



# THE BRIDGE

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



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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.

**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.**

### 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](http://www.cmp-uk.com), tel. 01202 739993

## From the Chair - Bridge Publications

### Happy New Year

The Bridge Magazine is entirely funded by advertising and generous donations from our sponsors. We are particularly grateful to our main sponsor, the excellent Red Lion pub, who support many other activities in Sturminster Marshall and are truly the centre of our community.

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](mailto: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**

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### 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

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

## A New Year

January is a time for looking forward and setting intentions for the year ahead. It is a month of new beginnings when we have the opportunity to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives. As we leave behind the old and embrace the new, it can be helpful to draw inspiration from the words of wise and insightful individuals.

So here is a collection of January quotes that highlight the potential of this month and the exciting possibilities that it holds.

"The first day of January always presents to my mind a train of very solemn and important reflections and a question more easily asked than answered frequently occurs viz: How have I improved the past year and with what good intentions do I view the dawn of its successor?"

Charlotte Brontë

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

Oprah Winfrey

"The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul."

G. K. Chesterton



"Every moment is a fresh beginning."

T.S. Eliot

"I wish you a beautiful new month from the first day of this month to the last day."

J. K. Rowling

"This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change."

Taylor Swift

A Very Happy New Year from all at the Bridge Magazine and may all changes be for the better.





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## **St. Mary's Church, 100 Club Lottery**

### **December Draw**

#### **Main draw**

£50	46	Robert Wood
£30	159	Marilyn Anderson
£20	105	Jane Champion

#### **Bonus draw**

£50	60	Phil Parslow
£30	23	Jackie Trenchard
£20	129	Janet Williams

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](http://www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk)

## **JANUARY FILMS**

Please check all start times

12th - 15th      Springsteen - Deliver Me from Nowhere

19th - 20th      Anemone

## **JANUARY SHOWS**

Until 4th          Panto: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

8th                  The Gary Moore Blues Experience

9th                  The Magic of the Bee Gees

10th                A Country Night in Nashville

14th                An Evening with Jack The Ripper

15th                Paul Jones & Dave Kelly

17th                Oh What a Night! Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

20th                Mike Osman's The Funniest Show On The Planet

21st                Ben and Tom Waters

22nd                Uncovered: The Electric Rock Experience

23rd                The Eddie Cochran Story

24th                ELO Experience 2026

28th                Andy Fairweather Low and The Low Riders

30th                The King's Voice: Gordon Hendricks as Elvis

31st                Nine Below Zero & Dr Feelgood 2026

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## MINSTER PROBUS CLUB OF WIMBORNE

**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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***www.mackrellcharity.org.uk***

***January 2026 Activities  
at The Old School***



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***Film Society - Thursday 8th January at 7.30pm***

***"Morgan - A Suitable Case for Treatment"***

***Directed by Karel Reisz***

***Join for the season or £5 on the door***

+++++

***Discovery Café - Saturday 10th January at 2.30pm***

***"Portrait of the Architect as a Young Man"***

***An illustrated talk by Julian Richmond***

+++++

***Bridge group continues on Thursday mornings at 10am***

***for more info contact Katy Norman on 01258 857081***

***or [katy.norman1@btinternet.com](mailto:katy.norman1@btinternet.com)***

+++++

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

*The* **Old School Film Society**  
*presents*



# **MORGAN**

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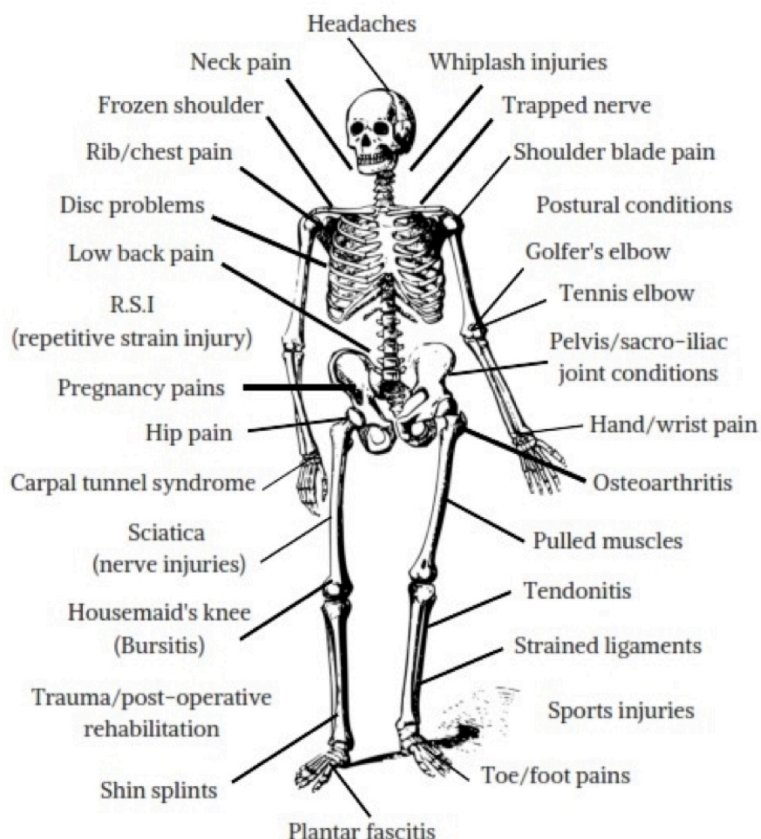
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# Winter Warmer **Concert**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2.30 pm  
St Marys Sturminster Marshall



Free Admission: retiring collection  
**Tea and Cake**

## News Release

### Winter warmer concert

St Mary's Church, Sturminster Marshall, is delighted to be hosting a concert, by Vivamente Voices, on Sunday 1 February at 2.30pm, in aid of its "Project Welcome" initiative.

Vivamente Voices is a vibrant community choir from Wimborne in Dorset. They rehearse regularly throughout the year, performing in a number of concerts, community events and festivals, under the talented direction of Sheila Dursley. Their repertoire is varied and includes classic and contemporary pop, songs from the musicals and a little gospel. A choir with a big heart, they have donated over £15k to local good causes in recent years. Whether in rehearsals, workshops, day trips or weekend tours, the choir have a great deal of fun in sharing their love of singing with each other and their audiences.

The concert will be vibrant and fun, with plenty of familiar, much-loved songs! Vivamente Voices are sure to cheer up a cold or dreary winter afternoon, so please do come along, to brighten up your day!

The vision for Project Welcome, is to widen the use of St Mary's Church, to provide our community with a flexible and accessible venue, which may be used by groups seeking a meeting space and for events, talks and get togethers organised by St Mary's. We aim to offer a community hub for everyone in the village. To achieve this, building work will be undertaken to install an accessible WC, a kitchen servery and an upgraded path. We have already started up a new community event, "Refresh", at 9.30am-10.30am on Tuesday mornings, where people, young and old, are invited to join us for coffee/tea and a chat.

Please do come along to the concert on Sunday 1 February: entry is free and there will be tea and cake at the interval. There will be a retiring collection. There is limited parking available, in the Old School car park, opposite the Church, adjacent to the Red Lion.



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## *Coffee and Cake in St Bartholomew's Church, Shapwick*

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10.00am till 12 noon



(DONATIONS ONLY)

See you on  
Monday 13th January!

A warm welcome awaits you all!

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## Social Lunch Club

### Old School Hall, Sturminster Marshall

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

**The date of the next Lunch Club is Wednesday 11th February 2026.**

**Please note that the Lunch Club will be taking a break in January 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 – a warm welcome awaits you and 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.

### **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.



**Foresters**  
Friendly Society

For more information visit:

**[www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk](http://www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk)**  
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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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**Johnedge007@gmail.com**

## **Social Lunch Club**

**Old School Hall, Sturminster Marshall**

### **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

After nearly 4 years, Heather and Gladys are hanging up their aprons. Would anyone be willing to take on this once monthly event to continue providing a lunch for our lovely regulars and any newcomers to the village?

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

If you are interested or would like further information please contact Heather (01258 857823) or Gladys (01258 858135).

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

## **English Usage: a personal view by Michael Evans**

### **Where do English words originate?**

Many English words have travelled a long way to get here, and have had various meanings on the way. An example is arsenic first recorded in 1306, when it meant a dye. We borrowed it from Old French, which borrowed it from Latin, which had borrowed it from the Greeks who already had a word *arsenikos*, meaning “masculine.” They borrowed it from the Persian *az zarnikh* meaning “the gold pigment” and it was probably the Greeks who extended its meaning to “having medicinal qualities”. Much later, Agatha Christie realised its nefarious qualities.

### **Last month's anagrams**

SOME TITLE - MISTLETOE  
HERESY TOLL - HOLLY TREES<sub>t</sub>  
SERPENTS – PRESENTS  
ROAD SECTION – DECORATIONS  
WALL SNOB – SNOWBALL  
CHEMIST SAVER – CHRISTMAS EVE  
KNEE RIGHTS – THREE KINGS  
CREAKIEST – ICE SKATER  
ALAS, SUN ACT – SANTA CLAUS  
FORCED RABBI – CRIB FOR A BED  
AIRMAN, ANY WAGE – AWAY IN A MANGER  
STARCHY MAIDS – CHRISTMAS DAY

### **This month's anagrams**

SORT A FEW - makes computers work (1 word)  
CLAIMED - a check up (1 word)

## Church Services in January

### Sunday 4th: Epiphany

9.15pm Sung Eucharist with choir at St Mary's, Stur Marshall  
11.00am Holy Communion at Bloxworth

### Sunday 11th: 1st Sunday of Epiphany

9.15am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's, Stur. Marshall  
9.15am Holy Communion at St Stephen's, Kingston Lacy

### Sunday 18th: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.15am Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's, Shapwick  
9.15am Café Church at St. Mary's, Stur. Marshall

### Sunday 25th: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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**



**Coffee  
Mornings  
Tuesdays  
9.30 – 11.00**





**St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall**

## The Christmas Tree Festival

What a wonderfully festive weekend we had on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December. So many beautifully decorated trees supporting a variety of such good causes. But there were not only trees! There were tables groaning with home baked cakes, quiches, jams, pickles, marmalade and much, much more. A great number of bacon rolls were consumed along with more cakes, coffee and tea.

Apart from raising money for the chosen charities, there was a vote for the best tree. Once again the winner was the Guides with their tree entitled 'A Village Christmas'. They must have some talented young people as their tree depicted the village with models of the Red Lion, the church and many other landmarks. They even had the stump of the broccoli tree that was felled last year.

Both days were well attended and on the Sunday morning Andy came from the Salvation Army to talk to us and receive the very many gifts of toys that were donated for children who would not have received much this Christmas. There was also a tree with gifts of socks, toiletries etc. for people who were homeless over Christmas and throughout the year.

The weekend finished with a sing-along, when we all sang our favourite carols, so ably accompanied by Andrew.

The amounts raised will be published next month but huge thanks must go to everyone who was involved with what was a very successful weekend. We couldn't do it without you.



# STITCH, KNIT & NATTER CLUB

STURMINSTER MARSHALL MEMORIAL HALL,  
CHURCHILL CLOSE, BH21 4BQ

**MONDAY 2-4PM**

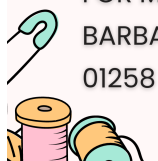
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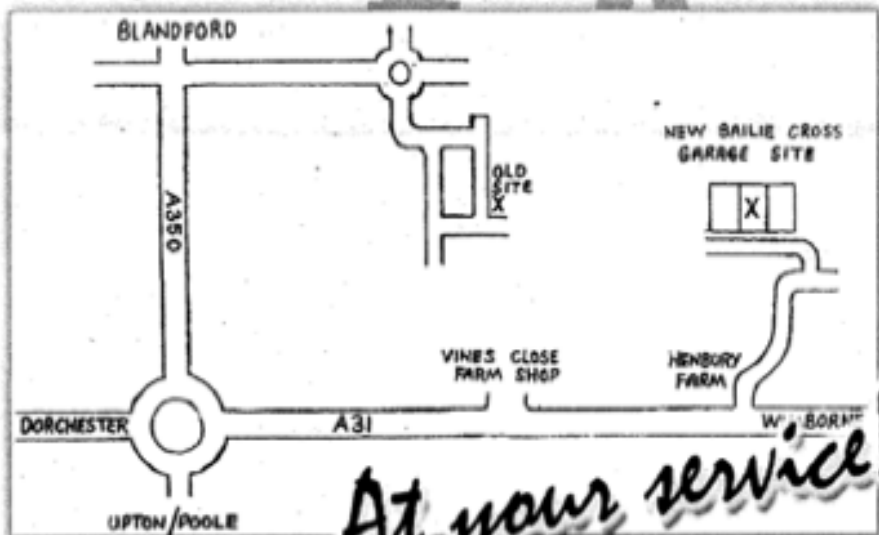
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## **STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH JOTTINGS**

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

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday period and that you are looking forward to whatever the new year brings. As I write we have been experiencing a lot of rain again, this does seem to be our normal now. Please take care and stay alert for local flooding this winter. Check updates here:

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk>

The 20mph limit survey ended in December and we will discuss the results at the January Parish Council meeting and decide on whether to go forward with an application for a 20mph within the Parish. Unfortunately, the SID on Blandford Road has been vandalised for the second time this year. These devices help slow traffic and keep everyone safe. If you see anything suspicious, please report it to Dorset Police. After being assessed by Dorset Council, Jubilee Cross / Wimborne Road has been deemed unsuitable for a Refuge Crossing, due to cost and low footfall but work on the speed limit review is ongoing.

The EV charge point in the Memorial Hall Car Park has been connected and will be operational shortly, hopefully by the time you read the jottings. The WI bench at the end of Millmoor was due to be repaired but has now been taken away as it had completely rotted and we are looking into possibilities for a replacement. We would like to say a big thank you to the local Guides group who have kindly offered to clean up the Telephone Box on Stocks Green in the Spring!

The Parish Council discussed the Dorset Council Community Asset Transfer List, and we have put in a request to take ownership of Charborough Green. Our request has been logged and is being progressed.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you'd like to help shape the future of our village, please get in touch with the Parish Council at [parishclerk@sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@sturminstermarshall-pc.gov.uk)



Recent Plans:

P/FUL/2025/0617 50 - 51 Churchill Close Sturminster Marshall BH21 4BH  
Demolish garage and outbuilding and erect 2 No 2 bedroom bungalows with parking. Creation of new parking area to No 50 & 51

P/CLE/2025/06991 The Ferns Poole Road, Jubilee Cross, Lytchett Matravers, BH16 6AF

Retention of the vehicular access off Poole Road onto the property.

P/HOU/2025/07065 Woodlea Wimborne Road Lytchett Matravers Poole BH16 6HQ

Erect Garden Room/ Studio

P/ESP/2025/06929 Poole SRO EIA Scooping Opinion : Poole Water Recycling and Transfer Strategic Resource Option



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## Fun Facts For 2026

Below are a selection of 'fun facts' to impress your friends and family over the New Year.

Did you know:

**A cloud weighs around a million tonnes.** It is able to float as it has a density that's around 0.4 per cent lower than the air surrounding it.

**Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints.** This is because umbilical cord length, position in the womb, and the rate of finger growth affect your fingerprint.

**Bananas are radioactive.** Due to being rich in the natural isotope potassium-40.

**Giraffes hum to communicate with each other.** This may help individuals who have been separated from their herd, find each other in the dark.



**You inhale 50 potentially harmful bacteria every time you breathe.** Thankfully, your immune system promptly destroy the majority without you feeling a thing.

**You can't fold a piece of A4 paper more than eight times.** As the number of layers doubles each time, the paper rapidly gets too thick and too small to fold.

**LEGO bricks withstand compression better than concrete.** Scaling this up to house-size bricks, however, would cost far too much to be practical.

**Wearing a tie can reduce blood flow to the brain by 7.5 per cent** which can make you feel dizzy, nauseous and cause headaches.

**Football teams wearing red kits play better.** The colour of your clothes can affect how you are perceived by others and change how you feel.

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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.

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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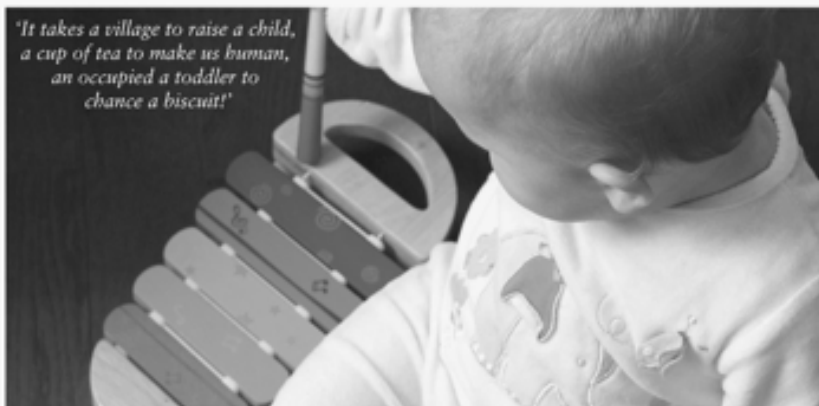
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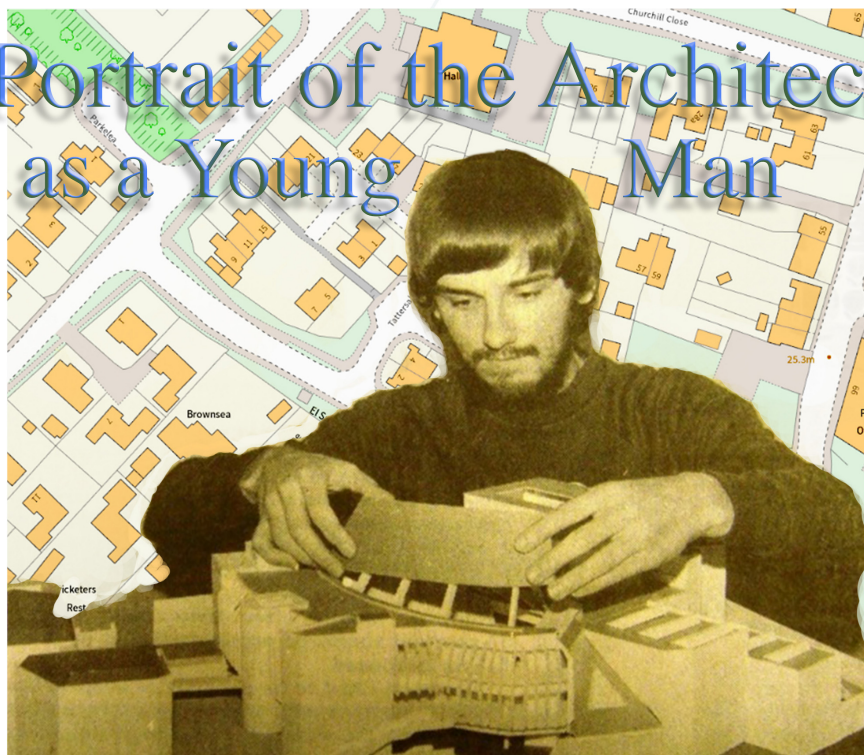
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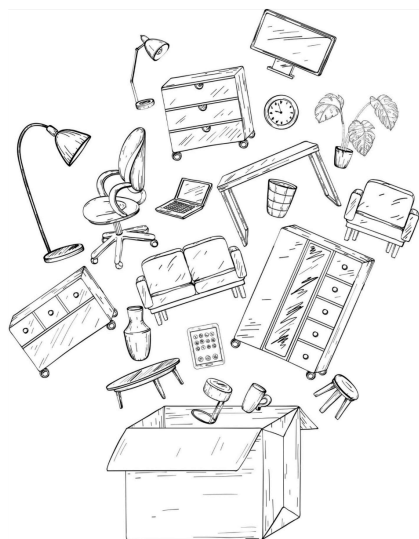
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Our November meeting was a craft-themed evening and members had the choice of two activities: paper folding to make a Christmas tree or decorate wooden hearts for the SMEWI tree that was displayed as part of the St Mary's church Christmas Tree Festival. We all had an enjoyable evening creating some fabulous decorations.



A group of ladies from the SMEWI met up at Upton Country Park with The Bird and Recreation Initiative (BARI) to observe the birds that fly thousands of miles each winter to spend time feeding and resting in our beautiful harbour. They had a great time and learned so much.



The first meeting of 2026 is on Thursday 15th January in The Old School starting at 7.30pm. Our guest speaker is Greg Duncan with some interesting tales behind his book *Champagne in a Broken Teacup*.

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.sturminstermarshallleeveningwi.weebly.com](http://www.sturminstermarshallleeveningwi.weebly.com)  
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## Kingston Lacy Estate News

One of the visible changes that marks a changing climate is the blooming of flowers at unfamiliar times of year. Of course, plant breeders have long worked towards extending the seasons, with early-flowering varieties popular sellers; but

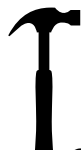


there are still surprises. One of the earliest of the 40 or so varieties of snowdrop planted at Kingston Lacy is Three Ships, so called because it is often in flower by Christmas Day. Last year, it was a good three weeks early, and the snowdrops (also known as Candlemass bells because they used to appear round about 2 February) were at their peak in January.

This can play havoc with our event planning, which is done weeks, often months, in advance. Snowdrop walks with one of the gardeners are always popular (their knowledge of the varieties and the management is brilliant), but kind of spoilt if visitors are looking at withered flowers and budding seed heads! So each year in November we indulge in the entirely fruitless game of “guess when the snowdrops will be at their best” in order to get the walks booked into diaries and up on the website. Never work with animals, children – or Mother Nature.

Of course, with so many varieties snowdrop season at Kingston Lacy is longer than most, so there’s (nearly) always something to see. This year looks like the little bulbs will bloom later than last year – though showing through, none are flowering yet. However, we’ve still hedged our bets for the moment and scheduled snowdrop walks for some as-yet-undecided dates between 26 Jan-13 Feb; we’ll confirm the dates nearer the time. Keep an eye on the website or social media if you’re interested.

There are plenty of other events that are nailed down – workshops on photography, stencil printing, wood engraving and linocuts are all up on the website now. There are also spaces coming up on the allotments down by the Kitchen Garden, so maybe 2026 will be your most creative year yet.



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## Spring Is Just Round January's Corner! by Lys de Bray

January is a good time to give the garden a thorough tidy-up. The deciduous flowering shrubs are barer than usual this year because of those frosts, so you could start with them because there's only a tracery of branches defining their presence. If they are good value as to foliage and flowers then leave them be. I have two delightful 'hardy' fuchsias (no fuchsia is totally hardy except in Cornwall) that dangle pleasingly atop a wall alongside the main stepped path leading to the front door. One is Fuchsia 'Genii' which has lime yellow leaves and typical red and purple flowers. It likes this sunny spot and I am well rewarded by its joyful colour. Its leafless branches should be left as they are until late spring as they make good protection for the plant. A bit further along the same wall is a fine specimen of *F. riccartonii magellanica* 'Versicolor' which has pink-toned leaves and smaller red and purple flowers. It makes a rose-coloured mound throughout the entire summer and is good against neighbouring *Rosmarinus officinalis* - rosemary - with its grey-green leaves. The fuchsia will need a certain amount of thinning out but not until late spring. If it survives. Nearby is a surprisingly good fan-palm - *Trachycarpus fortunei* - which has pillows of powerfully scented pale yellow flowers in summer. It is now about 15ft tall and going like a train and may one day rival those at Abbotsbury in stature. Its fans are rigid and stiff, and when summer-green are excellent in large foliage arrangements. Now, though, they are yellow-brown, stiffly dead and must be sawn away. The gravel garden is being ruthlessly weeded and the gravel is clearly visible for once. Gravel is a good growing medium for many plants, and an even better growing medium for weeds, though these pull out very easily. Here there is a mature *Berberis darwinii* 'Rose Glow' which has small maroon pink-spotted leaves turning brilliant crimson for a few short weeks in autumn. It spends the winter as a thorny, twiggy mass and has outgrown its space and its welcome and will be joining the dead fans on the bonfire next week. The day-lily - *hemerocallis* - bed is messy, with dead plant-growth intermixed with weeds and new shoots. The deer love these and ate them to the ground last year, so we have made a smart fence which, alas, has to be left in place all summer as the deer like the flowers too. Last autumn I planted some tulip bulbs that needed a safe new home after spending the summer drying out in the greenhouse. The bulbs didn't look much but nevertheless they went in between the now-protected day-lily tussocks and may provide some early colour. The deer like tulip flowers even more and I didn't want to waste the effort of planting these once-flowered bulbs in the grass. It is different with daffs, the deer don't like them, so we have planted all ex-pot bulbs between the buddlejas, and even if there is not much flower this year, there will be next season. Gardeners have to be optimists! The buddlejas have been lightly pruned to avoid wind-rock; the major pruning-time for them is February when they will be cut right down to about 6 inches. You will have to harden your heart and sharpen the loppers to do this, but I promise it will be worth it. And get seed trays, cuttings-pots and compost ready for action, spring is just around January's corner!

## **Parish Directory**

### **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
--------------------------------------	---------------------------

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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