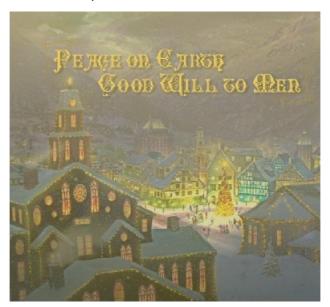


### THE BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF STURMINSTER MARSHALL, SHAPWICK, PAMPHILL & COWGROVE



Wishing a Merry Christmas to all our readers **December 2023** 

You can now read The Bridge in colour on line at www.bridgemagazinedorset.com, www.redpostbenefice.com and www.mackrellcharity.org.uk.
Just follow the links or scan the Q.R. code.



### THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Bridge Publications is the committee which produces the Bridge Magazine for the communities of Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick, Pamphill and Cowgrove. It is financially independent of these communities: its revenue comes from advertising fees and fund raising activities. Our Chairman is Barry Johnson, our Editor is Tony Cross and our Advertising Manager is Liz York.

#### **Articles:**

Contributions are welcome from all sectors of the community served by the parishes. Please email your article, which should be prepared on A5 (NOT A4 OR Letter PLEASE) size pages, in MS Word (.doc or .docx) or Works (.wps), or it can be a .jpg file or .pdf file, to the Editor at tcenator@gmail.com

You will receive a reply. If you do not receive a reply, please make enquiries. If you have no email then please print your copy and send it to Court House, Cowgrove, BH21 4EL, making it clear on the envelope that this is for the Editor of The Bridge.

Please Note: Due to our printer's Christmas shutdown the deadline for articles for the January issue is the 8th of December.

### **Advertisements:**

Our advertising fees are as shown on page 3. If you would like to place a commercial advertisement then please submit it by email to

bridgeadvertising@outlook.com

Please do not send any advertisements to the Editor.

If you need help with producing your advert you may contact Liz by post at 7 Parkelea, Sturminster Marshall, BH21 4DG (marking the envelope Bridge Advertising) or by phone at 01258 857528. We will then be in touch. Please call 01258 857528 if you do not get an acknowledgement, and ask for Liz. This is the contact number for all advertising enquiries.

Please Note: Due to our printer's Christmas shutdown the deadline for adverts to Liz for the January issue is the 7th of December.

Inserts: Your loose leaf inserts or flyers can also be inserted in The Bridge for £20. Please provide 300 copies of your leaflet, in banded bundles of 25, folded to A5 size if larger, to Jan Standing, between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of the month. Jan's email is jan.standing47@gmail.com.

If you follow up any advertisement could you please mention that you saw it in The Bridge

The Bridge has been printed by CMP UK, www.cmp-uk.com, tel: 01202 739993.

### The Court Henbury 150th Anniversary Award

To commemorate its 150 years association with Sturminster Marshall, Court 'Henbury', the local Foresters Friendly Society branch, is making a grant of £250 each year in March to help a young person in their education, vocation or hobby.

To be eliqible, you must be aged 11-19 on 1 March of the award year and either live in or have a connection with Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick, Pamphill, Wimborne or Corfe Mullen or be a Court Henbury member.

To apply, simply write a recital of no more than 500 words about the activity you wish to pursue and how the grant would help you towards your goal. You can send it by post to: The Court Secretary, 7 Gladelands Way, Broadstone BH18 9JB or by email to: court 5779@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk.

The closing date for applications for the first Award is 1 March 2024. The winner will be decided at the Court's meeting on 12 March 2024.

Please note: the successful applicant may be asked to be photographed for publicity purposes.



For more information visit: www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk iendly Society or scan the QR code

Foresters Membership benefits are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority or the Prudential Regulation Authority and are reviewed regularly to ensure they are relevant to our members Foresters Friendly Society is the trading name of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society Limited

which is an Incorporated Friendly Society (Registration No. 511F) and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Registration No. 110029)

### \* CHURCH NOTICE

Sturminster Marshall is joined with the parishes of the Red Post Benefice which is the responsibility of Rev Jane Williams.

Kingston Lacy and Shapwick are joined with Wimborne Villages Benefice which is the responsibility of Rev Suzie Allen.

The contact details for the priests can be found in the Parish Directory on page 62.

Bridge magazine advertising fees

	9 9		•	
<b>Duration</b>	full page	I/2 page	I/4 page	I/8 page
12 months	£220	£120	£65	£35
6 months	£120	£65	£35	£30
3 months	£60	£30	£20	£15
I month	£20	£15		

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Tel: 01202 672222 Web: www.pnfl.co.uk Email: info@pnfl.co.uk

### St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival 2023

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Anyone may enter a tree into the festival, your tree may be themed if you wish and decorations may be handmade or purchased. See page 54 for more information.

### **LADIES**

If you're handy with a needle, be it knitting or to sew,
If your standard's very high or even very low,
PLEASE come along and join us, we're a very friendly crowd,
You can learn to do some crafty things of which you'd be so proud.
MONDAY at the Memorial Hall we'll see you there at 2,
£2.00 with refreshments, there's nothing nicer you could do.
For more information please ring Anne Weller - 01258 857046

### From The Church

An introduction: my name is Jane Williams and I am the new vicar for the Red Post Churches at Almer, Bloxworth, Morden, Sturminster Marshall, Winterborne Kingston and Winterborne Zelson.

I've already met some of you and I'm looking forward to meeting others, please say hello when you see me out and about.

I'm not sure about you, but I absolutely love the run up to Christmas, this liturgical season that we call Advent. The sense of preparation for something big, something wonderful and the anticipation of what's to come: with Jesus in our midst, there is hope, the future is very bright!

That sense of awe and wonder about the place, of children's little faces lighting up with happiness and joy as we prepare to celebrate the fact that Jesus came and lived among us, starting out life as a baby, just like all of us here ...

As one modern translation of the bible puts it

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into our neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son. Generous inside and out, true from start to finish." (John 1.14 The Message)

For Christians this has to be the most exciting thing ever, God sending his one and only Son. For some though the sad thing is that these liturgical seasons are, or have become, nothing but empty cycles without any meaning.

This Advent, whether you're excited about Christmas or not, let me challenge you to take some time out of your busy schedule and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, how the birth of Jesus Christ has impacted on your life spiritually.

Throughout December across our churches there will be some wonderful opportunities to anticipate and celebrate together, beginning with our Advent Sunday services and running right through to our services on Christmas Day and during the Christmas season.

#### **EMMANUEL - GOD IS WITH US**

My prayer for you all this year is that you will be more aware of God's presence than ever before, during the anticipation of Advent and that as you celebrate, Christmas will be joyful.

As a family we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas 2023.

With every blessing,

Jane (Vicar of the Red Post Churches)

### St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery November Draw

Main draw			Bonus draw		
£50	95	Andrew Jones	£50	88	Maureen Hurst
£30	66	Andrew Jones	£30	138	Bob Parke
£20	158	Jean Turner	£20	15	Jean Turner

Congratulations to this month's winners.

Applications have been sent out to join for 2024 – have you returned yours? If you have not received an application form or would like to join for the first time, please contact one of the committee members listed below as soon as possible.

Liz Jones: 49 Railway Drive, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 01258 857076)

Karen Royles: I Parkfield, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 07761 867738) Jan Standing: Chartwell, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 01258 857477)



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### Tivoli Theatre

BOX OFFICE & ENQUIRIES 01202 885566 www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk

### **DECEMBER FILMS**

5th Welcome to the Darkness (15) 7.30pm, £15.

**DECEMBER SHOWS** 

1st Counterfeit Stones 2023 8pm, £28.50.

2<sup>nd</sup> Talon – The Best of Eagles 2023 8pm, £28.

3rd David Graham and the Eskimo Brothers 7.30pm, £28.50.

with Special Guest Ben Waters

6<sup>th</sup> Marty Wilde and the Wildcats 7.30pn, £28.

7th Platinum – The live ABBA Tribute Show 2023 7.30pm, £27.50.

8th Showwaddywaddy in Concert December 2023 7.30pm, £28.50/£26.

9<sup>th</sup> Nine Below Zero – December 2023 7.30pm, £28.

 $15^{th} - 1^{st}$  Jan Cinderella £19, <16s £15.

Performance dates:

Friday 15th December 6pm

Saturday 16th December 2pm & 6pm

Sunday 17th December 2pm & 6pm

Monday 18th December 2pm & 6pm

Tuesday 19th December No Shows

Wednesday 20th December 10:30am (Relaxed Performance) & 2:30pm

Thursday 21st December 2pm & 6pm

Friday 22nd December 2pm & 6pm

Saturday 23rd December 2pm & 6pm

Sunday 24th December 10:30am & 2:30pm

Monday 25th December No Shows

Tuesday 26th December 4pm

Wednesday 27th December 2pm

Thursday 28th December 2pm & 6pm

Friday 29th December 2pm

Saturday 30th December 2pm

Sunday 31st January 2pm

Monday 1st January 2pm.

29th, 30th, 2nd Jan Cinderella – Adult Version: Over 16s 7.30pm, £19.

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### Founded 1988

Our club comprises retired or semi-retired men who have held a position of responsibility during their professional life. We meet at the well-appointed Hamworthy Club in Canford Magna, near Wimborne, on the first Wednesday of the month. Before lunch, we are entertained by speakers, who cover a full and interesting range of subjects. In addition, our club holds social functions and arranges visits and other activities, involving wives and partners, throughout the year.

But above all, we are a friendly club with a great spirit and a warm welcome to new members. If you would like to learn more about us, please contact John Lewis on 01929 459357 or by email at dilyn76@hotmail.com



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Email: paul@all-about-chimneys.co.uk

Visit: www.all-about-chimneys.co.uk





St Mary's Church and the villagers of Sturminster Marshall invite you to



There will be stars in many windows in the village from 1st to 24th December

Can you follow the star like the wise men did all those years ago?

How many can you find?

Will you find the most and win the prize?

### **Spetisbury Station Project**

The Spetisbury Station Project team will be holding its traditional Christmas event on Sunday 17th December at the old railway station, Spetisbury.

All will be made very welcome from 10am to join us for seasonal light refreshments, including mulled wine and mince pies. A selection of good quality second-hand railway DVDs and books (including children's books) will be available - perfect for that last-minute Christmas gift!

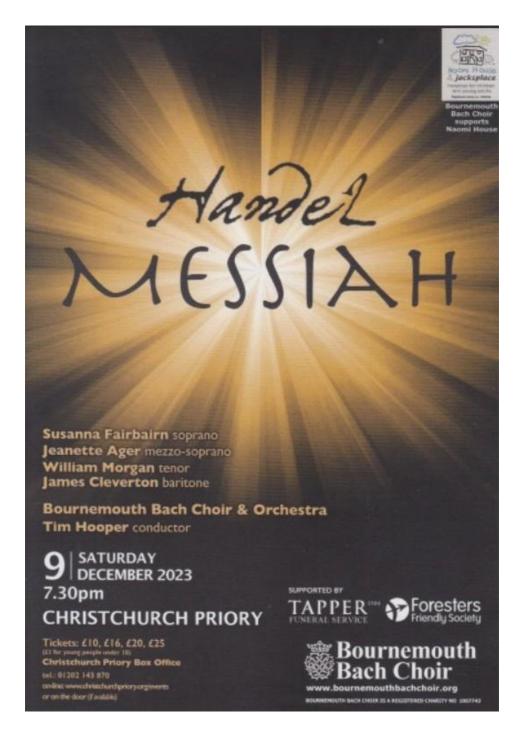
Donations to the Station Project will be gratefully appreciated to help us look after and improve the site.

This is a good opportunity to meet the team of volunteers and see what we have achieved over the past year.

More information can be found at www.spetisburystationproject.co.uk



Photo: Frances, one of the station volunteers, at a previous Christmas event.



### Nature's Voice

It's that time of year again – when the nights draw in so quickly you almost can't believe the difference a week makes!

Thank goodness for the dog, who makes us get out and about in all weathers and make the most of the daylight hours! Those weekend sunrise walks are pretty special as the mist floats above the fields and the sunshine makes a golden light as it comes up behind the trees.

There's not an awful lot by way of nectar for our buzzing buddies at this time of year, but have you noticed the ivy flowers? They are a veritable bee party venue at the moment! There are still red admiral butterflies flitting about, and the odd hornet, but there's a definite sense of winding down for winter.

Most of the sloes seem to have gone from their spikes now – pilfered by foragers with visions of Christmassy gin, or by hungry birds. It was a big year for hawthorn berries this year – the hedgerows bursting with red.

The mild autumn seems to have encouraged an abundance of quirky fungi amongst the fallen leaves. They are surprisingly pretty if you take the time to stoop for a look.

The Winterborne is flowing and the mud is plentiful on the village footpaths!

What Autumn adventures have you enjoyed?

**Melanie Fermor** 

Please Note: Due to our printer's Christmas shutdown the deadline for articles for the January issue is the 8th of December.

### www.mackrellcharity.org.uk

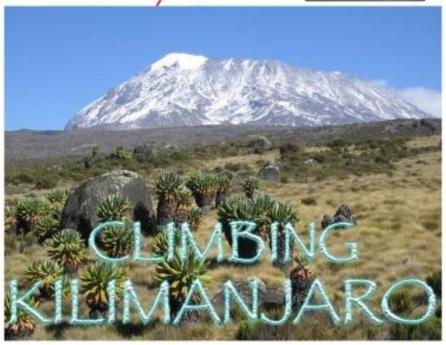
The Mackrell Charity at The Old School December Activities in date order



Contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081 or katy.norman1@btinternet.com

See our website and separate posters in the Bridge for further details.

# The Old School, Sturminster Marshall Discovery Cafe presents Mackrell \*LIVE\*

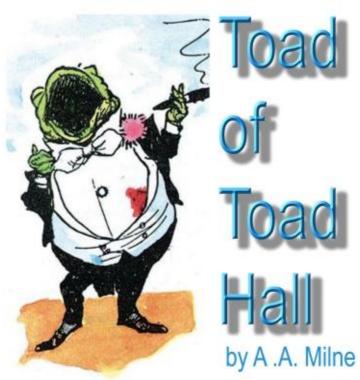


an illustrated talk by Ian Williamson



Saturday 2nd December 2023 2.30pm £6 OLD SCHOOL

Tickets on the door



Monday 11th December 2.00pm
Play Reading Group
The Old School, Sturminster Marshall
£3 (inc.tea & biscuits)

for details phone:Pippa Sadowski 01425 477039

or email Fiona Waters: (members.mackrell@outlook.com

### The Old School Film Society

### **PROGRAMME 2023-24:**

Thursdays. At 7.30pm

December 14 <sup>th</sup>	"The Big Sleep"	1946	Howard Hawks
January II <sup>th</sup>	"La Dolce Vita"	1960	Federico Fellini
February 8th	"Brazil"	1985	Terry Gilliam
March 14th	Sally's 'Musical' Evening		Topic TBA

Where the original sound film Is not English (January) there will be English subtitles.

Membership is as always on a seasonal basis for £25. This can be paid either in advance or on the first evening.

Guests are welcome if introduced by a member @ £5 per showing. This includes tea or coffee at the start.

Members are welcome to bring their own alcohol and use the Old School's glasses.

There will be a short introduction to explain some of the context... and opportunity for discussion after the film.

For further details look on the Mackrell Charity website.

### **Dorset Chamber Choir Christmas Concert**

"Noel, Noel - Carols, Songs and Anthems for Christmas-tide"

Monday 18th December, 7:00pm
Broadstone Methodist Church,
Lower Blandford Road, Broadstone, BH18 8DP
Tickets £15 (Under 16s free)

Please Note: Due to our printer's Christmas shutdown the deadline for articles for the January issue is the 8th of December.

# Christmas in Sturminster Marshall

1st – 24th December. Find the stars in windows around the village. Prize for whoever finds the most stars.

Christmas Tea with Father Christmas - Old School 3rd Dec 2.30 – 5.30pm

Christmas concert in the church 3rd Dec, 6.30pm Dorset Bridge Choir, £5 on door Mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Tree Festival 9th and 10th Dec

Toy Service 10th Dec 9.15am Can you bring a new toy in a gift bag?

Live Nativity and Family Fun with BBQ 19th Dec 4.00pm in Churchyard

Carol service 17th Dec 6.00pm

Crib service 24th Dec 4.00pm

Midnight service 24th Dec 11.30pm



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The Dorset Plant Pixie can produce a new planting design for just a bed or a whole garden.

I will plant it up for you or work with you to do the planting and give you advice on how to care for the plants at the same time.

Ongoing maintenance also available, although not large-scale heavy tasks like tree work or major hedge pruning.

- Nearly 50 years of gardening experience!
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If you want someone who just mows and blows and is cheap, then my services are not for you!

I am a plantswoman and will ensure you get the right plants for your situation, so that they flourish and thrive and you have a garden which delights you.

Contact Nikki on 07354 200906 or email at dorsetplantpixie@gmail.com



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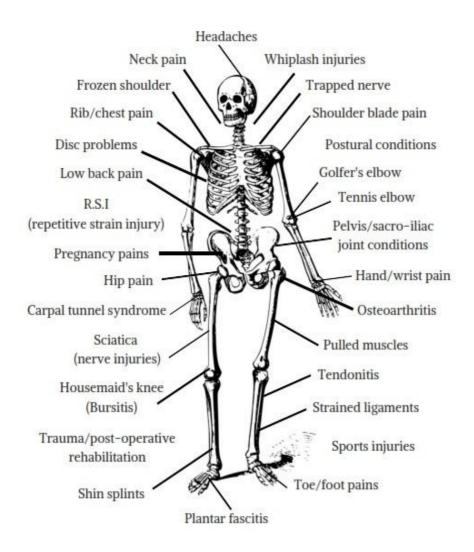


### **David Allen: Manipulative Therapist**

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Tel No. 01258 858675. Chapel Cottage, Shapwick, DTII 9LA, (opposite The Anchor). Quote The Bridge on your first appointment to get a £5 reduction.



### A Personal View: Vera Ricketts.

Well, what a month it was last month! Rain, winds and storms but now all is quiet but later we will have no electricity for a while as the power system is being updated. This was planned some time ago before the storm. As I am on the list as an older resident, and there are many others on the list, so they will check that we are all ok.

The field behind floods. When we were young the flood would come each year. One year we had very hard frosts in the mornings and we would go down to Eye bridge and stand on the ice which covered the water which flowed underneath leaving the ice on top!

Also, last month we had a Parish Council meeting when the parish councillor of Shapwick reported that a farmer from Shapwick has taken on the job of cutting the hedges and clearing the ditches. Also, Barford is looking in good shape as well. So come on you farmers in Cowgrove and follow their example.

The National Trust have been hedging and ditching by the church, and the farm shop. I know the County Council are not looking to clear things, so it would be lovely to see the pond back. I have a lovely photo of the old duck pond and it would be lovely to see it back! Some years ago someone thought it a good idea to put a new ditch in but all it did was to stop the flow through and the pond is still not working.

Oh yes, now I am going to formally pick up an award from the Branch President of the Royal British Legion for helping to sell the poppies for 40 years, and I am looking forward to this!

Happy Christmas to you all!	
	Vera

Please Note: Due to our printer's Christmas shutdown the deadline for articles for the January issue is the 8th of December.



## LOOKING FOR A VENUE FOR YOUR PARTY?

Look no further.

The Old School, Sturminster Marshall is the perfect location. Fully equipped kitchen, all the tables and chairs you need, warm and comfortable and very competitively priced.

To book or for further information

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Birthdays, Christmas, Halloween or just want a party!



### Why do we celebrate Christmas on 25th December?

As people from many parts of the world gather around a Christmas tree to celebrate Christmas, do we know why the 25th of December is the day we remember Christ's birth?



We can be 100% confident that Jesus was born. The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus from the first century mentions Jesus twice in his Jewish Antiquities about the Jewish people written in 93AD. Also Cornelius Tacitus from the Roman Empire wrote in his Annals of Imperial Rome, in 116 AD, about the crucifixion of Christ by Pilate. Jesus's exact birthday is unknown, but based on the

Scriptures, some believed it to be in early spring. Shepherds were in their fields, which may indicate it was late summer or early autumn. Mary and Joseph had to register and censuses were normally taken in warmer months for easier travel.

The scholars concluded that Jesus may have been born in late September because of the details given about Zacharias and Elizabeth's conception and birth of John the Baptist. Historical calculations show that Zacharias was in the temple around June 13-19 giving thanks that Elizabeth his wife had conceived a boy, John the Baptist, who was due 6 months before Jesus, who then would have been born at the end of March and six months later would be September.

So what were the reasons December 25th was selected?

First, the Roman historian, Sextus Julius Africanus believed that Jesus's conception was March 25th so nine months later would be December 25th.

The next is that in the 3rd century, Rome, a secular community, celebrated the winter solstice on the 25th December.

The third is that the Christians in Rome in 336 AD, were persuaded by the ruler Constantine, to recognise Christmas on December 25th. Constantine supported the Christian faith in Rome and some thought it was a political move to lessen the pagan celebrations of Saturnalia, celebrated on December 25th when people would eat, give gifts, and decorate the house.

Whatever the reason, we are still celebrating Christmas on 25th December all these years later. So keep celebrating and have a very Happy Christmas.

### **Social Lunch Club**

### Old School Hall, Sturminster Marshall

Sponsored by the Mackrell Charity (Reg. Charity 306275)

December Lunch Club on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon is our Festive Christmas meal which must be booked in advance.

### Lunch Club is taking a break in January but will be back on 14th February 2024.

The Lunch Club is open to all those over 50 who live in the area.

Come and join a lively group of people – meet old acquaintances and make some new friends – we look forward to seeing you.

Call Heather (01258 857823) or Gladys (01258 858135) if you have any questions or need transport to get to and from the Old School.

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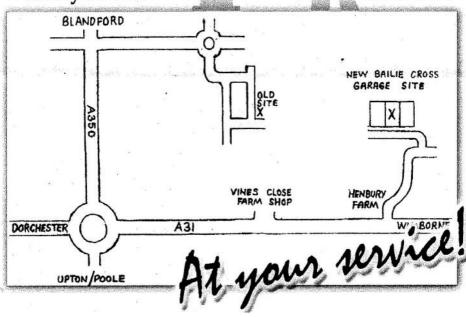
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Thanks from all the team.

### **Kingston Lacy Estate News**

Hopefully, by the time you read this there will be a new oak forest in Shapwick, courtesy of Trees for Dorset (there's a smidgen of doubt over the weather, but we plan to plant in the rain if need be). You'll have read the details in last month's issue and some of you may have come to help - a big thank you if you did! What a wonderful legacy for the future; thank you to Trees for Dorset for the donation and support, particularly Rosie and John Palmer who grew the saplings, and to Dorset County Council for supporting with tree protection.

Back at the property, the elves are busy this time of year ahead of our Christmas launch on Saturday 25 November. We're all about storytelling this year; each room in the house will be decorated to highlight a different seasonal folktale from around the world. You'll find winter whirlwinds, silver pinecones and Christmas fairies all playing their part in bringing a magical feel to the house.

Outside, the Laundry Courtyard will be the place to gather and meet up with friends and family – it will be decorated with natural greenery from around the estate, including pines removed from Holt Heath as part of the ranger team's usual maintenance work to prevent the spread of an invasive species. It's lovely to re-purpose them for the celebrations!

This year sees the return of Santa, who will be telling stories in a special tipi in the garden (booking essential, see website for details). We'll be open till 5pm from 25 November till the end of the year, so hope to see you here.



### **CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023**

### Sunday 3rd: Ist Sunday of Advent

9.15am Sung Eucharist with choir at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

### Sunday 10th: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy Children's Centre Gifts

9.15am Toy Service at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall followed by

### Sunday 17th: 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's, Shapwick

11.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's, Almer

4,00pm Christingle at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

6.00pm Carol Service at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

### Wednesday 20th:

6.00pm Carol Service at St. Mary's, Almer

7.00pm Carol Service at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

### Sunday 24th: Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

11.30pm Midnight Mass Service at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

### Monday 25<sup>5h</sup>: Christmas Day

9,15am Family Communion Service at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

11.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Almer

### Tuesday 26th: St. Stephen's Day

9.15am Holy Communion (Patronal) at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

### Sunday 31st: 1stSunday of Christmas

10.30am BCP Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's, Shapwick

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Morden

All services and times are correct at date of going to press.

### **CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023**

### Weekday Services

Wednesdays at 9am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall Wednesdays at 11am Midweek Communion, Wimborne Minster

### **Zoom Services at Red Post**

If you would like to join an online Red Post service via Zoom, please email: redpostbenefice@gmail.com for details

### **Zoom Services at Wimborne Minster**

Meeting Number Zoom ID: 883 2976 1518

Monday to Friday 8.30am Morning Prayer

5.00pm Evening Prayer

If you would like to join an online Minster service via Zoom, please contact

Jackie Leevers at: jackie-villageadmin@wimborneminster.org.uk



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### **English Usage by Michael Evans**

### **Americanisms**

Every November, someone complains about Halloween saying that we imported it from the USA, but this is not so. It originated in the I6th-century, from the Celts of Ireland, Scotland and England. Others who also complain about America influence on our customs don't seem to know that we have been welcoming their terminology for a long time.

According to the British sociolinguist Peter Trudgill, American words such as **briefcase**, **battery**, and **radio** have replaced our **portfolio**, **accumulator** and **wireless**, and we don't hear many grumbles about those now.

The exchange of cultures goes in both directions. Americans use English words such as **cheeky**, **trendy**, **gormless**, **dodgy**, **twee**, **snog** and **bespoke**. They also borrowed **homely**, which to us means **cosy** and **comfortable**, but don't try to please people in the USA by telling them they look **homely**, because to them it means **plain** or **unattractive**.

Answers to last month's anagrams
CONTINUES INFO – NON-INFECTIOUS
COY STARSHIP - ASTROPHYSICS
GOES REGULARLY - ROGUES GALLERY
SAD ANGELS SIT - STAINED GLASS

This month's anagrams
HEARD REGAL ENGLISH, THANKS – Carol (5 words)
THICK AS CREAMS – Seasonal treat (2 words)
AN UTTER GENIUS – Intro to TV and radio programmes (2 words)
TERRIBLE WASH – Tasty snack (2 words)

### Sturminster Marshall Gardening Club

Meetings are held in the Old School and begin at 7.30pm. New members and visitors are always welcome. Annual subscription is £30, to include refreshments at each meeting.

December Christmas Party
Contact: 01258 857606 / 857118

### DORSET COUNCILLORS COLUMN

Reading my contribution from December last year there were three main threads namely Westminster, war, and council budgets.

A year on where are we? More of the same! As I write this Westminster is still grabbing the headlines. War, sadly we now have two major conflicts with Ukraine and the Middle East. Budgets – more on these later. The world feels more like a divided place than I can ever remember, and indeed within the UK this appears to be the case. Is it because people's expectations are higher while their tolerance levels are lower, but this could just be down to a malaise in service delivery which seems to be endemic within many organisations today which may attribute to raising one's blood pressure and impatience with your fellow man in general.

Social media has a part to play and, whilst it is a force for good generally, a lot of it is often high-jacked by mischief makers adding to our stress mix. I am a great Monty Python fan and one of my favourite pieces is 'The Argument' sketch. I think this was the original version of Twitter (or 'X' as it is now known). Watch it on You Tube, see what you think.

Now on to council budgets, work has begun to set the Dorset Council budget for the next financial year 2024/25. Councils are required by law to set a balanced budget with expenditure balanced by income, and work on this is taking place at the moment. There are three main variables which affect our finances over which the council has little to no control. Much of the work is based on assumptions and the crystal ball is in overdrive. In addition, the local government settlement figure will not be known until a couple of days before Christmas so it is a bit like working with both hands tied behind your back!

- There is still the challenge of inflation, although the indicators are that we are now on a downward trend. Delivery of many of your services now costs more because of this.
- Employees pay awards the nationally agreed pay offer for next year alone is anticipated to cost the council an extra £8.5 million.
- Adult Social Care demand continues to grow due to the aging population with 30% of the Dorset population who are 65+. The national average is 19%.

I will continue to update your parish councils of progress on this with my reports which are published with their minutes, but don't forget I am always happy to discuss any individual issues or concerns – contact details below.

I wish all a very happy Christmas, and a New Year that brings some peace and stability to our world, something we all want to see I am sure.

As always you can contact me on cllrrobin.cook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk .

### WIMBORNE MUSIC SOCIETY/PSD MUSIC UPDATE

### Forthcoming events:-

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Wimborne Choral Society 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert in Wimborne Minster

(Wimborne, BH21 1HT)

### Wimborne Choral Society and Wimborne Chamber Orchestra

Festival Anthem - "Behold the Tabernacle of God" - Christopher Dowie

Magnificat - George Day

(George Day was the Organist at Wimborne Minster from 1694 to 1713)

Magnificat - Christopher Dowie

1st movement of String Suite based on music in the Minster Chained Library

Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo - "Little Organ Mass" - Haydn

"Stabat Mater" - Karl Jenkins

Tickets available from Square Records, 73, High Street, Wimborne, BH21 1HS 01202 883203

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.15 p.m.

Sunday Soirée at Holy Trinity Church, Stourpaine (Manor Road, Stourpaine, DT11 8JZ)

### A January Indulgence / Wash away those Winter Blues

An evening of poetry and song presented by Catherine Murray and Pauline Dowie with Christopher Dowie, Piano.

Free entrance and profit from Retiring Collection given to Holy Trinity
Church

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST STEPHENS KINGSTON LACY Sunday 17th December at 4pm CHRISTINGLE Wednesday 20th December at 7pm CAROL SERVICE Monday 25th December at 10.00am FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE SERVICES AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S SHAPWICK Friday 22nd December at 7pm CAROLS AROUND THE CROSS Sunday 31st December at 10.30am BENEFICE BCP HOLY COMMUNION





\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# CHRISTINGLE SERVICE FOR ALL THE FAMILY WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST STEPHENS CHURCH KINGSTON LACY ON SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 4.00 PM

A celebration of the Nativity will take place during the service.

Please wear a Christmas Jumper if you
have one and don't forget your Christingle.

女女

\*

### St Mary's Church invite you to a



Tuesday 19th December at 4.00pm in the Churchyard (inside if wet) Games, Activities and Carols



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### STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS

www.sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk.

### We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

The wet weather and grey days have been more in evidence over the past few weeks, with Mill Lane flooding and the road having to be closed. I am sure this is not last time this winter that this will happen. With the dark nights, do take care if you are out an about on foot, or even on a bicycle, and please wear bright clothing so that you are visible to motorists.

The Remembrance Sunday gathering at the War Memorial on the 12<sup>th</sup> November was well attended which was great to see, with many villagers and visitors, and also the Guides and Brownies who laid one of the wreathes.

The three new trees for Church Close green and the play area to celebrate the Coronation earlier this year, have been ordered and should be in place before Christmas.

Sadly, some persons unknown has been painting graffiti on the play equipment in the play park. This has been reported to the police and we are also investigating removal products which will have to come out of Parish Funds. There has also been an incident of abusive language used to people leaving the Memorial Hall and this type of offence should also be reported to the police. This is not acceptable and not something we like to see or hear about in our Parish. Dog fouling has become more prevalent too, which is sad, even with the dark evenings please do pick up after your dog.

The final version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be available this month on the Parish Council website. Please do go and have a look. One issue that has caused concern is the matter of extra sports pitches. Originally, the land off Station Road had been allocated for recreational facilities but it was not included in the draft Dorset Council Local Plan from 2019 as their Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report gave no justification for an extra pitch. This has led to the need for another football pitch being omitted from the Neighbourhood Plan. However, there is justification for a multi-use game area (MUGA) and facilities if development occurs in the village.

### **Recent Plans:**

P/CLP/2023/05608 24 Jubilee Way, Sturminster Marshall. Erect a single storey rear extension and loft conversion with a dormer to the rear elevation and roof lights to the front.

P/HOU/2023/05488 Brigadoon, Back Lane, Sturminster Marshall. Erect two storey rear extension, single storey side/rear extension including garage. Form new hipped roof with raised ridge height and 2 no. chimneys. Erect front porch. Carry out external alterations. (Demolish garage, porch and chimney.)

P/TRC/2023/06255 144 High Street, Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne BH21 4BA.

TI Ash - Re-pollard to previous level, approximately 4 metres above ground level.

### **Shapwick Acoustic Sessions 2023**

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For further details of past concerts and future dates see: https://www.facebook.com/ShapwickSessions/

### New Life Church

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### Property and Financial Affairs LPA

These are designed for you to appoint attorneys to make a range of decisions including the buying and selling of your house and other assets, dealing with your tax affairs, operating bank and building society accounts and claiming benefits on your behalf. These can be used at your direction whilst you are still mentally capable and also by the Attorneys if you lack mental capacity to make these decisions.

### Health & Welfare LPA

Attorneys appointed under this document can make decisions relating to your living accommodation and care, consenting to or refusing medical treatment on your behalf, and on day-to-day matters such as diet and dress. This LPA can only be used if you have lost the mental capacity to make decisions for yourself.

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The Club plays on the following days:-

Monday afternoons 2.00pm - 5.00pm, Thursday evenings 6.15pm - 9.15pm,

All sessions are held in the Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall.

It is a great sport for all ages and we would welcome some younger players, so do come along. The club owns several sets of bowls and these can be lent to players who do not have their own, but they must remain on the premises. Completely flat shoes must be worn on the mats.

We are a mixed club and we do not compete in leagues, so the emphasis is on pleasure and not pressure. We do join other local clubs for just friendly matches.

INTERESTED? – come along, your first three sessions will be free, so give it a try. For information telephone:- John on 01202 690718 or Jean on 01258 857308.



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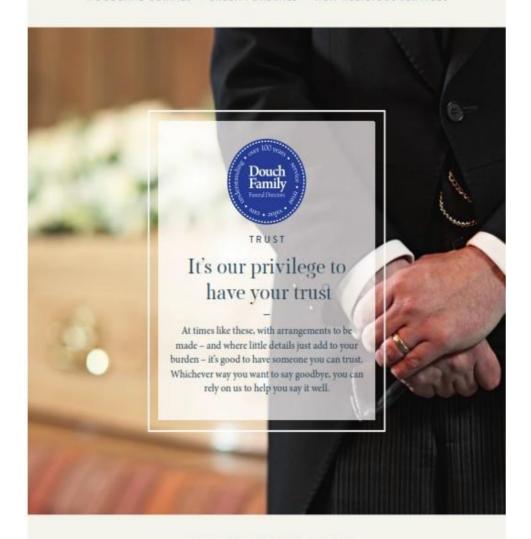
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### NG WOMEN Sturminster Marshall Evening WI

We had 12 fantastic entries for the Halloween themed Bake Off competition held during our October meeting. Everyone had the opportunity to taste each entry and then vote for their favourite based on flavour and presentation. Our winner and Star Baker was Jane Champion who had baked delicious spooky spiced pumpkin cupcakes. Members also got to try their hand at crafting christmas tree decorations destined for our 2023 Xmas Tree festival entry. Sample items were displayed for inspiration and the room was soon buzzing with busy hands sticking, stitching and painting.

In November we welcomed Kamini Laws who enlightened us about the ancient tradition of embellishing bodies with beautiful natural artwork created from the henna plant. The art of henna has been practiced for over 5000 years in Pakistan, India, Africa and the Middle East. Today, the most popular of the traditions is the Mehndi (henna) Night where the bride, her family, relatives and friends get together to celebrate the wedding to come. Tradition holds that for as long as the henna stain appears on the bride, she doesn't have to do any housework! Our members were delighted to have the opportunity to have a go at creating henna artwork on each other.

We also learned about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights which symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". The five-day celebration is observed every year in early autumn to coincide with the new moon. Homes, temples and workspaces are illuminated with oil lamps, candles and lanterns and food is a major focus with families partaking in feasts and sharing traditional sweets known as mithai. We were invited to taste some those too!

Our membership currently stands at 44 ladies and we are always delighted to welcome new members. We pride ourselves on being a trusted place for **all** women of **all** generations. Y ou don't need to be resident in Sturminster Marshall; many of our members are from surrounding areas. If you prefer to give us a try before committing to membership you are welcome to come along to a meeting as a visitor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in The Old School. We start at 7.30pm and a warm welcome awaits.

For more information about SMEWI please contact Lesley Moors – 01258 857523 or visit our website **www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com** 

Follow us on Facebook: Sturminster Marshall Evening WI

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2pm Visitor Carol Singing

4pm Presentation of

sitor Favourite Tree Award

come and enjoy the beautiful trees and support your favourite charity

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### **Christmas Flowers** - by Lys de Bray

What else but the Christmas Rose - *Helleborus niger*, which belongs to the same family as a buttercup, believe it or not. Most hellebores are evergreen although there are many deciduous varieties. The flowers come in interesting shades of pink, deep pink, dark crimson to nearly black, and white, greenish white, yellow-green and mid green\* and some of their colours look positively sinister. All parts of all hellebores are poisonous. *Helleborus niger* has large (to 3 inches across) single white flowers, turning to pale pink as they and mine are in flower as I write this. Most hellebores are evergreen though there are many deciduous varieties. *Helleborus niger* has large (to 3") wide single white flowers with prominent golden stamens, and if you like green flowers, *Helleborus lividus* is for you.

In the winter garden the Viburnums stand out like a good deed in a naughty world. The one most often seen at the garden centres is *Viburnum bodnantense* 'Dawn' which has flat clusters of deliciously scented pink flowers.

Plants that flower at this time of year are often scented to attract winterflying pollinators so it might be worth considering a small separate area for them to be grown together, and if there is space for it to be hedged, use Winter-flowering Jasmine - **fasminwn officinale** which has scented white flowers and on a mild day their perfume is an unexpected delight. Its relative, Jasminum nudilflorum has no scent, but its bright yellow flowers light up a grey winter day.

Witch Hazel - *Hamamelis mollis* is a large-growing deciduous shrub, there are several varieties of which H. 'Jelena' is about the best. The Witch Hazels have interesting whiskery flowers in shades of yellow, orange and red and all of them are scented. This is the plant from which Witch Hazel is made, a mild and soothing balm for insect stings, but only use it on unbroken skin.

\*The mid-green ones are great in a green-only flowered garden.

Please Note: Due to our printer's Christmas shutdown the deadline for articles for the January issue is the 8th of December.



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Organists: contact Churchwarden			
Churchwarden Kingston Lacy: Rob Langdown 01202 841: Email: KI-cw@wimborneminster.org.uk	381		
Churchwarden Shapwick: Anne Tillin 01258 858	208		
PCC Secretary: Margaret Langdown 01202 8413	381		
Treasurer: Christine Cosgrove 01258 858	876		
Electoral Roll Officer: Janet Tory 01258 857	531		
Verger: Vacant			
Sturminster Marshall Parish Church Vicar: Rev. Jane Williams (Jane's day of rest is usually Friday, sometimes Thursday and sometimes both) Email: janewilliamsrpc@outlook.com Red Post Benefice Clerk: Vicky Henderson KingEmail: redpostbenefice@outlook.com Organists: contact Churchwarden	604		
Churchwarden: Katy Norman 07815 610	595		
Churchwarden: Katy Norman 07815 6102 Churchwarden: Carol Johnson 07400 356			

PCC Treasurer: Mr Edward Warren Verger: Vacant

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### Schools

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Sturminster Marshall Pre-school: Mrs Patsy Barnes	01258 858395
Pamphill CE First School: Mr Michael Wheeler	01202 883008
Pamphill Pre-School Nursery: Mrs. D. Gould	07415 473977
The Old School Shapwick Nursery: Ms. E. Praschma	01258 857922

### **Police**

Police station (non emergency number) 101

### **Hall Bookings**

Hall Bookings		
Old School, Sturminster Marshall: Mrs. Val Brown		
Contact by email only, please, to: hall.mackrell@outlook.com Memorial Hall, Sturminster Marshall: Mrs. K. Kollberg	07729 712428	
Email: sturhallbookings@gmail.com	0//2//12420	
Pamphill Parish Hall: Mrs. Pip Chissell		
Email: pamphillparishhall@yahoo.com		
Councillors		
Dorset Councillor: Cllr. Mr Robin Cook	01202 889199	
	07968 265897	
Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Chair: Miss Hilary Palmer	07766 235865	
Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Clerk: Mrs. Alison Clothier	07469 780548	
Email: sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	0.1000.0000.00	
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Chair: Mr. Philip Chissell	01202 883369	
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Clerk: Mrs. Lindsay Hole		
For Sturminster Marshall		
Sturminster Marshall FC: Mr. D. Miller	01258 857314	
Church Preservation Trust: Jan Standing	07973 766614	
School Society: Liz Naulls (Co Chair)	07773700011	
School Society: Amelia Atkins (Co Chair)		
Email: schoolsociety@sturminstermarshall.sch.uk		
, -	07967 544343	
WI Evening Secretary: Ms. Janet Lloyd		
Sports Association: Mr. R. Haysom	01258 857616	
Gardening Club: Mrs. S. Crowfoot	01258 857606	
SturminsterMarshall Craft Club: Mrs. Barbara Beaves	01258 858404	
Brownies: Miss J. Hayter	01202 885309	
Guides: Mrs .L. Seare	07759 892965	
Henbury Residents' Association: Mr. M. Soper	01258 857647	
Homewatch Co-Ordinator: Mr. Adrian Holden	01258 858884	
Sturminster Marshall Short Mat Bowls & Social Club: Mr. J. Case	01202 690718	
Sturminster Marshall Village History Website	01258 857606	
For Pamphill		
Kingston Lacy Skittles Club: Mr. R. Frost	01202 883084	
Kingston Lacy Cricket Club: Mr. S. Maine	07969 883814	
Pamphill Pre-School: Mrs. D. Gould	07415 473977	
F Cl ' I		
For Shapwick S.C.T. (Village Green): Jez Bragg	07813 925681	
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### Once Upon A Time...

### Christmas at Kingston Lacy

For Christmas 2023, we invite you to join us for heaps of festive fun at Kingston Lacy.



### 25 November - 1 January, 10.30am - 4pm

Each room in the house will be transformed with beautiful decorations to highlight a different magical story. Collect a free timed ticket from Visitor Reception.



25 November - 1 January, 9.30am - 5pm

Join us for tasty treats, seasonal shopping and a magical atmosphere. There'll be performances by local choirs, and surprises for families to discover in the Laundry.



### Selected dates and times, see website

Visit Santa in his hidden storybook nook for a cosy Christmas tale, an early gift and a photo with the man himself.
Tickets £15, pre-booking essential.



Weekends and school holidays, 11am - 4.30pm

Little ones can enjoy a ride on a beautiful vintage carousel, surrounded by twinkling lights. Tickets £3, available on the day from Visitor Reception.

Visit our website for more details and to book:

nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/kingston-lacy/events

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