
What3Words: ///rosier.order.paddlers



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

A festival for the Earth, the imagination,
and the town where it all began.

DON'T PANIC

FESTIVAL
STALBRIDGE

23rd-25th MAY
2026

Douglas Adams

Author, environmentalist, and the man who taught us
to always know where our towel is.

Join us and experience Towel Day - 25th of May - At the Main Festival Event!

From Plaque unveiling to teatime finish, a day of joyful unpredictability
awaits. Apart from the unveiling at Lydden Cottage the whole event will
take place at Stalbridge Recreation Ground. Check out our Digital Towel
below to Get Festival Ready!

Discovering bats in summer *at Bere Marsh Farm*

Saturday 8th August
8.15pm-10.00pm



 CRT Events

Discover Bats on a Guided Evening Walk at Bere Marsh Farm

We've gone a bit batty at the Countryside Regeneration Trust, and you're warmly invited to join us!

We're hosting an evening bat walk at Bere Marsh Farm, Shillingstone. *Discovering Bats in Summer* will take place on August 8 from 8.15pm to 10pm.

Led by bat expert Mariko Whyte from the Dorset Bat Group, visitors will have the chance to use heterodyne bat detectors and learn more about these fascinating nocturnal animals. We have been monitoring bats at Bere Marsh Farm for several years to better understand their behaviour.

Of the 18 bat species found in the UK, we have recorded seven on the farm so far. Thanks to advances in technology, we are learning more than ever about these secretive creatures of the night.

Tickets cost £10 per adult, £3 per child, or £5 for CRT Friends and volunteers. Children must be aged 8+ and accompanied by an adult.

For more information and to book,

please visit: <https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/discovering-bats-summer>

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS IN STUR

Mondays

New/Changed regular items in red



Community Learning Centre

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

Parent & Carer Support Group

- 9.30-11.30am Term Times, Stour Connect.

Rhyme Time (under 5s)

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

Blackmore Vale Lions

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

Choral Society

- Restarted Monday 12th January
- Contact 01258 472274

Parkinsons Cafe

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

Market Day

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

ROKiT! Choir

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

Tuesdays

Country Market

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

Coffee Companions Hour

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

Rotary Club

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

Reminiscence Adult Craft

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

Carers Coffee Morning

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

Wednesdays

Community Learning Centre

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

Mother's Union

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

BCP Holy Communion

- 10am St Marys

Knit & Natter

- **Weekly; 2-3:30pm;** Free Drop-in.
- Now moved from The Library to The Exchange Cafe.

Creative Writing Group

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

Garden Club

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

Blackmore Vale Family History Goup

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

Bell Ringing Practice

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

Thursdays

Lego Fun Ages 3+

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

Fridays

Cuppa & Company

- Every Friday The library. Free drop-in.

Homestart Early Family Connections

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

Citizens Advice

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

Saturdays

Free Parking continues 1st Sat of month.

Sturminster Newton Orchestra

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

Bargains & Banter

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

Craft Market

- 1st Saturdays, Exchange Atrium

Car & Bike Enthusiasts

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

Sociable Arts & Crafts

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

1855

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

Mrs Potters Cakes

- Last Saturday of month am. Exchange Atrium

Code Club

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

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS IN VILLAGES

Please tell us about other regular
events in your village.



Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays

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

Daily

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

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 fitness class

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



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

Now two additional Balance Classes on Mondays.



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



Pete's Functional Fitness Club at Butts Pond.

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



The Boxing Club at Butts Pond

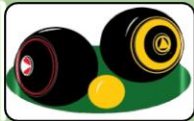
- Many age groups.
- The club has graduated a current world champion.
- sturabc.co.uk



Martial Arts Club (various locations in town)

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

Full accreditations. Details on unityma.co.uk



Nearest Bowls clubs: Blandford - blandfordbowlingclub.com

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



Adult Walking Football

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



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

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

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

Military Veterans

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

Pop-Up Health Hub

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



MILITARY VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP AND DROP IN SESSION



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



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

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

BVPWELLBEING@DORSETGP.NHS.UK

“POP-UP” HEALTH HUB

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

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

ALL WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



SEE YOU THERE



STURBIZ – NEWS OF BUSINESSES & SERVICES



SturBiz Breakfasts

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

FEATURED BUSINESSES

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

THE EXCHANGE

WE'RE HIRING Part Time Caretaker position available.

12-16 Hours per week

Closing date for applications:

Friday 29th May 2026

APPLY NOW

Send your CV and cover letter
to

sarah@rely.company



The purpose of the role is to ensure the premises are clean, safe, secure, and well maintained for staff, visitors, and community users. To enable smooth daily operation of the Centre and to provide a welcoming environment for all. The Caretaker is supported by part-time cleaning staff.

A full job description can be requested by emailing info@stur-exchange.co.uk



STURMINSTER NEWTON & DISTRICT

Chamber of Trade & Commerce

CONNECT. INFLUENCE. SUPPORT.

Exciting News for Sturminster Newton Businesses A New Chamber of Trade & Commerce is Taking Shape

Something exciting is happening in Sturminster Newton. Following a survey sent out to local businesses — the results of which have been overwhelmingly positive — we are taking the first steps toward establishing a brand-new restart of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce for Sturminster Newton and the surrounding villages.

A Chamber of Trade and Commerce exists to give local businesses a collective voice, a supportive community, and access to resources, networking, and opportunities that are so much harder to find when you're going it alone. Whether you run a shop on the high street, operate a trade or service business, or work from home serving the local area — this chamber is being built with you in mind.

We are delighted to announce that an initial meeting is being held very soon, bringing together local business owners to discuss what this chamber should look like and — most importantly — what support local businesses need. This is your opportunity to shape something from the ground up, and to make sure your voice is heard right from the start.

If you run a business in Sturminster Newton or the surrounding villages and would like to be part of this exciting new chapter for our local business community, we would love to hear from you. The more businesses that get involved at this early stage, the stronger and more representative our new chamber will be.

Together, we can build something that genuinely makes a difference to business life in our area. Let's make it happen.

*For more information or to register your interest, please
contact us on sturbiz18@gmail.com*



NFU Mutual
NORTH DORSET



A Mutual insurance Company in the town where you can talk to real people face to face! – Ed.

LOOKING AFTER CUSTOMERS IS AT THE HEART OF OUR BUSINESS

At NFU Mutual North Dorset Agency, based in the thriving town of Sturminster Newton, Jude Green and Justin Pinder lead a team of caring and friendly professionals to deliver quality service to clients across Sturminster Newton, Shaftesbury, Gillingham and Stalbridge, the surrounding villages and beyond. With a wealth of experience, our team places customers at the heart of everything we do. Our reputation has been built on our ability to listen. At NFU Mutual, we offer insurance, financial planning and Health & Safety services for both individual and commercial customers. We offer a highly personal service, including the option to meet face to face – either in our office, or at a client's premises.

To find out get in touch or pop in:

01258 473299 | northdorset@nfumutual.co.uk

The Creamery, Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1BD.

Promotional Feature

JL Green & J L Pinder is an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982). And an introducer to NFU Mutual Select Investments Limited, a member of the NFU Mutual group of companies.



Registered Charity No. 1162034

VOLUNTEER TREASURER NEEDED

Want to support your local Community by volunteering for a small independent charity?

Age Concern North Dorset is in need of a new volunteer treasurer to start in September this year but with an opportunity to work with the current treasurer over the summer months. This is a home-based role, approximately 12 hours per month with attendance at meetings as necessary.

The charity has two part-time members of staff so payroll experience would be an asset. The treasurer is also responsible for producing a set of annual accounts for audit and filing with the Charity Commission. Regular financial reports are required at each Executive Meeting, approximately four a year. Additionally, payment of all outgoing expenses on a monthly basis is required. Current spreadsheets are produced on Excel.

For more information and an informal chat please call the Age Concern North Dorset office on 01258 475582 or call in and visit us in Stour Connect, Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1JR.

Volunteer Trustees also welcomed with fund-raising experience.

GERRY'S KEY CUTTING

Mobile key cutting service for residential and commercial. We are able to cut most high security and traditional keys.



**CALL GERRY ON
07747 488587**

**OR EMAIL
INFO@GERRYSKEYCUTTING.CO.UK**

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

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



The Horsebox Harvest had opened at the Big Yellow bus project. Refreshments plus eggs, honey etc for sale. Usual opening times 10:30-2:30. Check days open by searching horsebox harvest on Sturminster Facebook.

The Old Ox in Shillingstone has re-opened as a Community Interest Pub. Drinks only as at mid-May. Food to follow in a 'few weeks'.

The Fiddleford Inn has re-opened. Food & Drinks.

After a 3-month absence **The Pilgrim Fryer** is back in the villages. Tuesday – Shillingstone, Wednesday - Okeford Fitzpaine, Thursday – Child Okeford, Friday – Iwerne Minster. All 5pm to 7:30pm.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES



St Mary's Sturminster

...

SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
<u>June 2026</u>			
Wednesday 3 June	10am Holy Communion		
1st Sunday 7 June	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10 June	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 14 June	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 17 June	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 21 June	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 24 June	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday 28 June	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Mattins	9.30am Holy Communion

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

SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
<u>July 2026</u>			
Wednesday 1 July	10am Holy Communion		
1st Sunday 5 July	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 8 July	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 12 July	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 15 July	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 19 July	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 July	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday 26 July	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Morning Service BCP	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 29 July	10am Holy Communion		

Diary of Church Events:

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

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

Free Holiday Club

The Great Adventure!

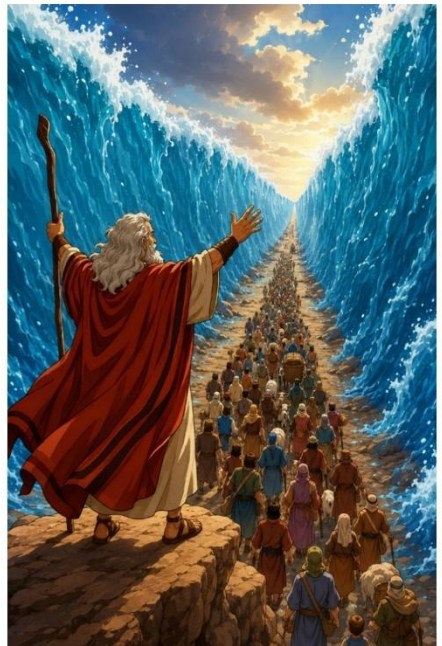
Tuesday 11th to Friday 14th August 2026

From 10am to 12 noon

At the Methodist Church, Church Street, Sturminster Newton

All 4 to 10 Year Olds Welcome

DVD Story-Line following the Adventures of Moses with
Crafts and Games



DO COME AND JOIN US!

Organised by Christians Together

Contact: Revd Mary Gubbins revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com Tel: 07440 680387

EDITORIAL

**Paper copies of the updated
“Volunteering in Stur” feature are now
available in the Library, Exchange,
Learning Centre and Emporium.
also online at:**

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

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

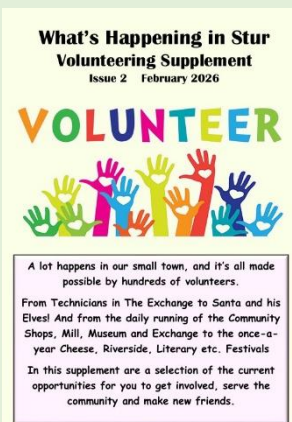
Or to avoid clicking on link's: Google 'Sturminster Learning Centre' and head to the 'What's Happening in Stur' page.

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

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

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

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



COPY DATES

**15th of the preceding
month:**

July 15th for Aug/Sept

Sept 15th for Oct/Nov

CONTACT

whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com

snclc.org.uk/whatshappeninginstur.html

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

The Farmer's Market returns to reclaim The Exchange!



30+ images of Stur 're-painted' and re-imagined are available to view in the Learning Centre. Prints etc. available.

Where can your imagination take you? Pop into The Learning Centre for help to turn it into artwork, prose, poems, storybooks etc.

