

What's Happening in Stur Bi-Monthly: Oct/Nov 2026



Autumn at The Mill

Last chance to visit the Mill the year.

Open 21/24/26/27/28 September

24th Meet the Archaeologist. 26th Cream Teas

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



Town Council working in collaboration with Dorset Wildlife Trust



Sturminster Newton Town Council is working with Dorset Wildlife Trust on an exciting project to increase biodiversity across the town. We have identified areas of Town Council-owned land that could be

used to create nature trail areas and improve habitats for wildlife. Our aim is to develop a project that not only benefits Sturminster Newton but can also act as a positive example for other councils.

The project will also involve working with the community and encouraging residents to get involved at home, whether through wildlife-friendly planting, creating small habitats, or supporting local biodiversity in simple, practical ways. We will keep you updated on progress.

What's on at the Youth Club

The Youth Club runs on Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm and Fridays from 4pm to 6pm at Unit 2 Richmar, Butts Pond.

Sessions include music, games, sports, cooking, life skills, challenges and competitions. Young people are encouraged to come along, get involved, and help plan future sessions and activities. See the poster for more details.

Remembrance 2026

Remembrance Sunday will take place on the 8th November, with the parade beginning at the Railway Gardens at 9.45am. On Wednesday 11th November, there will be an Act of Remembrance and two-minute silence at the War Memorial in the Recreation Ground at 11am. Our thanks go to the Royal British Legion for leading these events, and also to St Mary's Church, The Exchange and the marshals for their support.





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Community Engagement

Thank you to everyone who came to say hello at our recent Meet the Councillors session and at the Cheese Festival.

It was great to chat with residents and visitors about the Youth Club, allotments, walking routes, the Neighbourhood Plan, and the suggestions and ideas people shared with us.

The networking sessions with Volunteer Centre Dorset are also continuing, helping to promote collaborative working with the many voluntary organisations in the town. These sessions also offer free training to support organisations with areas such as bid writing for funding and effective marketing.

Meetings

All meetings start at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber on Old Market Hill. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

7 October – Full Council

21 October – Planning & Environment Committee

28 October – Finance & Policy Committee

4 November – Full Council

18 November – Planning & Environment Committee

25 November – Amenities Committee



News from Dorset County Council – Cllr Carole Jones

August tends to be a quiet time at Dorset Council with holidays, but rest assured I have been kept busy with a variety of issues. Many concerns about missed bins – to the point where I am calling it Bingate! The depot in Shaftesbury has been hit by staff sickness and broken-down vehicles, and it's been a real problem. I am taking this up as robustly as I can, but it is important. If your bin is missed, please can you report it online at



<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/missed-bin-collection>. The current service is sadly lacking, and I will continue to keep my hob-nailed boots on to insist on better.

An update on ALDI – I am honestly as frustrated as many of you! This is taking far longer than we had all hoped and expected, - it is still on though. However, the retail impact assessment Aldi had submitted to the Council was 10 years out of date, so I have been told! So, their planning team must prepare a new one. I have spoken to Aldi's planning team, and they expect this to be finished and submitted by Christmas, which was when I had hoped the building would be going up, subject to planning. This impact retail assessment will involve householder consultations, including trips being made to current supermarkets and more. I wish I could do more to help move things along, but my hands are tied. Please don't give up – I'm not!

My role on Dorset Council's Shadow Cabinet revolves around the children's and education portfolio. This year, that directorate will be spending in the region of 108M. This and Adult Social Care are the two largest spending directorates within the Council. One area of real concern revolves around the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget – the rising costs of providing the right education to just under 1300 children, several of whom have exceptionally high needs is frightening. The figures aren't just rising; the rate of increase is accelerating. This overall cost is held off the books, but this is why the Government is pushing through the new education reforms paper. This is happening across the country. So, there is a huge amount of work in progress to reduce costs and find better, more affordable ways to educate each child. Dorset Council is working to create new, more inclusive hubs within mainstream schools, but specialist provision will remain in separate schools for those with the most challenging needs. Dorset Council has submitted their plans to the Government and if / when accepted, 90% of the deficit will be wiped off. This deficit is likely to be in the region of 83M this year – but will be rising... Children in independent settings outside our school settings cost in the region of £71,500 per child per annum. Our own specialist schools, such as Coombe House, come in at around £20,000 less, so whilst we had a high initial expenditure on purchasing the school, it was always spent to save. We have several children with the highest of need in external residential placements, which cost a staggering £6,800 a week

(£360K a year). We know we have one of the highest council taxes in the country – and as a council we receive one of the lowest rates of funding from the Government, - there is so much to fix; is our new government up to it? – We hope so, but this all dates back years and through all governments. We have all been hearing our new prime minister speaking of ‘hope’ – I just want to see some action.

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

I will be in the Family Hub on Saturday, October 3rd from 10 – 12 with my Councillor Surgery – so please do come on in if I can help. But if something needs sorting now, just give me a call on 07968 348481.

News of The Vale Family Hub (formally Vale Pantry)

It's been a busy few months at Vale Family Hub, and there's a lot to share — so grab a cup of tea and read on.

A Cool Summer, Warmly Welcomed

It has been a total joy having air conditioning this summer. It cost us heavily, but on the warmest days we were delighted to welcome so many people through our doors — some working from the Hub on their laptops, others simply relaxing while their children played happily nearby. Worth every penny.

Building Our Future

We're extremely excited to have been awarded Lottery Funding to support our future sustainability. As grant funding becomes increasingly hard to secure for core costs, we're using this award to bring in a new member of staff who will help us build other sources of revenue.

Since our move to our larger premises, our running costs have risen sharply — we now need to raise around **£400,000 every year** just to keep doing what we do. We need all the help we can get, so if you know anyone who might support us, please do get in touch.

Help Us Upgrade Our Soft Play Area

Our next big goal is upgrading our soft play area. When we first moved into Butts Pond, we bought the equipment second-hand through Marketplace — but it's seen better days. We'd also like to expand the space to include a

sensory area for children with SEND.



To do this, we need to raise around **£25,000**. So far, I've secured **£6,000**, so we still have some way to go — but this area matters enormously. It's not just about giving small children a great time running around and having fun (though it's that too); it's also what gives parents a little breathing space to speak to our Citizens Advice worker, talk to our wellbeing coaches, or join an activity or programme, or simply meet other parents to chat. We must find a

way to make this happen — and if you can help, we'd love to hear from you.

A New NHS Clinic at the Hub

We've turned our small "pink room" into an NHS clinic, and we're delighted that every Friday the NHS will be with us offering long-acting contraception — coils and implants. Many local women currently must travel to Salisbury for this service, so having it here, completely free, is a real step forward.

To book an appointment, scan the QR code on our posters or call us on **01258 920040**.

Mid Hampshire Healthcare

The Vale FAMILY HUB

Clinics to be held at The Vale Family Hub, Sturminster Newton

Long Term Contraception? We've Got You Covered.

Your contraception, your choice.

Mid Hampshire Healthcare are excited to announce that the wait is nearly over. We will be delivering our first Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) clinics in North Dorset very soon.

- Implants fitted by trained professionals
- Coils (IUD/IUS) fitted by trained professionals
- Confidential, friendly service
- Convenient local clinics

Fit it, Forget it, Live it!

Ready to self-refer?
Visit www.midhamphshirehealthcare.co.uk/larc or scan the QR code

Mid Hampshire Healthcare

Working in partnership with

NHS

We provide healthcare services on behalf of the NHS

Babigloo Music for Babies Returns

Babigloo Music for Babies is back in October for 10 weeks. We can welcome up to 10 babies and their parents or carers — it's truly joyful, and the little ones love every minute. To book a place, call **01258 920040** or email info@valefamilyhub.co.uk.

Weldmar Hospice Bereavement Café

Weldmar Hospice runs a bereavement café at the Hub each month. If you're struggling with loss, please know you're not alone, and we'd love for you to come along. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming dates: facebook.com/TheValePantry

New: A Group for Neurodivergent Adults

We're starting a new group for adults with neurodivergence, likely meeting in the evenings to fit around work commitments. The idea came from our local GP surgery, who asked whether this was something we could take on — and the response since we put out a call for interest has been wonderful. We're still working through the details, but it will launch very soon. If you'd like to be kept up to date, email us at info@valefamilyhub.co.uk.

Youth Hub Kicks Off with an Anti-Bullying Campaign

Our Youth Hub started up again this week with an anti-bullying campaign. All the children got involved, talking openly about bullying, and the session ended with everyone signing a charter promising not to bully, to stand up to bullies, and to help anyone they see being bullied.

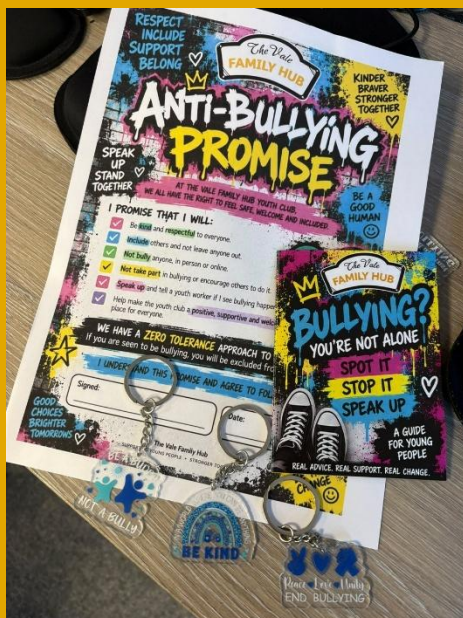
There's Something for Everyone

There is so much going on at the Hub — genuinely something for everyone. You don't need to be a member to visit us; we're a hub for the whole community, a safe place for anyone who needs it, and one of the best information points you'll find for pretty much anything.

An Evening to Support Us

Finally, the lovely people at Newstone House have chosen us as their charity of the year, and they're holding an evening with Olives et al on **Thursday 24th September, from 6pm**. Join them to hear about the origins of this wonderful brand, sample some olives, and perhaps enjoy a little tipple. Entry is £7, with all proceeds going to the Hub.

To reserve your space, call **01258 474530** or email newstonehousecustomeradvisor@coltoncare.co.uk.



Thank you, as ever, for your support — we couldn't do any of this without you. With warm wishes, The Vale Family Hub Team

Shillingstone Station

Come on board at Shillingstone Station

North Dorset Railway (NDR) is planning to start carrying passengers again at Shillingstone Station next spring, 61 years after it was closed, and will soon start training for a very different range of volunteer duties. When no trains ran, there was no need for Crossing Gate Keepers, Porters, Ticket Inspectors or Guards - all

the important people who make it possible to run trains – but that's about to change.



What's involved? Crossing Gate Keepers operate the gates, closing them to stop people crossing and signalling to the train when it is safe to proceed. Porters will assist passengers getting on and off, Ticket Inspectors will check that they have the correct ticket, and both will provide advice to visitors, and Guards will be in charge of the train. So if you've ever fancied helping to run a railway, now's your chance to be at the start of a new era at Shillingstone Station.

And the good news is that NDR has new advice from the Office of Rail and Road, the government body which oversees all transport matters, and can now invite people as young as 14 to volunteer, though with some conditions.

Until reaching the age of 16, young volunteers will need for a parent or guardian to remain at the station while they are on duty and will also be supervised by either a competent Crossing Gate Keeper or Guard. Slightly different rules apply for volunteer Guards, who need to be 18+ but can begin training from the age of 16.

Whatever the age – and there is no upper age limit - volunteers all need to be members of NDR, to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and, for porters and ticket inspectors, railway uniform will be preferred.

Why not drop in to the station, which is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, (though trains will only run at the weekend), and have a look around? It's open 10:00am to 4:00pm, and entry is free. Or contact Jack, NDR's volunteer co-ordinator, by email: volunteer@northdorsetrailway.co.uk

And don't forget that there are plenty of other potential volunteer roles for young and old alike, including catering and gardening – all useful work experience.

SturAction

❄️ MAKE STUR SPARKLE 2026 ❄️

***Something Elfish Is
Happening...***

This year, Make Stur Sparkle 2026 is going BIG on the elves! From lanterns and Christmas trees to festive choirs, markets, tractors and a very special visit from Father Christmas himself, there'll be something for everyone to enjoy. So, dig out your pointy ears, sprinkle a little elf magic and join us for a fabulous day of festive fun in the heart of Sturminster Newton.

GET ELF-READY!

It's not just lantern decorating this year...



Come along to our Elf-Themed Make Stur Sparkle workshops, where you can create your very own festive lantern and make an elf hat ready for the big day! Because if you're going to join the parade, you might as well GO ELF CRAZY!

★ SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER ★

There's a whole day of Christmas excitement planned:

- Christmas Market at The Exchange
- Christmas Tree Festival opens at St. Mary's Church, with refreshments and Choral Society singing at 5.10pm to welcome Father Christmas.
- Father Christmas will be making a very special appearance!
- William Barnes School Choir
- Elf & Lantern Parade, led by Father Christmas, travelling from The Exchange to the Market Place
- Christmas Tree Light Switch On, performed by Sturminster Newton Guides & Brownies
- Lantern Parade, led by Father Christmas to St. Mary's Church
- Rockit Choir
- Illuminated Tractor Parade
- And that's not all...

LATE-NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Stay in town and soak up the festive atmosphere with late-night shopping until 7pm.

And don't forget to take part in the Find the Elf Christmas Shop Window Quiz! Hunt down the cheeky elves hiding in shop windows throughout the town and see if you can find them all.

The quiz runs until 4th January, so there's plenty of time to join in the fun.

FREE PARKING ALL DAY!

There's no need to worry about parking costs — FREE PARKING ALL DAY means you can come into town, stay awhile and enjoy everything Sturminster Newton has to offer.

MAKE A DAY OF IT!

Bring the family. Bring your friends. Bring your lanterns. And most importantly... BRING YOUR INNER ELF!

Whether you're browsing the Christmas market, singing along with the choirs, hunting for elves, watching the illuminated tractors, joining the lantern parade or waiting for that magical moment when the Christmas lights are switched on, Make Stur Sparkle 2026 promises to be a Christmas celebration to remember.

The full printed Make Stur Sparkle programme will be available to pick up from late October, packed with all the details you need to plan your festive day.

And if you have an event taking place between 1st November and 4th January that you'd like included, get in touch at: sturbiz18@gmail.com



2027: 30th Anniversary of Market closing

& 20th Anniversary of Exchange opening.

Remembering Sturminster Newton's Cattle Market

For generations, the Cattle Market was much more than a place where livestock was bought and sold. It was a familiar part of everyday life in Sturminster Newton — a place of business, friendship, conversation and community, and a meeting point for people from the town and surrounding villages.

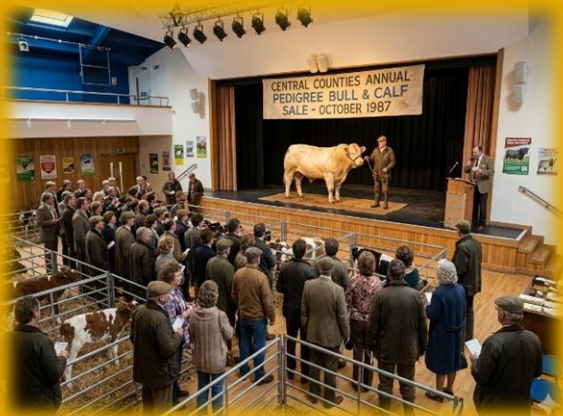
Next year, **on 30th June 2027**, we will mark the **30th Anniversary** of the market's closure with an exhibition celebrating its history and the many memories associated with it.

But we need your help! We would love to hear your ideas about how we should recognise this special anniversary and what you would like to see included. Come along to The Exchange on Monday 26th October from 10am and share your thoughts, memories and suggestions.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already shared photographs and memories on social media. They are helping to build a wonderful picture of the market and the important place it held in the life of our community.

Perhaps you have an old photograph tucked away in an album, a market-day story to tell, or a piece of memorabilia that brings those days back to life. If so, please get in touch at sturbiz18@gmail.com.

Let's come together to remember, celebrate and preserve a little piece of Sturminster Newton's history.



Blackmore Vale Magazine / Dorset Life

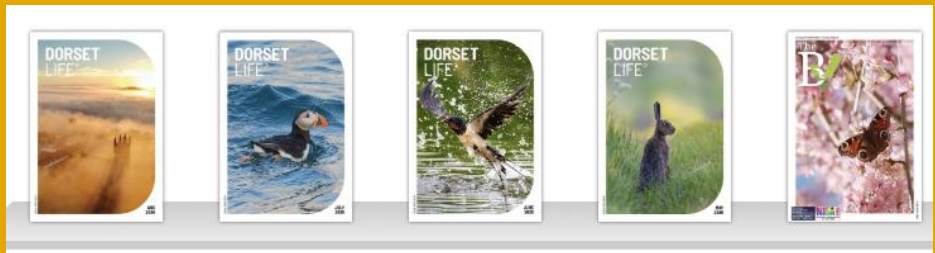
The on-line Blackmore Vale magazine (not to be confused with the fortnightly free paper – different publishers) has been renamed Dorset Life.

The glossy magazine Dorset Life ceased publication but its highly valuable archive of articles is being preserved by the publishers of the new on-line Dorset life.

More on the changes here:

<https://www.theblackmorevale.co.uk/the-bv-becomes-dorset-life-a-new-chapter-begins/>

See the new Dorset Life here: <https://dorsetlife.co.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

- Thursday 8th October 7:30pm **Women on the Edge.**
- Thur/Fri/Sat 29/30/31 October. 7:30pm **SNADS - A Vicar of Dibley Christmas.**
- Fri/Sat 6th/7th November 7:30pm. **Living Spit - Omlet**
- Sunday 8th November 12:30 and 4pm. **Anazing Guyz, Amazing Animals**
- Friday 27th November 7:30pm. **Mark Smith - Antiques Expert**

Film

- Some Thursdays 7pm £7.
- 15th October **The Christophers** (Ian McKellen, James Corden).
- 12th November **The Misanthrope**. Moliere's dark comedy.
- Often arranged at shorter notice - check website for more.

Pick up a copy of the Exchange brochure with full details of forthcoming events.

This hugely important community asset – The Exchange - needs your support: Buy event tickets, use the café/bar, volunteer your help or make a donation.

THE **EXCHANGE**
STURMINSTER NEWTON WINTER 2026/27 PROGRAMME



THEATRE • MUSIC • DANCE • CINEMA
COMEDY • GALLERY • CAFE and MORE...

Music

- Friday 25th September 7:30pm.
Kerry Ellis Rock Anthems.
- Saturday 17th October 7:30pm.
Strike up the Band. Salamanca Band and Bugles of the Rifles
- Saturday 24th October 7:30pm.
dIRE sTRAITS DS:UK - The ON anoTHER NIGHT TOUR - 2026
- Thursday 19th November 7:30pm.
Bachs, Bows and Arrows. Julian Lloyd Webber and his wife Jiaxin invite audiences to join them for an evening of music, stories and celebration.
- Saturday 21st November 8pm. **Los Pacaminos**
- Saturday 28th November 7:30pm.
ELO Again - the Back to Blue tour.
- Friday 4th December 7:30pm.
Moonlight Swing Band Christmas.

And also in The
Exchange....

Citizens Advice
Fridays 9am to 1pm

Twinning Assn. Quiz
Sat 5th November
7pm

Silent Discos
Adult 7pm 14Nov
Child 11am 15 Nov

Country Market
Tuesday Mornings

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

Curry & Quiz Night

- Friday 2nd October 6pm
- Poster on community pages.
- Riverside Festival fundraiser.

Autumn Fungi Forays

- Four dates in Oct/Nov at Bere Marsh Farm. Details on community pages.

Church Fund Raiser

- MAINLY CAKE EVENT Sat 10th Oct 10:30. Fund raising for St Mary's, Sturminster Newton. Cake and Savouries available with refreshments. Donations welcome. Church Hall

u3a

- Thursday 15th October 2:30pm. The Exchange. Animals at War - a talk by Ashley Jones MBE.

Heritage Trust & Family History

- Wednesday 21st October. 7:30pm
- "The craft of Thatching, then and now"
- Details on Community pages

Garden Club

- Wednesday, 28th October, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. A Talk by Phil Broomfield - Follies & Grottoes. New Members & Visitors welcome. Raffle and Seasonal Competitions. sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

Stur the Cauldron

- Saturday 31st October
- Railway Garden and Exchange
- Details on community pages

Model Railway Exhibition

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

Twinning Association Quiz

- Thursday 5th November 7pm for 7.30pm at The Exchange
- £4 per head. Max 6 people in a team
- Contact to book a table 07787 512446

Silent Discos

- Adult 7pm Saturday 14 Nov
- Children 11am Sunday 15 Nov
- The Exchange

Remembrance

- Sunday 8th Nov & Wednesday 11th November.
- See community pages for poster

Heritage Trust & Family History

- Wednesday November 18th 7:30pm
- Showing the film of Sturminster Mill
- Details on community pages

(Stur) Orchestra Concert

- Saturday 19th December 10:45am.
- The Exchange
- Details on Community Pages

Garden Club

- Wednesday, 25th November, at The Exchange at 7.30 pm. A talk by Careys Secret Garden - Finding the 'real' Secret Garden. New Members and Visitors welcome. Raffle and Seasonal Competitions. Contact: sturminsternewtongardenclub@gmail.com

Stur Sparkle

- Light Switch on and much more. Saturday 28th November.

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 BULL TAVERN & TEAROOM

A warm and inviting historic traditional ale house in
Sturminster Newton, Dorset

RESERVE YOUR TABLE

01258 920 151

RICH IN HISTORY, SERVED WITH ELEGANCE



Tony and Robyn welcome you to join them under the traditional thatched roof of The Bull Tavern for beautifully prepared food, real ales, fine wines and spirits.

Step back in time as you enter the historic converted skittle alley, now home to our charming vintage Tearoom, serving brunch, afternoon tea and cream teas.

Whether you're in for a quiet brew, relaxed lunch or an evening meal with the family, you'll find a home at The Bull Tavern and Tearoom.



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www.taylor-rose.co.uk

A New Chapter at The Bull Tavern & Tearoom — From Tony & Robyn

When we first stepped inside The Bull earlier this year, we didn't just see a building. We saw potential, history, and a chance to create something special for Sturminster Newton.

One thing we want to make clear to the people of Sturminster Newton is this: **The Bull today is not the Bull of before.** What stands here now is a completely new chapter — a tearoom built with care, pride, and a genuine desire to serve our community.



We've reopened The Bull as a **daytime tearoom first and foremost**. A warm, welcoming tearoom with a great bar — somewhere you can relax, enjoy proper food, and feel looked after from the moment you walk in.

Our goal is simple: We want you to feel comfortable, welcomed, and valued every time you visit. When you sit at one of our tables, you're not just a customer — **you're a guest in our home**, and we're here to give you an experience worth smiling about. Friendly table service, freshly prepared food, and a space designed for comfort and calm.

Our **Brunch Menu** is already causing a stir, with something for everyone — fluffy pancakes, classic Benedicts, and our two favourites: the **Bull Benedict** and the **Hot Honey Chicken Benedict**. These dishes have quickly become standouts, and we'd love you to come in and see why. **Afternoon Teas** have taken off beautifully too, with classic tiers, homemade bakes, and a Sparkling option for a little extra treat. And if you're after something simple and comforting, our **Cake & Coffee for £6** is available every day — a perfect way to enjoy the tearoom without needing a full meal.

October, we'll be changing our evening mains menu for our **Autumn Evening Menu**, bringing in cosy seasonal flavours perfect for the colder months.

This is a new Bull. A welcoming Bull. A Bull that's here to serve you.

Tony & Robyn *The Bull Tavern & Tearoom*

Bulltavern.co.uk

01258 920151

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS & EVENTS



Stur the Cauldron – Halloween in Sturminster Newton

Get ready for a week of spooky family fun as Sturminster Newton Sturs the Cauldron this Halloween! A week of themed activities will culminate in a big community Halloween celebration on **Saturday 31st October, 3pm–6pm**, centred around the **Railway Garden and The Exchange**.

During the week, families can take part in a **Monster Hunt** around town, with clues displayed in shop windows. Local businesses are also being encouraged to display carved pumpkins from **Wednesday 28th to Saturday 31st October**, which will then help decorate the Railway Garden.

The main event will feature something for everyone, including a **Pumpkin Patch**, **Apple Bobbing**, **Bug Tunnel**, spooky graveyard, storytelling, Halloween history, photo booth, food and drink, plus fancy-dress competitions for children, adults, families and scary pets.

Over at **The Exchange**, families can enjoy **The Bug Fest** (booking required), alongside biscuit decorating, pebble painting, face painting, scary feel boxes and more. Local makers and businesses will also have stalls, including **Buckridge Farm Ice Cream**.

Stur the Cauldron is a community collaboration involving the Vale Family Hub, Bere Marsh Farm, Sturminster Newton Library, The Exchange, SturFit, Community Connections, local businesses and community groups.

Come along, dress up and join us for a fun-filled Halloween celebration for the whole community!

Full details and booking information - <https://sturminster-newton.org.uk/event/stur-the-cauldron-2026/> or <https://www.facebook.com/SturTheCauldron>



A Vizzit to "Stur the Cauldron" 2025



Our roving reporter Ravin Bill (who claims decent from Rabin Hill) was at last year's Stur the Cauldron:

Well now, if ee'd a-told I last spring that half o' Sturminster Newton would be a-gathered round a giant cauldron, dressed up like wizards, dragons, pirates, an' a few things that looked as if they'd escaped from the recycle bin, I'd ha' said ee'd been at

the cider too early in the day.

But there I were, down by the festival, amongst a crowd thick as blackberries in August, for last year's **Stur the Cauldron**.

The town were buzzin' like a wasps' nest what somebody had poked wi' a stick. Every corner had summat goin' on. There were music, laughter, strange noises, an' one chap beatin' a drum so enthusiastic that I thought he were tryin' to wake King Alfred.

"Morning, Ravin," says my neighbour.

"Be it?" says I. "I've not had time to look."

The streets were alive wi' colour. Children were runnin' about wi' painted faces, lookin' so fierce their own grannies couldn't identify 'em. One little lad dressed as a dragon tripped over his tail an' breathed fire only in his imagination, which be fortunate for the insurance premiums.

By the cauldron itself stood a gathering o' folk starin' solemn-like into the steam.

"What be in there?" I asked.

"Community spirit," says one.

"An' a bit o' dry ice," says another.

I reckoned the second answer were probably more accurate.

There were stalls galore. Cakes, crafts, puzzles, books, curiosities an' mysterious objects what nobody appeared able to explain. At one stall I picked up a wooden thing shaped like a duck.

"What be that then?" says I.

"A handcrafted decorative interpretation of sustainability," says the seller.



"A duck, then."

He nodded.

The entertainment rolled on all afternoon.

The Great Bug Fest

Mind, one o' the biggest attractions were the **Bug Fest**, where all manner o' creepy-crawlies were celebrated as if they'd won Best in Show at the County Fair.

Now, I bain't naturally against insects. They got their place in the world. Most of 'em be in gardens, fields, hedges, an' preferably not in my sandwich. But at Bug Fest they were stars o' the show.

There were giant model beetles, decorative bugs, bug trails, bug

facts, an' enough information about pollinators to make a beekeeper burst wi' pride. Youngsters dashed about searchin' for insects wi' the enthusiasm normally reserved for Easter eggs or dropped ten-pound notes.

One little maid came rushin' up holdin' a magnifyin' glass.

"I've found one!"

"What be it?" says I.

"A woodlouse."

I looked.

"It do seem to be," says I.

There it sat, entirely unaware that it had become a celebrity.

Nearby, a learned soul were explainin' how bugs keep the countryside alive.

"Without insects," he says, "our whole ecosystem would collapse."

I nodded wisely.

"An' without insects," says I, "summer evenings would be a lot less itchy."

He didn't seem quite so impressed by my scientific contribution.

Still, Bug Fest were a proper success. The youngsters learned summat useful, the grown-ups pretended they already knew it all, an' even the bugs themselves appeared to be enjoying the attention. If there be such a thing as a happy beetle, I reckon there were several wanderin' about that day with a considerable sense of achievement.

By the time I left, I'd learned more about dragonflies, bees, beetles, butterflies and things wi' too many legs than I ever expected. Whether I'll remember any of it next year remains to be seen. But if Bug Fest teaches us one thing, 'tis that even the smallest creatures can make a mighty stir... though preferably not in the pantry.

As evening crept in, the festival took on a different sort o' magic. Lights twinkled. Music drifted across the town. Folk what had never met before were chatten' away like lifelong friends. For a few hours, matters such as bills, potholes an' whether the bin collection had happened seemed less



important.

Then came the grand finale.

The crowd gathered round, eyes fixed on the cauldron. There were excitement, anticipation, an' one nervous gentleman who looked as if he feared somebody might ask him to make a speech.

Flames danced, cheers rose, an' the whole place glowed. For a moment Sturminster Newton looked less like a market town an' more like the centre of a grand adventure.

I headed home with tired feet, an empty wallet thanks to cakes I absolutely did not need, an' a head full o' memories.

"Well," asked the missus, "what were it like?"

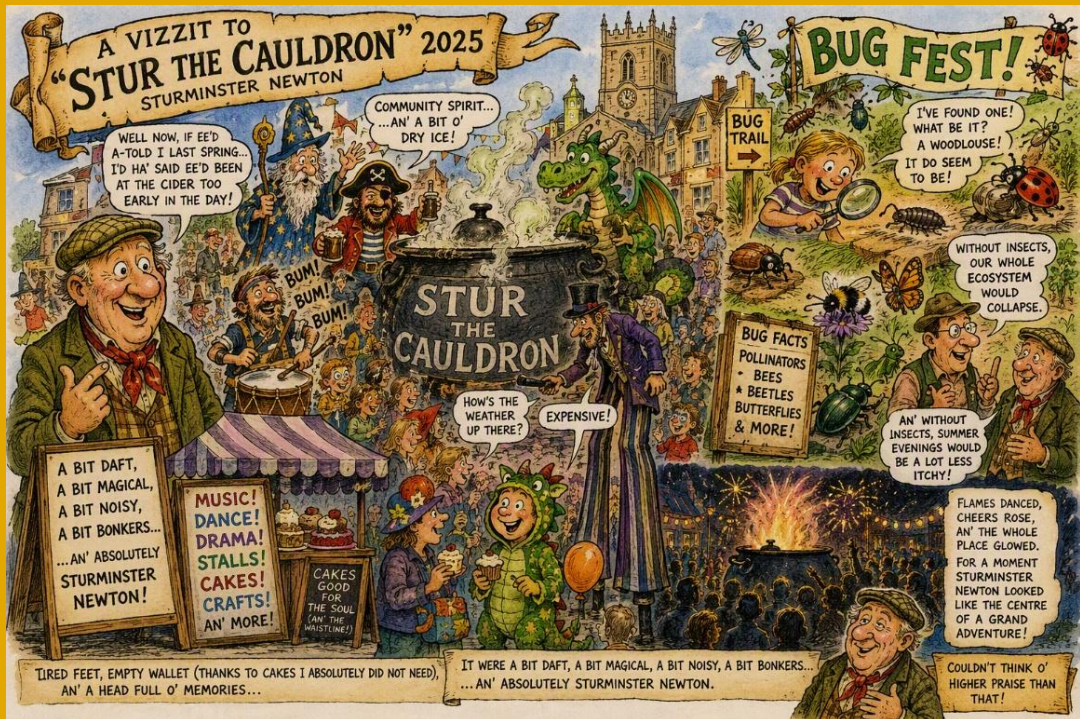
I hung up me coat, sat down, an' thought carefully.

"It were a bit daft, a bit magical, a bit noisy, a bit bonkers..."

She waited.

"...an' absolutely Sturminster Newton."

An' I couldn't think of higher praise than that.



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



Our Artificial Intelligence courses are back in October with a new course for Job Seekers (help with the process of job applications).

Wednesdays 2pm-4pm

14th October—Introduction to A.I.

21st October—Next Steps in A.I.

28th October— A.I. for Job Seekers

Booking essential:
In Person at the Learning Centre,
Email snclc@btconnect.com
or call 01258 475272.



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

Sorry they don't take monitors or printers.

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.





AGE CONCERN - NORTH DORSET

We are a small self-funded charity supporting the elderly in the town and the villages surrounding Sturminster with a variety of professionally run services. The charity is supported by a team of 4 volunteer trustees, two part-time members of staff and 16 volunteers. In 2015 we became a CIO which means trustees have limited or no liability.

The charity has been supporting the town of Sturminster Newton and the surrounding villages since 1991 and, although our services have varied over the years, we have worked hard to ensure we can continue to support the community and develop and expand our services as need is identified.

We are currently looking for more support:

- **Volunteer treasurer** – 12 hours per month and attendance at our 4 meetings a year. A home-based role. Current treasurer will be with us until end September to support anyone applying for this role. Remuneration could be considered for the right person.
- **Volunteer with fundraising experience** – to ensure the charity continues, we need to fundraise regularly. The Chairman has been carrying out this role since 2017 and now seeks some support from a willing volunteer. Training available
- **Balance Class Support** – To support our Wednesday balance class, held at Sturfit gym, checking in and supporting clients and ensuring the coffee morning runs smoothly. 3 hours on a Wednesday morning 10am – 1pm.
- **Community Befrienders** – We carefully match our volunteers to our clients which ensures a mutually beneficial ongoing relationship. 2-4 hours per week.

Successful volunteers will be required to provide references and a DBS check. To apply to the charity as a volunteer please e-mail info@acnorthdorset.org.uk or call 01258 475582 for an application form.

Sturminster Newton Twinning Association Autumn Quiz

Thursday 5th November 7pm for 7.30pm at The Exchange
£4 per head. Max 6 people in a team
Contact to book a table 07787 512446

All welcome at Hazelbury Brian

2nd Friday (except Jun/Dec) Hazelbury Brian
Coffee Morning. 10:30 Village Hall. All
Welcome.

Last Friday (except Jun/Nov/Dec) Hazlebury
Brian, **Community Lunch**, Noon, Village Hall, All
Welcome. min £6. Jill Noades, 01258 817197

Sturminster Newton Remembers

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them."

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 8 November 2026

All are welcome to join the parade and attend the church service.

- **9.45am** — Muster in the Railway Gardens for the parade. Everyone is welcome.
- **10.15am** — Service at St Mary's Church. Those not marching are welcome to attend; please be seated by 10.00am.
- **Approx. 11.30am** — Parade returns to the Railway Gardens.
- **Afterwards** — Refreshments at The Exchange.

Please note the Market Place and roads to St Marys Church will be closed during the parade.



Armistice Day

Wednesday 11 November 2026

There will be an Act of Remembrance and two-minute silence at the War Memorial in the Recreation Ground.

Please gather at the War Memorial in the Recreation Ground at 10.55am.

The Royal British Legion will lay a poppy wreath on behalf of the town.



Thursday 15th October at 2.30pm
In the Exchange

Ashley Jones MBE

Animals at War – A TALK

“The Dickin Medal”

(The highest award for animal bravery)

The PDSA Dickin Medal is the highest award an animal can receive while serving in the military. It is considered the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross and is awarded to animals which demonstrate exceptional acts of bravery or devotion to duty.

Entry Free for members

£2 for visitors

Refreshments afterwards!

Newstone House - Open Events

24th of September 2026 Olives Et Al Evening at Newstone House, starting at 6pm, £7 entrance fee

25th of September 2026 Macmillan Afternoon Tea, fundraising money for Macmillan, Tree Of Promises Auction, golden cupcakes and afternoon tea, starting at 2:15pm



Sturminster Newton
Museum and Mill Society
Registered Charity No. 1044018

Cream Teas at the Mill



Cream kindly provided by
Blackmore Vale Dairy

Saturday 26th
September
2pm-4.30pm

COFFEE,
Cake
and
Companionship

HELD AT
NAZARETH LODGE

Family and
Friends
WELCOME!

HELD ONCE
EVERY 2 MONTHS
on a Wednesday

UPCOMING DATES

STARTING FROM	17 TH JUNE
19 TH AUGUST	
21 ST OCTOBER	

VOLUNTEERS
ARE WELCOME
to do some 1-to-1s
with the residents

GOOD COFFEE. DELICIOUS CAKE.
= Great Company. =

Dorset charity reveals the hidden cost of unsuitable donations

Dorset Blind Association is asking local people to think carefully about what they donate, as unsuitable items are now costing the charity around £2,500 a month to dispose of.

The charity, which runs 12 shops across Dorset, says it is receiving increasing numbers of items that are stained, damaged, broken or otherwise unsuitable for resale.

A simple rule of thumb is, "Would I be happy to give this to a friend?", or "Would I expect someone else to be willing to buy this?"



STURMINSTER NEWTON

Across the UK, u3a members are discovering new things, staying active and having fun in later life. It's local, social, friendly, low-cost 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!"

We currently have 22 activity groups offering an extensive range of exciting activities.

Joining is easy!

For details, visit our website at:

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

Annual fees (April to March) are as follows:

£5 for individual membership

£9 for joint membership

You can be sure of a warm welcome!



*Spice Up
Your Night*



Info:
riversidefamilyfest@outlook.com



WhatsApp
07805136840



Supporting Riverside Fest

CURRY

AND

QUIZ

Night

Join us for a fun-filled evening
of delicious curry and
challenging quiz questions!

*enjoy food and
friendly competition*



2ND OCTOBER 2026

≡ 6:00PM ≡

QUIZ AT 7PM



THE BOW ROOM, THE EXCHANGE
STURMINSTER NEWTON
DT10 1FH



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT



1855 STURMINSTER NEWTON DT10 1AN

OR TICKET SOURCE

ADULT

£14

12 & UNDER

£7

TEAMS OF UP TO 6

RAFFLE

BAR

TEA/COFFEE

CAKE



Enjoy some homemade curry and cakes.



Fungi Forays at Bere Marsh Farm

We have gone mushroom mad! We have four Fungi Forays coming up for you this autumn at Bere Marsh Farm, Shillingstone.



These proved very popular last year so do book your spot quickly.

They will all take place from 10am to 1pm with expert mycologist Andy Knott from [Jurassic Coast Mushrooms](#). The cost is £22 or £20 for CRT friends and volunteers. We'll explore a variety of habitats at Bere Marsh Farm, looking for the many species of fungi which grow there.

From the tiniest emergent mushrooms so easily overlooked to the flamboyant fly agaric, Andy will help identify what we find and share fascinating fungi facts along the way.

In the past, the farm has been home to some nationally rare fungi species, including *Artomyces pyxidatus*, known as crown tipped coral or candelabra coral. Andy himself found it on the farm while leading a walk in 2024 and it gained [national fame!](#)

Andy said: "I love coming to Bere Marsh Farm, there's a great mix of diverse habitats which means we're often treated with a nice diverse mix of fungi.

"The team that run the farm are great and we always find something a bit interesting."

Andy says people should be interested in fungi because they are essential for the health of our planet, and ourselves. "They offer hidden outdoor adventures, and provide exciting scientific and culinary discoveries," he said.

To sign up, see www.thecrt.co.uk/Pages/Events/





Help in the form of training is on offer this autumn to give adults a choice of transport for those short journeys.

Big Bike Revival is a Government funded scheme administered by CyclingUK and delivered by partners around the country. In north Dorset, BBR kicked off in August with 'learn to ride' small group training at Shillingstone School DT11. Aimed at non-riders, lapsed riders or improvers, the 2hour sessions, which are FREE to book, are

delivered by Dilys Gartside an instructor with over 20years experience. Many are the barriers which prevent adults cycling but the lack of a bike need not be one on this occasion.

70% of all journeys made in UK are 5miles (or less) a distance cyclable in 30mins by a person of average fitness. Imagine the calm and space if half the cars around your grandchild's school disappeared and were replaced with a parent cycling alongside their child enjoying some physical activity before settling down to learn.

In addition to the training sessions, BBR participants have the opportunity of taking part in a guided ride to practise their skills in the safety of a group and away from road traffic.

To those who say, 'I can ride a bike but I don't because the roads are scary', my reply is that the skills required by a cycling road user are more than being able to balance on two wheels. We don't know how much we don't know until we learn it and with skills comes confidence!

A ride on the North Dorset Trailway from
Sturminster Newton old station entrance

Dilys Gartside - Cycling
Instructor 1st4sport Level2 NSIQ
CyclewiseDorset.co.uk



Capture the Colours: Autumn Photography Competition Launches Along the Trailway

The North Dorset Trailway Network has launched its "Autumn on the Trailway" Photo Competition, and residents of all ages are being invited to grab their cameras and get involved.

The core theme of the competition asks a simple but inspiring question: *What does the North Dorset Trailway mean to*

you? Whether it is a snapshot of wildlife rustling in the autumn leaves, a horse rider on the path, or families enjoying a weekend stroll, the organizers want to see the trailway through the community's eyes.

To ensure everyone has a chance to shine, the competition features three distinct entry categories:

- Under 12s
- 12–15 Years
- Adults (16+)

There are fantastic prizes up for grabs for the winner of each category. It is a wonderful excuse to get outside, enjoy the fresh Dorset air, and showcase the stunning landscapes that connect our local towns and villages.

How to Enter:

Submitting your photos is completely free. Simply email your best seasonal shots directly to rosiegal1@gmail.com.

The final deadline for all entries is 1 November 2026, so there is plenty of time to capture the shifting colours of autumn as they develop across the Trailway. Get outside, get creative, and show the community your unique view of the Trailway!



The poster for the "Autumn on the Trailway" Photo Competition features a warm, autumnal background with a path leading through trees. It includes three photo examples: a squirrel, a person on a horse, and a red leaf. The text is arranged in a clear, eye-catching layout with various fonts and colors.

North Dorset Trailway Network

AUTUMN

on the Trailway

PHOTO COMPETITION

What does the North Dorset Trailway mean to you?

UNDER 12s	12–15 YEARS	ADULTS (16+)
PRIZE FOR THE WINNER OF EACH CATEGORY!	PRIZE FOR THE WINNER OF EACH CATEGORY!	PRIZE FOR THE WINNER OF EACH CATEGORY!

Open to everyone!
Get outside, get creative
and show us your Trailway!

CLOSING DATE:
1 NOVEMBER 2026

ENTER YOUR PHOTOS:
rosiegal1@gmail.com

We can't wait to see your photos!

Sturminster Newton Orchestra

Please join us for a little
Musical Sparkle at our

Christmas Concert

at

“The Exchange”

Saturday Morning

19th December 10.45

FREE ENTRY!

Doors Open at 10.30

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

The Blackmore Vale Group
of

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

President: DAVID J HARRISON

Registered Charity No. 1010751



&



Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust

Registered Charity No. 1154270



Speaker: **Graham Cook**

Wednesday 21st October Entry £4
7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange
Hot and cold drinks available at the bar



(Enquiries to Felicity Harrison 01258 472942)

The Blackmore Vale Group
of

THE SOMERSET AND DORSET
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

President: DAVID J. HAWKINS

Registered Charity No. 1044051



&



*Sturminster Newton
Heritage Trust*

Registered Charity No. 1118430

Showing the film of Sturminster Mill



Speaker: Peter Loosemore
Sturminster's Miller

Wednesday November 18th entry £4
7.30pm in Bow Room, The Exchange

Hot and cold drinks available at the bar

(Enquiries: Felicity Harrison 01258 472942)



YOUTH CONNECT
SOUTH WEST

Inspiring Young People

STURMINSTER newton youth club

SCHOOL
YEAR 9+
**EVERY
WEDNESDAY**
6PM - 8PM

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

WHATS ON OCTOBER

2nd	Leadership night - young people to organise and lead session Team debate - public speaking
-----	---

7th & 9th	Leadership night- young people planning session and run activities Cheese muffin making
-----------	--

14th & 16th	Drug and Vape Awareness evening- Quiz and Drugs talk Table tennis Chilli Nachos
-------------	---

21st & 23rd	Disability Awareness evening- Obstacle course challenge Pizza night
-------------	--

28th & 30th	Halloween Decorations and Mask making Games tables and Chess Competition Pumpkin soup and Flat breads
-------------	---

**UNIT 2, RICHMAR TRADING CENTRE,
BUTTS POND IND ESTATE, DT10 1AZ**

For more info get in touch with Claire:

☎ 07977859700

✉ claire.bailey@ycsw.org.uk

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

**JOIN OUR WHATSAPP
GROUP FOR UPDATES!**





Inspiring Young People

STURMINSTER newton youth club

SCHOOL
YEAR 9+
EVERY
WEDNESDAY
6 PM - 8 PM

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

WHATS ON NOVEMBER

4th

Fire safety quiz and sparkler awareness blow paint art, pickle ball & waffles

6th

Disney quiz, blow paint art, pickle ball, and waffles

11th & 13th

RAK: penpals with an elder, button art, Unihoc, and bacon butties

18th & 20th

STEM: science experiments and team building challenges, art and crafts, and pasta bake

25th

Design a board game night, fruit skewers, and chocolate fountain

27th

Design a board game night, neurodiversity awareness, fruit skewers, and chocolate fountain

**UNIT 2, RICHMAR TRADING CENTRE,
BUTTS POND IND ESTATE, DT10 1AZ**

**JOIN OUR WHATSAPP
GROUP FOR UPDATES!**

For more info get in touch with Claire:

📞 07977859700

✉ claire.bailey@ycsw.org.uk

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



WHAT'S ON NEARBY

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



SERO

invites you to an

Evening of Christmas Entertainment with Quiz

Saturday 21st November

Doors open at 7 pm

Child Okeford Village Hall

Tickets £15.00

(to include refreshments)

Bar, Silent auction and Raffle

To purchase tickets email: serocharity@gmail.com

Or Kate on 07725 245066

Or Cynthia on 07733 989476

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

Bryanston Riding for the Disabled Group

50 years on from the founding of the group by Val Cowley at Deer Park in Blandford Forum, volunteers past and present, together with riders and friends gathered on Sunday 26th July at The Bryanston Powerhouse to mark the anniversary. The group is rare as it specifically caters for adults and provides this vital service to riders of all abilities from across Dorset. It now meets on Monday mornings at the Bryanston School equestrian centre who generously provide facilities and support. The group are actively seeking more volunteers to help with sessions and anyone who can provide and transport a suitable horse for their use each week. Anyone who may be interested can ring Peter Gray on 07775 741116 for further information and help.

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION



12+ layouts all gauges

Saturday 26th
September 10 till 4.

The Station and
Shillingstone Church
Centre

All welcome at Hazelbury Brian

2nd Friday (except Jun/Dec) Hazelbury Brian
Coffee Morning. 10:30 Village Hall. All Welcome.

Last Friday (except Jun/Nov/Dec) Hazelbury Brian,
Community Lunch, Noon, Village Hall, All Welcome. min £6. Jill Noades, 01258 817197



ARTSREACH Hannah Scott

Wednesday 4th November 2026 7.30 pm

In the 15 years she has been performing, Hannah Scott has become an exceptional storyteller. Career highlights include having her song No Gravity featured on the hit international TV series Grey's Anatomy and recording a live session on BBC Radio 2 with Dermot O'Leary.

Hannah's music is shaped by human connections, with family sitting at the heart of her work. Her lyrics are powerful and poignant, and her contemporary folk music has a universal appeal that goes beyond the melodies you catch yourself humming after her show. To date Hannah has shared the stage with folk luminaries such as Seth Laleman, Cara Dillon and Fairport Convention, and performed at festivals including Cambridge, Sidmouth and Manchester Folk. Performing on piano and guitar, Hannah is equally at home in smaller venues, where she thrives on the intimacy of a closer interaction with audiences.

<https://www.hannahscott.co.uk/>
hberton@artsreach@gmail.com

<https://artsreach.co.uk/whats-on>



Adults £12 Under 18 £6 Bookings 07771561099



Ibberton, Belchalwell
& Woolland Village
Hall DT11 OEL

Thursday 19th November 2026

7.30pm

Popcorn & Ice cream, Bar and Raffle

£6

THE
OF AN
THE
BOHEMIAN Rhapsody
AND THE DIRECTOR OF
THE
Cast:
Colman Domingo,
Kat Graham,
Jaafar Jackson,
Nia Long,
Miles Teller

JAAFAR JACKSON
Michael

IN CINEMAS AND IMAX
APRIL 24



NEWS OF THE CHURCHES



St Mary's Sturminster

...

SERVICES AT:	St Mary's	St Thomas'	St Peter's
<u>OCT 2026</u>			
1st Sunday 4 October	11am Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Communion with Methodist Church, followed by Bring and Share lunch	6pm Harvest Evensong followed by refreshments and auction of produce	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 7 October	10am Holy Communion		
2nd Sunday 11 October	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 14 October	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 18 October	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	10.30am Harvest Morning Prayer followed by Bring and Share lunch in Tithe Barn
Wednesday 21 October	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday 24 October	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Morning Service BCP	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 28 October	10am 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
NOV 2026			
1st Sunday 1 November	11am Holy Communion with Holy Baptism 4pm All Souls Memorial Service for loved ones who have died. Refreshments in Church Hall		9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 4 November	10am Holy Communion		
Remembrance Sunday 2nd Sunday 8 November	8am Holy Communion 10.15am Remembrance Service 6pm Evensong	10.50am Remembrance Service	10.50am Remembrance Service
Wednesday 11 Nov	10am Holy Communion		
3rd Sunday 15 Nov	11am Holy Communion	4pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism
Wednesday 18 Nov	10am Holy Communion		
4th Sunday 22 Nov	11am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 25 Nov	10am Holy Communion		
5th Sunday Advent Sunday	6pm Advent Sunday Carol Service		11am Benefice Holy Communion

Diary of Church Events:

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

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

Other Religions (or None) are available.

St. Mary's Coffee Morning



Please join us
for coffee and
a chat

A friendly
welcome –
Open to all

Held regularly
on the First
Friday of every
month.

Place

- St. Mary's Church Hall

Time

- 10.30am - 12 noon

Dates

- Friday 2nd Oct
- Friday 6th Nov
- Friday 4th Dec

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

Christmas Tree Festival 2026

St. Mary's Sturminster Newton



All are welcome to visit St Mary's Church to see a display of individually crafted and decorated trees from local groups

Free entry and vote for your favourite!

Sat 28th Nov 10am - 7pm
5pm - Welcome to Father Christmas with The Choral Society Choir and free refreshments

Sun 29th Nov 12 noon - 4pm

Mon 30th Nov 10am - 4pm

Tues 1st Dec 10am - 4pm

Weds 2nd Dec 11am - 4pm



MAINLY CAKE EVENT

Saturday 10th October 10:30 - 12:30

Fund raising for St Mary's, Sturminster Newton.

Cake and Savouries available with refreshments.

St Mary's Church Hall. Donations welcome.





A warm invitation to our

LIGHT PARTY

Saturday 31st October 2026

3.30pm – 5:30pm

The Methodist Church

Church Street, Sturminster Newton

All ages welcome

(Children must be accompanied).

**A fun packed evening with party food,
games, and crafts.**

Prizes for the best 'non scary' costumes.

This is a free event sponsored

By Christians Together

in Sturminster Newton

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

SPORT, HEALTH & WELLBEING



Badminton (over 50s)

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



Sturminster United Football Club

- Youth Teams
- Spectator Facilities www.snufc.com



Zumba with Abby

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



Short Mat Bowls

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



Pilates

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



Chair based exercise

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



Pilates

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



Hinton & Sturminster Cricket Club

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



FitSteps - Dance fitness class

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



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

Now two additional Balance Classes on Mondays.



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



Pete's Functional Fitness Club at Butts Pond.

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



The Boxing Club at Butts Pond

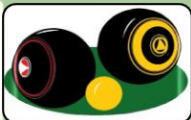
- Many age groups.
- The club has graduated a world champion.
- sturabc.co.uk



Martial Arts Club (various locations in town)

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

Full accreditations. Details on unityma.co.uk



Nearest Bowls clubs: Blandford - blandfordbowlingclub.com

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



Adult Walking Football

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



Much more at Community Run Sturfit: Well equipped Gym, Exercise Classes, Sports Clubs, Dance Studio. Call for details 01258 471774; Honeymead Lane DT10 1EW.

Support Groups including Blackmore Vale Partnership (BVP) Health
Champion led Support and Peer Support Groups, contact
details: bvpwellbeing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk, 01747 856786

Parkinsons Cafè

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

Bereavement Peer Support

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

Caring for Carers

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

Age Concern Advice

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

Military Veterans

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

Pop-Up Health Hub

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

Access Wellbeing

- Vale Family Hub Tuesdays 10am to 3pm Drop-in.
- Details of Services: dorsetaccesswellbeing.co.uk

Access Wellbeing

Free mental health and wellbeing support in
Sturminster Newton and across Dorset

Access Wellbeing spaces offer easy access to free mental health and wellbeing support. Our services are open to anyone living in Dorset aged 18 and over, with no referral or appointment needed.

We have over 30 drop-in services across Dorset that offer a safe, welcoming space to find support. When you visit, we'll take the time to listen and explore what matters to you, and can connect you to other support if that's helpful too.



You can talk to us about:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Feeling lonely, isolated or disconnected
- Grief, loss and bereavement
- Work, money, housing or benefits
- Support for carers, family members and loved ones

Find us in Sturminster Newton every Tuesday, 10am-3pm, at The Vale Family Hub. Visit dorsetaccesswellbeing.co.uk for more details.





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





FREE support to help you cycle locally

**For adults who are beginners, improving,
or returning to cycling**

small group learning sessions to help you make
short local trips by bike
SHILLINGSTONE SCHOOL DT11 0TW

last few sessions in October
weekend and half term hols
reserve your place

CyclewiseDorset.co.uk
0775 1044365 01258 860157

PLUS easy guided rides
traffic free
using North Dorset Trailway
to practise skills learnt

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS IN STUR

Mondays

New/Changed regular items in red



Community Learning Centre

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

Parent & Carer Support Group

- 9.30-11.30am Term Times, Stour Connect.

Rhyme Time (under 5s)

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

Blackmore Vale Lions

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

Choral Society

- Restarts Monday 21st September. 7:30pm. The Exchange. Poster on Community pages.
- Contact 01258 472274

Parkinsons Cafe

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

Market Day

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

ROKiT! Choir

- 7:30-9:30pm **Now in the Methodist Church. Church Street.**
- 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.

Youth Club

- Vale Family Hub 5-7pm.
- For 9-12 year olds.

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

BCP Holy Communion

- 10am St Marys

Mothers Union

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

Youth Club

- Year 9. 68pm
- Unit 2 Richmar Trading Estate, Butts Pond

Citizens Advice

- Vale Family Hub 9:30am-4pm.
- Booking Essential 01258 920040
- Free, impartial and confidential advice.

Knit & Natter

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

Creative Writing Group

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

Garden Club

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

Blackmore Vale Family History Goup

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

Bell Ringing Practice

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

Thursdays

Lego Fun
Ages 3+

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

Citizens
Advice

- Vale Family Hub 9:30am-10:30am.
- Booking Essential 01258 920040
- Free, impartial and confidential advice.

Fridays

Cuppa & Company

- Every Friday The library. Free drop-in.

Youth Club

- Years 7&8 4-6pm.
- Unit 2 Richmar Trading Estate, Butts Pond

Homestart Early
Family
Connections

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

Citizens Advice

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

Saturdays

Free Parking continues 1st Sat of month.

Sturminster Newton Orchestra

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

Bargains & Banter

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

Craft Market

- 1st Saturdays, Exchange Atrium

Car & Bike Enthusiasts

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

Sociable Arts & Crafts

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

1855

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

Mrs Potters Cakes

- Last Saturday of month am. Exchange Atrium

Code Club

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

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS IN VILLAGES

Please tell us about other regular
events in your village.



Monday

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

Tuesday

- **Short Mat Bowls Okeford Fitzpaine 7:15pm** Village Hall Equipment provided; Barbara 01258 861524
- **Stretch & Tone Classes Ibberton 9:30am** Village Hall; £7; Contact: James Self 07985 194994
- **Vinyasa Flow Yoga Hazlebury Bryan** Village Hall 9:30am. Mixed Ability. *sairaATmelluah.co.uk 07809 141815*
- **Badminton - Stalbridge Hall 7:30pm.** Contact Phil 01963 362799
- **Play Around,** All abilities music group. Second Tuesdays 6:30 Henfield Airfield. *contact Caroleavis123@btinternet.com*

Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

Fridays

- **7.30pm Barn Dance.** First Fridays. Portman Hall, Shillingstone 01258 861184
- **2nd Fridays 10:30-3:30 Blackmore Vale Arts Group.** Marhull Village Hall.
Yvonne on 01258 820247 or mikyonATaol.com
- **Last Friday; Hazlebury Brian, Community Lunch,** Noon, Village Hall, min £5
- **2nd Friday (except Jun/Dec) Hazelbury Brian Coffee Morning.** 10:30 Village Hall. All Welcome.
- **Last Friday (except Jun/Nov/Dec) Hazelbury Brian, Community Lunch,** Noon, Village Hall, All Welcome. min £6. Jill Noades, 01258 817197

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: Father Cletus Ibeka**
- **Presbytery:** St. Benedict's, High Street , Gillingham , SP8 4AG
- **Tel: 01258 820388 E-mail cletus.ibeka@prcdtr.org.uk**

Daily

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

EDITORIAL

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

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

To request copies to be Emailed to you or to include your regular or one-off event and other contributions, please Email it to whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com Pictures and Word documents not PDFs. 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.

Advertising: We are pleased to *give* once off space on the business pages to new or renewed businesses based in the town.

The newsletter is not commercial so we can only take the occasional single one-page advertisement (used to fund future editions of the Town Guide).

COPY DATES

Normally 15th of the preceding month:

Nov 12th for Dec/Jan

A little earlier to enable us to publish Stur Sparkle events

Jan 15th for Feb/Mar

CONTACT

whatshappeninginstur@btconnect.com

sncic.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.