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NOVEMBER 2025

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## The Editor's Letter

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I'm penning this as the war in Gaza and the daily exposé of the utter barbarity of conflict is – for now – on hold. Closer to home you can remember the sacrifice of people who have fought and fallen for our freedom at a number of Remembrance events (see pages 26 and 33) and support our armed services by buying a poppy — not a glorification of war but a symbol of remembering and hope for a peaceful future.

If you're reading this and want to make sure your community magazine keeps going in the corporeal world as well as online, can we ask you to contribute something towards the print costs of the Fosse Trinity News, which work out at around £1 a copy (volunteers do all the rest for free.) You can donate online using: Fosse Trinity News Sort code: 60-04-33 Account: 68687214 or offline using an envelope! (see P35). If you fancy helping in a more practical way, we are always looking for people to join the team, just contact the editor to find out more.

The Jubilee Hall is running a Race Night at Ditcheat on the 8<sup>th</sup> to help with its costs, Prostate Cancer and various other Rotary charities (P32). Big Screen is showing 'Penguin Lessons' on the 21<sup>st</sup> (P32) and all the regular social occasions are there to welcome you.

Happy end of Autumn,

*Margy Cockburn Tim Sanders*

Front cover: Front cover: The Tor from Sutton Bernadette George©.  
Please send your cover photos to: [editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk).

The Fosse Trinity News is a community magazine delivered free to all households in Ditcheat, Alhampton, East Pennard and Pylle and online: [www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk).  
We reserve the right to edit but welcome contributions from everyone in the community.  
Editorial and adverts to be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of month preceding the issue.  
Contact: [editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk) or [adverts@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:adverts@fossetrinitynews.co.uk).  
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## Dates for your Diary



### Regular Events

| Weekly Monthly |   |                                     |                                   |                      |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mon            | ✓ |                                     | Pilates (9.00)                    | Michelle XXXXXX      |
|                | ✓ | ✓ 4 <sup>th</sup>                   | Crafternoon (2.00)                | Marion XXXXXX        |
|                |   | ✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>                   | Rendezvous (10.00)                | Lynda XXXXXX         |
| Tue            |   | ✓ 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Ditcheat Art Group (10.00)        | Liz & Stewart XXXXXX |
|                | ✓ |                                     | East Pennard Drop In              | Frances XXXXXX       |
|                |   | Last Tues                           | Village Lunch                     | Jessica XXXXXX       |
|                |   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>                     | Fosseway Gardening                | Barbara XXXXXX       |
|                |   |                                     | Ditcheat History Group            | Roger XXXXXX         |
|                | ✓ |                                     | Badminton                         | Sam XXXXXX           |
| Wed            | ✓ |                                     | Ditcheat Short Mat Bowls (7.00)   | Martin XXXXXX        |
| Thu            | ✓ |                                     | Yoga (9.15)                       | Clare XXXXXX         |
|                |   |                                     | Chair Stretch for Seniors (10.45) | Clare XXXXXX         |
| Fri            |   | ✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>                   | Folk Dance Club (7.00)            | Ama/Peter XXXXXX     |
| Sat            |   | ✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>                   | Men's Breakfast (8.30)            | Roger XXXXXX         |
|                | ✓ |                                     | Yoga (9.00)                       | Clare XXXXXX         |

### November

|                              |                                       |                    |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm | National Theatre at Lamyatt           | P17                |
| Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm   | Horse Race Night, Jubilee Hall        | P32                |
| Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> 10.50am  | Remembrance Service and Lunch         | P35                |
| Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am | Rendezvous                            | Lynda XXXXXX P10   |
| Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  | Fosseway Gardening Club               | Barbara XXXXXX P6  |
| Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> 7.30pm  | Ditcheat Big Screen – Penguin Lessons | P32                |
| Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> 12.30pm | Village Lunch                         | Jessica XXXXXX P10 |

### Further Ahead

|                                 |                                    |    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----|
| Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00am | Coffee Morning, EP Village Hall    | P5 |
| Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 5.30pm  | Pylle Family Christmas Celebration | P6 |

**Please check with the organisers for the latest information. Updates will be notified on the magazine website [www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk).**

# **XMAS COFFEE MORNING**

## **TO BE HELD IN AID OF VILLAGE HALL FUNDS**

BA4 6TU

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH 2025**

**10 am to 12 Noon**

Coffee, tea, cakes, Xmas stall, raffle, etc.

Raffle prizes needed, and cakes if anyone wishes to make some!

Enquiries contact: Anna Gifford XXXXXX

Please come and support your Hall - thank you.

---

### **Priest in Charge Appointed**

Bishop Michael has appointed the Reverend James Sharp as Priest in Charge of the parishes of Ditcheat, East Pennard, Pylle, Pilton, Croscombe and North Wootton. It is anticipated that James will take up the post in the New Year. The Reverend Canon Rosalind Paul will be continuing in her role as priest with permission to officiate.



---

### **October 100 Club Draw**

**100 Club**

The results for the October draw are as follows:

|         |      |               |
|---------|------|---------------|
| Ball 65 | £100 | David Rodgers |
| Ball 50 | £50  | Gert Schley   |
| Ball 36 | £25  | Lynda Broom   |



Mince pies, soup, children and adults Christmas craft.  
More detailed information nearer the date.



Please note the new start time of 7 pm

## 'Tales from the Potting Shed'

With speaker Dr Francis Burroughs

Contact Barbara Cary Tel XXXXXX





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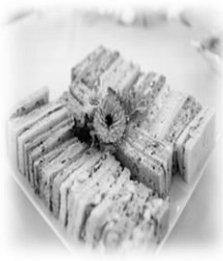
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## **VILLAGE LUNCH**

The Village Lunch is held on the last Tuesday of the month in the Jubilee Hall at 12.30pm.

### **Menu for 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Squash Soup  
Leek & Potato Soup  
Spicy Lentil & Tomato

Selection of Puddings. Tea or Coffee.

**£6.00 per person.**

[www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk).

If you would like to come let Jessica Leach (xxxxxx) or Vee Lees (xxxxxx) know by the previous Wednesday. There will be a raffle as usual - any prizes will be welcome.

## **RENDEZVOUS**

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**10am – 11:30 am**

**Jubilee Village Hall**

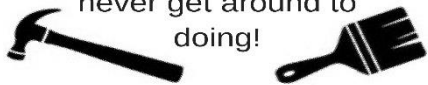
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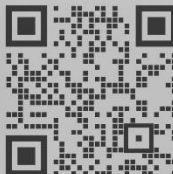
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## From the Archives

Wraxall Hill was a destination for the sport of Hill Climbing, for both car and motorcycle clubs. The newspaper report gives information on the cars, which included German, French and Scottish manufacturers. The pictures are typical but not necessarily of the reported event.



### **SOMERSET AUTOMOBILE CLUB. Hill-climbing Competition at Wraxall**

The annual hill climb in connection with the Somerset Automobile Club was held in fine weather on Wraxall Hill, Shepton Mallet, on Saturday afternoon, Miss Helen Garnett kindly gave away the prizes at the close of an interesting afternoon. Results, the cars being placed in the order gained on time :—

Class 1 (no prize).—Mr. Graves - Knyften's "Sizaire," marks on formula, 19868,  
Class 2. —Mr, C. B. Hillyar's 'Alldays," marks on formula, 1.8322 (1st); Dr. E. D. Pineo's "Swift," marks on formula, 1.4780 (4th) ; Mr. R. H. F. Routh's "Alldays," marks on formula, 16809 (3rd); Dr. H. P. Porteous' "Renault," marks on formula, 1.8188(2nd).

Class 3.—Mr. N. Coates' "RM.C." marks on formula, 1.8397 ; Mr. E. S. Pink's "Talbot," marks on formula, 2.8948 (2nd) ; Miss Garsia's "Singer," marks on formula, 2.6308 (4th) ; Mr. C. E. Burnell's "Wolsley," marks on formula, 2.3246; Mr. A. E. Taylor's "Fafnir," marks on formula, 2.9544 (1st) ; Capt. V. Jenkin's "Arroll-Johnston," marks on formula, 2.7305 (3rd); Mr. R. Bath's "Argyll," marks on formula, 2,1189; Mrs. E. L. Kenway's "Daimler," marks on formula, 2.0664, Class 3.—Mr. G. W. Gwyer's "Darracq," marks on formula, 1.4470 ; Miss H. Garnett's "Rolls-Royce," marks on formula, 1.6793 (1st).

The cup for the fastest time in any class went to Mr. G. W. Gwyer. The best performance on formula was done by Mr. A. E. Taylor's "Fafnir."

The officials were :—Judge, Mr. F. Wills, M.I.M.E. ; clerks of the course, the Competitions committee, starter, Official Telephone Operator; timekeepers, Messrs. Z. Wheatley and Deacon (R.A.C. officials) ; marshals, Messrs. Dawe, Taylor. Paddon, Bartlett and Metcalfe; handicappers, Messrs. A, Wills and the Hon. Secretary ; hon. secretary, Mr. John W. Aspinall.

Weston-super-Mare Gazette, and General Advertiser -  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1912



Roger Yeoman



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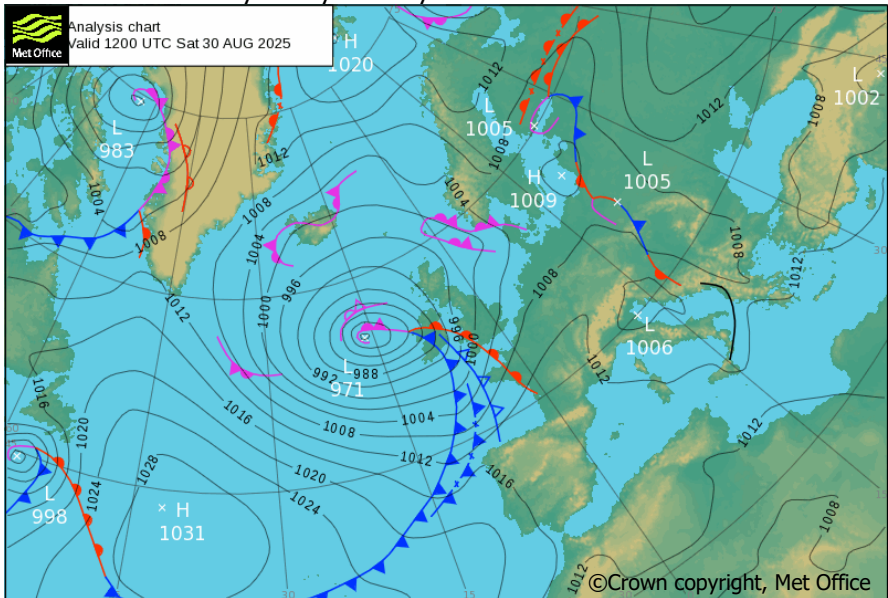


## Alhampton Weather – September 2025

The pressure chart below from the last day of August illustrates the end of the stable weather that predominated for nearly six months. This very deep depression brought high winds and heavy rain to the whole country for the first few days of September and was a perfect calling card for the arrival of Autumn. Hurricane Erin and Tropical Storm Fernand making their way into mid Atlantic both contributed to a destabilising of the Jetstream and the arrival of a period of unstable and wet weather. Hurricane Gabrielle followed later in the month to keep the instability going.

Nationally September was a very wet month. Some parts of Cumbria had nearly double the long term average, but locally the effect was less so. Also the temperature was slightly below the average, though with a lot of warm sunshine, more than normal for the month, that seems surprising. As the month progressed the situation settled and we had a period with the Jetstream forming an elbow around the UK fending off the Atlantic depressions.

Looking ahead high pressure is expected to build and produce some relatively mild, dry weather with a good dose of sunshine. That are some doubts as to when this will break down, but we might expect periods of strong winds and rain becoming more prevalent by the first week of November. At least the remainder of October looks mainly sunny and dry.



John Clarke

## Theatre at Lamyatt Village Hall

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## The Natural World

Somebody asked me recently how long it takes me to write my nature notes each month, and the answer didn't come easily, because it all depends on a number of issues. Sometimes it can take all day, and on other occasions it is made easy for me.

September 26<sup>th</sup> was one of those days when it all became too easy. We were on an early autumn jaunt to Brittany for a few days and I thought that I could be sure to capture a photograph or two for this article. As climate change, global warming (call it what you will) takes hold, global populations of certain species are moving northwards, and it is now relatively easy to spot the enormous Atlantic blue fin Tuna, which can reach weights of 680kg (1500lbs), and certain species of whale are becoming more numerous off our coasts too. I wasn't looking for tuna or whales, but given that I am a beekeeper, and that the invasive Asian hornet, which preys almost entirely on honeybees, is slowly but surely, establishing a foothold in this country, I decided to seek one or two out. These hornets are, as their name suggests, native to the far east, but a fecund queen (look that one up), can – and did, start a whole new population.



Back in 2017, when they were still a bit of an enigma in the UK, I had taken a photo of one collecting nectar from an ivy bush in Roscoff, and just a few hundred metres from the ferry-port. 'Let's go there then'. And so we did, and we certainly saw an Asian hornet. Well, actually, quite a few. Numbers seem to have increased dramatically in the intervening eight years, and this photo was relatively easy to get.

Not only were they on the predictable ivy bush, but could be spotted flying around the harbour area of Roscoff. Fair enough, we thought, we knew there were a few in Roscoff, but 15 miles inland in the market town of Morlaix, where we were staying, we sat in the newly created seating area of the main square, where planting had been taken to a new level, and there they were abundant, buzzing picnickers and visiting all the late flowering municipal planting.

Is this all relevant to us in the UK. Yes, it most certainly is. Since 2004 these pesky (non-native) creatures have





decimated the beekeeping industry in France, but perhaps most importantly they have also caused great damage to the populations of other species of bees. Bumble bees and smaller solitary bees have been greatly affected. The first report of a single Asian hornet in England, was in Tetbury in 2014. It had obviously hitch-hiked on a tourist's car or caravan. This year, nearly 500 nests have been discovered, mainly in Kent and West Sussex, but also in Hampshire and Dorset. A single hornet was even found on the Scilly Isles.

At this time of year, there will still be one or two queen hornets looking for sustenance on ivy bushes, then they will seek somewhere to hibernate, and next year they will start a brand new colony, producing several hundred off-spring. Please keep a look out, and if you see one report it, preferably with a photo, to the Non Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) at [https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/species-alerts#Species\\_53](https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/species-alerts#Species_53).

What are the differences between our European hornet and the Asian invader? Our hornet is bigger – up to 35mm (1¼") whereas the Asian hornet struggles to reach 25mm (1") in length. The photo opposite shows an Asian hornet, which is primarily black, with that striking orange band towards its rear end, whereas ours is chestnut brown and yellow at the front end and yellow and black towards the rear end. We really need to keep an eye out for the Asian hornets, but nobody will object if you get it wrong.



*European hornet –  
Stewart Gould*



*Spoonbill – courtesy of  
Wikimedia Commons*

Is that all? Well, actually no. I'm the one who is supposed to notice things when I'm out and about, but sitting, eating our picnic on the banks of the Morlaix river, my wife asked 'What are those white birds scything the water with their beaks?' They were a long way off, but it sounded for all the World as though they could be spoonbills. Out with the binoculars, and sure enough, she had spotted a pair of very uncommon shore birds. A few have been recorded in northern France before, and they have returned to the UK after 300 years, and a few pairs breed in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

Stewart Gould



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East Pennard Village Hall (Church Rooms)  
East Pennard Community drop-in is going well!  
Join us - Tuesday mornings between 10:30 & 12  
All welcome  
Tea/coffee/ laughter and lively conversation.

## **Sally's Christmas**



**In aid of Ditchheat Church Monday 8<sup>th</sup>  
December**

**In Ditchheat Jubilee Hall**

**£2 entry - includes Refreshments**

**Doors open at 6.30pm**

**Eyes down 7pm**

**All Welcome**



## The Wildlife Group Update

### Traditional gardening vs Wildlife gardening:

Being a Wildlife gardener is not always the easy option.

My mantra is "take a relaxed view to garden tidiness" to allow Wildlife some space to live. This might be to allow some longer grass with weeds/wildflowers in it to flower for pollinators, and plants to seed for birds, some ivy under trees as cover for over wintering insects or flowering up a fence for pollinators, some stacked stones in a sunny spot or a log pile in shade (lots of benefits, amphibians, birds, insects et al) and definitely some corrugated iron or roof felting lying around for a Slow-worm home.

Being a trained gardener, I know how to garden in a traditional way, but sometimes I struggle with the consequences of Wildlife gardening. The other day I had a rush of compost envy when I visited Charles Dowding's lovely plot. The boxed clippings from the grass had no flowers to spread seed into the brewing compost, because of regular mowing. The clippings were ideally layered evenly over some wood chip, and it got me thinking of my own compost heap.

*Isaac Capp's picture of a Gold Finch enjoying Teasel seeds.*



In the Summer we generate a lot of green material for the compost, (last month you may have noted that Charles was saying  $\frac{3}{4}$  greens to  $\frac{1}{4}$  brown material) and in the Winter it tends to be the other way round. Especially if you are leaving seedheads for birds and architectural form. A good trad gardener, cuts down plants as soon as they have done their thing, be that for food or flower. For instance, flowers and many vegetables have prolonged flowering or cropping if you snip away at them (deadheading Roses and bedding or harvesting cut and come again lettuce or broccoli). In wildlife gardening I leave my brassicas to flower creating early food for pollinators in the Spring, and in the Summer, I leave many flowers to set seed for the birds to enjoy. But here's



the rub, do I have lots of seeds in the compost, or should I not compost those plants? Maybe Charles would argue that if I was a better compost maker and turned my heap three times in a year the seeds would not be a problem. No doubt he's right, I'll have to try harder. But the benefits of allowing wildlife into your space are many, be generous to them.

**WLG      Photo**

**Competition for**

**November:**

Can you identify  
these fungi?

Answers by 9<sup>th</sup>

December

please.



**Photo competition results for October:** Congratulations to Paul, the Chinese Character moth (*Cilix glaucata*) tries to avoid being eaten by appearing to be a bird dropping.

### **Meeting Up:**

Any one for a **WLG social in January?**

Email me if you think it is a good idea.

I have some takers already, but the more the merrier, so let me know if you are interested.

**Tip:** The Autumn and Winter are a good time to review your provision of artificial wildlife homes and to give them a clean out. Some make good Christmas presents too. On the opposite page the Gifford's old fire hydrant was home to a Great Tit and its family.

### **Contact information:**

**Bridget Wadey** email: [thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com](mailto:thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com),  
or phone: 01749 860240. *You can follow our activities by:*

- **joining the Wildlife Group - it is free!**
- through the **Fosse Trinity News** (FTN) parish magazine
- **The FTN website:** [www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk)



## Ditchheat School

It's been a busy Autumn at Ditchheat Primary School.....

The school celebrated our Harvest Festival in church last Friday, it was a lovely occasion and the children presented/sang clearly and confidently in church.

We had generous donations of food and this has been taken to the Shepton Mallet Food bank to support local families.

Holly class recently enjoyed a fun filled active day out at Carymoor, learning about the Stone age. They dressed up, went in the round house, played hunting games and made Stone Age shelters.







Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have enjoyed a day at the Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury, this week, to learn more about Farming in the Olden days. They made butter by hand, flailed the wheat and ground the seed to make flour, dressed in old-fashioned smocks and explored the museum to see old farming tools.

Thank you to Fods for organising the Colour Run - this raised over £1500 and will help towards resources, trips, music lessons and the other extra Fods help to fund for us. It was a great spectacle to watch and the children

enjoyed the challenge and the mess of course! Thanks to the catering team from Fods too, who supplied hot dogs, cakes and other goodies afterwards.

Saturday was an exciting afternoon in Castle Cary, despite the high winds, as the local children prepared to take part in the Ann Hallett Children's carnival. The Ditcheat carnival team, led by Miss Cook, took on the 'Under the sea' theme with some stunning paper mache jelly fish and giant sharks and other



sea creatures. They looked very colourful and enjoyed parading around the town, with lots of waving to the crowds! Well done to them all for representing the school.

Elaine Cosser Head of School



## East Pennard and District Royal British Legion



With the arrival of November, our thoughts turn to Remembrance and the honouring of those who have fallen in conflict to protect our island. As the rest of the nation, our branch will hold a service on Remembrance Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, this year at East Pennard, starting at 10.45am. Following the commemoration in front of the war memorial, we will proceed into the church for the service.

Remembrance Day is, as always, the 11<sup>th</sup> November, the day when the guns fell silent at the end of World War I. We will commemorate this day with a short Act of Remembrance at Ditcheat's war memorial. Also on 11<sup>th</sup> November, the display of ceramic poppies at The Tower of London, marking 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II comes to an end.



Associated with Remembrance is the annual Poppy Appeal, which raises funds to help those members of the armed forces who need our help in many ways. Donation boxes will be placed in various static locations within the parishes, and we ask for your generosity in donating.

Door to door collecting in this area ceased a few years ago, as it did in many areas, but you will no doubt recall year after year, a collector calling on you, whatever the weather.

I was recently given a couple of photographs taken several years ago, maybe fifty or more, showing presentations being made to three collectors having achieved a certain milestone in the number of years they had been collecting.



Charles Evans

## Mendip Hills Hash House Harriers Visits FTN Area

Every Monday the Mendip Hills Hash House Harriers (MH4) go for a hash run.

Hashing, in the context of running, started in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1938. A group of British residents began meeting on Friday evenings to run in a similar way to the traditional British game of Hare and Hounds. One or two 'hares' would lay a trail using a trail marked by cut paper for the 'hounds' to find. Hashing ceased during the WW2, restarting afterwards but on Mondays.

Nowadays, there are hash runs all over the world. I did several hash runs with the Delhi Hash House Harriers in 1990 when I was there for a couple of months with work. Hashing has sometimes been described as "a drinking club with a running problem", showing what a social occasion it is.

These days the trail is laid with flour which is somewhat more environmentally friendly. However, the hares will also lay multiple false trails to mislead and slow down the faster runners. Typically, a hash run will be 4-5 miles.



On one of September's hashes, 52 of us met at Batch Farm in East Pennard. We followed footpaths, bridleways, tracks and the occasional road in the area prior to enjoying the Poutine laid on for us. Poutine is a Canadian (specifically Quebec) dish of French fries and cheese curds all smothered in hot brown gravy. We were well looked after by Batch Farm.

More recently in October, 38 hashers met at the Alhampton Inn. After the hash brief the trail laid by the hare (for this hash, me) led from the inn towards Ditcheat. Initially through Folly Drive, then north to take the back road through the village, passing The Manor, along Kite Lane before taking a footpath from near Barber's. The trail then led to and through Haddon Wood, now in pitch darkness



so head torches a necessity. The rope swing in Haddon Wood was extremely well used as can be seen. Finally, with the hash completed most hashers stayed for a drink or two in the recently CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) recognised inn.

One thing we all agree on - whether you run or walk we live in a lovely area.

If you would like to join us on any of the Mendip hashes you can find more information at <http://www.mendiph4.org.uk/>

Tim Sanders

## Vegetable Gardening

The dull days of November are a launching pad for spring, an opportunity to set up your space for next year. Then you will find it so much easier to succeed next March and April, with new seeds and plants.



It's no good to step outside in spring and start from scratch at that point. You will find you're always behind throughout the year. Start now!

Broad beans and garlic excepted, it's too late to make new sowings and plantings, November is potentially a time of some abundance, but if you did not find time for those new plantings in summer, the vegetable garden can look empty and depressing.

If that is the case, there's probably a fair few weeds. Be on it! Either remove them by hand if there's not too many, or cover thick weeds with cardboard, then on top of that spread 5 cm compost of any kind. That could be old woodchip, well-rotted animal manure, or your own compost, even if imperfect looking. Old tree leaves work nicely at this time, even new ones if you have no leaf mould.

There is no need to sieve any of this because winter frosts will make the lumps open as they freeze. That leaves you with a lovely soft and even surface next spring, after you rake it shallowly in early March.



The soil of your pathways also will benefit from spreading organic matter of some kind. Paths are easier to maintain when they are weed free so again, lay cardboard and then just 2 cm woodchip on top, not too much. Preferably in small pieces, and it can be conifer wood, because that does not acidify soil. As fungal threads decompose the wood, soil below will benefit from its extra organic matter.



If you did find time for summer planting and weeding, you can be enjoying leeks, kale, cabbage, beetroot, parsnips, salads, beetroot and more. As beds become empty after harvests, straightaway spread 3cm compost in readiness for spring. It will be here soon.

- 1. Spinach is frost hardy and is a top November harvest, from August sowing*
- 2. Savoy cabbage 4 months in the ground, first big frost late November*
- 3. Cardboard on paths and 10 cm old cow manure on beds with weeds smothered in November*

Charles Dowding



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A man with a beard, wearing a green cap and a blue shirt, is harvesting tomatoes in a greenhouse. He is reaching up to pick a cluster of red tomatoes from a vine. The greenhouse is filled with many tomato plants, some with green and some with red fruit. The word "crop" is written in a large, yellow, cursive font across the top of the image.

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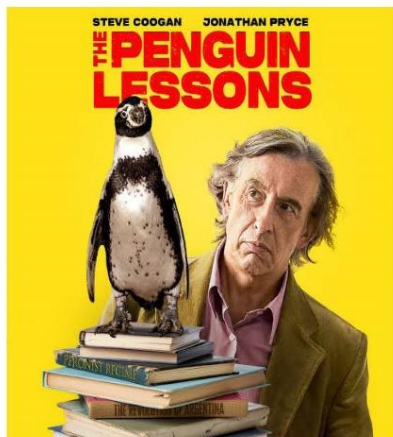
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Blackmore Vale



Brue Valley  
Rotary



The Rotary Club of Brue Valley  
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Friday 21st November

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**STARTING AT 7.30PM**

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## Help To Keep the Fosse Trinity News Helping You

Every month a team of volunteers is delighted to bring you our local community magazine. There are authors who pen contributions so you: know what the weather meted out; can peruse life around Ditchat 100 years ago; get advice on growing organic veg; expand your knowledge of the natural world; support our wildlife and much more.

Then there are photographers who provide atmospheric covers; distributors who pop the magazine through your door, gales and scary dogs notwithstanding. There's a clutch of editors and managers who: weave magic so you can view the mag online; liaise with advertisers; manage the finances; get and edit the copy; arrange the content on the pages; check there's no transgressing and provide a dose of committee common sense so we keep doing what we should.

Then there's you, dear reader. The volunteers get a warm fuzzy feeling but no payment. The cost comes in printing the 670 magazines and continues to rise. Advertising covers a fair whack (big thanks to them all) but, to ensure our magazine continues to be here to entertain, inform, promote local events and initiatives, and foster our sense of community in this beautiful place, we are asking you to make a donation. Each magazine costs around £1 and we print ten issues a year but anything offered will be gratefully received.



### You can donate:

**Online: Fosse Trinity News Sort code:60-04-33 Account: 68687214**  
**Drop an envelope marked FTN, into the box at Ditchat Church.**  
**Give your donation to any committee member to pass on.**

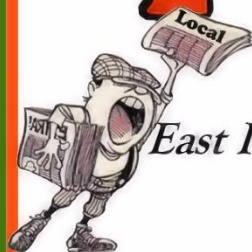
We're always looking for volunteers too. If you would like to find out more contact Margy - [editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk). **Thank you.**

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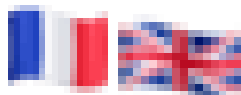
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## **Castle Cary and Ansford Twinning Association News 2025**

We have been twinned with the small town of R  malard, in lovely rural Normandy, for over forty years, so many people have enjoyed taking part in our exchanges. Despite its name, the Association is not limited to residents of Castle Cary and Ansford, but is open to anyone interested in cultural exchanges with our French counterparts. We have members from many local towns and villages.

We welcomed our French guests here again last May and shared a memorable evening with supper and folk dancing. The following day we visited Abbotsbury Gardens and Swannery in perfect spring weather. Next year it is our turn to visit France. We plan to travel by coach and ferry via Portsmouth and Caen on Thursday 28th May, returning on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in joining the association, please contact me or our membership secretary Dave Stickland

Susan Keen, Chairwoman

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

PRESENT: Chairperson - Councillor Hutton (RH) and Councillors Clark (HC), Thring (CT), Annetts (PA), Evans (CE), Sergeant (PS), Adams (LA) and Pearse (RP).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - The Clerk had sent apologies for absence.

MENDIP SOUTH DIVISION COUNCILLOR REPORT – noted.

CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – RH declared a disclosable interest in Item 155/25 c) as he is a neighbour.

MINUTES – of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

Health and Wellbeing initiative – the Clerk had an online meeting with Community Health & Wellbeing Officer (CHWO) at SALC on 6<sup>th</sup> August. The main points, ideas or outcome from the meeting were as follows:

- To establish need within the parish, undertake a survey – this can be done with help and support from CHWO at SALC.
- Contact Thrive (formerly Community Council for Somerset) to re-establish contact with Village Agent if the parish of Ditchat has been allocated a village Agent. A Village Agent is likely to be aware of parishioners who may welcome support and can also assist in obtaining that support. This is in progress.
- Make contact with the Primary Care Network and Connect Somerset which covers Ditchat, again to seek assistance with establishing if there are any parishioners who would welcome support from the community. This is in progress.
- Areas where need may be welcome could include: a 'Buddy Scheme' or befriending; a Warm Space provision; After School Support; Toy Library etc.
- The Parish Council needs to decide, if need is established, what it would be prepared to do to about meeting that need.

Resolved that Councillors would bring any suggestions to the next meeting. It was acknowledged that this would be an ongoing initiative.

Alhampton speed restriction invoice from Somerset Council - The Clerk reported that the invoice had still not been received.

Any matters not on the agenda – CE raised the matter of the acquiring of kissing gates which was dealt with under Item 160/25.

### PLANNING

APPLICATIONS – the following planning applications were considered:

Variation of condition 2 - of planning approval 2024/0431/HSE (Two storey and single storey extension to detached dwelling.) to reduce depth and increase width of single storey extension, fenestration and internal reconfiguration). 1 Coronation Cottages, Sutton. Ref: 2025/1386/VRC. **Outcome:** Resolved to support the granting of permission on the grounds that the changes were not of any significant impact to warrant any further comment from the PC.

Full planning application - Proposed two GRP cabins installed on concrete plinths, 4m x 9m fenced compound enclosed by 2.4m palisade fencing, extension of the existing gravel access track, retention of hedging to the north and east, underground cabling works between the solar array and grid connection point. Land At 362530 135983 Smiths Lane Ditchat Ref: 2025/1522/FUL. **Outcome:** to support the granting of permission on the grounds that the relocation of the cabins is a simple move and presents no concerns to the PC.

Conversion & extension of barn to self-contained tourism unit (Holiday let), Ox Barn, Wraxall. Ref: 2023/2341/FUL - noted that the applicant has appealed against the decision to refuse permission.

Higher Farm – the lack of clarity with regard to the activities that are taking place was discussed. RH and CE reported on the recent hearing for the variation of the licence to sell alcohol. The objections about traffic and noise which was raised at the hearing were not considered material to the licence application which was granted. RH further reported that he had met with the owners of Higher Farm, and the following points were made by the owners:

- The hospitality element of the business will close for the winter during which consideration will be given to whether and how to reopen the hospitality part of the business next year.
- The outcome of their deliberations will be communicated to the Parish council and then the residents of Sutton.
- It was re-iterated that the focus of the business remained as agro - ecology. The owners acknowledged during the meeting with RH that they were now aware of the issues within the village of Sutton

The Parish Council will monitor the situation and RH on behalf of the PC will continue to communicate with the owners of Higher Farm. Mendip South Division Councillors Claire Sully and Rob Reed had both been made aware of the concerns. The Clerk will follow up with the planning Department and Councillors Sully and Reed.

#### FINANCE

Balance of accounts – As of 31st August 2025 was £29,034.84. This includes a very generous donation of £100.00 from a parishioner, Mrs Lynne Hughes, for the Alhampton defibrillator fund and also a donation of £50.00 from the Alhampton Inn Quiz night again for the Alhampton defibrillator fund. The PC extends its thanks for these generous donations.

Approval of Parish Council payments for the following:

- 1) SLH Services Ltd for grounds maintenance in August - £210.00.
- 2) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's salary for period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - £896.08.
- 3) HMRC for PAYE/NICs for period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - £224.00.

RESOLVED - that the expenditure be approved, and the cheques issued.

The increased cost per hour for hire of the Church Room to £7.50 per hour or part thereof from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 was noted.

LCN SOUTH EAST – update from AGM - PS reported that there had been a presentation on Neighbourhood policing from the Community Policing team. There is a "street safe" app which can be downloaded and used if someone feels unsafe, it was suggested this be put on Facebook. The PSCO could visit the village to talk about online fraud. Parish preparedness was discussed. Parish Outline is a mapping tool - PS to find out if this is definitive. The next LCN meeting is in October.

PLAYGROUND - It was noted that it is planned that the work to reduce the tops of the 4 birch trees by approximately a third and raise the crowns will be done on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Any matters of report – RP reported that there is an increase in the amount of dog waste fouling on the playground. The Clerk will investigate if the bin was moved from the Church steps to the playground would it still be emptied free of charge. RP also mentioned that there had been thanks for having the matting repaired and for the monitoring of playground. The Council thanked HC and RP. It was also noted that the path alongside the playground was being kept in good order. HC will monitor the use of the dog waste bin by the Church steps to ensure that if the bin is relocated that that does not cause an unintended consequence of dog waste being put in the general litter bin at that location. PC will then consider if an additional bin for dog waste sited at the end of Kite Lane is required. The Clerk will investigate resultant costs – i.e. purchase and emptying.

#### HIGHWAYS

Briefing note on the Volunteer Highway Scheme - this was discussed. All volunteers wishing to undertake any work on or near the highway need in the first instance to seek agreement from the PC. The PC then needs to obtain a licence from Somerset Council (SC). All volunteers will need to have completed the online Highway Safety Awareness course, received a certificate and have signed to state that they have read the Highway Volunteer Training Handbook. The PC will need to provide the appropriate level of insurance; obtain a licence from SC; check that volunteers have complied with the above. It was noted that the most likely area which would affect DPC was the annual litter pick. The risk assessment for the litter pick will need to consider the requirement to inform SC in advance and to assess specifically the risk on the stretch of road from Arthurs Bridge going towards Ditchat.

Update on items/matters for repair previously reported. Grove Path resurfacing – on going. It was noted that the road on the corner opposite Folly Drive has been repaired. The problem of water pooling and the erosion of the side of road going towards Wraxall has, in the opinion of the PC, become a significant hazard. Despite a letter from Chris Barber to the Highways department and emails from the Clerk the Highways department have not classed this as a hazard but have listed it for repair. The Clerk will continue to raise the matter with the Highways Department.



New matters for report to the Highways department – The footpath outside the pub and round the corner is very uneven (as lorries are running over the kerb and edge of the pavement).

#### FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

Update on the 'lost' path that runs behind Moff Motors towards Castle Cary station which would allow pedestrian access from Alhampton – RH to meet with the relevant landowners to discuss a way forward. The Clerk had advised that the Rights of Way would provide 3 kissing gates to be replace some of the stiles in the parish. The Clerk will liaise with CE about when they will arrive and where they will be stored.

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL FEEDBACK – No comments had been received from parishioners on any issues or concerns arising from this year's festival. CT will request feedback from the traffic monitoring system that was in place during the festival period in preparation for briefing the relevant authorities.

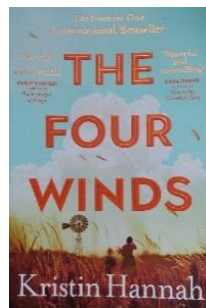
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### **Ditcheat Book Group**

*The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

The novel begins in 1921, describing a prosperous farming community in Texas. Elsa Wolcott, 25 years of age, was regarded by her family as unattractive and irrelevant and was resigned to spinsterhood.

A secret liaison with much younger Rafe Martinelli, led to pregnancy and disgrace. She was forced to marry and live with her husband's farming family. Determined to learn, Elsa worked hard and gradually won Rafe's parents respect and love although the relationship with her husband was a loveless one.



As the years passed farmers on the Great Plains of the US experienced a six-year drought; powerful dust storms destroyed crops and killed livestock. The resulting agricultural depression contributed towards the Great Depression which affected the entire world. Staying on the farm with no sign of the drought ending, Elsa decided, as did over a million people, to leave with her two children to find a better life in California. Here the huge influx of migrants was regarded with hostility. The only employment to be found was cotton picking and the pickers became trapped into a vicious cycle of living on credit.

The strength and courage shown by Elsa, however, ensured the survival of her family. The book demonstrates how important friendship is and explores how the relationship Elsa had with her daughter changed. Kristin has written many novels; this one has encouraged us to read more!

Vee Lees

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## St Mary Magdalene, Ditcheat

|                                                                | <u>Flowers</u>    | <u>Brass</u>   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>                          | Amanda Fisher     | Judith Rowsell |
| Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>                        | Margy Cockburn    | "              |
| Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>                                           | ADVENT No Flowers | "              |
| December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> | "                 | Lyn Steel      |

We would welcome new members of the team for flowers and brass cleaning. If you are interested please contact Jess Leach on XXXXXX.

## East Pennard Church Flowers & Cleaning Rota

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| November | Georgina Dearden |
|          | Bridget Wadey    |
| December | Helen Ablitt     |
|          | Hilary Tripp     |
| January  | Jane Allen       |
|          | Penny Kayes      |



I am delighted to announce that we have three people joining our Flowers and Cleaning team. There will always be room for anyone who would like to join in, so if you want to help out with the cleaning or flowers, (we are light on the window decoration team), please contact Bridget Tel: XXXXXX.

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## **Rector's Note**

As I write, in early October, I am wondering whether you have been experiencing the incredible sight of the full moon over the last couple of nights. It was so bright the other night that I thought I had left a light on downstairs by mistake. But I gather it is also a Supermoon, or perigee moon, when the moon is at the closest point to earth in its orbit. When it happens in October, it's also known as the Hunter's Moon, as traditionally October was the month when hunters would gather meat and other food in preparation for the long winter months ahead. In many cultures, this moon has been regarded as a symbol of abundance, renewal and spiritual reflection, marking a time of balance between light and darkness. (Thanks to Google for all these details!)

So, as the nights draw in, but our daytimes remain incredibly sunny, I can only admire the balance and beauty of our world and how extraordinary it is in its detail. Our harvest services have helped us to think about how it is possible, for example, that every living thing on this planet could have developed in such minutely individual ways over the millennia. For me, only an omnipotent and omniscient God could have the capacity to design such an incredible world. You may have heard a fascinating discussion between scientists on Radio 4 in early October, exploring whether Big Bang theory can possibly explain how our planet has developed, and concluding not only that there must have been something before the Big Bang in order for the Big Bang to have happened, but also that only a being like God could possibly have conceived of a universe like ours. For scientists to admit that is remarkable and, on my part at least, to be very much welcomed.

On the theme of spiritual renewal, you will have seen the announcement that we will be having a new Priest in Charge ('vicar') as from the end of February next year. His name is Revd James Sharp and he will be coming to us from Hampshire with his wife Andi. They have three grown-up children, who all live away from home. James and Andi will live in the Rectory at Pilton but he will be responsible for leading the ministry in all seven of our parishes. I will continue to support James, to help him settle in and find his own way of working with us all.

God bless you and yours.

Rosalind Paul (Retired Priest)





**Church Services for November  
In the Parishes of Ditchheat with  
Alhampton, East Pennard, Pylle,  
Pilton, North Wootton and Croscombe**



|                                           |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b><br>10.30 am  | <b>All Saints and All Souls</b><br><b>Joint Holy Communion at North Wootton</b> |
| <b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b><br>10.45 am  | <b>Remembrance Sunday at East Pennard</b><br>NB revised time and location       |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b><br>10.00 am | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent</b><br><b>Holy Communion at Ditchheat</b>       |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b><br>10.00 am | <b>Christ the King</b><br><b>Holy Communion at Alhampton</b>                    |
| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b><br>10.00 am | <b>Advent Sunday</b><br><b>Holy Communion at Pylle</b>                          |

**Church Services for December**

|                                                         |                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b><br>9.30 am                 | <b>Advent 2</b><br><b>Joint Holy Communion at East Pennard</b>                                     |
| <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b><br>10.00 am               | <b>Advent 3</b><br><b>Holy Communion at Ditchheat</b>                                              |
| <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b><br>6.30 pm                | <b>Carol Service</b><br><b>at Ditchheat</b>                                                        |
| <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b><br>10.00 am<br>6.30 pm    | <b>Advent 4</b><br><b>Holy Communion at Alhampton</b><br><b>Carol Service at East Pennard</b>      |
| <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b><br>4.30 pm<br>11.00 pm | <b>Christmas Eve</b><br><b>Crib Service at Ditchheat</b><br><b>Midnight Communion at Ditchheat</b> |
| <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b><br>11.00 am             | <b>Christmas Day</b><br><b>Holy Communion at East Pennard</b>                                      |

*Email contacts are on page 46*

PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED

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### **Fosse Trinity News**

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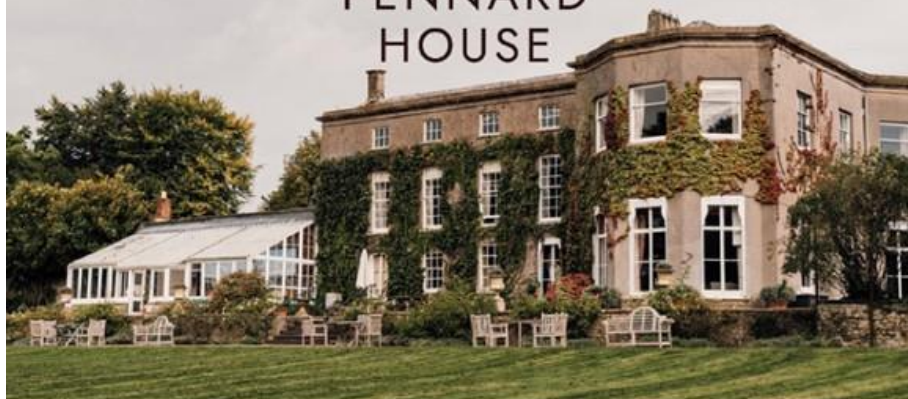
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