



THE BRIDGE

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



December 2025

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**The Bridge Magazine is sponsored by
The Red Lion, Sturminster Marshall**

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 fundraising activities. Our Chairman is Barry Johnson, our Editor is Tony Cross, our Deputy Editor is Sally Plowright 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** size pages, in **MS Word (.doc or .docx), or it can be a .jpg file or .pdf file**, to both the Editor at **tcenator@gmail.com** and the Deputy Editor at **bridgemagazinedorset@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 Magazine.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for articles for the January issue is 11th 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 directly 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 number for all advertising enquiries.

The deadline for adverts to Liz for the next issue is the 12th of the month.

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 tbc, between the **27th and 28th** of the month.

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

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

From the Chair - Bridge Publications

As we reach the end of another year of producing the magazine, I reflect on all the changes that have occurred in this area in particular new housing which has swelled the population and brought in newcomers to our villages. The Bridge Magazine has been in existence from the mid-20th century and when it started there were far fewer ways that people had of knowing what was going on in their community. With the advent of the internet we are inundated with news, but I feel there is still a place for local information, particularly when it is in the form of a free hard copy publication. We currently are able to produce 300 copies a month of the magazine and this is entirely funded by advertising from local businesses and our generous sponsors. Our distribution points quickly run out each month, but in order to produce more copies we need to increase our income.

If you run a small business in the village why not consider advertising with us, which could not only bring you customers, but also demonstrate your support for the community. If you enjoy reading The Bridge and would like to support us with a monthly donation, the amount would be up to you, our bank details are below. In order that we can keep a record we would be grateful if you could send an email confirming your action to ebarryjohnson@aol.com

Bank Details: Bridge Publications – Sort Code 209696 - Account 00026530

My good wishes to you and yours for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Barry Johnson

.....

The Bridge Magazine – Collection Points

Sturminster Marshall:

Premier, Spar, The Red Lion, St. Mary's Church, Memorial Hall, Vines Close.

Shapwick:

St. Bartholomew's Church, The Anchor.

Pamphill and Cowgrove:

St. Stephen's Church, Pamphill Dairy.

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Bridge Magazine advertising fees

Duration	full page	1/2 page	1/4 page	1/8 page
12 months	£220	£120	£65	£35
6 months	£120	£65	£35	£30
3 months	£60	£30	£20	£15
1 month	£20	£15		

Services for the month of December at
St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy
St Bartholomew's, Shapwick

Sunday 14th December at Kingston Lacy

HOLY COMMUNION at 9.15am

Wednesday 17th December at Kingston Lacy

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE at 7 pm

Friday 19th December at Shapwick

CAROLS AROUND THE CROSS at 6 pm

Sunday 21st December at Shapwick

HOLY COMMUNION at 9.15am

Sunday 21st December at Kingston Lacy

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at 4.00pm

Thursday 25th December at Kingston Lacy

FAMILY SERVICE with COMMUNION at 10 am

Sunday 28th December at Kingston Lacy

FAMILY SERVICE at 9.15am





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From The Church

Dear All,

A book review: *Don't Forget We're Here Forever* by Lamorna Ash

The outline is this; Lamorna is 28, Gen Z, she has started looking into Christianity. And she does so in depth – spending a year visiting various different churches of different denominations, doing a Christianity Explored course, retreating on Iona, going to Quaker meetings, Orthodox services, reading the Bible in-depth, meeting and interviewing Christians at every stage and tradition – she looked at it all. Her only prior experience of Christianity was hymns from her Church of England school, and she jokingly wonders at the start if it's possible to become a Christian in a year. (*Spoiler alert, the answer is yes!*)

Lamorna questions everything, coming from a journalistic background, she doesn't take anything at face value, she reflects, wrestles, (and in fact Jacob wrestling with the angel is a key passage for her throughout), she has difficult yet honest conversations with people who are newly Christian, lifelong worshippers, and those who have left the church but not their faith. She reframes things that I hadn't noticed, or worse, had stopped noticing, such is the danger when you are immersed in the life of the Church. Mostly, she sees people of her generation yearning for meaning, for answers, for spirituality, for God.

It's a great read, but more than that it made me reflect hard on what it must be like to start coming to church for the very first time. If you've been to church for a long time then whilst every church does things slightly differently, you know that the general format and expectation is fairly similar. You could go to a different church one week and find yourself surrounded by the familiar prayers and hymns and readings. But if you've never gone to a service before then I imagine it could be very daunting, even in the friendliest of churches.

Ultimately, we come to church on a Sunday to encounter God, to worship God. We hear the words and stories of Jesus Christ and find in him hope, challenge, love, example. We experience the companionship of the Holy Spirit and of one another. We feel at home because we draw nearer to the kingdom of God when we join our worship with that of all the angels and archangels and saints that are in heaven. I would love as many people as possible to encounter God through our worship.

If you're reading this and are questioning whether or not church is the right thing for you, if you're wondering about God and faith and if there's something more, please take this as your sign to get in touch or come along. God is for everyone.

At the end of her journey and exploration into Christianity Lamorna writes this:

“I believe that the God of the religion which is my heritage might have come down to earth as a man 2000 years ago to walk alongside us and help us with our terrible pain because I can’t think of a more beautiful story for how a god might behave.”

How wonderful! We say the words of the creed, our statement of belief, each Sunday, but I could well imagine us saying this too – God came down to earth to walk alongside us and to help us with our terrible pain.

It’s a very timely quote as we prepare again for Advent and Christmas, we get our hearts ready once more to receive the wonderful truth of the incarnation. Christmas is God setting the scene, coming down to earth to walk alongside us and to help us with our life and all it entails. Because Christmas is not about God in Jesus being born into a tidy world, or an easy world, or an ordered world or even a healthy world. This is not misguided trust, or blind hope, or meaningless love. Christmas is all about God in Jesus being born into a fragile and fractured world, a broken and breaking world, into a weary world which cannot save itself or heal itself. Christmas is about God in Jesus being born into a world desperately crying out for love. Christmas is God setting the scene, coming down to earth to walk alongside us and to help us with all that life brings.

If you are thinking or wondering about coming to church for the very first time this Christmas, we truly cannot wait to welcome you. If you know someone who is searching for meaning, invite them. If you know someone who is wondering about coming back to church, encourage them. If this is your 8th, 17th, 29th, 82nd Christmas, then how brilliant! And to all of you reading this, may you know the sheer beauty of God present with you this Advent and Christmas, and may you experience the love and peace of Jesus, now and always.

With my love and prayers at this special time of year,

Jane (Vicar of the Red Post Churches)

St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery

November Draw

Main draw

£50	194	James Wales
£30	91	Jane Holden
£20	44	Jan Standing

Bonus draw

£50	67	Marilyn Hutton
£30	61	Rob and Margaret Langdown
£20	143	John Bennett

Congratulations to this month's winners. If you would like to support St Mary's Church, please join the 100 Club lottery by contacting one of the committee listed below. NUMBERS cost just £2 per month.

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

Karen Royles: Parkfield, Newton Road, Sturminster Marshall. (07761 867738)

Sonia Cade: Bailie View, 24 Dullar Lane, Sturminster Marshall (07717 614270)

This magazine accepts no responsibility for the products and services advertised.

All adverts are accepted and published in good faith.

Payments made by advertisers contribute to the cost of publishing this magazine.

Tivoli Theatre

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

DECEMBER FILMS

1st - 3rd The Choral (Check times)
2nd The Fifth Step (NT Live Encore Screening) 7.30pm

DECEMBER SHOWS

All at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

3rd Jim Davison: Jim's Christmas Cracker (over 18s only)
4th Marty Wilde and The Wildcats 2025
5th Talon: The Best of Eagles 2025
6th Counterfeit Stones
12th Platinum: The Live ABBA Tribute Show 2025
13th Dec
- 4th Jan PANTOMIME: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who donated or purchased plants from my front wall in High Street over the summer. Your contributions meant that the variety of plants for sale was wonderful and ever-changing, and have enabled me to send a donation of £780 to help a local women's refuge.

Jane Champion

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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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www.mackrellcharity.org.uk



December 2025 Activities at The Old School

+++++

Christmas Social lunch

Wednesday 10th December at 12 noon

+++++

Film Society - Thursday 11th December at 7.30pm

"The Seven Samurai" - dir. Akira Kurosawa

+++++

Bridge group continues on Thursday mornings at 10am

for more info contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081

or katy.norman1@btinternet.com

+++++

***See our website and separate posters in the Bridge
for details of all our activities.***

Coffee and Cake in St Bartholomew's Church, Shapwick

**On the 2nd Monday of every month,
10.00am till 12 noon**



(DONATIONS ONLY)

**See you on
Monday 8th December!**

A warm welcome awaits you all!

The
Old School Film Society
presents

SEVEN SAMURAI



Dir: Akira Kurosawa 1954

Thursday 11th December 7.30pm
sturminster marshall
BH21 4BU

David Allen: Manipulative Therapist

(trained at the British School of Osteopathy)

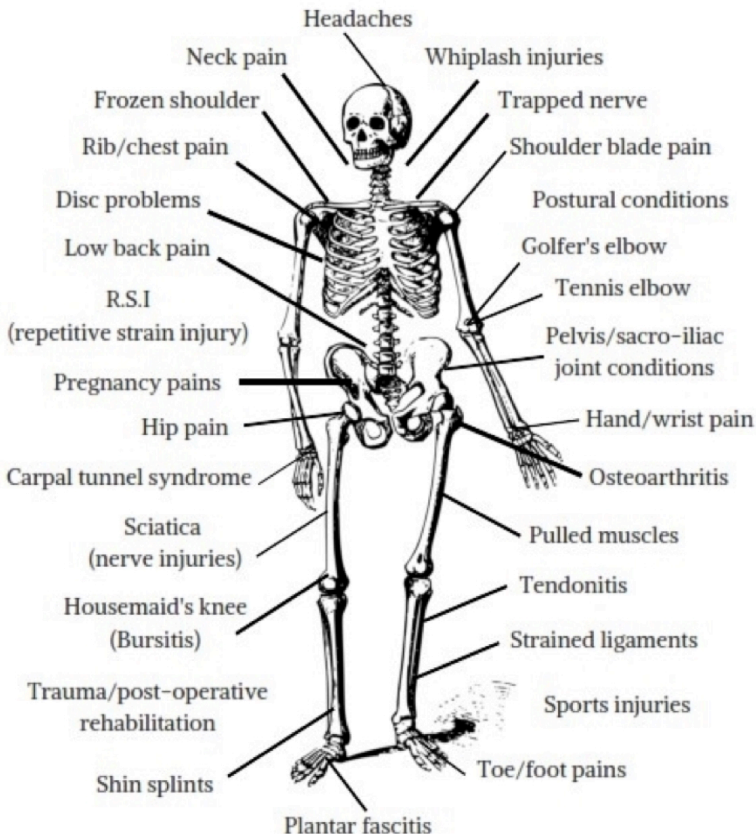
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Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December

10.00 till 4.00

Refreshments, Market Stall and Bacon Rolls

Saturday and Sunday

**Community Carol
singing 3.00**

Sunday afternoon

**Christmas Tea Party
Old School**

free children's film screening

11.00 till 4.00 on Sunday

St Mary's Church - Sturminster Marshall

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

MARKET STALL

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December

10am – 4pm

Homemade: Cakes,
Bakes & Products
for Sale

Refreshments:
Bacon Rolls, Tea,
Coffee & Cakes



Also: On Sunday 11am-4pm Children's Film & Tea in
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Social Lunch Club

Old School Hall, Sturminster Marshall

Sponsored by the Mackrell Charity (Reg. Charity 306275)

**Wednesday 10th December 2025
at midday**

This is our Festive Christmas meal, which must be booked in advance.

Lunch Club is taking a break in January but will be back on 11th February 2026.

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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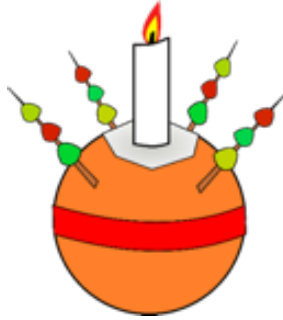
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Property and Financial Affairs LPA

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.

Fees

Because my overheads are much lower **MY FIXED FEES** are usually lower than those charged by local solicitors who usually charge on an hourly basis.....so you never know the cost until you get the bill !

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Johnedge007@gmail.com

Toy Service

St Mary's Church

7th December at 9.15

Can you bring an unwrapped toy for the Salvation Army to give to a child in need?



English Usage: a personal view by Michael Evans

Yuletide Anagrams

For December, here are some anagrams with a Yuletide touch for you to solve. The last seven are phrases or sentences.

Last month's anagrams

RAISED LOOM - LADIES ROOM
i.e. INDICATORS - DICTIONARIES

This month's anagrams for Christmas

SOME TITLE - 1 word
HERESY TOLL - 2 words (5, 5)
SERPENTS - 1 word
ROAD SECTION - 1 word
WALL SNOB - 1 word
CHEMIST SAVER - 2 words (9, 3)
KNEE RIGHTS - 2 words (5, 5)
CREAKIEST - 2 words (3, 6)
ALAS, SUN ACT - 2 words (5, 5)
FORCED RABBI - 4 words (4, 3, 1, 3)
AIRMAN, ANY WAGE - 4 words (4, 2, 1, 6)
STARCHY MAIDS - 2 words (9, 3)

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 eligible, 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: **court5779@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk**.

The closing date for applications for the next Award is 1 March 2025. The winner will be decided at the Court's March 2025 meeting.

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



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



SCAN ME

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. 513F) and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Registration No. 110029).

Church Services in December

Sunday 7th: 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9.15pm Toy Service at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall
11.00am Holy Communion at Bloxworth

Sunday 14th: 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 9.15am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's, Stur. Marshall
9.15am Holy Communion at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy
6.30pm "Christmas with Friends" - concert by the
Dorset Bridge Choir. £8 on the door.
Includes mulled wine & mince pies

Wednesday 17th

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

Friday 19th

- 6.00pm Carols Round the Village Cross at Shapwick

Sunday 21st: 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9.15am Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's, Shapwick
4.00pm Christingle Service at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy
6.00pm Carol Service at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

Wednesday 24th: Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm LIVE NATIVITY at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

Thursday 25th: Christmas Day

- 9.15am Family Communion at St. Nicholas, Winterborne Kingston
10.00am Family Service with Communion at St Stephen's, K Lacy

Sunday 28th: 1st Sunday after Christmas

- 9.15am Family Service at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy
10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Stur. Marshall

Weekday Services

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

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



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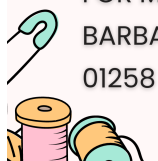
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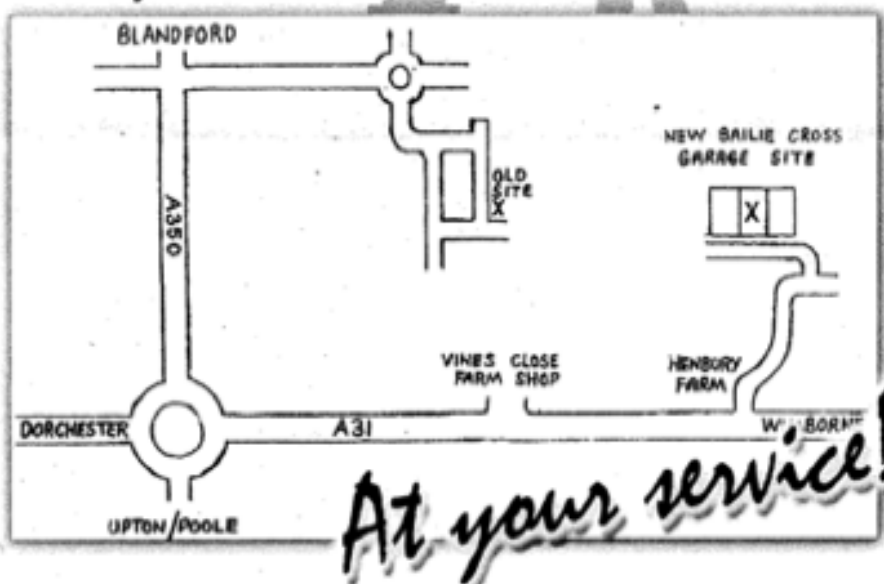
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At your service!

STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS

www.sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk

Have Your Say on a 20mph Limit! The Parish Council is considering applying for a 20mph speed limit on some roads in the village to improve road safety for residents, pedestrians and cyclists. I know it is another survey, but we would really like to hear your views before making a final decision on whether to go ahead. Please take a few minutes to complete our questionnaire, the closing date is 12th December 2025. The Survey link is <https://forms.office.com/e/GcjXHM5H8U>. If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please contact the Clerk on 07469 780548.

As I write the weather is grey, overcast with heavy showers and a lot of wind which is certainly clearing the leaves off the trees. On walking round the village, I have noticed there are still hedges needing attention especially where they overhang the walkways and have large brambles sticking out. We discussed the Parish Council Budgets/Precept for 2026/27 in November, but it is not too late to let us have your suggestions on how the money should be spent. Please email the Clerk at: parishclerk@sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk

There is a lot of maintenance going on around the Parish. We are looking at repairing and replacing the surfaces below the play equipment. All other remedial work on the Playground has been completed. The Electrical Box in the Playpark is going to be removed, and the cable capped outside the playpark. The WI bench at Millmoor is being repaired. We are investigating assistance for replacing the Maypole, and we have a couple of possible avenues for the actual replacement pole which we are following up. The tidy up of the War Memorial area was completed in time for Remembrance Sunday, and it was good to see so much support on the day.

In the Dorset Council Newsletter there was mention of 'Help for pensioners this winter'. If you are a state age pensioner, you will most likely have received a letter regarding the winter fuel allowance for this year. If you need any further information about the winter fuel payment, please visit the gov.uk website and enter Winter Fuel Payment in the search.

Recent Plans/Tree works:

P/FUL/2025/05793 The Ferns Poole Road Jubilee Cross Lytchett Matravers BH16 6AF Retained use of a dwelling (self build) with associated parking, shared vehicle turning on site and vehicular access off Poole Road

P/VOC/2025/05922 Winnitoba Blandford Road Sturminster Marshall BH21 4AG
Sever plot and erect 1 no four bedroom detached house (with a variation of
conditions 2, 5, and 6 of planning permission P/FUL/2023/02370 to enable a
change to the turning/manoeuvring/parking and landscaping arrangement)
P/TRC/2025/05278 Brambles Back Lane Sturminster Marshall BH21 4BPT I Silver
Birch: Reduce height by approximately 2m to give a finished height of 4.5m



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Sturminster Marshall Gardening Club

**Sadly, the Gardening Club will no longer be meeting after
January 2026.**

Thank you to everyone who supported this group.



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Who Is Santa Claus?

Christmas celebrations are incomplete without Santa Claus. 'Santa Claus' is a bastardised version of the name 'Saint Nicholas.' The image that we are familiar with today was developed, surprisingly enough, by Coca-Cola in the 1930s.

St. Nicholas, also known as Santa Claus or Father Christmas, was the patron saint of children, prostitutes, and the poor. He is depicted as having a long beard and he wore a large cloak.



He was born during the 4th century in Patara, now in modern day Turkey, to wealthy Christian parents. After his parents died from an epidemic, Nicholas is said to have distributed their wealth to the poor. As bishop of Myra, he became famous for his charity and miracles. One well-known story tells of how he secretly threw bags of gold into a poor man's house at night to save his daughters from slavery and prostitution —legend has it the gold landed in their shoes or stockings.

This and many other tales sparked the tradition of gift-giving on December 6, his feast day, and ultimately inspired the modern figure of Santa Claus.

However, the origins of a Santa-like figure may be much older. Odin, the much-loved king of the Norse Gods was a bearded old man who was believed to leave gifts for children. He is usually depicted as an old man with a long white beard. He also had an eight-legged horse called Sleipnir. Odin would ride Sleipnir across the sky just as Santa does with his reindeer. Young children would fill their boots with straw and carrots during the winter and leave them by the door for Sleipnir to feed on. They would be rewarded with little gifts in their boots. This could be the true beginning of Santa Claus and the stockings that we leave out on Christmas Eve.

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STURMINSTER MARSHALL SHORT MAT BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB



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We are currently looking for new members, no experience necessary. We pride ourselves as being a very sociable, friendly and non-League Club; our aim is to have fun and enjoy our game.

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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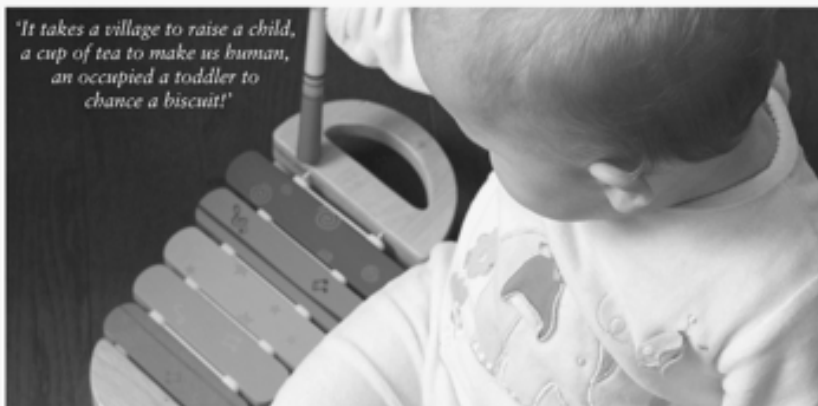
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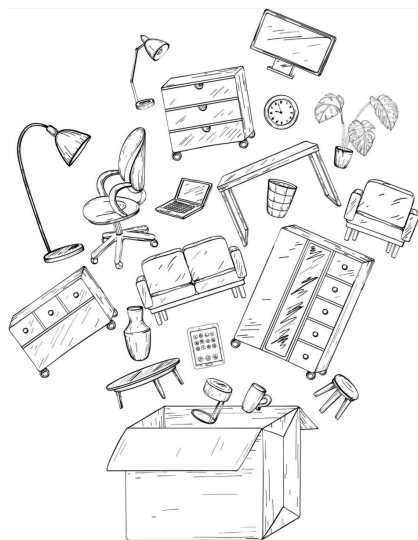
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At the October meeting our special guest was local resident and MasterChef Semi-Finalist Dr George Williams. George proved to be an excellent multi-tasker as he gave an interesting talk about his MasterChef journey whilst demonstrating his cooking skills and fielding questions from the audience. He cooked a chickpea curry topped with sea bream and a crumble mix of breadcrumbs and nuts. It was delicious! We also held a Bake Off competition and George very kindly tasted all 12 of our fantastic entries and declared Jane Champion as our Star Baker. Well done, Jane – it was a fabulous bake!



Our next meeting on Thursday 11th December will be our Christmas Party, which will be at The Barn Café in Lytchett Matravers.

We are always delighted to welcome new members and you don't need to be a resident of Sturminster Marshall to be able to attend.

For more information about SMEWI, please contact Christine Rainsford on 01258 857413 or visit our website:

www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com

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Kingston Lacy Estate News

Here at Kingston Lacy, we never underestimate the privilege of looking after places as iconic as Badbury Rings. It's a site that draws people on lots of different levels: for a thousand years of history, for the colour of an orchid, for the sound of a skylark.

The Trust is a conservation charity, with nature conservation one of the key pillars of what we do. There are lots of different ways to support habitats that enable nature to thrive, and grazing with native cattle and sheep is one. Grazing different animals creates a mix of tall and short vegetation, where wild flowers can thrive and provide abundant nectar for butterflies and insects. It's particularly important on chalk grassland such as Badbury, which is a threatened and vulnerable habitat.

We need to increase livestock grazing at Badbury – not only in terms of the number of animals, but also the areas grazed. The aim is to mimic natural herd behaviour, where animals graze an area quite tightly for short periods before moving on. That means long rest periods for the grassland to recover, which leads to improved soil health, greater grass resilience and better animal health.

So during autumn and winter (Sep-Feb) we will move animals around the ramparts using three different “compartments”, created with electric fencing. It will mean a short period when you won't be able to circle the ramparts of the Iron Age fort, but the majority of the Rings will be accessible and you'll always be able to access the top of the fort as well as footpaths and bridleways. There'll be plenty of signs explaining where you can go, what we're doing and why. Dog walkers in particular will need to take care, both in terms of livestock during the winter and ground-nesting birds during the spring and summer, and will need to follow onsite signage regarding dogs on leads in certain areas and certain times of the year.

This is a long-term plan that will be repeated every year, and hopefully the increased birdsong and floral diversity will prove its worth at this unique and well-loved part of the Kingston Lacy estate.



Christmas at the Station

Sunday 14th December 2025

Join us at the old railway station* in Spetisbury, Dorset, from 10am to 2pm for delicious seasonal refreshments including mulled wine, mince pies and hot dogs, and the chance to browse a selection of pre-owned railway books, DVDs and other gifts.

*Live entertainment provided by
Blandford Ukulele Group at 12.45*

All for a donation (cash preferred please) to the **Spetisbury Station Project** to help us maintain and improve the station. Online donations may be made at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/spetisbury

*** If wet, find us in Spetisbury Village Hall ***



Find us on Facebook



More information at www.spetisburystationproject.wordpress.com

MY MOTHER by Lys de Bray

Stick it into the ground, water it in and forget about it. Most of the time she didn't know what the parent plant was, she just liked the look and colour of it and she often had to wait for years for the little plant grew to flowering size for it to be identified. Had she visited Kew in the days before the war she would have been in dire trouble; it wasn't the taking that motivated her, it was the desire to see if whatever it was would grow and flower for her and generally it did. There are some lucky people - obviously my mother was one, who have the greenest of green fingers or thumbs. Occasionally, and interestingly, you see the opposite.

I once had a handyman called Don who came regularly to sweep the paths, cut the grass, sort the garden rubbish and burn it, tie things up, cut things down and other essential but time- consuming jobs. A friend asked me to do a hundred rooted fuchsia cuttings for a special charity sale and I blithely said I would, thinking Don could do them, he'd watched me often enough. (No point in keeping a dog and barking too!) So I asked him if he'd like to do them and he seemed really keen, and got busy washing all the little pots while I went off to take the cuttings. I showed him again how to do it and left him to it.. That day I had visitors and didn't get to look at the cuttings until he evening and they seemed all right. But next day it was a different story. The cutting's leaves were limp and drooping while my own small batches were standing up smartly as usual. I left things as they were and got on with other jobs that needed jobbing.

First thing next morning I went straight down to the greenhouse. Don's cuttings had collapsed and lay looking as though they were gasping for air. Mine were as perky-looking as they usually were. I went off to see if there was enough material if Don's batch had completely failed and there was, just. What to do? Tell him or let him find them at whatever stage they were at? I thought it best to let him find them and be sad and surprised at that time. But I did wonder - I'd never seen almost total failure like this, though a few of his cuttings did seem to be recovering. Again, I left things as they were, though I checked that nothing needed watering.

Next day was one of Don's days and I started potting-on some other rooted cuttings as I wanted him to watch the next stage. He came to work as usual, said a brief 'Hallo' and went straight down to the potting sheds. There was a silence. Curious, I followed him. He was standing looking at his cuttings which were, if anything, paler and drooping even more and almost lying down.

I didn't say anything. What could I say? To see so quick a change in so short a time really surprised me. I'd never seen anything like it in my brief time of gardening and I wished I had somebody older and more knowledgeable to discuss it with, because it didn't seem normal to me. I'd taken a lot of cuttings and had never had any difficulty, none of them had ever drooped for longer than the short time that they usually do.



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The Parish of Kingston Lacy and Shapwick

Rector: Revd Canon Andrew Rowland	01202 882340
(The Rector's day off is Friday)	rector@wimborneminster.org.uk
Organists: contact Churchwarden	
Churchwarden K Lacy: Rob Langdown	01202 841381
	KL-CW@wimborneminster.org.uk
Churchwarden Shapwick: Anne Tillin	01258 858208
PCC Secretary: Margaret Langdown	01202 841381
Treasurer: Christine Cosgrove	01258 858876
Electoral Roll Officer: Janet Tory	01258 857531

Sturminster Marshall Parish Church

Vicar: Rev Jane Williams	01258 858604
(Jane's day off is Friday)	janewilliamsrpc@outlook.com
Red Post Benefice Clerk: Vicky Harrison-King	redpostbenefice@outlook.com
Organists: contact Churchwarden	
Churchwardens: Katy Norman	07815 610595
Carol Johnson	07400 356901
PCC Secretary: Liz York	01258 857528
PCC Treasurer: Ed Warren	01258 857467
Verger: Vacant	
Captain of the Ringers: Mr M Stickley	01202 021895
Electoral Roll Officer: Elaine Huntriss	07818 280800

Schools

Sturminster Marshall First School: Mrs N Charman	01258 857348
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
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Hall Bookings

Old School, Stur Marshall: Val Brown	hall.mackrell@outlook.com
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Memorial Hall, Stur Marshall: Mrs K Kollberg	07729 712429
	sturhallbookings@gmail.com
Pamphill Parish Hall: David Wright	07789 368044
	pamphillparishhall@gmail.com

Councillors

Dorset Councillor: Cllr. Mr Will Chakawhata	
	cllwill.chakawhata@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Stur Marshall Parish Council Chair: Mrs Sonia Cade	
Stur Marshall Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Alison Clothier	07469 780548
	sturminstermarshall@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Chair: Mr Martin Underhill	
Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Lindsay Hole	

For Sturminster Marshall

Sturminster Marshall FC: Mr D Miller	01258 857314
Church Preservation Trust: Philip Cubitt	philipcubitt@btinternet.com
School Society: Liz Naulls & Amelia Atkins (Co-Chairs)	
	schoolsociety@sturminstermarshall.sch.uk
WI Evening Secretary: Mrs Gladys Quick	07720 343897
Sports Association: Mr R Haysom	01258 857616
Stur Marshall 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
Stur Marshall Short Mat Bowls & Social Club: Mr J Case	01202 690718
Stur Marshall Village History Website	07469 780548

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

For Shapwick

S.C.T. (Village Green): Jez Bragg	07813 925681
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