

What's Happening in Stur

Bi-Monthly: Oct/Nov 2025



**The Beech Avenue at Hinton St Mary
N.Dorset Photo competition by Sandra Way**



Ariel View by M.V.Pike. The Bridge by Phil Ledwith

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



New Town Mayor We are delighted to announce that Councillor Joe Rose has been duly elected as the new Town Mayor. With a wealth of experience and many years of dedicated service to our community, we look forward to his leadership in the months ahead.



Thank You to Our Outgoing Mayor

Pauline Batstone recently resigned from the Town Council. In her statement she shared: "I find my increased responsibilities outside the Council no longer allow me to give the time to my workload as Councillor and Mayor which I would wish." At the last Full Council meeting, members expressed their sincere thanks to Pauline for her service and wished her every success in her future endeavours.

Sturminster Mill

The Council has agreed to fund essential repairs to the Mill wheel and to commission a condition survey of the building. This will provide a full picture of the renovation works required and help secure grant funding with the support of the Heritage Trust and the Dorset Council Museums Co-ordinator. Some planned structural work was delayed over the summer after a nest of bumblebees was discovered—we were keen not to disturb them. We will keep you updated as progress continues.

Youth Club We are pleased to share that we now hold a short lease on Unit 2, Richmar Trading Estate, Butts Pond, where we are setting up a Youth Club. The Council is working in partnership with Youth Connect Southwest, specialists in youth provision, who will also collaborate with the High School and other organisations.

Sessions are planned for Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and more details will follow soon. Council staff are working hard to get everything up and running—look out for updates on our Facebook page!



Allotments

Did you know there are two allotment sites in town—one at Filbridge Rise and one at Chinnocks? These are managed on our behalf by the Allotment Association Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers who provide invaluable support and advice to fellow plot holders.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Committee for their efforts. Despite the dry summer, the sites have produced an impressive abundance of fruit and vegetables—well done to all involved!



Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on 1st October in the Council Chamber on Old Market Hill. A public session is included at the start of every meeting, giving residents the opportunity to speak for up to three minutes. Everyone is welcome.

Council Vacancy

The Council currently has a vacancy and will be considering applications for co-option at the October Full Council meeting. Applications should be submitted to the Town Council office or emailed to admin@sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk by 22nd September. Application forms are available on the Town Council website: www.sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk.

News from Dorset County Council – Cllr Carole Jones



The consultation on the Local Plan for Dorset is underway. This must lay out where homes can be built, gipsy & traveller sites located, and employment land situated. The Government requires every local authority to prepare a Local Plan and a Local Transport Plan. This initial consultation closes on the 13th of October.

Dorset Council must meet the housing needs identified by the Government between 2026 and 2043. Dorset has been given a target. As a council, our old approach was that we needed to build 1793 homes a year, but the target we must now reach has been increased to 3246 new homes per year, or just over 50,000 by 2043. (Our Conservative Group believes this number is too high and that good quality homes should indeed be built, in the right places, with at least 40% affordable and with an increase to the infrastructure needed.) Currently, we have 10,000 existing permissions not yet built out. Development in the Green Belt is inappropriate building, but it can be approved in very special circumstances.

Once the consultation closes, the views of people will be considered, and a further draft consultation will be prepared for August 2026, - so there will be a second opportunity to make your views known. The submission for examination takes place in December 2026 – the examination and adoption will come into play in 2027.

Drop-in events manned by Council Officers, along with local councillors, are taking place in various locations on the local plan, but there is not one proposed in Sturminster Newton. Opportunities for any further development are very limited in Stur, and we already have works going on behind the Fire Station along the Bath Road, the Wyatt development off Bull Ground Lane, homes granted opposite the Rolls Mill area and an application to develop the field beside the Bull, and of course, the Northfields development.

If you would like to see the existing proposals, I would be happy to go through them with you, showing you area by area throughout Dorset. There are some areas which landowners have put forward themselves and others which have

been identified by officers, which landowners know nothing of (which is proving difficult!). It is essential to note, however, that the identified areas are only 'possible' many will not proceed, and landowners are able to withdraw their own land if identified through the consultation process.

You can complete the consultation on Dorset Council's website and there are paper copies at the library.

One area of concern is a possible application coming through between Broadoak and Glue Hill for a Synthetic fuel generating facility with equipment including solar, underground pipework and plant over 65+ acres, turning what has been farmland into an industrial area. Naturally, there is a great deal of concern over this, there will be 25 clusters created, with each cluster containing 2x 40ft containers, one 13 metre diameter gas storage container and one 40,000 litre water storage balloon. To understand more about what this might mean, please contact me, and I will pass on the details of a local resident with a great deal of technical research into this. This has a long way to go, and we have yet to see a full planning application.

Onto something completely different – your child may qualify for free school meals and it's definitely worth checking, - you can do so here:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/news/is-your-child-eligible-for-free-school-meals>

I am so sorry to see Pauline resign as Mayor/Town Councillor, and I know of her frustrations in trying to get good stuff done and people on side. With over 30 years of experience working in the community, she was a 'doer' – and there aren't many like her. Stur needs good, strong voices – if you feel you might have what it takes, and you won't stand for being batted down with what can't be done – come forward!

Recent work has included getting the council tax reduced by 25% for a local resident who was battling the system, chasing up holes in pavements, lines to be painted on roads, bins that were missed, trees which need to be cut back, footpaths checked, many different housing issues, visiting a Saxon burial ground to understand where archaeology comes into play with planning applications, anti-social behaviour and more....

If you need any help at all on anything Dorset Council related, please do contact me. I am happy to help wherever I can! Cllrcarole.jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, or carole4stur@gmail.com 07968 348481.

News of The Vale Family Hub (formally Vale Pantry)

We have had a truly busy Summer, with around 650 places for children on Summer Activities which included 2 coach trips out to Moors Valley Country Park – complete with picnics and numerous snacks, we started a junior angling club which the youngsters really enjoyed. Our thanks to the fabulous William Barnes School for their premises each day. So much was on offer from bike riding, archery, petting zoos, cooking, crafting and the list goes on!

It's so great to see so many people using the Hub – whether it be for a coffee, free soft play (for the little one's!), lunch or an activity it's such a fabulous opportunity to meet new faces in a warm and friendly environment – many new friendships have been formed and those who volunteer with us get a huge amount back – and on that note – we welcome new volunteers!! There are so many areas you can be involved with -whether it's baking cakes, helping in the kitchen, or the Café, helping with children, overseeing messy crafts, setting up a movie, helping us organise stuff, helping to sort donations and much more. If you have some time on your hands – just come on in and look at what we do, it's a really happy place where magic happens!

Our Citizen's Advisor is flat out, we have the lovely Helen all day Wednesday and on Thursday afternoons, appointments can be made – just call myself or Kim (07968 348481 / 07939 224572).

Our three-year Lottery grant, which pays for this service, runs out at the end of this year, and this is a real worry for us. To keep this service, we need to find around £16,000 per annum, and funding streams are tough now. This Lottery grant has also paid for our Manager's Salary – so it's going to be a real challenge. So much time is spent each week writing funding bids, it really is never-ending. To do what we do runs out at around £350,000 per annum, with around £150,000 spent on food which we must purchase for our social supermarket. Without the large supermarkets in our area, all those in neighbouring towns with the donation bins go to Blandford and Gillingham Food Banks, Dike's goes to Sherborne Food Bank, despite Stalbridge families coming to us, so we simply have no choice other

than to purchase every week. So many people think all our food is donated – honestly we wish!!!

We are so incredibly grateful to those wonderful people in our community who make a monthly standing order – this brings in around £3750 per month and that is invaluable, we really want to increase this amount as it is without doubt, our future sustainability. Can you help us with a few pounds each month? Every single penny and pound are spent on delivering vital services to those most in need as well as providing a real hub for those who may be lonely. From parenting classes, to mental health support, domestic abuse support, debt and welfare, housing help, helping our elderly residents with shopping and hospital discharges, transport for those with crucial appointments, and advocating for those in need at court and so much more, we are the one-stop place run by the community, and we do whatever it takes, and the impact can be truly transformative.

We have an exciting new project starting, and we are looking to recruit 15–20 Young people between the ages of 10 and 20 to become **Young Community Wellbeing Champions**. Funded through the #iwill Fund to support and empower young people to make a positive difference on the issues that affect their lives, their communities and broader society. We will provide some training on mental health issues so that they can help their own peer group and we will be helping them provide Youth Social Action with a program they will work together on, designing it themselves with our help. Running programs whilst also having fun – fun is important! If you know of any young people who might be interested – we would love to hear from them! Email me at carole@valefamilyhub.co.uk or call me for a chat on 07968 348481.

And we are super excited that we are now launching the **HUB YOUTH CLUB**. We have sadly not had a youth club in Stur for several years and we are delighted to be able to use our space to run two evenings each week:

- Tuesdays - 5.30pm - 7.30pm: 7–11-year-olds
- Thursdays - 6.30pm - 8.30pm 12–16-year-olds.

We have great plans for fun and games, but also life skills, cooking, budgeting, bike and scooter maintenance, learn to DJ, play the decks, nutrition, support for mental health, trips.... even how to use a washing

machine! We are launching this week with a party, - fingers crossed we will survive that and then be in full swing!

To finish – this is why we do what we do:

" I have been able to walk my children and play, have food and drink for £13, normally to keep them occupied on a Saturday, it costs me £27 to just go to soft play, I can afford a roast this weekend"

"...the work you do is just AMAZING! I am one of your newer members and just wanted to say the hugest thank you! The service has made such a hugely positive impact on mine and my family's life, not only from the amazing produce but also the staff have been nothing more than kind, caring and supportive. I suffer severely with anxiety and must be supported by friends and family when going out and about in the community. The ladies were so accommodating and gave me the best times to go when it would be quieter and said it was fine to bring someone along with me. I am a pescatarian, and the variety of fresh fruit and vegetables has been truly wonderful to me. This is a staple part of my diet, and the cost-of-living increase has made this so difficult for me. I look forward to my visits to the pantry for both the produce but also a chat with the lovely staff, this is huge for me as just leaving the front door can be impossible for me at times"

"I feel safe coming here and getting the help I know I need to leave a violent partner – it's not easy with children, but with your help I know I can do it"

"I am wondering if you could call me after 9 tomorrow. I need your help for some support, we are OK for food, but you said we could call if we need you. You make us feel safe and we trust you..."

Finally, we are open to **everyone** – Monday to Saturday from 8.30am, we are right opposite Wynnstay on the Butts Pond Estate – come on in – the

Coffee is amazing, and food is served daily – Our Soft Play area for youngsters is free and you will be warmly welcomed!

Tel : 01258 920040 / email carole@valefamilyhub.co.uk / admin@valefamilyhub.co.uk

The Exchange

Hello from all here at The Exchange!

We hope everyone is as ready for the cooler weather because we have some fantastic shows and events on offer this autumn/winter, as we approach the busiest time of year for us.

SNADS are at the ready to provide a *Spooktacular* **Murder Mystery Dinner** (30th and 31st October) for us this Halloween as part of our fundraising efforts. Join



renowned researcher and Egyptologist Professor Maurice for a fascinating lecture on his recent Egyptian exploits whilst sharing unusual and valuable artefacts, including the breathtaking and priceless Eye of Uadjit! *Tickets are £20* and include a two-course dinner (Meat and Vegetarian options available), advanced booking is essential – For more information please call the Box Office 01258 475137 or speak to a member of staff.

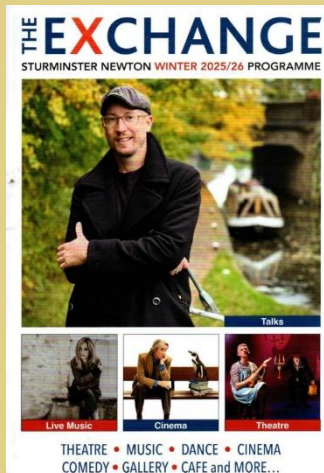
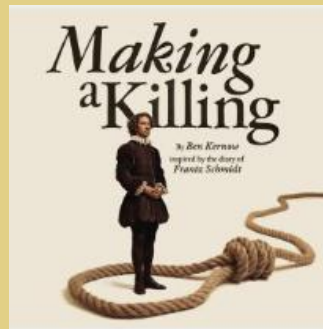
Now that the heat of summer has disappeared, we are ready to put our Christmas planning hats on. Plans are in motion for our **Christmas Bingo** (Friday 21st November) and we've had a fantastic response from stallholders for our **Christmas Market** (Saturday 29th November) so we are confident that there will be something for everyone.



Our programme for October and November boasts plenty of offerings for the theatre lover this year. The legendary comedic company Living Spit will be here for two showings of **Too Many Greek Myths** (17th and 18th October) a show suitable for ages 8+ depicting 20 of the greatest Greek myths all in one chaotic, side-splitting show. *Tickets £16 Adult and £15 Under 18.*

As always, our partners at Artsreach are helping us deliver top quality shows including bringing the renowned Tangle Theatre Company to us with **Julius Caesar**, a fast-moving production that drives through the political chaos, power struggles and friendship betrayals at the heart of Shakespeare's greatest thriller. Adapted and directed by Anna Coombs with John Pfumojena's original music performed live on stage, this high-energy production brings African-inspired storytelling into the heart of ancient Rome.

Ha Hum Ah Productions present; **Making a Killing**. Inspired by the notorious diary of Frantz Schmidt, Making a Killing plunges into a gritty world of power, betrayal and ambition. With its stark echoes of today, this gripping tale lays bare the dark truths of human nature in a society on the brink of change.



If you haven't grabbed your copy yet, the Autumn/Winter Brochure is now available, it's a great way to keep up with everything we have happening!

The Trailway

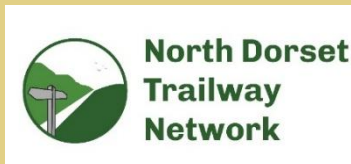
A Fresh Look and a Lively Start for the North Dorset Trailway Network

The new logo marks a bold step forward, reflecting both the heritage and evolving spirit of the Trailway. This new visual theme has since been carried across into a redesigned leaflet, offering a more dynamic and accessible guide for residents and visitors alike.

But the work hasn't stopped there. With a renewed focus NDTN has been actively supporting local community events and increasing its presence across the region. From village fairs to outdoor gatherings, the team is committed to raising awareness of the Trailway's value - not only as a pathway through Dorset's stunning landscapes, but as a vital thread connecting its communities.

As the Trailway continues to grow in reach and impact, we warmly welcome new members to join us. Membership is a simple but powerful way to support our ongoing work - whether it's maintaining the route, enhancing access, or championing green travel in Dorset. Every member helps to keep the Trailway thriving for future generations.

To find out more or become a member, visit our website at www.northdorsettrailway.org.uk



WHAT'S ON IN STUR IN OCT/NOV



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

- Monday 29th September 7:30pm. **Tony Stockwell - Psychic Medium**
- Thursday 16th October 7:30pm. **Robbie Cumming** of Canal Boat Diaries
- Friday 17th Oct & Saturday 18th Oct 7:30pm. **Too Many Greek Myths** Living Spit
- Friday 24th October 7:30pm **Julius Caesar** Tangle theatre company.
- Tuesday 11th November 7:30pm **Making a Killing** Ha Hum Ah productions. Set in 1590 Nuremburg

Film

- Some Thursdays 7pm £6
- Thursday October 23rd **Bridget Jones Mad About the Boy** 15
- Thursday 13th November **The Salt Path** 12A



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 20th September 7:30pm. **The Ed Sheeran Experience.**
- Sunday 28th September 3pm. **The Cory Band** - "top class brass music".
- Saturday 4th October 8pm **Cara Dillon** Irish Folk Singer.
- Saturday 25th October 7:30pm **The Searchers & Hollies Experience.**
- Saturday 8th November 8pm **Tom Robinson with Adam Phillips.**
- Saturday 15th November 7:30pm **Andy Fairweather Low** - Amen corner lead singer.
- Thursday November 20th 7pm **Musical Families** - Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.
- Saturday 22nd November 7:30 **Beyond The Barricade** -Musical Theatre Concert
- Saturday 29th November 8pm **Los Pacaminos.** Round off Stur Sparkle events in town & lights switch on with this concert in the evening!

And also in The Exchange....

The Exchange Open Day – 25th October
10am-1pm

SNADS/Exchange Murder Mystery –
30th/31st October
7:30pm (Fundraiser)

The Exchange Christmas Bingo – November 21st

Saturday 29th Nov
Christmas Market 10am to 2pm

Moonlight Swing Band Christmas Ball –
5th December

Family History Society 50th Anniversary	•Somerset & Dorset Society •The Exchange 27th September •Details on Community Pages
Fashion Show	•Wednesday 1st October 7pm The Exchange •All the town's charity shops come together to put on the show- £5
Curry & Quiz Night	• The Exchange, 3rd October 2025, entrance from 6pm, quiz to start 6.45pm, teams of 6, Raffle, cakes, bar & hot drinks.Details on community pages.
Michell Pfeiffer & Kulesh	•Friday 3rd October, 7:30pm •Ibberton Village Hall •Poster on Village Pages.
Digging & Dusting	•Wednesday 15th October 7:30 The Exchange •Women's Work in Service •Details on Community pages
u3a: The Strolling Photographer	•Thursday 16th October 2:30. •Philip Galvan •Details on Community Pages
Introduction to AI	•Wednesday 22nd October 2:30pm •Details on Community Pages
Garden Club	•Wed 22 Oct The Exchange at 7.30 pm. A Talk on Merton's Dream Garden - The Story of the Russell-Cotes Garden with Phil Broomfield. New Members&Visitors welcome. Raffle&Competitions. sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com
Fungi Foray	•Thursday 30th 10am at Bere Marsh Farm •Details on Village Pages
Stur the Cauldron	•Friday 31st October •Railway Garden 3-7:30pm •Loads happening - see community page

Twinning Assn. Quiz	• Thursday 6th November 7pm for 7.30pm • The Exchange £4 per head/max 6 in a team • Raffle • To book a table please ring 07967 411014
St Mary's Quiz Night	• Friday 14th November 7pm, The Exchange £15 inc Ploughman's Supper - Tickets from: stmaryquiznight@gmail.com
Iron Age Dynasties of Dorset	•Wednesday 19th November •Paul Cheetham. The Exchange 7:30pm •Details on Community Pages
Introduction to AI	•Wednesday 19th November 2:30pm •Details on Community Pages
Christmas Bingo	•Friday November 21st The Exchange
Songs from the Heart	•Saturday 22 November, 7pm. Child Okeford •Geoffrey Horton •Details on village pages.
Garden Club	•Wednesday, 26th November, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. A talk on Letting Go of "Lift the Latch" and the birth of "Little Latch" with Pauline and David Wright. New Members and Visitors welcome. Raffle and Seasonal Competitions. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com
Stur Sparkle	• Saturday 29th November. Lights switch on and all the usual events. New this year (6:15pm) an Illuminated Tractor Parade!!
Christmas Ball	•Friday 5th December. •Moonlight Swing Band •The Exchange

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

- Restarts Monday September 22nd
- 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 on 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

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

Sundays -Sunday Services

The nearest Roman Catholic Church is at Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, DT10 1JX.
Nearest Orthodox Church is at Athelhampton Road, opposite Athelhampton House, Puddletown, DT2 7LG Father David Harris, tel: 01305 849 410 e-mail: frdavidharris@hotmail.co.uk

Or St Dunstan of Canterbury Orthodox Church is an Antiochian Orthodox Church 94a, Bournemouth Rd., Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. BH14 9HY.

Regular Events at Stour Connect

Men's Shed Stour - a woodworking/recycling project, where all can meet to socialise and learn new skills or share existing skills, is open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am to 3pm

Carers/parents support group for carers of loved ones with lifelong conditions - every Monday morning

Life is for Living - for those with memory issues/dementia diagnosis every Wednesday from 1.30pm

Connect to Employment - employability and life skills qualifications for people with additional needs every Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm

Social Fridays - every Friday morning

Lunch Clubs - every Monday with FREE transport. Meal costs from £6.50

Meals on Wheels - Hot meals direct to your door weekdays from £6.50.

2025 Diary

History Week 22-28 September

Fashion Show & Swap Shop 1 October

Stur The Caudron 31st October

Hand Made for Xmas at the Workhouse Chapel

1st November to 24th December

Stur Sparkle 29 November ..and onwards

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 mikyonaTAol.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

STURBIZ – NEWS OF BUSINESSES & SERVICES



SturBiz Breakfasts

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

FEATURED BUSINESSES

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

New for the Business Pages

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

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

Company / Organisation

Job Title

Location

Contact(s) for more details



Sturminster Newton
Country Market

www.country-markets.co.uk

Every Tuesday Morning:
The Exchange Atrium



1855

Welcome to the New Faces of **1855**!

The past two months in **1855** have been buzzing with creativity! We are thrilled to welcome 13 new Traders, Artists and Creators to our vibrant community, each bringing their unique flair and talent.

Each new Trader adds something special – from indulgent treats and eco-conscious creations to inspiring art and handcrafted treasures.

1855 is more than a marketplace, it's a community of creativity, passion and opportunity. We cannot wait for you to meet these talented creators and discover their amazing work. Here's to growing, inspiring and thriving together.

Tolive – Silver
jewellery and hand-
crafted crochet bags.

**Handmade with Love
by Natalia** – Stunning
flowers made from
pipe cleaners.

**The Compton Candle
Company** –
Handcrafted candles,
melts & diffusers.

Bath Bomb Boutique –
Luxurious handmade
bath bombs.

Regenerative Nomads
– Herbal teas,
remedies & botanical
crafts.

Flo & Mo – Handmade
cushions, aprons and
tooth fairy cushions.

Jane Wade Scarlet –
Local author bringing
stories to life.

Wild Lines – Eco-
friendly cards featuring
unusual and
endangered animals.

Quilting Jane –
Bespoke patchwork
tote bags.

Olivia's Treats –
Delicious handmade
cheesecakes.

Buckridge Dairy – Local
handmade Ice Cream

Mystacoll's Spirit –
Sculpted copper wire
trees with preserved
moss.

Paul Hawthorn –
Professional artist and
sculptor.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS & EVENTS



The Blackmore Vale Group
of

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Registered Charity No. 118439

Digging and Dusting Women's work in service

To enter into service on an estate was often the only option available to working class women. A fascinating snapshot of their lives!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC-BY-NC-ND

Talk by Valerie Brenton

Wednesday 15th October

£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



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Registered Charity No. 118439

Iron Age Dynasties of Dorset

Radiocarbon dating and DNA studies of later Iron Age burials from Dorset. What happened at Maiden Castle?



Paul Cheetham

Wednesday 19th November, entry £4

7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange

Hot and cold drinks available at the bar

**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.u3aite.uk/>

SturTech—The Community Learning Centre.

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

snclc@btconnect.com

snclc.org.uk 01258 475272



Security support for Windows 10 can now be extended beyond the 11th October deadline—so now no rush for new PCs. An 'enrolment wizard' is rolling out and will reach everyone before 11 Oct.

The button to kick off the enrolment wizard should appear in the Settings / Windows Update panel.

There are three ways to enrol for ESU.

- ♦ The free option for extended updates, requires syncing PC settings to OneDrive, something most people do anyway (and allows easy set up of any new PC). it is just your Windows settings, not your files and data that's synced.
- ♦ The second option is to pay \$30 (or equivalent in pounds) to join the ESU (which was the only option initially).
- ♦ A third route is to cash in 1,000 Microsoft Rewards points, provided you have accumulated that many. (Ask us about how to accumulate reward points).

Don't Forget: Dialling 159 will get you safely though to your bank if you suspect a scam or fraud.

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 NEWTON AND NORTH DORSET

'Supporting Later Life'



Age Concern North Dorset, Stour Connect,
Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1JF
(opposite Connect Cafe)

Telephone: 01258 475582

Email: info@acnorthdorset.org.uk

www.acnorthdorset.org.uk



Registered Charity No. 1162034

Age Concern North Dorset has been supporting the town of Sturminster Newton and the surrounding villages since 1991 and we remain your local charity for later life. We are an independent charity run by a small team of volunteers & part-time staff.

'How can we help you?'

- **Telephone Advice Service**

If you have an age related enquiry, call us and we will endeavour to help you.

- **Welfare Information and Advice Service**

Our experienced volunteers can help with a range of benefits including Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit and Carers Allowance.

- **Befriending / Friendship**

A friendly service run by volunteers. We will do our best to match you with someone who can support your needs. The service provided is safe, ethical and confidential.

- **Foot Clinics**

Our Foot Care Practitioner runs a weekly clinic at our Stour Connect office on a Thursday morning, with a choice of services.

- **Weekly Balance Classes & Coffee Morning**

Classes are held at Sturfit Gym in Sturminster and are designed to support those in need of gentle exercise. From September 2025 we will be offering a Monday and a Wednesday morning class. This is a safe & sociable way to exercise with the supervision of a fully qualified trainer.

- **Community Outreach**

Our Community Outreach Worker is promoting our services in North Dorset via drop-in facilities, local events and giving talks about the charity to local organisations.

Call us to find out more about any of our services

'How can you help us?'

- **Volunteers and Trustees needed - to find out more see our website**

As an independent charity, fund-raising is an ongoing activity. If you would like to support our work by donating please call us to find out how. All funds are used to ensure the continued provision of our services. Help us to make a bigger difference, donate today.



STURMINSTER NEWTON HISTORY WEEK

20TH - 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025

A PROGRAMME OF DAILY THEMED TALKS & EVENTS
INCLUDING

GUIDED HERITAGE WALK - THE MILL - THE MARKET
THE RAILWAY - THE CHURCH - THE WORKHOUSE
HISTORY QUIZ NIGHT - THE CASTLE
FAMILY HISTORY DAY



Stur Guiding continues to look for help in order to offer more girls the like of recent experiences enjoyed by members:

Sleepover at Dartmoor Zoo; Murder Mystery in locations in and around the town; Pioneer Badges & a Team Building Day.

Contact sturguiding@outlook.com

Spice Up Your Night

RIVERSIDE FEST
PRESENTS

CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENING OF DELICIOUS CURRY
AND CHALLENGING QUIZ QUESTIONS!

3rd October 2025 6:00PM
Stour Hall, The Exchange
Sturminster Newton
DT10 1FH

£12 per person
Tickets
available at
1855
Sturminster
newton
DT10 1AN
Or Ticket
Source

Teams of 6
Raffle
Bar
Tea/Coffee
Cake



ENJOY FOOD AND
FRIENDLY
COMPETITION

Info:  riversidefamilyfest@outlook.com

 07805136840

Sturminster Newton United FC

SNUFC play in the Western League Division One.

Match Day Entry

£6.00 Adults, £4.00 Concessions.

We have a 50-seat stand.

Refreshments available in the Club House.

Please come and support the Cherries.

FST	04/10/25 15:00	Sturminster Newton United		VS		Bitton	BARNETS FIELD
FST	11/10/25 15:00	AEK Boco		VS		Sturminster Newton United	GREENBANK RECREATION GROUND
FST	18/10/25 15:00	Sturminster Newton United		VS		Keynsham Town	BARNETS FIELD
FST	25/10/25 15:00	Welton Rovers		VS		Sturminster Newton United	WEST CLEWES RECREATION GROUND
FST	01/11/25 15:00	Sturminster Newton United		VS		Avonmouth	BARNETS FIELD
FST	08/11/25 15:00	Wells City		VS		Sturminster Newton United	WELLS CITY FOOTBALL CLUB
CC	11/11/25 19:30	Verwood Town First		VS		Sturminster Newton United First	Verwood Town First
FST	15/11/25 15:00	Sturminster Newton United		VS		Odd Down (BATH)	BARNETS FIELD
FST	22/11/25 15:00	Longwell Green Sports		VS		Sturminster Newton United	LONGWELL GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE
FST	29/11/25 15:00	Sturminster Newton United		VS		Mendip Broadwalk	BARNETS FIELD

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Bringing the library to you... Your local library at your doorstep!

Our **Home Library Service** brings your local library service straight to your front door. We deliver books and audiobooks, **Free of Charge** to people who enjoy reading but are unable to get to their local library due to poor health or mobility, or caring responsibilities.

In partnership with:



**ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**



FREE!

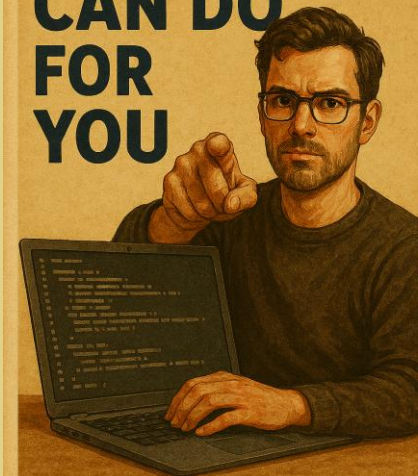
To find out more, ask at your local library or call us on **01305 236 666**, email dorsethomelibraryservice@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or visit us at royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Alternatively you can speak to **Dorset Library Service**, call **01305 221 000**, email dorsetlibraries@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, or visit dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries.

Royal Voluntary Service is a registered charity 1015988 (England & Wales) SC038924 (Scotland).
CS46726_0425

Curious about how artificial intelligence can make your life easier or help your business thrive? Join us for a short, engaging introduction to the real-world benefits of AI—designed especially for everyday users and small business owners. Whether you're looking to save time, boost productivity, or explore new opportunities, this session will show you how AI tools can support your goals without needing a tech background. Come along and discover what AI can do for you—no jargon, just practical insights and ideas you can use right away.

WHAT AI CAN DO FOR YOU



WHAT AI CAN DO FOR YOU



Wednesday 22nd October or
Wednesday 19th November 2:30 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.

Images and text generated by Co-pilot.

Our Next Meeting:

Thursday 16th October at 2.30pm

In the Exchange

Philip Galvan - The Strolling Photographer



As a young boy, I loved strolling with my parents and sisters, hand in hand along the busy Blackpool promenade in north-west England, with my Brownie 127 camera strung loosely around my neck. The bracing sea air soon turned delicate cheeks bright red, as we meandered slowly past colourful ice-cream stalls, through penny arcades, just soaking up the holiday atmosphere. Just for one week each year I felt different. I still do the same today, walking at a leisurely pace, absorbing all that is around me, just looking and listening, taking photographs when the occasion arises. No rush, no panic.

Strolling is not stressful and can definitely have a calming effect on one's soul. I love the French word 'flâneur' for a strolling observer, just as Henri Cartier-Bresson liked to be known and that's how I would like to be, as I live out the rest of my days: just as a strolling observer, photographing the world around me and sharing my experiences with anyone who cares to come along.

Entry

Free for members

£2 for visitors

Refreshments afterwards!

NEWSTONE HOUSE
STURMINSTER NEWTON

It's time for Coffee Afternoon and you're invited



FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER | 2.30PM-4.30PM

Join us for coffee, cake and chatter - and if you're lucky enough to find the cupcake with the golden filling, you'll win a bottle of bubbly!

Games and raffle to raise further funds for this worthwhile cause.

For more information:

Call **01258 474530**

NewstoneHouse.co.uk

Stur the Cauldron – Halloween in the Railway Garden

**Friday 31st October 2025 |
3:00pm – 7:30pm**

This Halloween, the Railway Garden will be transformed into a spooky, fun-filled wonderland for all ages! Join us for an afternoon and evening packed with activities, competitions, and creepy delights.



Activities (from 3:00pm)

- **Make Slime** – mix up your own gooey potion to take home
- **Biscuit Decorating** – spooky treats, your way
- **Apple Bobbing** – test your Halloween skill and speed
- **Pebble Painting** – with Young SNADS
- **Spooky Storytelling & Bookmark Making** – with the Library & LitFest
- **Photo Booth (with selfie sticks!)** – capture your frightful look
- **Face Painting** – transform into a monster, witch, or ghoul
- **Scary Feel Boxes & Wheel of Doom** – dare to dip your hand inside...
- **Bug Fest** – hands-on creepy crawly fun in Chivrick
- **Follow the Pumpkins** – complete the spooky trail
- **Dressed Entertainers** – characters brought to life by Young SNADS & friends

Half-Term Halloween Fun

- **Halloween Town Trail** – pumpkins in shop windows
- **Carved Pumpkins** – bring yours to decorate the Railway Garden
- **Workshops** – make bats, ghosts & more
- **Halloween Trail Map** – spooky routes around town

Competitions

- **Best Scary Animal (Pet Fancy Dress)** – 4:30pm
- **Halloween Story Competition** – 5:30pm (prizes to be won)
- **Best Costume Parade** – 6:30pm
 - Categories: 0-4, 5-7, 8-12, 12-18, Adults



Refreshments

- **Buckridge Farm Ice Cream** – seasonal flavours
- **Horse Box Bar** – hot drinks & milkshakes
- **Poets Corner Café** – invited to join us
- **Toffee Apples & Halloween Donuts** – the ultimate Halloween treats

Let's Decorate the Railway Garden

The Garden will be transformed with:

- A **smoke machine** at the entrance
- **Pumpkins, bats, ghosts, skeletons & spiders' tunnels**
- **Lights in the trees & laser effects**
- **Coffins, gravestones, mannequins & more**
- A **giant bubbling cauldron** at the heart of it all

Free Entry – £0.00





Creepy Crawlies Encounter Awaits You!

Get up close to some spooktacular creepy crawlies at Bugfest meet and greet encounter here in Sturminster Newton!

Dare to Explore!



Dare to Explore!

FREE ENTRY
BOOKING REQUIRED
 sturbiz18@gmail.com
 01258 475612

31st October 2025
 3pm-5pm
 Chivrick Room
 The Exchange




Why not join us for our
Christmas Concert Party

at

"The Exchange"

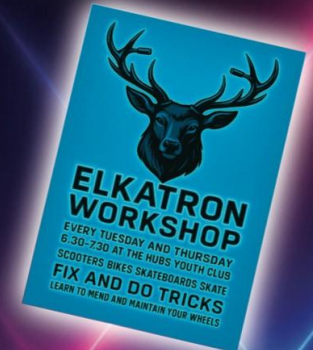
Saturday Morning 13th December

10.45 (Doors Open at 10.30)

and enjoy some rousing seasonal
music performed by Stur's best kept
secret - the

Sturminster Newton Orchestra

Entrance is Free and all are welcome!



Youth Club



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

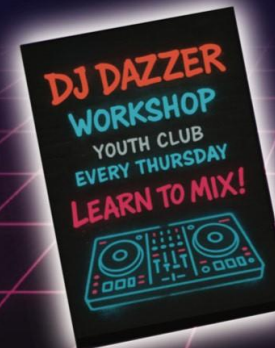
Tuesday - Yr 4/5/6 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Thursday - Yr 7+ 6.00pm - 9.00pm

It's the place to be!!!

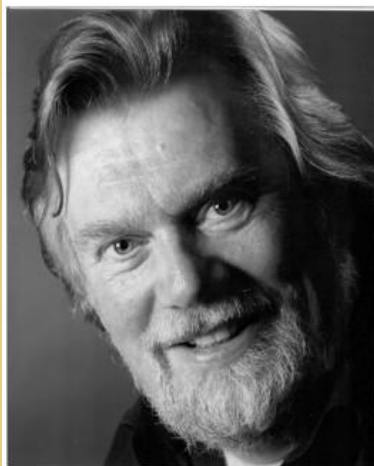
ENTRY £1

TUCK SHOP



WHAT'S ON NEARBY

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



SERO invites you to

'Songs from the heart'

an evening of music, song and laughter for all ages performed by

**GEOFFREY
HORTON**

The acclaimed Bass-Baritone returns to perform for SERO following a sell-out concert two years ago. He has sung major operatic roles, appeared in musicals and

directed everything from opera to pantomime. He has also performed internationally with choral societies as a guest soloist. His programme will contain a mixture of popular songs and ballads interspersed with anecdotes and tales from his long career. He will be accompanied by James Smith and joined by Angela Beattie (mezzo-soprano), with whom he has recently worked in raising funds for Neuroendocrine Cancer UK.

Saturday, 22nd November 7 pm

Child Okeford Village Hall

Tickets £15

to include light refreshments

Bar and Raffle

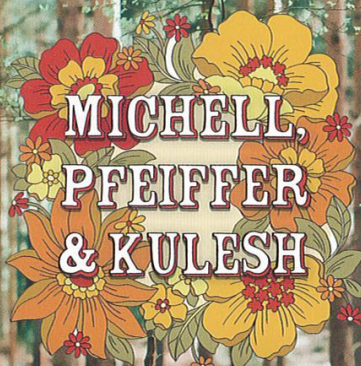
To purchase tickets email: serocharity@gmail.com

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.)





THREE NATIONALITIES, THREE FEMALE VOICES, A MULTITUDE OF INSTRUMENTS

"First class, beautiful harmonies..."
Celtic Heartbeat, BBC Radio Wales

"Individually, all three are outstanding performers, together they are unrivalled"
Folking.com

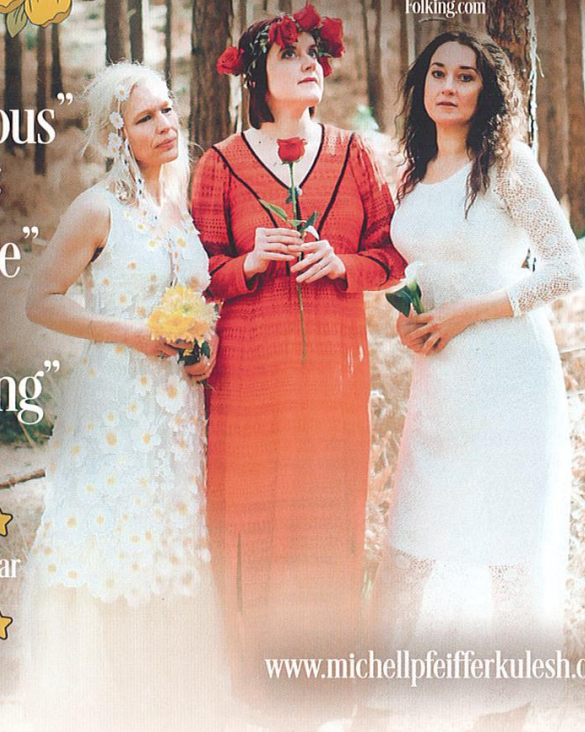
"Tremendous"
Mike Harding

"Exquisite"
Folking.com

"Entrancing"
FATEA

★★★★★
The Morning Star

★★★★★
Folk London



www.michellpfeifferkulesh.com

IBBERTON VILLAGE HALL

Friday 3 October, 7:30pm

£12.50, £6 (u18s), £35 (family) online at artsreach.co.uk
or from 07771 561099 / ibbertonvillagehall@gmail.com

Bar, Light Refreshments & Raffle Available
 *Pre-show meals at The Ibberton – booking essential: 01258 817956



Registered Charity No 1058198



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**





Fungi foray

at Bere Marsh Farm

Thursday 30th October
10am-1pm

Discover the hidden world of fungi at Bere Marsh Farm near Shillingstone this autumn on October 30 from 10am to 1pm.

Guided by expert mycologist Andy Knott from Jurassic Coast Mushrooms, we'll explore the farm's varied habitats in search of everything from delicate, easily overlooked mushrooms to the striking Fly Agaric. Along the way, Andy will share his knowledge and help us identify what we find.

Bere Marsh Farm has been home to some nationally rare fungi species, and we hope to encounter some of these treasures again.

The walk will finish back at the Threshing Barn with tea, coffee and a fungi identification session.

The cost is £12 per adult, £10 per CRT Friend or volunteer and £6 per child, suitable for those over 7-years-old.

To book, see www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/bere-marsh-fungi-foray



The Tale of Sadko

with Daria Kulesh

Children can join award-winning singer-songwriter Daria Kulesh for a thrilling, interactive musical workshop based on an enchanting Russian fairytale. Learn about the magical underwater adventures of Sadko the Bard, conjure up a storm, and dance away at the Sea King's court! Pop gigantic bubbles, learn why music makes us happy or sad, explore a multitude of exciting instruments, and enjoy creative activities inspired by the story. Suitable for 3-9yrs. Children must be accompanied.



4 October, 10:30am-12pm, Ibberton Village Hall
Places £5 per child. Booking essential. Telephone: 07771 561099

<https://artsreach.co.uk/event/tale-of-sadko> email: ibbertonvillagehall@gmail.com

Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Village Hall DT11 0EL What 3 Words
<https://what3words.com/threading.link.strategy>

St Aldhelm Church, Belchalwell

invite you all to join them for a meal and the
showing of a

1973 BBC Documentary



LOOK STRANGER:

**Johnny Cox Goes to Market,
Dorset.**

Local Farmer John Cox and his trip to a Sturminster
Newton market

Friday 17th October

@ Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Village
Hall DT11 0EL

7 for 7.30 pm

£15 per person

Bookings/tickets phone: 01258 472328

Email: lowbrook1@aol.com

Bulbarrow Art Group

Come and socialise, draw/paint
etc (untutored but help can be
provided) to include a still-life set
up, or work on your own project.

**Ibberton Village Hall
5pm to 7pm**

To gauge interest, we're planning to
run on Thursday evenings - initially
for a five week try out:
25th Sept, 2nd Oct, 9th Oct,
16th Oct, 23rd Oct.

£7.00 per person to cover hall hire
plus teas/coffees etc.

Please email, text or call so
we have an idea of numbers:
su@elsden.me.uk
or - 07836 616889

SPORT, HEALTH & WELLBEING



Badminton (over 50s)

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



Sturminster United Football Club

- Youth Teams
- Spectator Facilities www.snufc.com



Zumba with Abby

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



Short Mat Bowls

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



Pilates

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



Chair based exercise

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



Pilates

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



Hinton & Sturminster Cricket Club
[facebook.com/StintonCC/](https://www.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; Honeyamead 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

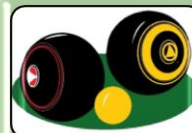
- Many age groups.
- The club has graduated a current world champion.
- sturabc.co.uk



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.

In half-term week – on Tuesday 28th October there will be a variety of inflatables

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



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR NEW...



**SOCIAL AND FUN SPORTS
GROUP FOR
ADULTS WITH MOBILITY
DIFFICULTIES**



**A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT OUR
FIRST SESSION. Friends/Family/Carer welcome**

COME ALONG AND JOIN-IN - SPEND TIME WITH
OTHERS WHO UNDERSTAND YOUR CHALLENGES
AND MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS - CAN'T DO
REGULAR SPORT? COME AND HAVE SOME FUN

**REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE**



**THIS FIRST SESSION IS A PILOT
SESSION, AND WE HOPE TO RUN
MORE.
TO LET US KNOW YOU WOULD LIKE
TO JOIN US FOR THIS EVENT PLEASE
CONTACT THE WELLBEING TEAM ON**

**01747 856786 OR EMAIL
BVPWELLBEING@DORSETGP.NHS.UK**

**WHEN:
WEDNESDAY
1ST OCTOBER
1.30PM - 3PM
AT
STOUR
CONNECT
HALL, BATH
ROAD,
STURMINSTER
NEWTON
DT10 1JF**

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

St Mary's Sturminster ...



SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas '	St Peter's
Oct 2025			
Wednesday 1 October	10am Holy Communion		
1st Sunday 5 October	11am Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Communion with Methodist Church. Followed by a Bring and Share lunch		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 8 October	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 12 October	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 15 October	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 19 October	11am Holy Communion	4pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 October	10am Holy communion		
4th Sunday 26 October	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Mattins	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 29 October	10am Holy Communion		

SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas '	St Peter's
NOV 2025			
1st Sunday 2 November	11am Holy Communion 4pm All Souls Memorial Service – to remember loved ones who have died. Refreshments in Church Hall from 3pm		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 November	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 9 November	8am Holy Communion 10.15am Remembrance Service 6pm Evensong	10.50am Remembrance Service	10:45 Remembrance Service
Wednesday 12 November	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 16 November	11am Benefice Holy Communion – we welcome Bishop Karen Gorham	4pm Evensong	
Wednesday 19 November	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday 23 November	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 26 November	10am Holy Communion		
5th Sunday 30 November Advent Sunday	11am Benefice Holy Communion 6pm Advent Sunday Carol Service		

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.

Vale Methodist Church (based @ Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag).

Sturminster Newton Methodist Church Services every Sunday @ 10.30am.
Kings Stag Methodist Church every 2nd ,4th & 5th Sunday in the month @ 6pm.
All are welcome.

St. Mary's Coffee Morning



On 5th Sept
come and hear
about The
Dorset Blind
Association

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 1st August
- Friday 5th Sept.
- Friday 3rd Oct.

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).

ST MARY'S CHURCH FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER 7pm
THE EXCHANGE, STOUR HALL



**FUN-FILLED
EVENING**

**QUIZ
QUESTIONS**

**Bring £2 coin for
CASH PRIZE**

**Ploughman's
Supper**

RAFFLE

Tickets from: stmaryquiznight@gmail.com
£15 per person; £90 per table of 6

Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Communion Service

at St. Mary's Church
Sunday 5th October
at 11am.



This is a joint service with the Methodist Church, and all are welcome. The service will be followed by a 'bring and share' Harvest Lunch in St. Mary's Church Hall where we will be joined by members of The Christian Fellowship.

Any harvest gifts brought to this service will be donated to the Pantry at The Vale Family Hub.

Please contact Revd Mary Gubbins on 07440680387 if you have any questions.



A warm invitation to our 4th Annual

LIGHT PARTY

Friday 31st October 2025

3.30pm – 5:30pm

At Sturminster Newton Methodist Church
Church Street, DT10 1DB

All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied.

There will be prizes for the best 'non scary' costumes.

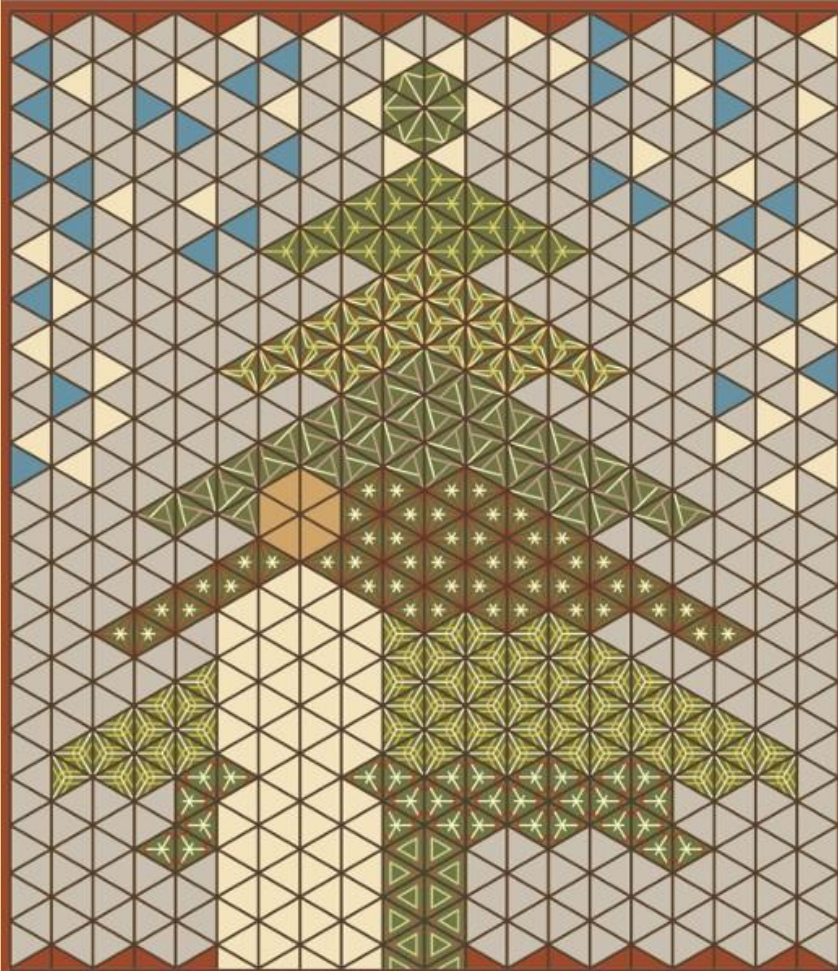
A fun packed evening with party food,
music, games, and crafts

This is a FREE event sponsored by
Christians Together in Sturminster Newton

Christians Together in Sturminster Newton: St. Mary's; Christian Fellowship;
Methodist.

Contact: Revd Mary Gubbins: revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com 07440 680387,
Mrs Vera Peavor: aloeverap46@gmail.com 07919 338105,
Revd Margaret Oxenham: margaretoxenham14@gmail.com 01258 472985.

St. Mary's Sturminster Newton Christmas Tree Festival 2025



Sat 29th Nov 10am - 7pm

At 5pm Father Christmas will visit, welcomed by Christmas songs from The Choral Society, and refreshments

Sun 30th Nov 12 noon - 4pm

Mon 1st Dec 10am - 4pm

Tues 2nd Dec 10am - 4pm

Weds 3rd Dec 11am - 4pm

SERO'S

Christmas Wreath Making

Friday 5th December 2025

Village hall, Hazelbury Bryan

Morning session

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

Afternoon session

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

Places will be limited to 15 per session

Everything needed to create a beautiful festive decoration included

£40 per session

email serocharity@gmail.com for booking and further information

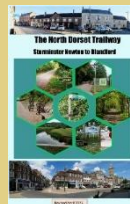
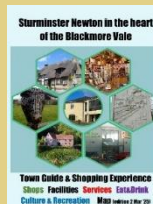
Or ring Julie on 01258 861218 or 07749 486733

Or Kate on 01258 863695 or 07725 245066

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

EDITORIAL

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



The Around Guide is focussing more on Stur than in the past. It has a wide paper circulation. Contact info@aroundguides.co.uk or 01202 882277 to offer copy directly or discuss advertising.

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:

Nov 15th for Dec/Jan

Jan 15th for Feb/Mar

CONTACT

whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com

sncl.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.



MAKE STUR SPARKLE

STURMINSTER NEWTON AT CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025

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

Christmas Tree Light Switch On at 5pm

Illuminated Tractor Parade at 6.15pm

Full Stur Sparkle programme below or look out for a leaflet.

Handmade for Christmas at the Workhouse Chapel starts on 1st November.

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



Sat 29th November – Christmas Tree Light Switch On

FREE PARKING ALL DAY

*Find the Angel Christmas Shop Window quiz – until
4th January*

Late night shopping until 7pm

10am-2pm

Christmas Market at
The Exchange

10am – 7pm Opening of
Christmas Tree Festival at St.
Marys Church with
refreshments and Choral
Society singing at 5pm to
welcome Father Christmas

10.30am

Father Christmas in his
grotto on the Terrace by the
Railway Garden (*Advance
bookings at 1855 Sturminster
Newton*)

12noon

William Barnes School
Choir

To be confirmed:

Sturminster Newton High
School Choir; Bulgarian
Dancing; Vale Ukes – U3A
Group; Conor Smith – The
Boy with the Blue Guitar

4.50pm

Lantern Parade led by
Father Christmas from
The Exchange to
Market Place

5pm

Christmas Tree Light
Switch On –
Sturminster Newton
Football Club

5.05pm

Lantern Parade - led by
Father Christmas, from the
Market Place to St. Mary's
Church.

5.15pm

Rockit Choir

6.15pm

illuminated Tractor Parade
leaves North Dorset Business
Park to travel through the
town to finish in Station Road
Car Park

8pm

Los Pacaminos at The
Exchange*

Programme of Stur 2025 Xmas Events

Saturday 1st November

Handmade for Christmas at the Workhouse Chapel until 24th Dec – 9.30am-4.30pm

FREE PARKING ALL DAY

Car & Bike Enthusiasts 9am-12noon

Meet the Traders at 1855 10am-1pm

Dorset COPD at The Exchange

Thursday 6th November

ArtsReach Dance at The Exchange

Twinning Quiz at The Exchange TBC

Saturday 8th November

Crafts at The Exchange

Tom Robinson at The Exchange* 7.30pm

Friday 14th November

St Mary's Church Quiz at The Exchange 7.30pm

Saturday 15th November

Andy Fairweather at The Exchange* 7.30pm

Wednesday 19th November

Blackmore Vale Family History Talk at The Exchange 7.30pm

Thursday 20th November

Artsreach Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at The Exchange

Friday 21st November

The Exchange Bingo Night

Saturday 22nd November

Beyond The Barricade at The Exchange

Wednesday 26th November

SN & Hinton Cricket Club Christmas Bingo at The Exchange TBC

Saturday 29th November – Christmas Tree Light Switch On

See panel above

Sunday 30th November

Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church 12-4pm

Advent Sunday Carol Service at St Mary's Church 6pm

Monday 1st December

Angels Take Flight & Hide until Friday 19th December
Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church 10am-4pm

Tuesday 2nd December

Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church 10am-4pm

Wednesday 3rd December

Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church 11am-4pm

Friday 6th December

Moonlight Swing Band at The Exchange

Saturday 6th December - Small Business Saturday

FREE PARKING ALL DAY

Car & Bike Enthusiasts 9am-12noon

Meet the Traders & Tastings at 1855 10am-1pm

Crafts at The Exchange 10am-2pm

Rock for Heroes at The Exchange* 7.30pm

Choral Society Concert at St. Mary's Church 7.30pm

Sunday 7th December

Santa Stride

Farmers Market at Bere Marsh Farm

Thursday 10th December

Ridgeway Singers at The Exchange

Saturday 13th December

Sturminster Newton Orchestra at The Exchange at 10.45am

Poss Stained Glass Nativity – Nicole Forbes-Marshall

SKA Night at The Exchange* 7.30pm

Tuesday 16th December

Schools Choir Concert at The Exchange

Wednesday 17th December

Neil Sands Christmas Memories at The Exchange* 2pm

Friday 19th December

Stour Connect Day Centre Carol Service at St. Mary's Church at 11am

Carol and Christingle Service at St. Peter's Church, Hinton St. Mary 6pm

Saturday 20th December

Chic to Chic at The Exchange* 8pm

Sunday 21st December

Morning Carol Service at Sturminster Newton Methodist Church 10.30am

Carol service at St Mary's Church 4pm

Carol service at St. Thomas' Church, Lydlinch at 6pm

Wednesday 24th December

Crib Service at St. Mary's Church 4pm

First Mass of Christmas St. Thomas' Church, Lydlinch at 9pm

Christmas Midnight Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church 11.15pm

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Holy Communion at St Peter's Church, Hinton St Mary 9.30am

Christmas Day (short) service at Sturminster Newton Methodist Church 10am

Christmas Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church 11am

Wednesday 1st January

Vintage Car Rally

Sunday 4th January

Christingle at St. Mary's Church at 3.30pm

*For ticket information visit <https://stur-exchange.co.uk/>

** Contact 1855 Sturminster Newton to book



Bere Marsh Farm
Farmers' Market
CHRISTMAS EDITION

Sunday 7th December | 11am-3pm

Shop from a selection of tasty local produce and get in the festive spirit.
Enjoy mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and more at the Buzz Café.

Bere Marsh Farm
Shillingstone, DT11 0QY

 CRT Events
www.theCRT.co.uk/events

Late submissions

JUMBLE SALE
Community Connections



Saturday 18th October
Starting at 2:00pm
Stour Connect, (next to Craft Chapel),
Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1JF

- Abled/Disabled Toilets
- Free parking in car park opposite
- Café - serving light refreshments
- Charity Shop

More info email: marketing@communityconnections.online or Tel: 01258 471359

Charity No. 1176653