

THE BRIDGE

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



April 2024

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.

The deadline for articles for the next issue is the 15th of the month-so that the finished magazine can be sent to our printers on the 17th or 18th.

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.

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 Jan Standing, between the **27th and 28th** 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.**

A message to our Advertisers and Sponsors

First of all, a massive thank you for your support over the past twelve months without which we would have been unable to continue publication of the magazine.

Our new system of placing the monthly print edition in various locations around Sturminster Marshall, the surrounding villages and Wimborne is working well and hits on the website are steadily increasing.

Financially we are just about holding our own but are already seeing an increase in our printing costs and are totally reliant on advertising and sponsorship income. If you know of other businesses/organisations which could assist us we would be very grateful for your recommendation.

We are planning several promotional events during the year, including cream teas at the Old School on a Sunday in September.

Your continued support reflects a community spirit which is recognised by all our readers.

Barry Johnson - on behalf of the Bridge Committee

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 was the responsibility of Rev Suzie Allen until the end of March.

The contact details for the church officers can be found in the Parish Directory on page 50.

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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      |          |          |

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### LADIES

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PLEASE come along and join us, we're a very friendly crowd,  
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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

### It's okay to have questions about faith

We have only just celebrated Easter, some of you may still have Easter Eggs left to eat!

It's now the aftermath of Jesus on the cross, the empty tomb and the amazing discovery of the resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter Sunday. In church we proclaim the Good News: Alleluia, He is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia!

If you're not sure that this really happened, then you're not alone, many people have their doubts. Think about 'doubting' Thomas. You may know the story of Jesus' disciple who wanted to see for himself the marks on Jesus where the nails had been hammered through his hands and where the sword had pierced his side. Thomas was looking for evidential proof.

**But Thomas said “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nails holes and stick my hand in his side I won't believe it.” John 20. 25 from The Message version of the Bible.**

Church tradition has it that Thomas went on to become a powerful missionary used by God, for the glory of God, travelling as far as India, spreading the gospel of Jesus. He was martyred for his faith, ironically, killed by a sword piercing his own side. Personally, I've always thought it unfair that the thing Thomas has since been remembered for is 'doubting' when he clearly just wanted to explore the evidence for himself before he believed.

Some people are able to believe without a doubt, even today when we cannot see Jesus with our own eyes. For many others theirs is a faith seeking understanding. Whilst they may have no doubt about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the church wants to invite people into love, it is not a blind unquestioning faith.

Jesus' disciple Thomas had questions, yet clearly, he was a man of deep faith. I'm sure there are others whose personality means they also have questions about faith. Across the Red Post I want our churches to be the kind of places that people can come to with their questions, to find the answers and then see how their faith can make a concrete difference to their lives.

With every blessing,

*Jane*

Vicar of the Red Post Churches

# St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery

## March Draw

### Main draw

£50    129    Janet Williams  
£30    34    Carol and Barry Johnson  
£20    134    Jim Simmonds

### Congratulations to the winners.

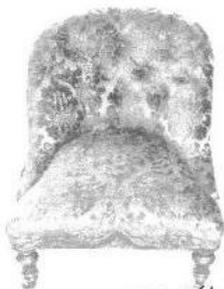
If you would like to support St. Mary's Church, please join the 100 Club lottery by contacting one of the committee listed below.

Pay just £2 a month for the ten remaining months and you could win £50 every month.

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

Karen Royles: 1 Parkfield, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 07761 867738)

Jan Standing: Chartwell, Newton Road, Stur. Marshall (Tel: 01258 857477)



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## APRIL FILMS

|                                                        |                                   |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>                      | Oppenheimer (15)                  | 7.30pm.  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>                                        | Poor Things (18)                  | 7.30pm,  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>                                       | “ “                               | 2pm.     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> | Wicked Little Letters (15)        | 7.30pm,  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup>                                       | “ “ “                             | 1.30pm.  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>                                       | Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (12A) | 2pm,     |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> | “ “ “                             | 7.30pm,  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>                                       | “ “ “                             | 12.30pm. |

## APRIL SHOWS

|                  |                                                                          |                         |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Love Letters (by A. R. Gurney)<br>Presented by The Group Theatre Company | 7.30pm, £14.            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | The Makings of a Murderer – over 18's only                               | 7.30pm, £27.50.         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | The Floyd Effect                                                         | 7.30pm, £23.            |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Nick Cope's Family Show                                                  | 11am, £16, <16 £15.     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Snake Davis Band                                                         | 7.30pm, £20.            |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | The Kilkennys                                                            | 7.30pm, £20.            |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Count Arthur Strong:<br>'And it's goodnight from Him'                    | 7.30pm, £23.            |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Feast of Fiddles                                                         | 7.30pm, £26.            |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | The Sound of Springsteen                                                 | 7.30pm, £27.50.         |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Geoff Norcott: Basic Bloke                                               | 8pm, £17.               |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | An Evening with Jimmy Tarbuck – Tarby!                                   | 7.30pm, £27.50.         |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Fred Dinenage: Ronnie, Reggie & Me                                       | 7.30pm, £22.50.         |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Focus                                                                    | 7.30pm, £22.50.         |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | The King's Voice: Gordon Hendricks as Elvis                              | 7.30pm, £28.            |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Frankie's Guys -<br>The Music of Franki Valli & the Four Seasons         | 7.30pm, £22.50 / £23.50 |

# Lesley Davies

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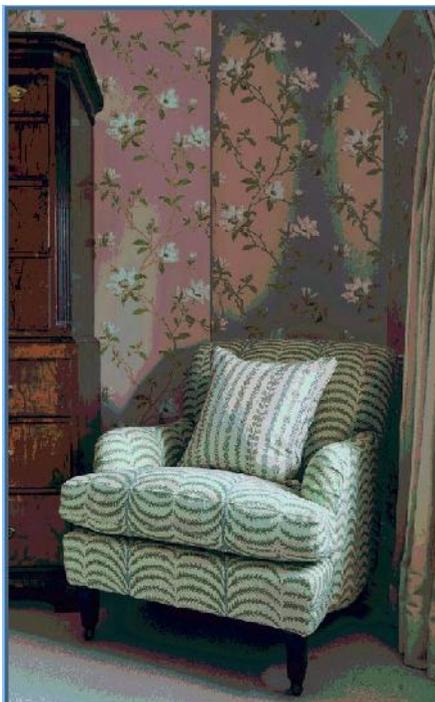
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**St Mary's Church  
Sturminster Marshall**

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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](mailto:dilyn76@hotmail.com)



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## Nature's Voice

Well March was a wet one, wasn't it! And as we march into April let's hope we get a little Easter sunshine. The temperatures are mild and the days are getting longer and all around the natural world is starting to wake up. The blackthorn blossom is here, as are the sticky buds on the horse chestnuts. Rotund little bumble bees are out and about – sometimes to be caught short by a cold moment in the shade. Look out for these little guys – they might appreciate a dab of sugar water to help them on their way again. My children like to pick them up and blow warm air onto them to get them buzzing but you might not be quite as gung ho as them!

On the dog walk today I spotted a peacock butterfly – always one of the first to see as they overwinter as adults – and I've already seen dung beetles on the heath, busily burrowing deep holes into the sandy soil, and mountains of wood ants, seething in a heap as they go about their industrious, communal missions.

I had a lovely day off this week and took myself and the dog to Studland where we found something more unusual: a conga eel washed up in the high tide. It was about a metre long and wonderfully silver and sleek. I'm told (by the 11 year old) that we have only the congas and a species called a silver eel in our sea waters here in the UK. Dog wasn't sure what to make of it and concluded that a tennis ball is much more fun.



Beasties to keep your beadies peeled for this month include the rare (not so rare here in Dorset, as is often the case – we are so lucky) oil beetles and more common, dung and ground beetles. This is the month to look for the return of our dear swallows and the end of the month is when to dodge the St Marks Flies. You'll know them because they are very slow and seem to hang in the air with the express purpose of attaching themselves, wetly, to your face as you walk through the warming sunshine, along a footpath.

So enjoy the gifts Spring has to offer and know that warmer times and longer evenings are just around the corner, once again.

**Melanie Fermor**

[www.mackrellcharity.org.uk](http://www.mackrellcharity.org.uk)

**The Mackrell Charity  
at The Old School  
April Activities  
in date order**



**Discovery Café - 2.30pm on Saturday 6th April  
Sandra Simmonds - A Day as a Housewife in Iran.**

+++++

**Play Reading - 2pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
Blue Remembered Hills by Dennis Potter**

+++++

**Social Lunch – Midday on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April.**

+++++

**Film Society - 7.30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April  
Brazil - directed by Terry Gilliam**

+++++

**Thursday morning Bridge Group 10am -12.30pm  
Contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081 or  
[katy.norman1@btinternet.com](mailto:katy.norman1@btinternet.com)**

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

*The Old School, Sturminster Marshall*  
**Discovery Cafe**  
*presents*

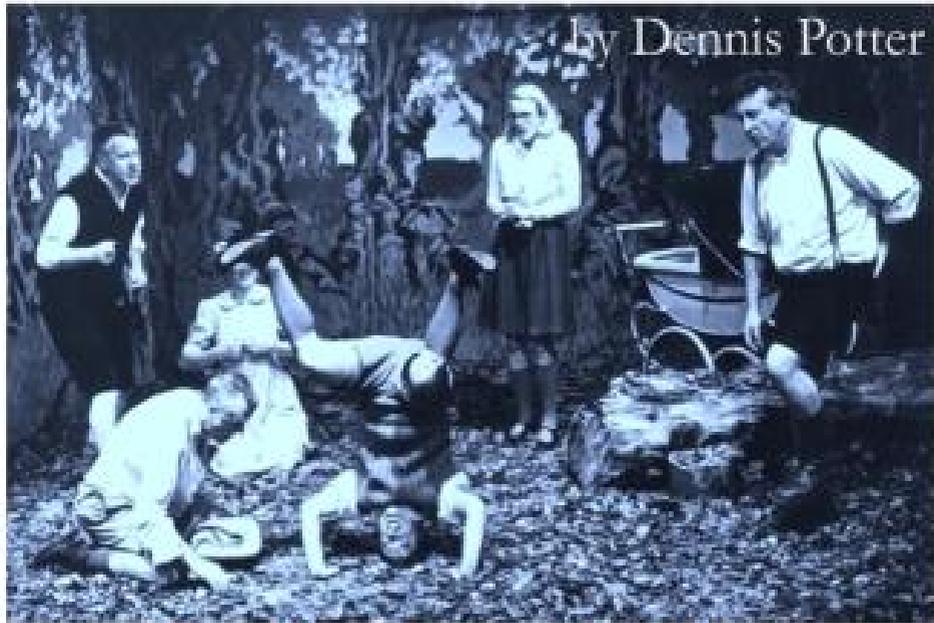
**Mackrell**  
"LIVE"



a talk by Sandra Simmonds  
**Saturday 6th April 2024**  
**2.30pm £6** tea/cake available  
Tickets on the door

**OLD SCHOOL**  
*The Marshall Society*

# Blue Remembered Hills



by Dennis Potter

Monday 8th April 2.00pm

## Play Reading Group

The Old School, Sturminster Marshall

£3 (inc. tea & biscuits)

email: Fiona Waters  
members.mackrell@outlook.com

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Email:- sturminstermarshallpreschool@btinternet.com

It's been a mixed bag of weather this month. We've swapped between the garden, playground and inside play. The children love the giant sandpit in the garden and all the slides. The playground is fun to whizz round on bikes and scooters. Inside there are always a variety activities for the children to choose from. They love the messy play in particular.

We have been spending time talking about spring time and the changes that it brings. The children have enjoyed making Easter treats and cards to send home too.

Our rising 5's PE sessions have been very exciting. We were able to use some of the school equipment, to balance, climb and jump. These sessions are a great way to ease transition into the first school.

Due to the new government childcare funding, we are making plans to open our preschool to children from the age of 9 months, from September.

If you have a child aged between 9 months and school age, please contact us to discuss our setting and your needs for childcare. We are a small, friendly setting and have both local children and children from further afield attending.

The Pre-school is open Monday to Friday 8.45 am to 3.15 pm – school term only.

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**St. Mary's Church,  
Sturminster Marshall**

**Revision of the Church Electoral Roll 2024**

If you are already on the Church Electoral Roll and wish to remain on the Roll you need do nothing. If, however, you wish your name to be added to the Roll or removed from the Roll, please speak to me or phone me. My number is at the back of this magazine.

**Elaine Huntriss, Electoral Roll Officer**



*Did you start to appreciate your garden much more during lockdown?*

*Have a go at growing and gardening?*

*Not quite sure what to do and disappointed in the results?*

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**Contact Nikki on 07354 200906 or email at [dorsetplantpixie@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetplantpixie@gmail.com)**



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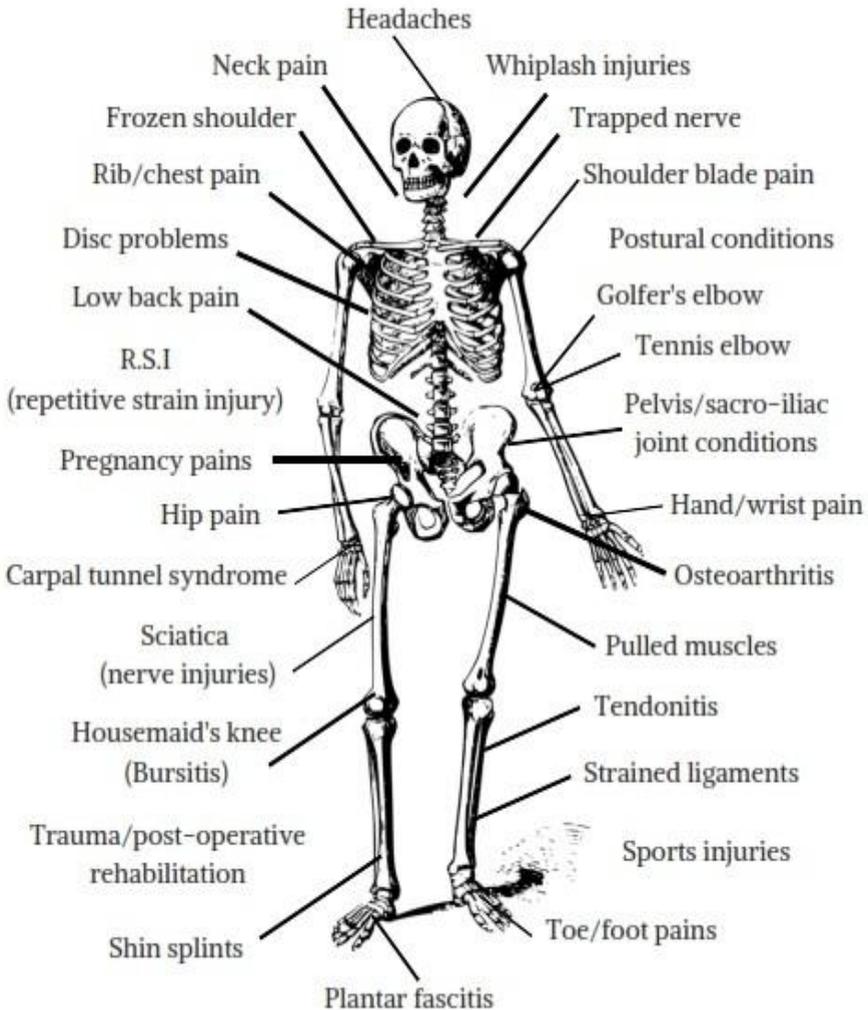
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## **LOOKING FOR A VENUE FOR YOUR PARTY?**

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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!**



**Social Lunch Club**  
**Old School Hall, Sturminster Marshall**

*Sponsored by the Mackrell Charity (Reg. Charity 306275)*

**Social Lunch Club will be on**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**  
**at midday**

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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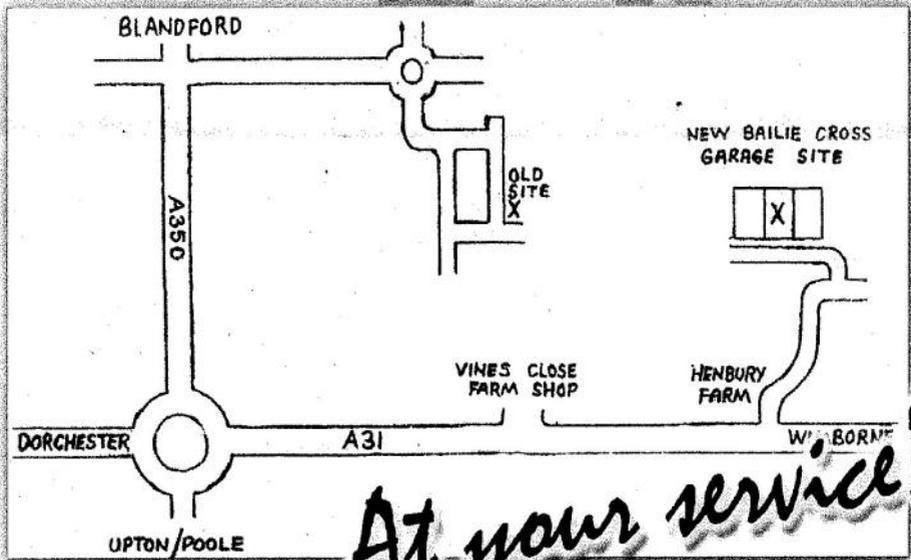
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Fax 01258 857045

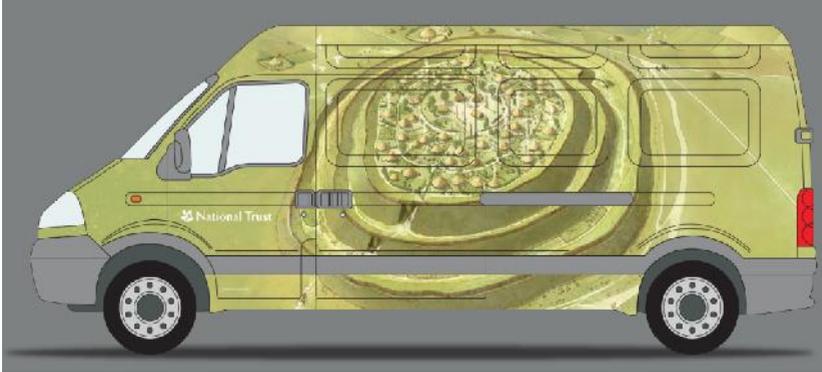
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Thanks from all the team.

# Kingston Lacy Estate News

## Exciting times at Badbury Rings



This year we are trying something new at Badbury Rings. We know that over 154,000 visitors enjoy Badbury

Rings each year, but many of them are missing out on understanding about the things that make this site so special.

Therefore, you will be seeing our engagement van at regular times located at Badbury Rings between March and October with a member of staff set up to help people appreciate how special the site is. The member of staff will be sharing the history of the site, helping dog walkers to understand the importance of ground-nesting birds, providing inspiration on the best walks and information on what nature is flourishing along with so much more.

If you are visiting Badbury Rings please stop off and speak to Rohan who will be with the van. He would love to hear about your experiences of Badbury Rings and get to know the local community.



Alongside the National Trust engagement van we will also be welcoming a new local coffee cart to the car park. Holly Beans, a converted horse box providing hot and cold drinks alongside delicious homemade cakes and pastries will be located in the car park at different times throughout the week. As this is a new venture the days and times are likely to vary as she finds out the best trading times, however, it is likely that weekend days will be an initial priority. Joanna, the operator of Holly Beans has a passion for dogs so you are guaranteed a warm welcome, and you could even allow your doggy friend to indulge in some of her homemade natural dog treats.

# CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> : 2nd Sunday of Easter**

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

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

11.00am Holy Communion at Morden

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

9.15am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

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

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

9.15am Family Service at St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

11.00am Holy Communion at Morden

## **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.**

# CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

## Zoom Services at Red Post

If you would like to join an online Red Post service via Zoom, please email: [redpostbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:redpostbenefice@outlook.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 Judith Lane at: [villageadmin@wimborneminster.org.uk](mailto:villageadmin@wimborneminster.org.uk)

---

### **Flooding....a warning!**

The river has overflowed Mill Lane several times over this winter and each time there have been numbers of drivers risking driving through the flowing water. Sometimes a 4x4, ARV or large van has been followed by family saloon cars with very low freeboard expecting no trouble. Modern vehicles have undertrays beneath the engine compartment but this is not waterproof and only designed to protect the electrics from normal wet road spray. Any higher water will swamp the electrics which run the ignition and may short out the battery. Similar risks attend battery fittings in boot floors and the electrics attached...which could zero the engine management system. On three occasions over the winter cars have been marooned in the flood on Mill Lane and on at least one the occupants had to be rescued by the Fire Brigade.

Driving fast through floodwater heightens the risk as the bow-wave will ride even higher into the engine space.

If this happens to you your insurer is very unlikely to pay out on a claim for damage to your car, especially if you have ignored warning signs..... and they will not pay for your vehicle to be recovered from the water. We have no facilities in the village to recover vehicles and it will be up to you to remedy your problem....so remember that when you encounter flooding on Mill Lane or other places ...and find a diversion.

Adrian Holden :: Flood Warden Team



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## English Usage by Michael Evans

We sometimes hear people praise their native language because they believe it to be the most logical, the most expressive, the nicest sounding, or in other ways superior to other languages.

There are over 7,000 known languages in the world (some have many variations.) It is amazing that they can make such judgments when no one can possibly know a lot about most of them. It often turns out that they do not know enough about their own language to judge the way people speak and write it.

An English newspaper once asked in a quiz, “Which of these sentences is correct?”

A “Do you see who I see?” B “Do you see whom I see?”

The answer was “B is correct”.

Of course it wasn't! Few English speakers would use a so-called rule so rigidly,

Last Month's anagrams

TRANSMIT RADIO –ADMINISTRATOR

TINY PAGE – EGYPTIAN

DARTS LOSER - LAST ORDERS

BOARS FEET - ROAST BEEF

This month's anagrams

CENTRE STAGE – James Bond? (2 words)

DIM SEABIRD – a help on the big day (1 word)

### **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.

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** Fuchsias - Derek Dexter

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** Hanging Basket Demo - David Bassil

Contact: 01258 857606 / 857118

# WIMBORNE MUSIC SOCIETY/PSD MUSIC UPDATE

Forthcoming events:-

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Wimborne Choral Society in Wimborne Minster

(Wimborne, BH21 1HT)

## CELEBRATION

Blest Pair of Sirens - Parry

A Song for Saint Cecilia - Christopher Dowie

+++++

My previous invitation to any singers amongst you to come and join Wimborne Choral Society in this 47<sup>th</sup> and final year of Christopher Dowie's direction of the Society still stands. Chris would very much like to welcome all comers (no auditions) - it's not too late to join rehearsals this term.. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 in Wimborne Methodist Church (4a, King Street, WIMBORNE MINSTER, Dorset. BH21 1DY).

Looking forward to welcoming you to a Thursday evening Choral Society rehearsal - just turn up by around 7.20 / 7.25!

Yours ever,

Christopher Dowie

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## The Court Henbury 150<sup>th</sup> 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.*



SCAN ME



For more information visit:  
[www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk](http://www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk)  
or scan the QR code

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# Easter EGG HUNT

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
10.30 – 12.00



St Mary's Church  
Sturminster Marshall

*Message from Rev. Bill French*  
*Associate Priest*

Dear Readers,

Welcome to April, a month that will, hopefully, bring you hope of better things to come and enjoy as we witness the wonder of nature bursting into new life after a long, dark, cold and very wet winter. With the changes to the climate our gardens were already full of flowering daffodils, crocus, camellias, magnolias in March, yet there is much more to come with the trees and hedgerows on the verge of bursting into bloom; added to this are our birds, singing their hearts out, heralding new life to come.

For some, new life is already here with our fields full of new-born lambs. Seeing and hearing the various signs of what is to come marks out April as a very special month. April also signifies love, with the ancient Romans naming April after the great Goddess, Aphrodite. Our common daisy, which soon will grace our gardens, is synonymous with love as it symbolises purity and loyal love.

For Christians too, April is very much about love as we are now in the season of Eastertide, in which we are filled with amazement and marvel at the miracle of love shown by God through the resurrection of Jesus from death into new life.

This miracle of love, beyond any love we will have known or will know, continues to reach out to us whatever day, month or year it is, and God can bring hope to our complex and often dark world if we put our faith in his unending seasonal love. As you journey through April enjoy the beauty of creation in all its forms and be reminded that it was created out of hope and love by a God that loves us, who hopes against hope that we will put our faith in Him and together enjoy his providence.

For us here in the Wimborne Villages this April is a month of change as our lovely Rev. Suzie Allen has now moved on to a new role in Salisbury. We, of course, will miss all that she brought to us in her love and enthusiasm for Jesus. With Suzie moving on, it's a reminder to us that our Christian faith is an ever-changing call as God challenges each one of us to use our calling to bring about His hope for a new earth and a new heaven.

One last interesting thought – there was a time at Eastertide when the custom of Easter offerings were made to the incumbent of the parish; the going rate from each household was tuppence for every member of the family over sixteen, this was inscribed in law under the Tithes and Offerings Act of 1548 in the reign of King Edward VI.

I wonder, if this act was still in place, would our present day churches be more relevant to the paying public? Whatever the answer, may the wonder of our risen Lord give you hope, faith and love this Eastertide.

**Rev. Bill**



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## STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS

[www.sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk)

The rain is not giving in, I think this must have been the wettest winter in a very long time. The ground is saturated, and it will take a while for the water table to drop. Work on clearing the drainage ditches in Moor Lane has been started but has had to stop due to further flooding. Hopefully we will see a change in the weather soon and the sun will shine for more than just one day in a row.

**As mentioned in last month's Jottings, the Annual Community Litter Pick is taking place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 starting at 2.00pm from the Memorial Hall.** Please do support if you can and help clean up our village. We will be offering refreshments afterwards when you finish as always.

The local elections are coming up and they will take place at the beginning of next month on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. Please do take the time to vote. Later in May we will be having the Annual Open meeting and SGN have agreed to come along and speak.

As many of you will have seen Gigaclear have been working in the village and it will be at least a few months before their work is complete. The Parish Clerk met with Low Carbon Dorset to hear their suggestions on possible climate change related changes we could make. The main area they could offer advice about was energy saving alterations to the Memorial Hall and grants that can assist with this. The Mapperton Defibrillator is in place and registered with the ambulance service.

An independent examiner has been appointed to assess the Neighbourhood Plan, the next step in the long road that is hopefully at last nearing the end.

Dorset Council have said that their own Local Plan will not be completed until May 2027. They are delaying work on the plan so that they can follow the new plan making system set to be introduced in November 2024.

### **Recent Plans:**

Sturminster Marshall Golf Club, Moor Lane, Sturminster Marshall.

Erect two storey extension to form enlarged restaurant and function room (revised scheme)

APPEAL DISMISSED.

P/FUL/2024/00441 Meadow Farm, Meadow Farm Lane, Corfe Mullen.

Creation of a new access and stopping up of three existing accesses to include an interconnecting farm track at Meadow Farm.

P/FUL/2023/06020 Churchill Arms, 45 High Street, Sturminster Marshall. BH21 4AS  
Erection of 8 dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping.

P/TRT/2024/00583 Stour House, 45 Kings Street, Sturminster Marshall. .BH21 4BL  
T1 Copper Beech: Reduce lateral limbs growing towards property by 1.5 metres.  
Crown thin by 10% (no cuts exceeding 40mm diameter). Remove 3 lowest primary  
limbs growing towards Churchill Close. T2 Mulberry: Overall reduction by 1.5  
metres. T3 Mulberry: Overall reduction by 1.5 metres. T4 Mulberry: Overall  
reduction by 1.5 metres.

TPO/2024/0006 Land at E394860 N99818, Churchill Close, Sturminster Marshall,  
BH21 4BQ. T1 – Cypress.

---

## Shapwick Acoustic Sessions 2023

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For further details of past concerts and future dates see:

<https://www.facebook.com/ShapwickSessions/>

---

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### **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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**Saturday**

**15<sup>th</sup> June 12 – 4**



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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.

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Our March meeting had a musical theme as we were entertained by the Frayed Strings Ukulele Band. The band hail from the Poole area and play both old and new songs for fun and entertainment. Singing and dancing along is very much encouraged!

We are gearing up for our Annual General Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April when we will look back at all the wonderful things our WI members have enjoyed over the past 12 months and vote in our President and Committee for the coming year.

The regional Dorset WI Speaker's Auditions are also held in April and three of our members will be attending to listen to prospective speakers and then recommend the ones they think will be of interest to our members for our 2025 meetings.

Dates for your Diary: Sample the legendary cake baking skills of the WI at our annual Cream Tea Fundraising Event on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm to 5.30pm at The Old School hall, Sturminster Marshall.

We are always delighted to welcome new members and pride ourselves on being a trusted place for **all** women of **all** generations. You don't need to be resident in Sturminster Marshall; many of our members are from surrounding areas. The membership fee for 2024 has been set at £48 for the full membership year from 1<sup>st</sup> April. 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](http://www.sturminstermarshalleveningwi.weebly.com)**

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## **No blackbirds on my lawn... by Lys de Bray** (originally published in April 2018)

Despite the recent cruel weather, the sun is out, a gentle breeze is drying my washing and it really feels like spring at last. But where there should be blackbirds running and hopping and listening on my new lawn (more of this later) there are none. Not one. There is good reason for this, there's nothing for them to eat. Like many gardeners I have taken worms for granted. They are seemingly always there as we plant or lift things, and, according to our natures, we put them back into the soil or leave them on the surface for blackbird or robin. The worms we generally see are *Lambricus terrestris* - the common earthworm which is shiny and pinkish-mauveish brown. Worm are hermaphrodite, which means that each can generate offspring, even though it still takes two to tango. Worms have no lungs and nearly all their essential oxygen is absorbed into the blood through their skins which are very fragile. If you pick up a large worm - carefully - and turn it over, you may be able to see or feel small bristles (a magnifying glass will help! here) which are on the underside of the worm and which help it to move along. You will see a thickish, differently-coloured band on its body about a third of the way along from the head end, this tells you which end is which. It looks a bit as if the worm has healed up after being chopped in half, but this is not so. This band is called the clitellum, or saddle, and it is part of the worm's egg-laying process, its presence indicates maturity. If a worm has its head or tail chopped off (please don't!) it can grow these again, but if it is cut in half it can't join up and will probably die. Amazingly, the earthworm has a rudimentary brain. The body surface is very light-sensitive and it will try to burrow back into the soil as quickly as it can as lengthy exposure to sunlight will kill it. It is able to move through the soil with the help of two sets of muscles and the bristles, helped also by a plentiful supply of lubricating mucus in the skin. The worm tunnels through the soil which it eats, digesting the decaying plant and animal particles that it contains which are essential to it.

The worm eats soil from lower levels and voids it on or near the surface. Rainwater washes minerals down into the lower areas of the soil, often out of reach of plant-roots: the worms bring this mineral-enriched soil up, thus making it available to the plant's roots higher up. On warm summer evenings worms come right up to the surface and pull dead plant-material into their burrows. They like to eat the tips of the leaves, leaving the remainder of the leaf to line the burrows where it will eventually decay and enrich the soil.

My new lawn was laid on two inches of soil to bring the level up: the soil had been sifted and sterilised and there is absolutely no life in it - all right for the new turf laid on top, but not for blackbirds. However, underneath all this is the original gravel-garden, well-drained and averagely full of tasty critturs that will, in due course, wiggle their way upwards, or so I hope. In addition I will be spiking the grass and dusting fine rich compost into the holes left by the fork. This will take time but next year I hope to see blackbirds on my lawn.



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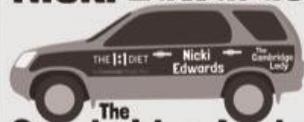
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### The Parish of Kingston Lacy and Shapwick

Vicar:

Organists: contact Churchwarden

|                                          |              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Churchwarden Kingston Lacy: Rob Langdown | 01202 841381 |
| Email: KI-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 |
| Verger: Vacant                           |              |

### Sturminster Marshall Parish Church

Vicar: Rev. Jane Williams (Jane's day of rest is usually Friday, sometimes Thursday and sometimes both) 01258 858604

Email: janewilliamsrpc@outlook.com

Red Post Benefice Clerk: Vicky Harrison King

...Email: redpostbenefice@outlook.com

Organists: contact Churchwarden

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Churchwarden: Katy Norman               | 07815 610595 |
| Churchwarden: Carol Johnson             | 07400 356901 |
| PCC Secretary: Liz York                 | 01258 857528 |
| PCC Treasurer: Mr Edward Warren         | 01258 857467 |
| Verger: Vacant                          |              |
| Captain of the ringers: Mr M. Stickley  | 01202 021895 |
| Electoral roll officer: Elaine Huntriss | 07818 280800 |

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|                                                   |              |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |

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Police station (non emergency number) 101

### **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  
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  
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)  
School Society: Amelia Atkins (Co Chair)  
Email: schoolsociety@sturminstermarshall.sch.uk  
WI Evening Secretary: Ms. Janet Lloyd 07967 544343  
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  
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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

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