

Bride Valley News

December 2008



*The Magazine of
The Bride Valley Team Ministry*

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*** ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR JANUARY EDITION: 2ND DECEMBER ***

Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the people and organisations which fund and support it.

Copy for future issues should be sent to the relevant Village Correspondent, (contact details shown at the head of each Village Section) no later than two days prior to the deadline date shown below, for forwarding to the Editor (handwritten or typed copy should be sent well before the deadline date):
email BVN@hattiemaths.com tel: 897953

*** DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE: 9.00am 5TH DECEMBER ***

Pictures (not necessarily photographs) for consideration for the front cover, should be sent/ delivered direct to the editor by the same date.

DON'T FORGET THERE IS A £5 BOUNTY FOR ANY PICTURE PUBLISHED.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

TO OUR FRIENDS + NEIGHBOURS +
OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR 2009



from:

Geoff & Sandy Adderley
Mary Bailey
Catherine & Darren Batten
Howard & Linda Bongers
John Bowden
Peter & Pat Broomhead
Sue & Mike Brown
Bernard & Kate Chennells
Betty Clynes
Tony & Anne Combe
Judy & Alan Clarke
Cecil & Diana Clifford
Celia Cummings
Lesley, Steve, Gemma & Jake Dove
Daphne & Trevor Ekins
Joan Ellington & Liz Orza
Rob & June Fox
Mrs. Constance Gale
Colin & Myra Gardiner
Shirley Gilbert
Jim & Margaret Harding
Betty Howlett
Ian & Mary Ibbotson
John & Barbara Ivall
Barbara M. James
Marge & Geoff Langwith
John & Cathy Lay-Flurrie

Pat Lepine
Tim, Sue, Dave & Hannah Linford
Dennis & Carol Lumley
Susan Moores & David Edwards
Edna Murrell
David & Pauline Osmond
Deryn & John Pakenham-Walsh
Derek & Val Parsons
Susan Paul
Dick & Judy Pearce
Sheila & Ken Pett
Michael & Ann Read
Anne & Graham Rees
Terry Rendell
Gill & Charles Robertson
Ryder & Heather Rogers
Ken & Noreen Short
David & Yvette Smith
Anne & Mike Southgate
Jill Spinney
Betty Starkey
Freddy & Elaine Tame
Bill & Heather Thomson
Bob & Jean Thorn
Clare Viney
Andrea & Chris Wilkinson
David & Pauline Woodford



*In support of the Bride Valley News
& the Weldmar Hospicecare Trust*





A very merry Christmas to one and all. There are many services of praise and thanksgiving that will be held in the Bride Valley for the festive season. Those that are held on Sundays, on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day itself can be found on the service plan. In addition there are:

12TH DECEMBER at St Mary's Burton Bradstock a Christingle service; starting at 3.30 so as to coincide with the end of the school day. Following the service there will be tea and entertainments in the Village Hall.

22ND DECEMBER, there will be a Carol Service at St Peter's Church Long Bredy, beginning at 6.30pm.

Regretfully, there will be no Carol Service at Chilcombe Church this year.

The Carol Service at St Mary's Puncknowle on 14th December, coincides with the village Christmas Fair (the arrival of Father Christmas and I don't know what other excitements). This means that the Carol Service will be a part of what is going on in the village, and so we will end our service with Carols sung from the Church steps.

Please note the Crib Service at Litton Cheney. Already some bits of paper have been round the Churches with the time of 4,30 pm on them. This is wrong because it does not allow time, even for the fastest of Valley dashes, for the person taking it to go on to Burton Bradstock for their service starting at 5.30 pm. The service will actually start at 4.00 pm, as did the same service last year.

These are Church arrangements, which of course go with the family ones that are made. My prayer for this Christmas is that both of these will be the same thing, so that all the churches may be the home to which people come to celebrate Jesus born to us, and that every house throughout the Valley will be a Church in which people gather to greet their Saviour and to give glory to God on high. God bless us all.

RYDER'S ORDINATION

The Revd Ryder Rogers is to be ordained priest on 30th November. The good news is that this service will take place among us in the Bride Valley, at St. Mary's, Burton Bradstock, so we will all have a chance to take part. It may well be that the Valley has never seen anything like it in the life

of the Church of England.

The service will start at 6.30pm. It is likely to take some time, and so we thought that a celebration tea afterwards would leave some people, with miles to travel, to be very late home. The idea, therefore, is to have a high tea from 5.00pm, before the service, in the Village Hall. In saying all are welcome, we realise that there is likely to be a bit of a crush, but nevertheless all are welcome. It would be too bad to deny anyone the opportunity of joining with Ryder in this great moment in his life, or of missing this historic event.

HEALING SERVICES.

Back in the Spring we sought to establish prayer circles within the congregations, so that we are all supporting one another in prayer. These daily prayers are not reserved for times of emergency, but are the prayer of continuing good will and good neighbourliness. Part of the background to these prayer circles was the wish to develop prayers of healing throughout the Valley. Healing prayers are an important part of the life of any Christian when we consider the ministry of Jesus. If he worked and prayed for people's healing, so should we; it is that simple.

On the first Sunday in January we are intent on including in our Sunday worship the offering of prayers for healing for those who wish to seek them. They will be offered in those Churches that have the mutual support of the prayer circles that have been set up. In this way, I hope that they will not be seen as an intrusion, but as a natural part of what we do as the people of God.

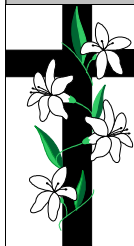
LENT.

Ash Wednesday this year is on 25th of February, and on the following Wednesday evenings leading up to Holy Week and Easter, a Lent series will be held in St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock. These, for the sake of your new diary, will be on 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th March (the feast of the Annunciation) and the 1st of April. This year we will be looking at backgrounds, especially to the life and travels of St Paul. Who the people were who supported or rejected him, and why they did what they did. What did they eat and how did they live. What was the countryside like through which he and his followers travelled, and the seas that they crossed.

In running this course we are hoping to set a scene and to give colour to the life and times of the early church, and to one of its greatest figures. So do please join us. Times and other detail to follow.

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, then having the two as close together as possible.

George Burns (1896 - 1996)



FUNERALS

A thanksgiving service for the late **JOAN FOSTER** was held on the 18th October in St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock. The service was led by the Revd Canon John McDougal, formerly a Rector of the Parish. John Goodchild gave an account of her life, and remembrances were made of her time in the village, recalling fondly her character and company. A reading was given of an extract from Pilgrim's Progress describing the summons of Mr Valiant-for-Truth. Many people of the village turned out to give thanks for the life of a good friend.

The funeral of **ANTHONY ELIJAH (TONY) LEGG** took place on Monday the 20th of October at St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock, and was followed by a service of cremation at Weymouth crematorium. Tony was born and bred in the village. As a young lad he was first introduced to fishing with seine nets from the beach. In later years he was a part of the industry taking sand and gravel from the Chesil beach. When that stopped, and in his retirement he looked after the Churchyard, the cemetery and the Rectory garden, assisted by his devoted wife, Dot. She it was who nursed him through his last illness, and she was supported in her mourning by many who came to pay their respects to Tony.

ALLEN JENKINS, of Shipton Gorge died in early October, and his funeral was held on the 22nd at Weymouth Crematorium. He was born in London, and then spent many years in Bedfordshire, his work being lorry-driving for Blue Circle cement. He was a great collector of things, especially to do with ships. He worked in wood, he painted pictures and was very skilled with his hands. But his greatest love was of Jazz. At his funeral there were three pieces by the Hot Club of Paris, giving joy amidst the grief to Pam, his wife of 51 years, and his children Linda and Les who led the mourning.

On the 5th of November the ashes of **DENNIS PAYNE** were interred with those of his late wife in the Churchyard of St Martin's, Shipton Gorge. Dennis, who had been a resident of the village in former times, had for some years been living near his family in Bath. Members of the family gathered for the ceremony which was led by Mr James Webster.

The funeral of **DAVID RICHARD REED** was held on the 6th of November at Weymouth Crematorium. A service of thanksgiving for his life will be held at St Peter's Church, Long Bredy on Saturday, the 13th of December, starting at 11.00. The bells will be rung for that service, and a memorial ring is planned

at Litton Cheney; for David was a dedicated bell ringer, who rang to the glory of God. As well as being a faithful Christian man, he was also learned and wise, with a passion for justice, both personal and public. This was in evidence in the singing of the Magnificat at his service. His Brother-in-law, Peter read the lesson, and his daughter, Pauline gave the address. All joined in supporting Wyn, his wife of over 53 years, in her bereavement.

PAMELA MARY CHALK (her maiden name) was remembered at her funeral on Monday the 10th of November. Her remains will be interred with those of her late husband, William Tuck, in the churchyard of St Mary's Burton Bradstock on Thursday the 13th. At one time the couple had lived in the village. Of late Pammy had been living in Bridport. She was a reclusive person, who had suffered difficulties in her life. Devoted to her many cats, she was described as a great character when on form. The chief mourner was her Step-brother, Gerald Hand. Among her small circle of friends, Neville was remembered especially as one who will miss her.

BEYOND THE VALLEY

GOOD BOOKS

St Mary's Old School, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3RL

Tel: 01308 420483

E-mail: orders@goodbooksbridport.co.uk

YOUR local Christian bookshop and resource centre with a wide range of greetings cards. Call in and see us when you're in Bridport for a cuppa and a browse. We also welcome new volunteers and are looking for book agents in local churches and villages – could this be you?

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 9am-1.00pm, Saturday 10am-12.00.

We may be able to open for groups at other times by special arrangement.



DECEMBER AT GOOD BOOKS

Christmas cards and gifts, cribs large and small, seasonal books and 2009 calendars, can all be found at Good Books. In particular, the Lion Christmas Promotion offers a selection of children's and adult titles at three for the price of two – do call in for a browse.

Last month, all the teachers from a local primary school visited us as part of their Inset Day to see what we had to offer in the way of resources for RE lessons, assemblies and general Christian support – and were able to find lots of useful material. We would be very pleased to offer this facility to any schools, just a call to the shop to arrange date and time would be very helpful.

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES.

Good Books will be open as usual, up to and including 24th December Christmas Eve. In addition, we will be open for the Bridport Christmas Shopping Festival from 5.00pm-8.00pm on Wednesday 10th December (Dickensian theme this year) - do join us for carols and mince pies!

We will be closed from Thursday 25th December, re-opening on Friday 2nd January. Thank you to all our customers and friends for your support in 2008, we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

CHAI & CHAT

West Dorset/Africa network meeting at Good Books, on Monday 19th January, 2.30 – 4.30pm. Join us for chai, cake and chat to share your connections, enthusiasm and support for Africa. Colin Barrett on his VSO connections with Tanzania. For more information: 01308 868791 or 427851. (Next meeting 16th February: South Africa)



THE BRIDPORT NATIVITY

Saturday 20th December 2008 at 11.00am



Live outdoor nativity in & around Bucky Doo Square with drama & songs.

Walk with the actors & Dress up if you wish.

Come and see:

Mary and Joseph arriving from the west on a donkey.

The Magi from the east.

The Shepherds from the west.

And us the angels!



HOPE08

Organised by volunteers of Churches Together in Bridport and District working with, and supported by, members of the Bridport community and Briport Town Council.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

(ABBOTSBURY & PORTESHAM BRANCH)

At our 61st Annual General Meeting on 7th November, our Chairman was able to report an increase in membership which now totals 90 members, the highest number the Branch has ever achieved, and the Treasurer Jeff Tucker reported a healthy balance in the accounts. Let me one again destroy the myth that in order to be a member you have to be a former serviceman/servicewoman: do join us in order to further our aims of welfare, service and comradeship.

The outgoing Branch Secretary, **Ray Cuthbert** was warmly thanked for his four years of service in that capacity. The newly appointed **Secretary is John Perry** to whom any correspondence should be addressed (3, Frys Close, Portesham. Tel 01305 871346).



The Branch recently affiliated with the Chesil Scout Association whose representatives and standard bearers joined the Branch and 41 others at the wreath laying ceremony at Abbotsbury War Memorial on 9th November, 2008 and afterwards at the Remembrance Service at St. Peters Church, Portesham.

PIE & MASH SUPPER

If you hurry there is still time (7th December at the latest) to book your seat at this event which is convening at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th December, 2008 at Portesham Village Hall. Bring your own wine and glass and enjoy a tasty meal, good company and after dinner entertainment provided this year by the Chesil Scout Group. Non-Members are welcome provided they book with me. Cost of the evening is £6.50 (plus £1 for non-members).

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

If you know of any ex-service person who is experiencing difficulties with employment, finances or mobility etc. please contact the Welfare Committee Chairman Neville Jones (01305-871120), in order that the Legion can offer support.

Diary date: inter-branch skittles match and supper, The Swan Inn, Abbotsbury, 7.00pm, Monday, 12th January, 2009.

Des Baker, Branch Vice Chairman (01305 267617)

40 YEARS OLD

In 1968 a food crisis in Biafra caused many people to send gifts to a Christian organisation called the Evangelical Alliance. A separate fund was set up, and Tearfund was born.



Since then Tearfund has grown enormously, now managing hundreds of projects in many needy countries. It mainly works through local Christian churches, but offers help to poor people of any faith who are suffering.

Emergency relief has led on naturally to helping with recovery and rebuilding needs; providing finance and training to the local churches in order to further as well as monitor their work for the needy; helping the local church provide ongoing relief for ongoing needs, such as orphans, refugees and displaced people; and much is currently being done to reduce the devastating results of HIV.

In areas where disasters such as flooding are frequent, Tearfund partners will initiate projects whereby the local people can be better prepared for the next disaster.

Through *Tearcraft* and *Living Gifts*, and in other ways, enabling people to set up and develop small businesses so that more people can afford food,

schooling, medicines (for there is no welfare state, none of the social security benefits we enjoy). Frequently any benefits are then shared among the whole community.

Tearfund joins other organisations in negotiating with local and national governments to encourage them to take action to reduce the problems facing the poor. There are also opportunities for gap-year students, and others, to spend a few weeks abroad as a member of a team, helping with Tearfund supported projects.

Tearfund also provides well presented information to us, their supporters, about the needs and the progress being made. The quarterly magazine Tear Times is available on request, just ring 0345 355 8355 or go to their website Tearfund.org.uk.

Tearfund – the local church bringing justice and transforming lives – overcoming global poverty.



December

Wednesday 10th December 2008, 7.30-9.30pm,

The Salt House, West Bay, AN EVENING WITH Spike & Penny Piddock

January:

Wednesday 14th January 2009, 7.30-9.30pm,

The Salt House, West Bay, TRAVEL AND NATURE talk by Mary & David Cantrille

Wednesday 28th January 2009, 7.30-9.30pm,

The Salt House, West Bay, COMPETITION NO.3: NATURE - Judge: Bert Wason

February:

Tuesday 10th February 2009, 7.30-9.30pm,

The Strode Room, Beaminster, MEETING WITH BEAMINSTER CAMERA CLUB

Wednesday 11th February 2009, 7.30-9.30pm,

The Salt House, West Bay, PHOTOJOURNALISM AND OTHER EXPERIENCES by Marion Bull

Wednesday 25th February 2009, 7.30-9.30pm,

The Salt House, West Bay, COMPETITION NO.4: Macro/Close-Ups - Judges: Gerald & Janet Comley

For more information about these events please call 01308 459443 or check www.bridportcameraclub.co.uk

Regret for wasted time is more wasted time.

Mason Cooley,

VALLEY NOTES



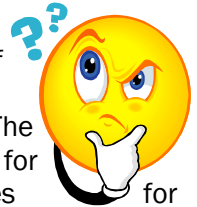
MOTHERS UNION.

Monday, 8th December: -Deanery Carol Service. 2.00pm at St. Marys' Church. Mosterton, opposite the Admiral Hood public house where you may park. Refreshments afterwards; please bring mince pies/cake etc. to help with the food.

Yvette Smith. 898219.

VALLEY QUIZ

Would you like to be in a team of 3 or 4 people to represent your church/village/community in the next series of bible quizzes?



We are putting together teams of juniors and seniors. The matches will begin in September 2009, and training sessions for those who want them, will start in January. The bible passages for these contests will be from Exodus chapters 1 – 20, mainly focussing on the first three or four chapters.

Please contact me if you wish to take part as a competitor, trainer, quiz-master or score keeper.

Heather Rogers 01308 897780.



THREE DECEMBER 'BEWARES'

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906-6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you may already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

'Your' bank sends you an email asking you to update information on your account. Beware – there is of course a whole industry of organizations trying to trick you to give up these precious details. However plausible it looks, do not send anything until you have phoned your bank and verified the position.

Don't leave anything visible in your car which a miscreant might think could possibly be valuable Christmas presents. Instead, have a very Happy Christmas.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party for all those children who live in the Eastern End of the Bride Valley will take place on Saturday 6th December 2008. Children aged 0 – 11 years are invited to



Thorner's School between 3 and 5 pm. All pre-school children must be accompanied by an adult and all children must bring a contact number with them. Tickets are £1 and are available from Thorner's School and from individuals in each of the villages as follows

- Litton Cheney: Sam 482315, Samantha 482446 or Elizabeth 482162
- Swyre: Alison 898480
- Long Bredy: Rachel 482246
- Puncknowle: Caroline 897822 or Jo 897618
- West Bexington: Dianne 897629
- Little Bredy: Mandy 482525

The Christmas Party for those children in the Eastern End of the Bride Valley has taken place for around 50 years. To continue the tradition we welcome the help, interest and support of any individual, group or organisation who could assist in any way. Please contact Katharine Jones 898553 or Elizabeth Kingston 482162

BURTON BRADSTOCK PLAY GROUP



The playgroup would like to wish a warm welcome to Lily Sturtridge and her family to the group. We hope you all enjoy your time with us.

The children have been busy this month celebrating Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night, activities for these festivals have included pumpkin and firework pictures. A visit from John and his dragon puppet, Scorch, provided the children with valuable information of the possible dangers and safety measures required for fireworks and bonfires. Many thanks for your time John.

Cooking has been ever popular with Audrey. Carrot cake, bread pizza and biscuits have been baked and taken home with the children. Thank you Audrey for these cooking activities, they provide the children with not only good learning experiences but very tasty food. The new extended days are still working extremely well. The continuity of staying for a longer session reaps many benefits I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for allowing the Playgroup to extend the hours. Without their support and help this would not have happened.

The new opening times are as follows:

Monday	9.15 to 2.15
Wednesday	9.15 to 12.45
Friday	9.15 to 2.15

For new families wishing to visit or enquire about the Playgroup please contact Ann-Marie on 07853150467.

BRIDE VALLEY FLEDGLINGS PLAYGROUP



October half-term holiday came and went, after which Reception children no longer joined playgroup for lunch, but ate in the school hall for the first time.

Two more children have become “Fledglings” - Abbie and Ella - so a big welcome to them both - more girls were needed to balance up the boys. Also - a big **HELLO** to Harrison’s new baby sister Isabella, and we are still waiting for the arrival of Toby’s new sibling - well done Faye and Dominic and Glynis and Stephen for producing future Nestlings/Fledglings!

Present Fledglings children have been doing lots of paint flicking on to black paper to make firework pictures and making shakers by filling small bottles with different levels of rice, pasta, glitter etc to see the difference in sound. Next job was to decorate them - then make music!

As I write, plans for the playgroup **CHRISTKINDLMARKT** were almost finalised - the 3rd Fledglings Christmas Market with Nativity, Father Christmas Grotto, and lots more about which I will have to report next time, as it was held on Saturday 29th November. I hope many readers came along to support us and that you enjoyed yourselves - especially the children.

Emma Green has started her SENCO course after which she will be the Special Needs Co-ordinator for playgroup. This means that a child with any kind of special need identified while at playgroup will be helped via her knowledge, and contacts with professionals who can assist where appropriate - always working with parents too.

My retirement Tea Party was held on 10th November in playgroup - starting at 4.30pm so that children could also come and join in the fun. More about this next time too!

I started as a volunteer at Fledglings in 1996, went to Weymouth College to study for my D.P.P. (the oldest student in the class!) - then playgroup kindly kept me on and even paid me - Jan Cogan was the Playleader then, so she and Mandy Quincey taught me an awful lot on the practical side - Helen Horsley was my tutor. All local people! I became Playleader in 2000 and have seen many more changes over the years since then - my favourite bit was seeing all the children who came to playgroup develop so much in their own ways, and start school happily. Some are now taller than me - Carol Bennett.

For information re Playgroup or Nestlings, please ring Fledglings / Fiona Evans at school on **01308 482410**.

Her virtue was that she said what she thought, her vice that what she thought didn't amount to much. *Peter Ustinov (1921-2004)*

THORNER'S CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Earlier this term we congratulated Mrs Peach on her 30 years of devoted service to the school.

Over the years she has seen many people and children come and go and I am sure that all of those people will have memories of her. Without



Mrs Peach the school would not run as smoothly. With her expertise and her knowledge, she understands the boilers (most important on these cold mornings) and is able to keep our drains running clear, the hall floor shines and she is always around to open and close the school outside hours, regardless of this being for local groups or workmen. We are so lucky to

have found her and kept her over the years.

There must be something special about Thorner's as a number of the staff have put in quite a few years. Being in my tenth year makes me one of the younger members of staff! A couple of teachers and a couple of the teaching assistants have worked at the school for over 20 years : some left and then even returned!

What makes Thorner's so special? Who knows? I suspect it is something to do with the community, everyone is so friendly, helpful and supportive of one another. Many staff and parents put in that extra effort to ensure that the school is put on the top of their priority list and we would like to pass this attitude to our pupils through being good role models and encouraging good manners, behaviour and a thought for others - be this in school or in the greater world.

There are times when we have to put ourselves first, in trying to be the best at something, such as first in a race, but we all need to take some responsibility for trying to make our community and world a better place for everyone. So keep on doing what ever you are doing, don't lose it as it does make Thorner's a very special place.

I expect that many of you have been watching the new hall take shape. To see the foundations in place, then the metal structure go up and now the bricks, creating the walls, is quite exciting. Do log on to the Litton Cheney website to see the pictures we have taken, which is recording the building step by step. All the pupils, donned their Wellington boots, fluorescent jackets and hard hats for a visit to the LATCH building site earlier in the term

and were able to see progress, ask questions and see for themselves what is happening.

Many of them are now asking about how we are hoping to use the hall, when we will start going inside, what are we going to use our present hall for! We do aim to use the hall for PE, space at last to move around, serving hot school meals which have been cooked on site as a minimum. Staff are currently looking at other possibilities and wish it was available for the Christmas Concert next week. We keep saying next time, next year and wish that we had the facility now.

Alison Johnstone, Headteacher

100 CLUB WINNERS:

£15 Mrs Pip Roper

£10 Mrs Nicola Harris-Jarvis

BURTON BRADSTOCK CE VC SCHOOL

Yes it's December already! November flashed by with a range of activities and events beginning with Class 4 children once again designing posters for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. The following also took place: parent consultation meetings; the Cluster Cross Country at Symondsburry; a football tournament at St. Mary's, Bridport; a whole range of governor committee meetings; and staff went on various training and briefing meetings. Following an enjoyable 'BBC Children in Need' fund-raising experience at Freshwater, also in November, the choir are this month entertaining folk at the Sydney Gale Residential Home. That's the news in a nutshell though I have probably forgotten something.

Our school development this term has focussed on fulfilling the various requirements in order to officially gain the Healthy Schools Award. We have always considered ourselves healthy but up until now have not got round to drawing together all the evidence - we have to 'prove it'. One of the elements is that of a 'Travel Plan'. The Plan covers various aspects of road safety and promotes healthy lifestyles such as walking to school (not possible for everyone) and car sharing etc. Parents, children and staff completed surveys, the results of which we carefully collated. Working closely with the County Council Transport department we have received assistance with the process. One of the team visited school to observe the arrangements we have in place for delivering and collecting children, and he was also available to speak to parents. On his follow up visit it was very gratifying to know that he and his colleagues felt that we are doing the best job we can within the constraints of the site and the roads around the village. Whilst there are one or two small items for us to consider, we have, in the main, been given the thumbs up.

We are very grateful to villagers for donations of Morrisons 'Let's Grow'

vouchers. The scheme ended on 6th November and we collected over 8,000 coupons with which to purchase gardening equipment. Details of our goodies will follow in the next edition.

On behalf of the children, staff and governors I wish BVN readers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Mark Stratta

p.s. We are hoping that Santa will bring us a new Lunchtime Catering Assistant but we really could do with one now. If any BVN readers are interested in joining our team please phone the school office on 897369.



BRIDE VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club held its last meeting of the year in October and enjoyed a lovely talk with pictures of trees which could be grown in small, medium or large gardens. Steve Maros, who is the arboricultural expert from Dorset County Council, gave us many ideas on what could be grown in different soil types, particularly those of us with chalk, and fielded many questions thrown at him afterwards. It was a great end to what has been a successful year for us.

The Chair and Committee extend their very best wishes to all our members and to readers of the News for a happy Christmas and a fruitful and productive New Year and look forward to seeing everyone both members and visitors at the start of our year in March 2009.

JOBS TO DO:

Divide and replant rhubarb. Protect borderline-hardy plants by mulching. Check indoor plants for pests such as whitefly or red spider mite.

Replenish birdfeeders regularly and keep birdbaths clean and free of ice.

Sylvia Delves, Acting Chair. e-mail sylvia@delvesuk.freeserve.co.uk

Valerie Cameron, Club Secretary. e-mail: secretary.bvgc@virgin.net Tel: 01308 482240



First Steps ToddlerGroup

Long Bredy Village Hall
Term-time: Wednesdays, 10am-to 12noon
Suitable 0-4 years
£1.50/session incl refreshments. Tel: 01308 482315
Small & friendly group Wide range of equipment & resources
All welcome **Meet friends**
01308 482126 **Health Visitor, 1st Wednesday each month**
For more information

SHIPTON GORGE

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: BARBARA CHAMBERS
WEST COURT, BROOK STREET, SHIPTON GORGE
bjc39@btinternet.com TEL: 01308 897482



ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

CAROL SERVICE

All are welcome to our service of carols and readings on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm which will be led this year by the Rev. Ryder Rogers. Mince pies and punch will be served afterwards in the Village Hall.

CHRISTMAS DAY

There will be a service of Holy Communion with carols at 9.30am to which all are welcome.

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

Come and join us to sing carols around the village on Friday 19th December, when we will be collecting for Save the Children Fund. We start by the telephone kiosk in Brook Street at 6.30pm, finishing at the New Inn at approx 8pm. Carol sheets will be provided, but please bring a torch and wrap up well!



VILLAGE HALL TRUST
CHRISTMAS BINGO
at Shipton Gorge Village Hall
Monday 8th December
Seasonal Prizes/Raffle
Eyes down 7.30pm
£5 including refreshments



2008 POPPY APPEAL

Very many thanks to all in the village who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal, and thank you to John Bredemear and Richard Cunningham for

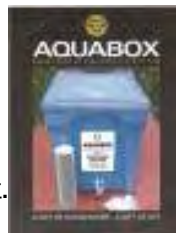
their help with the collection. It is much appreciated.

Bob White

SHIPTON GORGE AQUABOX

Shipton Gorge Village Society is pleased to announce that the third Aquabox has now been filled. The last two Aquaboxes were sent to disaster areas almost immediately. Our latest one has now been dispatched. Many thanks to all who contributed to it, especially Chris Hewlett who organised it.

John Kent



SHIPTON GORGE VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

NOVEMBER DRAW

£10 No 89

Stephen Symes

£20 No 51

Sheila Stanton

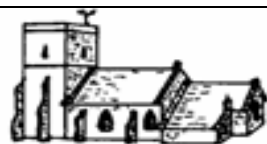
SWYRE

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: SID MARSHALL

1 GREEN BARTON, SWYRE

smarshall@which.net

tel: 897318



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SWYRE

SERVICES

December services are changing from our past format to those shown below. which also includes our Christmas and New Year celebrations. We invite all to come and celebrate with us this special season.

Sunday 7th December 3.30pm: Evening Prayer and lighting of the second Advent candle.

Sunday 14th December 11.00am: Morning Prayer and lighting of the third Advent candle.

Sunday 21st December 11.00am: Holy Communion and lighting of fourth Advent candle.

Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve 9.30pm: Early Midnight Communion when all Advent Candles are lit to celebrate His coming.

Sunday 28th December 11 a.m: Holy Communion by extension.

Sunday 4th January 3.30pm: Epiphany Carols of Praise.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATION.

On Tuesday 23rd December 10.00am we will be gathering to decorate the Church for Christmas. All are welcome to come and help and join in the celebrations with Tea/Coffee and biscuits.

Churchwardens.

BURTON BRADSTOCK

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENTS: CATHY & JOHN LAY-FLURRIE
22 BEACH ROAD, BURTON BRADSTOCK
CLAYFLURRIE@TISCALI.CO.UK TEL: 897281



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The annual Christingle Service will take place at St. Mary's Burton Bradstock on Friday, December 12th at 3.30pm, followed by tea in the Village Hall. We hope you will join us with a special invitation to all children.



We will also be carol singing around the village in aid of The Children's Society on Tuesday, 16th December, meeting outside St. Mary's church at 6.00pm. Don't forget to wrap up warm and bring a torch.

BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE SOCIETY

There was a fire in Peter Knight's conviction as he showed us to the Cerne Abbas's Giant's phallus and the Sun's equinoctial rising between the Earth Mother's twin distant peaks. A man who has tapped into the Earth's Energy Lines and felt the presence of ancestors who stood on the same spot, Peter also revealed not only the Giant's "bone of contention", but those of a sacred Geometry that predates even Euclid, to be found in the ying/yang hexagram that adorns many ancient churches that are "coincidentally" (well, politically) sited on former pagan sites with predictable stone- incised serpents embracing those ancient Energy Lines. Peter developed the thesis that each stone in the great Stonehenge/Avebury/Glasonbury hexagram - known as the Wessex Astrum - is connected to every other sacred site worldwide. In all, a Neolithic Feast - well, food for thought. How very entertaining this season's Village Society's talks are proving to be!

The next talk will be on 5th December and is entitled, "The First Human -powered Circumnavigation of the World".

BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION

There will be a special meeting of the Bridport Local Area Partnership on Monday 8th December 2008, from 10.00am to noon at Mountfield, Bridport.

The one item agenda is "The Shoreline Management Plan" (SMP). Once finalised, the Shoreline Management Plan will be used to advise the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on the way forward for our coastline with regard to sea defence. Details are available from your Parish Council

The Coastal Communities Working Group of BLAP empowered their Chair, Maureen Jackson, to negotiate a presentation to BLAP members, as they consider this issue of prime importance. There had been no plan to hold a meeting in Bridport, so please endeavour to attend.

Please note: this meeting is not be an opportunity to discuss the detail of any specific scheme.

BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

For Bookings – Telephone 01308 898222

200 CLUB – NOVEMBER 2008 DRAW

Congratulations to:

1st Prize:	No. 673	Mrs. Carolyn James	£43.60
2nd Prize:	No. 604	Mrs. Jeanne Hill	£21.80
3rd Prize:	No. 509	Mr. S. T. Green	£10.90

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the December draw should telephone Alan Clarke on 01308 897051 and let him have £1. There are double prizes in the December draw.

The Village Hall Trust is a trust registered with the local authority, the West Dorset District Council. Lotteries Licence No. SL0080

Alan Clarke - Promoter for 200 Club - 01308 897051

VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, 6th December 2008, (10.00 am - 1.00 pm)

Come to the Village Hall for freshly brewed coffee and pastries and browse around festive stalls. The entrance fee, payable at the door, is £2.00 which includes your first cup of coffee and a pastry. During the morning the results will be announced of all classes of the Burton Bradstock OnLine's Digital Photo Competition and prizes will be presented. If you would like a stall, the cost will be £5 or, if you prefer, 10% of any sales. If you are interested in having a stall you should contact Susan Moores on 01308 897673. Look out for posters around the Village.

Susan Moores – Secretary, Burton Bradstock Village Hall Committee – 01308 897673



VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The Burton Bradstock Village Hall Committee is putting on a seasonal quiz in the Village Hall on Saturday 20th December from 7.30pm with a 7.45 prompt start for the quiz. In order to achieve comfortable seating arrangements bring along a team of 8, or join a team on the night. Enjoy not only a fun quiz but also complimentary nibbles and a light supper. There will be prizes for quiz winners, a Raffle and a Bar and, if previous years' Christmas events are anything to go by, a great evening will be had by all. Tickets will be available from Burton Bradstock Post Office, at an inflation-busting price of £5.00

each, from Saturday 29th November. Posters will be put up around the Village advertising the event.

Susan Moores – Secretary, Burton Bradstock Village Hall Committee – 01308 897673

BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE HALL TRUST (BBVHT) AGM

The fourth BBVHT Annual General Meeting will be held in Burton Bradstock Village Hall on Friday 23rd January 2009 at 7.30pm. This is a public meeting so please come along, hear all about the Village Hall Trust's past year and plans for the future, and enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles. Anyone who is resident in the village and who would like to stand as an Independent Member of the Committee should give their name in writing, along with the names of a Proposer and Seconder, to Susan Moores before 31st December 2008.



Susan Moores – Secretary, Burton Bradstock Village Hall Committee – 01308 897673



BURTON BRADSTOCK BRIDGE GROUP

We meet on Tuesdays at 2.00pm prompt in the Village Hall, excluding 9th December.

For further information please telephone Chris on 898117

BURTON BRADSTOCK INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

Bowling will finish for the Christmas break on 22nd December and recommence on Monday 5th January.

Peter Broomhead

A NATION OF SHOPKEEPERS

The circumstances surrounding Jerry's and Margaret's early retirement and the problems of continuing the running the shop side of the Burton Village Stores and Post Office are well known. Yet the shop *has* continued during Margaret's illness and treatment; it didn't stumble; it didn't even quaver. There must always be a catalyst in great success and the great success of re-awakening the historic skills of the English Yeomanry (first remarked by our old chum, Napoleon) must surely be to the credit of Margaret Harding, leaping in (and staying there) to organise the rota of those who willingly became shopkeepers, two sessions each day for all of the last year.

This is not the time to speak of silver linings, but the opportunity for many residents to be engaged at the interface with almost all their fellow village residents, has been a truly beneficial exercise. It has also been a salutary exercise for those who thought they were good at mental arithmetic (and that is most of the generation involved – remember "O" levels?): to stand behind the till, punching in the raw material, waiting nervously for its decision, trying fervently *not* to beat it for fear of contradiction, is an ordeal

we should all have. (For an “A” level in this discipline, try giving the wrong change, having closed the till, and ringing up a “fraudulent” balancing total for the next purchase – with a straight face!). Yes, we have all benefited greatly from being brought back to the front line.

We shall miss those sessions: our free scrutiny of all the papers – even the ones we don’t admit to reading; wondering who on earth (in this village) would purchase that packet of condoms on the shelf (perhaps pretending that they weren’t there!), learning the intricacies of the laundry transactions, surprising tourists by being nice to them and above all, working together for something worthwhile. It has been a great privilege.

Thank you Margaret for being such a winner.

BURTON BRADSTOCK POST OFFICE & SHOP

After many delays by the time this arrives on your doorstep I will hopefully be your new sub-postmistress!

I have been amazed by the exceptionally warm welcome I have been given by everyone. In particular I would like to thank Margaret Harding who has tirelessly organised volunteers over the last year and has come to my rescue to organise them again for my Post Office training periods. A huge thank you to all of you who have stepped into the breach time and again!

Please bear with us whilst we re-stock the shop; in the meantime we will have daily newspapers (in large quantities), fresh bread, milk, Framptons foods (etc.) in constant supply.

We plan to extend the range of foods offered in the shop with a much larger selection of local produce and some deli type items. Naturally we will maintain all the familiar services and products such as greeting cards and dry cleaning. We will of course be asking all of you what you would like to see us supply.

We recognise the importance of the Post Office and shop to Burton Bradstock and surrounding villages and how vital it is as a community ‘hub’ and we will do everything to protect that.

Simon, my husband, will be joining me in January and we both look forward to meeting all of you and becoming part of Bride Valley life.

In the meantime we wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Gwen Holdcroft



FROM JERRY AND MARGARET

You will be aware by now that we have relinquished the Post Office and Stores. During our tenure we have got to know many people and have made lots of friendships.

We would like to thank each one of you for helping us so much especially during the last year, with very special thanks to

Margaret for her unstinting efforts.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year
Many thanks to all.

Jerry and Margaret Bown



HOME WATCH

It looks as though when I hand over on Home Watch when my 3 years is up in March 2009 a small sub-committee of 2 or 3 will take over, meeting perhaps once or twice a year. Would you be prepared to be one of these?

There is truly very little to do: the work is all preventative...with reminders like the above....we must cherish our safety and maintain a community free from crime and from the fear of it. If there is ever an emergency residents are asked to phone **the Police** on 999 – or if it is less urgent then 01305-222222 - and not to phone the Home Watch Representative (who can be informed later). This small but important role is one of gentle persuasion to all to take the right preventive actions. If you'd like to discuss please call me on 897935. *John Grantham*

FRIENDS OF BURTON BRADSTOCK LIBRARY

On November 3rd the Central Library Service reduced the opening hours of the Burton Bradstock library from 10 to 6 hours per week, the so called 'Core Hours'. One of the aims of the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library is to provide Volunteer staffing to make up this 4 hour reduction in opening hours.



The original proposal by the Central Library was to have the Core hours such that the Burton Bradstock library was open on Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning. However analysis of the User Survey (made by the Central Library when the original Core hours were first proposed) showed a significant majority of respondents wished to retain the Friday afternoon opening hours, while there was little support for Saturday morning opening. Eventually the Central Library agreed to open the library for a reduced time on Friday afternoon, but said that they would also open the library from 10 to 12 on Saturday for a trial period of 18 months. At the end of the 18 months a decision would be made, based on usage, as to whether to retain the Friday opening and stop the Saturday opening, or vice-versa. Thus the current arrangement is that the Volunteers provide the Monday afternoon opening and from 5 to 6.30 opening on Friday afternoon.

During October the Volunteers were given basic library service training by Central Library staff, including usage of the new self service terminal for return and issue of library books. Burton Bradstock library was one of the first three Dorset libraries to be equipped with this system.

The 10 Volunteers have been organised into 4 pairs with 2 'back-ups' to cover for holidays etc. Each pair do 1 session per fortnight. After Christmas, and when the arrangements are running smoothly, a further 10 Volunteers will be recruited and trained. Then each pair will do 1 session per month.

On Monday 3rd November the first pair ran the afternoon opening, with a member of the Central Library in attendance to help deal with any problems. This was repeated for the Friday afternoon opening from 5 to 6.30. The remaining two pairs went through the same procedure in the week starting 10th November. From the week beginning 17th of November the Volunteers are on their own! However there is help available to them via the telephone.

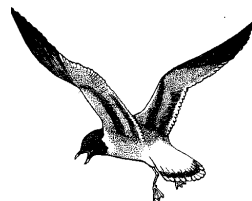
So far things seem to be working well, but there are some library procedures sufficiently complex to require them to be dealt with by the Central Library staff member, so they have to be left over until the next library session. If this happens to you please be patient, as we work to find the best way for the Volunteers to provide a service.

We are still negotiating with the County Council over details concerning the Parish Council taking a 99 year lease on the library building. However the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library Business Plan for the operation of the building is now completed, and will be sent to Dorset County Council Cabinet for approval when the details of the lease are finalised.

R. J. Hynds - Chairman of the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library Trustees

BURTON BRADSTOCK FESTIVAL 2009

Plans for next year's festival are for it to be held during the week 8th to 15th August and the Spring Concert will probably be on Friday 1st May. The concerts and programmes are not yet decided but this advanced notice of the dates should help those of you who are planning next summer's activities and who also wish to attend the Festival events.



Mike Southgate (897487)

**THE
NATIONAL
TRUST**

UPDATE FOR BURTON BRADSTOCK, NOVEMBER 2008

ALL CHANGE AT BURTON BRADSTOCK CAR PARK...

Greetings from the West Dorset National Trust staff team. Well, it's been a busy few weeks. The handover of the management of the car park

from the Parish Council back to National Trust was carried out on Monday 6th October. To mark the occasion NT were approached by the Western Gazette to do a photo call, which we did, and the story was picked up in a few of the

local news papers, so you may have seen pictures of the team, our volunteers and Steve Attrill...all saying 'cheese'....local of course!

The first edition of 'In the know about' ...*Burton Bradstock* was published and distributed to households within walking distance of Hive Beach, local shops & pubs. The newsletter was a very recent idea, but with hindsight (always a marvellous thing!), as the BVN goes to all the households in the village and beyond, it is a much better and effective way of communicating our plans. That said, we have been told that people quite like the newsletter, so the next issue will be available in December via local shops, Hive Beach café, the Post Office and pubs. Updates have also been uploaded onto the Burton Bradstock Village Website, so you can check out progress on line, go to www.burtonbradstock.org.uk

THE NT DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW....

The Burton Bradstock surgeries are going well. The third surgery was on Tuesday 4th November. The following will give you a snapshot of common concerns, issues. FAQ's from all participants so far include: The car park access road – specifically mud on the road, antisocial behaviour at night on the upper car park fields involving young people driving at speed and recklessly, drainage in the car park and run off to the beach.

Access/egress onto the foreshore/ beach. What is going to be done to improve things? Toilets. Need more and better maintained. Sends out a very bad message and image for NT if nothing is done or improved. Disabled access in the car park needs to be improved. **No** to tarmacing the car park, Consensus is for it to remain as 'natural' as possible; safe routes for pedestrians in the car park and to the beach access; dog fouling by-laws need to be enforced; signage needs to be 'decluttered'; litter/waste - we need to investigate options to improve current arrangements; rabbit control need ed; overnight camping, should be banned.

So where are we up to? Well, using ideas comments and suggestions from you the community, the design for the car park is now being finalised. The first stage will be to install new drainage, re-profile, upgrade and renew the surface. Work is expected to commence in the spring of 2009.

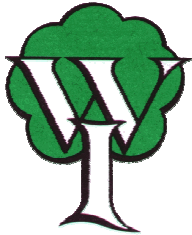
So if you haven't been along to one of our 'surgeries', then a date for your diary is Tuesday 2nd December from 10am -12pm at the Hive Beach Café. We look forward to seeing you there!

Don't forget, if you have any questions or additional comments about the improvements and work that the National Trust are proposing at Hive Beach Car Park, then please contact me - Caroline Richards – Visitor Services Manager for West Dorset on 01297 561900, e mail: caroline.richards@nationaltrust.org.uk, or write to the National Trust, The Court, The Street, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset DT6 6PE.

PETERTIDE 2009

Please book Sunday, June 28th 2009, 6.30pm, and contact Heather Rogers on 897780, if you would like to take part in a new drama on the life of Peter, in St. Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock.

Heather Rogers



BURTON WI

The deadline for the December issue of BVN is before our November meeting, so no summary possible.

At our meeting on 9th December, at 2.15pm, we will be entertained by two singers etc. with mince pies supplied by Jill and her team. The usual groups will be meeting, apart from Christmas and New Year weeks, with the walking group meeting on the 2nd of the month.

Transport for the Carol Service at Sherborne on 10th December, will leave Burton, by the Three Horseshoes at 1.00pm. The Service starts at 4.00pm so there should be time for shopping and a teashop visit beforehand. We should be back about 6.30pm.

For the general public, there may be a few seats available still just for the shopping/Sherborne visit (without the Carol Service) - this would be £10. Please ring 897774 as soon as possible if you are interested.

NJM

LONG BREDY

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: CAROLINE MORRISH-BANHAM

TEL: 482757

EMAIL: mark_banham@btinternet.com



ST. PETERS CHURCH

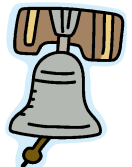
Our service on **Christmas Day** will be 11.00am Family Communion.

It is Long Bredy's turn to host the **Carol Service**, which we share with Littlebredy. It is on Monday 22nd December at 6.30pm. There will be mulled wine, mince pies etc. to follow. All are most welcome to this traditional family gathering. The Carol service replaces Sunday 21st 11.00am service.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard inside and outside the church, a great Autumn clean up!

BELL RINGERS

The Long Bredy Bellringers were very saddened to hear of the passing away of their Tower Captain, David Reed. Although David had been unable to ring for the last few months he continued to take an interest in our activities and those of



the Guild. We will miss his wisdom, guidance and most of all his friendship.

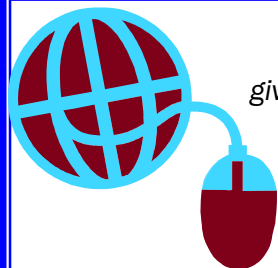
In celebration of David's life and his love of church bells we will be ringing before his Thanksgiving Service on Saturday, 13th December, from 10.00am until the service at 11.00am. We extend a warm welcome to any of his bellringing friends who would like to join us. There will be refreshments at the village hall after the service and all are welcome.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Did You know the excellent facilities of Long Bredy Village Hall are available for hire? For further details please contact Jonathan Cook - 01308 482 501, Sara Winter - 01308 482 637, or Elinor Frost - 01308 482 269

Please join us for the
LONG BREDY
FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY
LONG BREDY VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER 4.30PM - 8.00PM
CHILDRENS ENTERTAINMENT WITH CAPTAIN STUPID!
LIGHT REFRESHMENT PROVIDED
£5 per Family Ticket
ALL VERY WELCOME!

For further information please contact:
Jonathan Cook, Long Bredy House - 01308 482 501
Mark Banham, 2 Long Bredy - 01208 482 757



VILLAGE WEBSITES

giving details of events, news, history, photographs etc.

See the *Bride Valley News*
IN COLOUR, on the
Burton Bradstock website

www.burtonbradstock.org.uk
www.littoncheney.org.uk
www.shiptongorge.org.uk
www.puncknowle.net
www.swyre.org.uk
www.westbexington.org.uk

PUNCKNOWLE & WEST BEXINGTON

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: ELIZABETH SLATER
1, LITTON CLOSE, PUNCKNOWLE
liz@ruddle.org.uk TEL: 897751



ST MARY'S, PUNCKNOWLE

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Saturday, 13th December, 10.00am. We will be decorating the church with tree and greenery on Saturday morning on 13th December. Help with this will be very welcome. Donations of night lights would be much appreciated.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, 14th December, 5.00pm. Come and join us to hear the Christmas story and sing carols as we gradually assemble the crib. Afterwards stay for mulled wine and mince pies plus Christmas cookies for the children. Everyone is most welcome.

ROAD/DRAIN CLEARANCE

Many thanks to Alan and Robin Fry who cleared away the verge from Knackers Hole to Puncknowle Bottom. We appreciate the HUGE effort of removing barrow loads of soil, leaves and grass, which will greatly benefit the people, especially the children, using the bus shelter, as the water can now reach the drains.

Ann Roberts

VARIEGATED HOLLY

If anyone would like some variegated holly to add to their Christmas decorations please contact Ann Roberts on 897716. A small donation for the church would be welcome.

PUNCKNOWLE AND SWYRE VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ NIGHTS FOR 2009

There will be no Quiz Night in December. We are hoping to re-commence at the end of January 2009 but this will depend on the level of attendance for the last few months of 2008.

Please let me know whether you would like this regular quiz to continue by phoning me at 897318. Also let me have your views on the format and theme you would like to see in future quizzes. Many thanks.



For bookings, telephone
01308 897724

100 CLUB

Prizes for October: £10 Chris Gregory
 £ 5 Peter Upjohn

Sid Marshall

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS FAMILY BINGO

at 7.30pm for EYES DOWN at 8.00PM

Bring the family along to have a go -
children's Prizes too!

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS FAYRE

with STALLS, GAMES, and

FATHER CHRISTMAS' GROTTO



Starting 2.15pm Swyre, Father Christmas arriving at the
VILLAGE HALL at 2.30pm - 4.30pm

culminating at about 4.30pm in a

CANDLE/TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION to CHURCH for CAROLS at 5.00pm

PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE & W. BEXINGTON LUNCHEON CLUB

The next event will be our Christmas Lunch with a special Christmas menu on Tuesday 16th December in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. There will also be some music which will kindly be provided by Janet Lane (violin) and Sue Smith (piano). Any members who did not attend the November lunch should telephone 897622 to order their meal.



PUNCKNOWLE ART GROUP

We have had two meetings at Patria. One was a demonstration by Peter on painting skies. Many thanks to Peter for an informative morning. The next was a session painting beautiful red and gold leaves and ripe apples. We hope to be back at The Crown on Dec.12th for a Christmas get together. *Christine Molony*

PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE & W. BEXINGTON HOMEWATCH

The co-ordinators who represent the three villages (Rob Reeks, Puncknowle, Paul Pritchard, Swyre and Janet Jackson, West Bexington) met with residents at the Homewatch meeting held in Puncknowle on October 1st. PC Nigel Case and PCSO Poppy Wheeler also attended to give advice and answer questions.



Chairman Rob Reeks was pleased to announce that the traffic light boards had only been changed to yellow alert as a reminder to everyone to be vigilant during the busy summer months and happily there had been no reported incidents since the last meeting in June. These traffic light boards play an important part in alerting residents of the three villages of any local crime and PC Case promised that news of criminal activities or incidents in the area would be passed on as quickly as possible.

He emphasised that incidents of vandalism or criminal activity should always be reported in the first instance to the Police.

It was agreed that communication between residents and Homewatch co-ordinators should be encouraged and neighbourly vigilance welcomed when residents were away or living alone. Homewatch stickers and information packs are available from the village co-ordinators.

The date for the next meeting was fixed for April 1st and a reminder would be given well in advance to allow more residents to attend and put forward any ideas regarding the security of the villages. Thanks again to everyone who attended and for your useful comments. We look forward to the next meeting.

A meeting of the Association of Dorset Watches was held in Bridport and interesting and relevant advice was given by the Police and a representative of Crimestoppers.

We were told that the Chief Constable had described Homewatch as 'Gold-dust to the Police,' a vital service in rural areas. Useful tips were given for the protection of oil storage tanks against theft and available outdoor measures for protection of sheds, garages, etc. The Cold Calling Control Zone in Burton Bradstock was discussed prompting Rob to consider how relevant it might be in our villages.

If any resident is particularly concerned over this issue please let Rob know.



PUNCKNOWLE PLAYING FIELD

The Playing Field Sub Committee of the Parish Council has been successful in their application for funds to improve the field. 'Awards For All' have agreed to fund in excess of £9000 to level the

centre of the field and create a path round the perimeter.

We would like to thank Sandy Marshall in particular for all her hard work in completing the complicated application form.

LITTON CHENEY

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: JOHN YATES
2, SUNNYSIDE COTTAGE, LITTON CHENEY
yjohnyates@aol.com Tel: 01308 482585



John and Sandra Yates

wish everyone in Litton Cheney and the rest of the Bride Valley, a
very merry Christmas & a Happy & prosperous 2009.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Our traditional Carols by Candlelight will take place at 6.00pm on Sunday 21st December – all are most welcome and are invited to stay for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

Other services this Christmas include the Crib service at 4.00pm and Midnight Communion at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and Holy Communion at 9.30am on Sunday 28th December.

Calling all Church cleaners (plus any other kind volunteers) – we shall carry out the pre Christmas clean on Friday 5th December starting at 9.30am – refreshments provided.

FROM THE BELL-RINGERS

We shall be ringing the bells for a short time on Saturday afternoon, 13th December, in memory of David Reed. He rang at St. Mary's many times and helped us to advance and improve our bell-ringing skills.



THE LITTON CHENEY RELIEF IN NEED TRUST

The trustees of this charity invite applications for a grant from residents of Litton Cheney who have to rely on State Retirement Pensions or Benefits. If you think you may qualify, or know of someone that could qualify, please apply, in confidence, to: *Mary Anderson, Talisman, Litton Cheney* or one of the other Trustees, on or before **8th December 2008**. Those who at present benefit from a grant, need not re-apply.

If you are a student, living in Litton Cheney, and have recently finished full time education, and have started full time working or have commenced an apprenticeship, or are attending a University Course and have not yet applied for the school leavers grant, please write, in confidence, to myself or one of the other trustees.

Mary Anderson

LITTON CHENEY SOCIAL COMMITTEE

After a washout on the Saturday the **BONFIRE PARTY** went well on the Sunday evening. Thanks go to all those who made the evening possible and those who helped on the night with particular thanks to the cooks Gordon Anderson and John Salvetti, to John Perrin for all the assistance he gave in setting it up, and Eddy Fry for the use of the field. Our Children in Need Appeal raised £100 in contributions – thanks go to all who donated.



There will be **CAROL SINGING** around the village on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th December. Anyone who would like to sing is more than welcome to join us –we need more singers. You may even partake of warming refreshments along the way. Meet at the bus shelter at 6:30pm.



The **VILLAGE WALK** is on Thursday 1st January 2009 - weather permitting. Meet at the bus shelter at 10.00am for an invigorating start to the New Year.

THANK YOU for supporting the events in 2008 despite the inclement weather on many occasions. The Social Committee wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at events in 2009.

Sheila Davison Secretary LCSC 482262

VILLAGE NOTES.

Clare and Craig Turnbull moved into Coombes Close in August. Welcome to Litton Cheney Clare and Craig and we hope that you are settling in.



PRODUCERS MARKETS –

Many thanks to all those who came, produced, purchased and generally supported our producers markets in 2008. We wish everybody a very Happy Christmas, and the hope that 2009 is a much better year than currently predicted.

So, what does 2009 hold in store for the producers markets? Well, it is no longer sustainable to run the markets on a monthly basis during the summer as we have over the last four years. The number of producers available has diminished, with many going on to bigger and arguably better things, and also the number of markets elsewhere and a proliferation of farm shops have all had a part to play. Given our original intent was to create more retail opportunities within the local area, then we have succeeded.

With the opening of the new community hall in Litton Cheney in 2009 comes the opportunity to look at things anew, and this we will be doing in the

coming months. We, the Litton Retailers Association, that happy band of retailing pilgrims, do not intend to go away and we are considering how best we can use the facilities of the hall in such a way, i.e. food festivals during certain times of the year, it will create an attractive event that we can all enjoy. So the words are watch this space.

LITTON AND THORNER'S COMMUNITY HALL

A visit to the hall site adjacent to Thorner's School will reveal the shape of things to come. Over the last week or so and at the time of writing a reddish iron skeleton has risen from the mud. Over the coming weeks the skeleton will be fleshed out with concrete blocks, and really begin to take on the look of a building destined to be a community hall. A photographic record of progress can be found on the Litton web site www.littoncheney.org.uk by clicking on Community Hall and then on Photo Archive. There's plenty to see.



The opening programme for the community hall is already being put together. If you would like to enquire about booking the hall please contact Wendy Taylor on 482532 who can answer all your questions. One of the important things to have in place ready for the hall to open is an entertainment licence, and we are in the process of applying for one, the notice for which is shown below. Please note that times when the hall may be open will be strictly monitored with due deference to residents in the immediate vicinity. LATCH is very conscious that not all residents have welcomed the hall with open arms. We hope in time that will change and in the meantime we apologise for any inconvenience suffered by local residents during the construction stage of the hall.

Notice is given that an application has been made to West Dorset District Council for a new premises licence in respect of Litton and Thorner's Community Hall, Schoolhouse Lane, Litton Cheney, DT2 9AU, for regulated entertainment generally between the hours of 08.00 to 02.00 Monday to Sunday from 1st May 2009.

Any interested party or responsible authority may make representations in writing to: The Licensing Section, West Dorset District Council, 58/60 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1 UZ within 28 days from the date of this notice. The licensing register and details of this application may be inspected during normal office hours at the above address. It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (£5000). 1st December 2008

Happy Christmas to all who have supported this mighty effort and here's to 2009, the Year of The Hall!

LITTLEBREDY

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT:

Email: pwbridehead@btinternet.com

Tel: 482232



The firework

display on 5th November seemed to go on and on, and the blaze of the enormous bonfire formed a dramatic backdrop to a really spectacular display. Thanks to all who were involved in the evening, not forgetting the suppliers and providers of the delicious sausages and burgers and those who kept the bar running so smoothly, and thanks too for the great support from neighbouring villages, plus all the fireworks they provided for the display. A great evening.



The next event

in the Hall will be a Social Evening on Friday 5th December, but there will also be a serious purpose, as it will contain the Club's A.G.M. at 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to review the past and consider plans for the future, so please can as many members (and prospective members) as possible turn out for this.

A great

pleasure to announce the safe arrival of young **Henry Fox-Gibson**, born to Corinna and Ian at 2, Longlands Cottages at the end of October, a new brother for Charlotte. May they all be happy and fulfilled in their enlarged family.



It is

Long Bredy's turn to host the customary combined Carol Service this year, so no doubt details will be available elsewhere in this magazine. Our own Church service on Christmas Day will be a Family Communion at 11.00 a.m.

As the shops have been devoted to Christmas for a couple of months already, this may not be too early to send a collective

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

to those within the village or elsewhere who read these notes (if anyone does...!)

Do give books – religious or otherwise – for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal.

Lenore Hershey

St James the Least of All

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his letters from 'Uncle Eustace:'

On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas



The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St. James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been colour co-ordinated, the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening 8 months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St. James the Least. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected was allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long it would happen would have been decided by a committee and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

The one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been

installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

MISCELLANY



I explained to my wife, rather badly,
Peter Knight's

presentation, mentioning the stones at Winterbourne Abbas - that pile of stones that must have caused so many near accidents as drivers crane to examine them in passing. For a moment she thought that Peter had attributed to the stones a magnetic field and that this would account for the accidents: cars colliding as they swarmed, attracted like bees to the honey pot; piled high at the side of the road, like the aftermath of a Hurricane Dave....

Ideas such as this are like a sniff of marijuana to me. "Hello Delta seven, are you receiving, over?"

"Loud and clear."

"Attention called to another damage-only accident at Whiskey Alpha, multiple vehicles involved, I'm afraid. Are you a suitably equipped vehicle?"

"What's that, Sarge?"

"Do you have the plastic car, the MZV [Magnetic Zone Vehicle]?"

"We don't use it these day's Sarge, it's only got coil ignition and the sparks get disorientated; we need the Mark II."

"Mark Two?"

"Yeah, the elastic band driven vehicle, it's the only one that we

can use through Whiskey Alpha, these days."

"O.K., Delta Seven, then you'd better approach on foot, but wear the wellies, for God's sake! And, er, keep your hair on. Good luck!"

"It's O.K., Sarge, I've got the shower cap."

SCIENCE EXAM ANSWERS. *(genuine, honestly!!)*

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour? (Brilliant, love this!)

A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What are steroids?

A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery. (The kid gets an A+ for this answer!)

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen)

A: The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart & lungs, and the abdominal cavity holds the 5 bowels A,E,I,O,U.

Q: What is the fibula?

A: A small lie.

Q: What does 'varicose' mean? (I do love this one...)

A: Nearby.

Q: Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarian Section.'

A: The Caesarian Section is a district in Rome.

Q: What does the word 'benign' mean?

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM W.R.T.?

I wondered if I should have purchased the red corduroys in preparation for the Autumn. I had chosen a rather orangey shade of red and, even on the hanger, they looked so warm and reassuring.

"You're not going to wear them around the village are you?"

warned a friend, "there are only certain people who can

"Wear Red Trousers" in Burton Bradstock," he said,

emphasising the inverted commas with two fingers

twitching on each hand.

"Have you got a doctor's certificate for those?" asked my cavalry officer son, looking down his nose, "in my regiment only staff officers and poseurs wear red trousers."

"Well, at least I can keep an eye on you when you're up on the cliffs on your own," commented my wife.

So can I "wear red trousers"? is the big question - not *may* I; *should* I. Lots of folk do, but I confess I have only seen a high density of them with blazers near sailing boats. The colour is certainly more discrete than the purple numbers that I should really have liked, but I had not realised that I was about to open a can of worms.

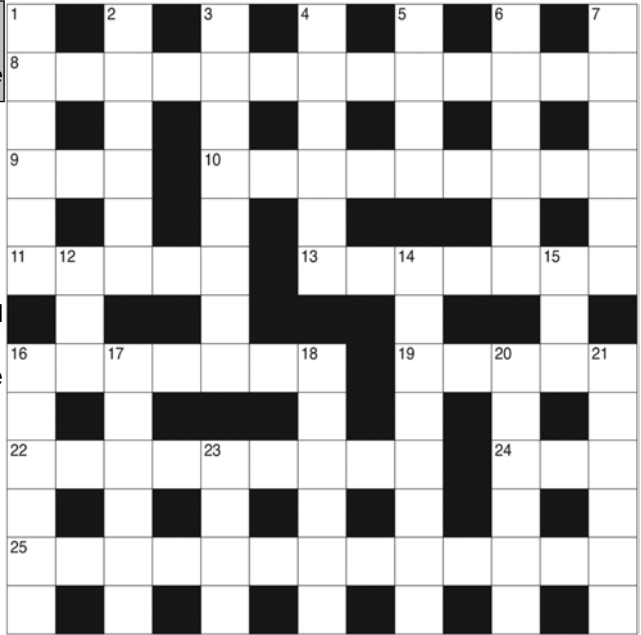
Then, as I strutted up the Drain I heard a child exclaim, "Ooh! Just look at those lovely trousers; can I have some?"

And I knew it was O.K.

Perry Scope

CROSSWORD

Use the NIV Bible



ACROSS

8 'Then Aaron and his sons and — — will be consecrated' (Exodus 29:21) (5,8)

9 'He lifted me out of the slimy — , out of the mud and mire' (Psalm 40:2) (3)

10 Such a person should be put to death (Leviticus 20:27) (9)

11 Chain of mountains (Numbers 27:12) (5)

13 'They are worse off at the — — they were at the beginning' (2 Peter 2:20) (3,4)

16 Descent (anag.) (7)

19 'But they all alike — to make excuses' (Luke 14:18) (5)

22 Reimbursement (Luke 6:34) (9)

24 Female sheep (2 Samuel 12:4) (3)

25 ' — — is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain' (Psalm 139:6) (4,9)

DOWN

1 Alcohol-induced oblivion (Psalm 78:65) (6)

2 'Three times I was — with rods' (2 Corinthians 11:25) (6)

3 Future outlook (Proverbs 10:28) (8)

4 It caused Joseph's brothers to journey to Egypt to buy grain (Genesis 42:5) (6)

5 See 15 Down

6 'You care for the land and water it; you — it abundantly' (Psalm 65:9) (6)

7 Son of Mehir and descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:11) (6)

12 Car (anag.) (3)

14 Engage in warfare (Isaiah 31:4) (2,6)

15 'In the thirty-first year of — king of

Judah, — became king of Israel' (1 Kings 16:23) (3,4)

16 Excessive strain or tension (Jeremiah 19:9) (6)

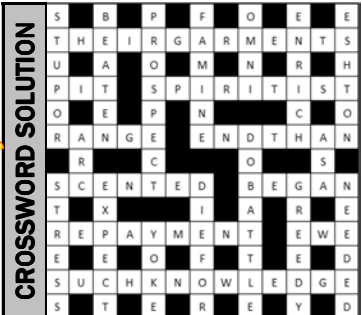
17 'The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not — him' (Luke 12:40) (6)

18 'Very rarely will anyone — a righteous man' (Romans 5:7) (3,3)

20 Avaricious (1 Peter 5:2) (6)

21 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is — ' (Luke 10:41-42) (6)

23 'For my — is easy and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)





Rainbow Rhymes

Poems and Promises to cut out and collect.

A Shining Time

The moon, the starlit sparkles of frost,
Dressed-up trees with lights,
City streets and superstores
On December, shop-late nights,
Schools and homes, trimmed and bright,
Windows of tinsel and lace,
The birth of wonder, joy and hope
Shining from the face of a child,
Shining from his face.

Christmas is a shining time.

Sol says: "Not all Christmas gifts come wrapped in shiny paper. The best one of all was wrapped in skin!"

A child has been born- for us! The gift of a son – for us!
Isaiah 9:6a(The Message)

Poem by Daphne Kitching, Picture by Elaine Hill, Coloured by

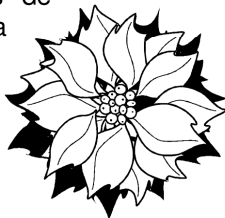


THE RED FLOWERS

Pots of poinsettias are often given as gifts at Christmas – you know those big pink and red leaves that look like flowers?

The story is told of a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to give to the Christ Child at the Christmas Eve Services. As she walked to the church her heart was filled with sadness. She gathered a handful of common weeds from by the roadside.

Looking at the sad bunch, she felt even worse at her humble offering. But as she approached the altar, she remembered that "even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes." Her heart lifted as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the foot of the crib. Suddenly the bunch of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red. From that day on the flowers were known as the Flores de Noche Buena or Flowers of the Holy Night. We call them poinsettias.



A

FLOWER PRESENT

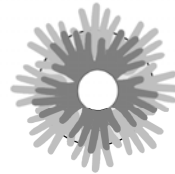
Some poinsettia flowers that last a very long time... you'll need:

- A paper plate
- Red and green paper
- A small piece of yellow paper or gold foil sweetie wrapper
- Scissors and a pen or pencil
- Glue

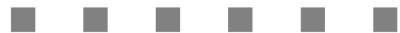
1. Trace round your hand on both the red and green paper and cut out lots of hands.
2. Glue a circle of green handprint tracings around the edge of the plate, with fingers pointing outwards.



3. Glue a second circle of red hands (fingers pointing outwards) just inside the first circle.

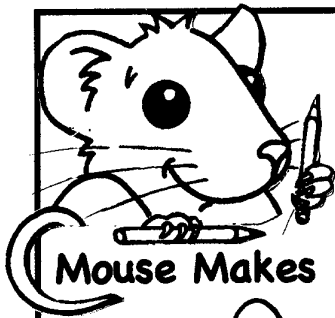


4. Glue a third circle of red hands at the centre of the plate. Finish with a small circle of yellow paper or gold foil in the centre of the flower.



Where is the best place to put your Christmas tree?

After your Christmas one and your Christmas two.



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus... and it all started with a message from an angel. The angel **Gabriel** came to **Mary** with a message from God that she would be having a very special baby boy and his name was to be **Jesus**, which means 'the Lord saves'.



- Make this angel box to hang from the Christmas tree.

- Glue onto thin card then carefully cut

around the outside.

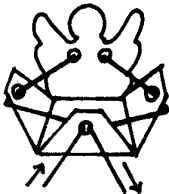
Fold back the sides along the dotted lines.



The night Jesus was born a great number of angels appeared to the shepherds. They sang, praises to God because Jesus, our Saviour, had been born!

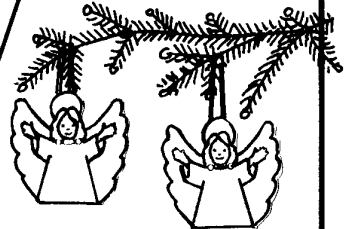
Read about the angel's visit to Mary and the shepherds in Luke chapters 1 and 2

- Punch out the holes then cut 30cm of wool or thin ribbon and thread through the holes.



- Pull together and knot to form a box. Hide small sweets inside.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



- Photocopy this page onto card to make lots of angels!

POETS' CORNER

'WINTER WARMTH'

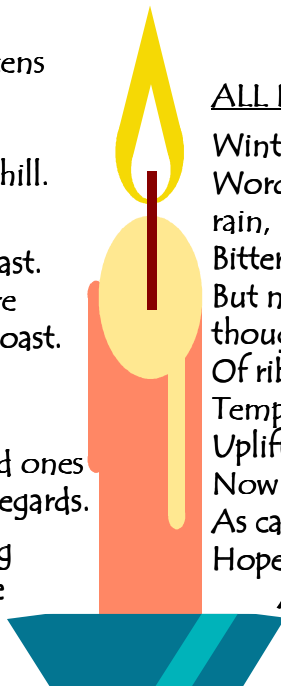
Snow crystals twinkling
Catching the sun.
Making snow angels
Warms everyone.

Ear-muffs and mittens
Keep out the chill.
Cosy and warm
We slide down the hill.

Inside at last, with
Hot toddies and toast.
We warm by the fire
And chestnuts we roast.

Candles flickering
Light up the cards
Sent from our loved ones
With warmth and regards.

Christmas is coming
In just a short while
It's music will open
The memory file.



Birds are roosting
Trying to keep warm
With a 'fast food' service
That's always the norm!

Valerie Jeffery

ALL IS NOT LOST!

Winter and I write:
Words come heavy as December
rain,
Bitter as the wailing wind.
But now a thought, a sudden
thought,
Of ribboned parcels waiting,
Tempt the (still) childlike mind,
Uplifts the dreary afternoon.
Now words come bright
As candles on the Christmas spruce,
Hopeful as holly on the shelf,
And I become, once more,
myself.

Sandra Yates

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR ALL PARISHES:**DECEMBER 2008**

Tue	2	10.00am National Trust Drop-in "Surgery" 2.00pm BB Bridge Group 2.30pm Tea Dance	Hive Cafe BB Village Hall Bridport Arts Centre
Wed	3	FRANCIS XAVIER Thorner's "Chocoholics"	Thorners School, LC
Thu	4	9.30am Christmas Shopping Trip, Exeter 3.00pm Guild of Health Meditation Group	New Inn, SG Othona Community
Fri	5	7.30pm Social Club meeting & AGM BB Vill Socy "1st Human Powered C'navigation" 10.00am Christmas Market	Littlebredy Village Hall BB Village Hall BB Village Hall
Sat	6	11.00am Village Hall Trust Coffee Morning 3.00pm Eastern Valley Children's Christmas Party	BB Village Hall Thorner's School, LC
Mon	8	10.00am BLAP Meeting 2.00pm MU Deanery Carols 6.30pm Christmas Bingo	Mountjoy, Bridport St Mary's, Mosterton SG Village Hall
Tue	9	10.00am WI Meeting	BB Village Hall
Wed	10	1.00pm Leave for WI Carol Service, Sherborne 7.00pm Pie & Mash Supper (Abbotsbury RBL) 7.30pm Bridport Camera Club	Three Horseshoes, BB Portesham Village Hall Salt House, West Bay
Fri	12	Puncknowle Art Group/Christmas Gathering 3.30pm Christingle Service	Crown Inn, Puncknowle St Mary's, BB
Sat	13	10.00am Bellringing & Thanksgiving Service for David Reed Church Decoration for Christmas 4.30pm Family Christmas Party 7.30pm Family Christmas Bingo	St Peter's, LB St Mary's Puncknowle LB Village Hall PSWB Village Hall
Sun	14	2.30pm Christmas Fayre followed by procession to Church for Carols (5.00pm)	PSWB Village Hall St Mary's, Puncknowle
Tue	16	12 noon PSWB Lunch Club Christmas Lunch 2.00pm BB Bridge Group 2.30pm Tea Dance 6.00pm Carol Singing around Village (Children's Society)	PSWB Village Hall BB Village Hall Bridport Arts Centre St Mary's, BB
Thu	18	6.30pm Carol Singing around Village	LC Bus Shelter
Fri	19	6.30pm Carol Singing around Village 6.30pm Carol Singing around Village	LC Bus Shelter Brook Street, sg
Sat	20	11.00am Bridport Nativity 7.30pm Christmas Quiz	Bucky Doo Sq, Bridport BB Village Hall
Tue	23	10.00am Church Decoration for Christmas 2.00pm BB Bridge Group	Holy Trinity, Swyre BB Village Hall
Wed	24	CHRISTMAS EVE	
Thu	25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
Fri	26	ST STEPHEN	
Sat	27	ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST	
Sun	28	HOLY INNOCENTS	

DECEMBER 21 WINTER SOLSTICE

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be heartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!. You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green...."

But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: "Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the year afforded to be greene."



John Stow

WEEKDAY SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY: DECEMBER 2008

Monday 1st	9.00 Littlebredy	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 3th	9.30 Burton Bradstock	Morning Prayer
	10.00 Burton Bradstock	Holy Communion
Thursday 4th	9.00 Swyre	Morning Prayer
Friday 5th	9.00 Shipton Gorge	Morning Prayer
Monday 8th	9.00 Littlebredy	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 10th	9.30 Burton Bradstock	Morning Prayer
	10.00 Burton Bradstock	Holy Communion
Thursday 11th	9.00 Puncknowle	Morning Prayer
	3.30 CHRISTINGLE	St Mary's BB
Friday 12th	9.00 Shipton Gorge	Morning Prayer
Monday 15th	9.00 Long Bredy	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 17th	9.30 Burton Bradstock	Morning Prayer
	10.00 Burton Bradstock	Holy Communion
Thursday 18th	9.00 Swyre	Morning Prayer
Friday 19th	9.00 Shipton Gorge	Morning Prayer
Monday 20th	6.30 Carol Service	St Peter's , LB

THE BRIDE VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY

ST MARY: Burton Bradstock

ST MARY: Litton Cheney

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS: Littlebredy

ST PETER: Long Bredy

CHILCOMBE (Dedication unknown)

ST MARY THE BLESSED VIRGIN: Puncknowle

ST MARTIN: Shipton Gorge

Holy Trinity: Swyre

Rector:

The Revd Bob Thorn A.K.C.

The Rectory, Burton Bradstock, DT6 4QS

Tel: (01308) 898799

NSM:

The Revd Jean Thorn

Tel: (01308) 898799

Curate:

The Revd Ryder Rogers

Tel: (01308) 897780

Reader:

Mike Read

Tel: (01308) 897445

Reader:

James Webster

Tel: (01308) 89 8657



CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

	CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY
BURTON BRADSTOCK	5.30 Family Carols 11.30 Holy Communion	8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Christmas Service
SHIPTON GORGE		9.30 Holy Communion
CHILCOMBE		
SWYRE	9.30pm Holy Communion	
PUNCKNOWLE		11.00 Family Communion
LITTON CHENEY	4.00 Crib Service 11.30 Holy Communion	
LONG BREDY		11.00 Holy Communion
LITTLEBREDY		11.00 Holy Communion (By extension)

CHURCH SERVICES

THE BRIDE VALLEY TEAM OF PARISHES

December 2008

Date	1 st Sunday 7 th Dec; 2 nd of Advent	2 nd Sunday 14 th Dec; 3 rd of Advent	3 rd Sunday 21 st Dec; 4 th of Advent	4 th Sunday 28 th Dec
Burton Bradstock	8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Family service 11.00 Songs of Praise 6.30 Evening Prayer	9.30 Family Service 11.00 Holy communion 6.30 Evening Prayer	8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Family service 11.00 Holy Communion (By extension) 6.30 Carol Service	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Morning Prayer 6.30 Evening Prayer
Shipton Gorge	11.00 Holy Communion	9.30 Morning Prayer	6.30 Carol Service	6.30 Evening Prayer
Chilcombe				
Swyre	3.30 Evening Prayer	11.00 Morning Prayer	11.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Communion (By extension)
Puncknowle	9.30 Holy Communion	5.00 Carol Service	8.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Family Service
Litton Cheney	11.00 Family Service	9.30 Holy Communion	6.00 Carol service	9.30 Holy Communion (By extension)
Long Bredy	11.00 Holy Communion		11.00 Morning Worship	
Littlebredy		11.00 Family Service.		11.00 Holy Communion