An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a dark, irregularly shaped pond is surrounded by tall, golden-brown grasses. A small island of grass is in the center of the pond. The middle ground shows a large field with a grid-like pattern, possibly a field of young plants or a field being prepared for planting. The background features a small town or village with several buildings, including a church with a steeple, and more fields under a clear sky.

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MARCH 2026

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Welcome to March's Fosse Trinity News.

Although this is the time of the year that we start to think about wearing tee shirts again it appears that life jackets might be more appropriate attire with the weather of late. For some insight of this have a look at John's analysis on page 6.

For some culture nearby Lamyatt are screening the National Theatre Live showing of Arthur Miller's All My Sons, page 10.

The Wildlife group have arranged a women's cycle ride (page 11) and a women's hazel sculpting session (page 41).

Fosseway Gardening are hearing about new thinking about insects – see opposite page.

Not forgetting the men there's a free prostate cancer screening session (pre-book only), page 42.

And a warm welcome to the new rector, Revd. James Sharp, page 46.

For choral delights see page 34, and for a change to the previously advertised film page 34 – *I Swear*.

Here's hoping for some warmer and drier weather!

*Margy Cockburn Tim Sanders*

Front cover: A Wintery Haddon Wood Pond by Tim Sanders ©.  
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).

Refer to the Legal Declarations at the end of the magazine on using copyrighted material.

# Dates for your Diary



## Regular Events

		Weekly	Monthly	
<b>Mon</b>	✓		Pilates (9.00)	Michelle XXXXXX
	✓	✓ 4 <sup>th</sup>	Crafternoon (2.00)	Marion XXXXXX
<b>Tue</b>		✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rendezvous (10.00)	Lynda XXXXXX
		✓ 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
<b>Wed</b>			Ditcheat History Group	Roger XXXXXX
	✓		Badminton	Sam XXXXXX
<b>Wed</b>	✓		Ditcheat Short Mat Bowls (7.00)	Martin XXXXXX
<b>Thu</b>			Yoga (9.15)	Clare XXXXXX
	✓		Chair Stretch for Seniors (10.45)	Clare XXXXXX
			BA4 Runners (18.30)	Aimee XXXXXX
<b>Fri</b>		✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Folk Dance Club (7.00)	Ama/Peter XXXXXX
<b>Sat</b>		✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Men's Breakfast (8.30)	Roger XXXXXX
	✓		Yoga (9.00)	Clare XXXXXX

## March

Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am	Rendezvous	Lynda XXXXXX P14
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm	Fosseway Gardening Club	P5
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am	Wild Women Cycle Ride	P11
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> c10.00am	Prostate Cancer Screening	P42 (Pre-book)
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm	Sally's Easter Bingo	P35
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm	The Big Quiz, Jubilee Hall	P29
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	Coffee Morning and Garden Sale, Jubilee Hall	P37
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> 12.30pm	Village Lunch	Jessica XXXXXX P14

## Further Ahead

Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm	National Theatre Live - Lamyatt	P10
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	Wild Women Crafty Session	P41

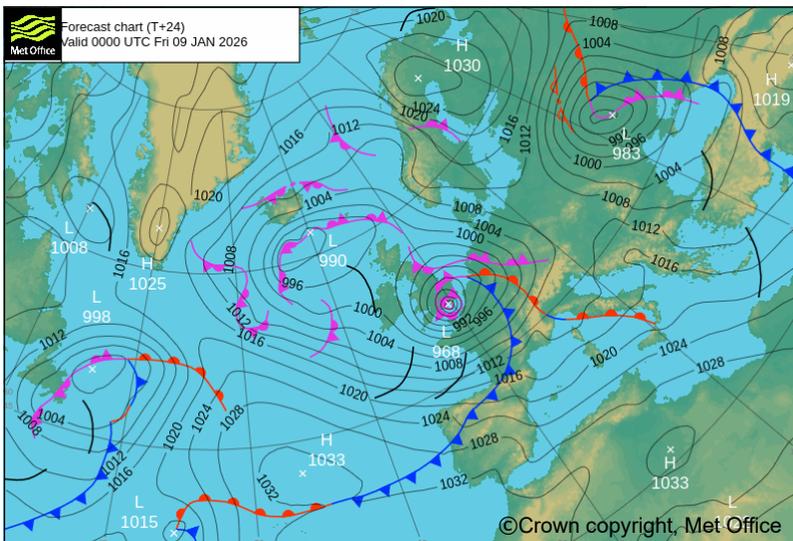


## Alhampton Weather – January 2026

“water, water, everywhere...” goes the line from “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” and that certainly sums up January. After a cold, dry start the wet weather arrived, has stayed and looks like continuing. Three storms, Goretta, Ingrid and Chandra, produced prodigious amounts of rain. There were only three dry days and overall 175 mm of rain, over 50% more than normal. Local records show that in 2014 we had a similarly wet January so this month was not unique. Goretta was enormously damaging and the map below shows the point at which it really hit the west country

The explanation for this unwelcome pattern is reported to lie in North America where an exceptionally cold, polar airstream has settled (snow in Texas!), which has supercharged the Jetstream. As a result a succession of deep depressions loaded with rain have headed our way. This has been exacerbated by an entrenched area of high pressure over northern Europe meaning the depressions have become very slow moving as they are trapped. Some of this weather has been forced south affecting France and Spain. Storm Ingrid was named by the Portuguese. So we are not alone.

Looking ahead the wet pattern is set to remain. There is a possibility that this will be broken for a few days later in February with cold weather pushing south, but it is not expected to stay for long. Thereafter, the long range forecasts favour a return to damp, mild weather though possibly not as wet as we have seen in recent weeks.



John Clarke

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Recently filmed live from Wyndham's Theatre, Bryan Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste feature in this triumphantly acclaimed, sell-out, new production of Arthur Miller's classic. One family, the heart of the American dream. When wartime delivers profits for Joe, it comes at a price when his partner is charged with criminal manufacturing deals, and his eldest son goes missing in action. Will peacetime bring peace of mind, or will he be confronted by the consequence of his actions?

**Tickets £10 including complimentary canapes.**

**Doors open at 6.30pm. Performance 7pm.**

**Pre-performance and interval bar - cash/contactless payment.**

<https://buytickets.at/lamyattvillagetrust1/2030897>

NB. There is some strobe lighting during this performance





# The Wildlife Group

## **Wild Women go Cycling**

**Meeting at:** Pylle Church, Pylle Lane, BA4 6TD  
what3words: clapper.scanner.jars

**Date and Time:** 10 am, Monday 16th March 2026

### Description:

5 mile circular ride along bendy but flattish country roads plus short downhill section of A37.

Cafe stop at 4 miles

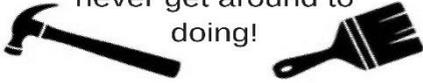


Contact: [thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com](mailto:thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com)  
to join the Wild Women WhatsApp group

**Wild Women let loose in Nature**

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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 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Roast Pork  
Lemon & Herb Salmon  
Vegetable Crumble

Selection of Puddings. Tea or Coffee.

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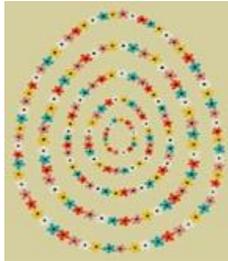
If you would like to come let Jessica Leach (XXXXXX) or Vee Lees (XXXXXX) know by the previous Wednesday. There will be a raffle as usual - any prizes will be welcome.

## **RENDEZVOUS**

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**10 – 11:30 am**

**Jubilee Village Hall, Ditcheat**



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everyone welcome  
Contact Lynda XXXXXX**



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## The Wildlife Group Update

### **Phosphates (P) briefing continued:**

Coming into Spring the WLG is more active, to complete the briefing will take longer than I thought, sorry. I hope you stay the course or read the book.

Looking at the Phosphate (P) conundrum, the aim is to

1. Sustain high levels of food production
2. Minimise or eliminate the losses of P from cropland, from farm animals and from human excreta
3. And that P reserves will last indefinitely, ie totally sustainable by 2050

**Population:** the forecasts range between 8.8 and 10.8 Billion by 2050. The Authors of the Phosphate book strongly support increased access to education, and to business and financial opportunities for **women** as this usually results in lower family size. Only a small shift in the global fertility rate is needed to ensure the lower population figure succeeds over the larger. Remember the Paul Ehrlich equation from last month? Affluence does place more stress on the planet for example eating more meat, but this isn't a given.

People can choose a more sustainable way of living.

We can break down the global P conservation into **efficiency measures** in food production and **recycling** of Phosphorus.

**Efficiency measures:** These include efficiency in fertiliser application, only apply what you need at the right time and place. Avoiding transfers of P from the land to water. Breed plants that aren't so lazy, possibly using GM breeding. Avoid Biofuels grown in soil, instead use the closed systems of algae biofuel or microbe-based systems. Get the detail right of animal rearing for efficiencies in the use of P. We have to look at global efficiencies in our food chain, eliminating waste from the farm to fork and in the home. Also, if our diets are largely legumes instead of meat it is a much more efficient use of P.

Next month we will look at recycling Phosphorus.

### **What we've done:**

The WLG has been very busy this Winter. We had a fantastic **Social** in January which was kindly hosted by David Bailey at **The View**. He gave an interesting chat about the Vineyard and how they make accommodations for wildlife and then we had a delicious meal and just a great time meeting new people or catching up with friends. The View made a lovely venue, thank you David.

The planning of this year's events has taken place with the key people of the **WLG**, the **Family WLG**, the **Meadows Support Group** and our new **Wild**

**Women club (WW).** The latter two groups have new leaders who will coordinate the activities and the **WhatsApp groups** that will be the main form of communication. It will still be possible to email the WLG, see contact information below, especially if you want to join a WhatsApp group. Still to meet up is the **Love your Burial Ground Week** planning group.

**Meadow Support Group:** leader **Lynn Alderson.** The group is designed to bring together anyone who is trying to make or manage a Wildflower meadow or similar. Large or small projects are all welcome, as are different ranges of expertise.

**Wild Women:** leader **Elaine Crow.** This group is for ladies who would appreciate the support of other women to allow them to enjoy doing things in the great outdoors. Its inaugural event was on 16<sup>th</sup> February but there will be a cycling activity on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, see poster on page 11.

**Photo competition results for November:** Congratulations to Paul, Kate's visitor was a Smooth/Palmate Newt. Difficult to tell in photo.

**WLG Photo Competition for March:**  
Can you identify this Winter hardy fungi? Answers by 9<sup>th</sup> March please.



Picture by Daphne Osmond

### **Meeting up:**

We have planned a whole series of WLG and FWLG events but in March we have:

- **WLG** date TBC visit to Great Ridge Wood I will email out details
- **WW** Two activities planned 16<sup>th</sup> March Cycling (page 11) and 18<sup>th</sup> April Craft (page 41)
- **FWLG** Lambing Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2.00-4.00

**Contact details:** Bridget Wadey

Email: [thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com](mailto:thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com),  
or phone: 01749 860240. *You can join in activities by:*

- **joining the Wildlife Group - it is free!**
- **join in a WhatsApp group:** WLG, FWLG, Meadows & WW
- Follow the WLG through the **Fosse Trinity News (FTN)** magazine or its **web page:** [www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk)

## Gardening

At last, we cross the equinoctial transition to summer months, with more light and dark. This is significant not only for day length, but also because the sun is higher in the sky and can warm the ground more rapidly, even when it's only briefly present.



Using fleece covers makes such a big difference to growth at this time of year. I lay covers on all new sowings and plantings, to enjoy several advantages:

- 1 Faster growth through conversion of otherwise wasted light into new warmth.
- 2 Protection of seedlings from pigeons and rabbits.
- 3 Earlier harvests of the first plantings, so there's more chance for second plantings in the summer.

At this point the third consideration might seem less important, but it makes a huge difference to how much you will harvest. Here are a few examples of possible second plantings, and you can make all of the first sowings during March.

<b>First vegetable of a year</b>	<b>Examples of second vegetable to follow</b>
Beetroot sown early March	Leek, chicory, kohlrabi
Broad Bean sown early March	Beetroot, kale, chard, chicory
Early brassicas planted early April	Dwarf beans, beetroot, carrots
Carrots sown early April	Cabbage, celery, beetroot
Fennel planted early April	Dwarf beans, beetroot, salad onions
Kohlrabi transplanted early April	Summer squash
Lettuce	Celery, leeks, kale
Onion, shallot for bulb	Kohlrabi, savoy cabbage, lettuce
Onions for salad planted March	Dwarf or climbing beans, summer squash
Pea first early and pea shoots	Broccoli, leeks, salad onions, beetroot
Potatoes early planted March	Leeks, beetroot, broccoli, kale
Potatoes second early planted April	Leeks, kale, lettuce, chicory, endive
Radish early sown, planted March	Winter squash, climbing beans, courgette
Spinach (not leaf beet) planted March	Carrot, beetroot, cabbage, kale
Turnips planted March	Beetroot, leeks, kale, carrots

March is also an excellent month for sowing tomatoes. You may wonder if you're too late because so many gardeners sow them in February, but I always sow mine around 10th March. After equinox is a good time to sow melons, while it's good to wait until 10th April before sowing cucumbers.

Charles Dowding

**EAST PENNARD CHURCH BIG CLEAN**  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 10.00



All welcome to join the COMMUNITY BIG CLEAN, bring your marigolds.  
Polish and refreshment provided.  
Let's make this a bit of a get together as well as keeping our beautiful church in good order.



Image by Free Vector

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- Shopping
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Please call Sue on 860026.

References are available on request

---

## Village Lunch

On January 27<sup>th</sup> we marked the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of the lunch which began in January 2006 with a special cake. All are welcome to the lunches on the last Tuesday of the month in Ditcheat Jubilee Hall at 12.30. The monthly menu is in the FTN magazine together with phone numbers for booking.



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## Ditchheat School

We have survived the floods and storms over the last week luckily and children and staff managed to get into schools safely.



At the start of term, the children experienced a Dare to Dream day, lead by Mr Tostevin and TLR sports. The theme was about making and reaching your goals and be inspired to do great things and careers in the future.

This week the Octagon theatre came into school and did a drama workshop with Willow class, which they enjoyed – lots of work around mime and facial expressions was learnt. The Ks2 children have been so inspired by our work on



Cinderella that they created their own play script, which they acted out to an audience. We look forward to these skills coming into place for our summer production!

On Thursday, the Eco team joined the teams from other Federation schools - Upton Noble and Bruton, to attend the Sustainable Futures Conference- held at the Yeovil Football ground. We all went together by minibus with Mrs Bisset. The 3 Eco teams presented to a room full of primary schools on sustainable houses, electric cars and the use of AI. It was a fascinating day, learning more about AI and the future of sustainable careers. They also met and attended many company



workshops in a trade hall- Kier, NHS, Environment Agency and much more. They collected many freebies! We hope to invite many of the companies into school to do workshops and careers talks.



Mrs Cosser will be travelling to Zambia this weekend, with two staff from Bruton Primary to visit our new link school (Muansobe Primary School in Mufilira, Zambia – see Google Earth). Mrs Cosser will be taking Ditcheat Dave the teddy bear in uniform and will be blogging each day to show the Ditcheat children what she has been doing in the school next week. Mrs Cosser will be spending a week teaching and observing lessons, planning with the teachers and taking the pen pal letters and special Ditcheat Book; 'A day in the Life.' Ditcheat children can ask Mrs Cosser questions via email with their teachers. Mrs Bisset is hoping to have a live virtual assembly with Zambia and Ditcheat and Bruton school to see live what's happening. Mrs Cosser is taking out many resources from our fundraising including maths resources (protractors and compasses), art equipment (watercolours, felt tips and oils +), pencils, pens, maps and atlases as a gift for hosting our visit.

Today in assembly, we found our school on Google Earth and the children saw their finished book, which will be given as a gift – all about Ditcheat. Do look at the daily blogs and keep up to date via the school website, under Community tab:

<https://www.ditcheatprimary.org.uk/zambia-link-school-work/>

Mrs Cosser will share more about Zambia on her return after half term.

If you would like to look around our school, do please call the school office on 01749 860329 for a personalised tour.

**Written by Mrs Cosser**  
**Head of School Ditcheat Primary School**



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## Somerset Stumpers

Welcome to the puzzle pages – whether you're a dab hand or just trying them out, we hope you enjoy them.

The **cryptic crossword** clues are riddles which contain the necessary materials and instructions to deduce the answer; you develop experience by attempting them! See the answers page for the start of a series of tips.

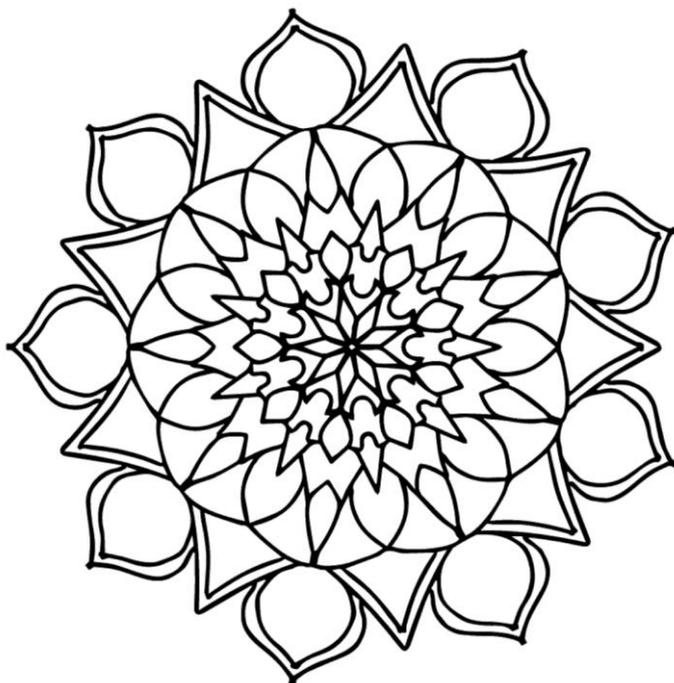
The **quick crossword** clues are synonyms or words that are related in usage to the required answers. There are no riddles.

**Sudoku** puzzles present a grid with cells, some of which have a number in them. Each row, column, and 3x3 box should have the numbers 1 to 9 within their nine-cell container, with only one occurrence of each number in the container. You have to then figure out and fill the empty cells.

The answers to all the puzzles are on one separate page. Enjoy.

Brian Jaques

And for those yet to grow into crosswords here's some colouring-in!



taken from <https://mondaymandala.com>

The puzzles are adapted, with kind permission of the copyright holder, from the website of *Simple Daily Puzzles* (<https://simplydailypuzzles.com>).

**Sudoku**  
 The object of the puzzle is to insert numbers into the boxes to satisfy only one condition: each row, column, and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

**Codeword**  
 Complete the coded grid with all the letters of the alphabet to construct real words - you are given a start. As the missing letters are found complete the gallery table alongside.

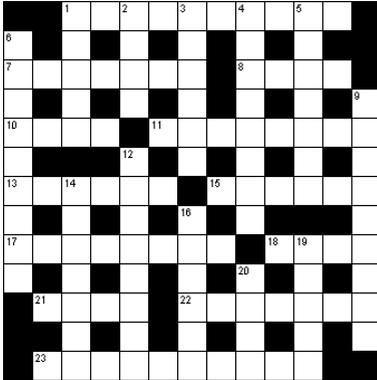
							2	4
				7	4			5
	7	1		5		6		
	9	5				3	8	2
6	2	7				1	4	
		2		1		8	5	
9				8	6			
5	6							

	5		18		1		2		18		9		17	
10	7	23	3	3	23	21	24		21	18	20	26	18	13
	18		20		4		7		22		7		14	
14	18	16	26	21	6	4	6	24	11		2	4	14	6
	22		2		24		25		3		13		23	
17	18	9	14	18	7		21	18	18	15	4	18	9	9
			23		2		15						6	
16	6	12	16	6	3	10		24	6	4	5	23	21	24
	19						6		19		2			
10	18	2	14	21	23	1	9		18	4	23	12	23	7
	7		26		21		14		7		7		16	
16	26	6	13		5	6	7	18	5	23	21	24	18	7
	2		2		2		23		4		18		10	
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1	14
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13	26

## Somerset Stumpers

### Simple Crossword QU2



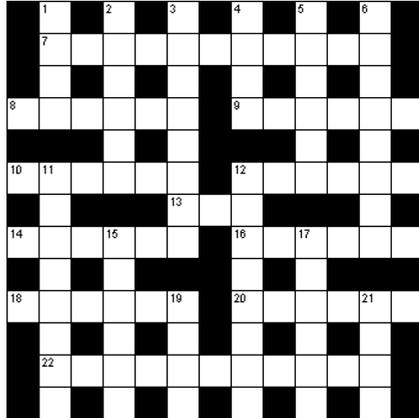
#### Across

- 1 Miscellany (10)
- 7 Rider's footrest (7)
- 8 Long story (4)
- 10 Depose (4)
- 11 Age of majority (8)
- 13 Frail (6)
- 15 Confer, impart (6)
- 17 Capable of being touched (8)
- 18 Speedy (4)
- 21 Volcanic matter (4)
- 22 Songbird (7)
- 23 Dramatist (10)

#### Down

- 1 Wrong (5)
- 2 Villein (4)
- 3 Mend (6)
- 4 Naughtiness (8)
- 5 Fail to care for (7)
- 6 Colleague (9)
- 9 Blizzard (9)
- 12 Common, everyday (8)
- 14 Type of pigeon (7)
- 16 Not so fast (6)
- 19 Apportion (5)
- 20 Boast (4)

## Cryptic Crossword CR2



#### Across

- 7 Motion in favour of standing (11)
- 8 Steady place for horses (6)
- 9 Clergyman going round in circle (6)
- 10 Tool found by architect in front of church (6)
- 12 Space traveller from remote parts (6)
- 13 Card for the expert (3)
- 14 The effect of one member on legislation (6)
- 16 Nicholas and Edward get arrested (6)
- 18 Crazy bird (6)
- 20 Sharp bar put off (6)
- 22 A sort of terminal cut (11)

#### Down

- 1 Notice a mark (4)
- 2 Sweet that is twice as good in France? (6)
- 3 A bit of a change for show team (8)
- 4 Metal used by Heinz in cans (4)
- 5 Straightfroward letters of credit (6)
- 6 A new diet not a remedy (8)
- 11 Odd sort of horse that is made to drink (3,5)
- 12 People correspond - by telepathy? (8)
- 15 In Pakistan Karachi is an Asian capital (6)
- 17 Found fault with new red cap (6)
- 19 Gem obtained for a pound after work (4)
- 21 Post Office trainees emptied containers (4)

Adapted from [Simply Daily Puzzles](#), with thanks to the copyright holder



# THE MANOR HOUSE INN DITCHEAT

## WHAT'S ON?

Our spring menu launches on the 10<sup>th</sup> March. Treat yourself to your winter faves before we adjust with the seasons and sunny days on the terrace arrive.

Catch the last of the Six Nations with us - showing every match in the skittle alley.

Start the weekend right and come see us for Friday night drinks (and the bar snacks are on us)!

We've long welcomed four-legged friends to accompany you in the bar, but dogs are now welcome to stay overnight in the pub too! Great news if you have family & friends visiting who can't bear to be away from their pets. Dogs are charged at £20 per night and are welcomed with a goodie-bag. Get in touch to enquire about our dog-friendly stays.

IN CONVERSATION WITH NEARFIELD

# CHICKPEA. CHATS

**11.03.26**

## RUTH CRILLY

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1900 - 2030

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*Ditcheat Jubilee Hall*

# THE BIG QUIZ

Super prizes

'Heads or Tails' cash jackpot

£10 per team/table  
max. 5 per team



**Ditcheat Jubilee Hall**

**Friday 27th March**

Come for a drink before the show  
Doors & Bar open 6.30pm, start 7.30pm

Scan the QR code  
or pay at the door - just £10 per team

## The Natural World



Bee on dandelion – *Theodyssey*  
via *wikimedia*

Spring is in the air, and not before time. Hazel catkins, snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses gave us an inkling of what was to come, but now we're seeing blackthorn hedges in full bloom and fields will soon be blanketed with dandelion flowers. Every gardener detests dandelions, but for a beekeeper and all pollinating insects, they are a wonderful sight. Dandelions provide nectar, which honeybees will turn into a very flavoursome

honey, but they are also an incredible source of pollen. Nectar when converted to honey, provides insects with instant energy. It's an insect sugar rush, and honeybees will store it for use in winter, but what on earth do bees and other insects need pollen for?

I've mentioned before that plants have absolutely no use for nectar themselves, and only produce it to attract pollinating insects. Several years ago I had to attend an AGM of Somerset Beekeepers where the guest speaker was Michael Keith-Lucas, the uncle of Sarah Keith Lucas, the BBC weather forecaster. I was expecting one of the most boring talks possible, as the subject was 'pollen'. It was quite the opposite. Michael Keith Lucas was a criminal palynologist. He assisted the police in finding criminals based on pollen found on suspects clothing, or at the scene of a crime, and the one piece of advice he gave was that if you commit a murder, you should never hide the body in the woods, because pollen traces would tell a palynologist straight away, where the crime had taken place.



Honeybee with pollen –  
*coniferconifer* via  
*wikimedia*

Pollen is strategically located in flowers so that insects collecting nectar have to pass the *stamen* (male part of the flower) which holds the pollen, and in so doing, dislodge pollen which gets trapped in hairs on their bodies. Totally oblivious, they buzz off to the next flower and when trying to get to the nectar, not only brush past the male element, but also the *stigma* (female part of the flower) and a small amount of pollen can dislodge and attach itself to the stigma – hey presto! pollination has started. As if by magic, the pollen grows a tail which penetrates the stigma and wends its way down to the ovary and reproduction is complete. Many plants are wind pollinated, but an enormous amount rely on

third parties, whether they be moths, butterflies, birds, bats or other oblivious beings that have brushed against them.

Pollen is vital to the reproduction of most plants, but some really sneaky ones ensure their continuity with a belt and braces approach, and our 'friend' the dandelion is a prime example. It produces enormous amounts of bright yellow pollen, and I certainly know when my bees have been feasting on them, because the honey comb in the hives turns a bright yellow in patches where the bees have been depositing nectar or pollen from dandelions. The crafty dandelion though, isn't totally reliable on pollination to be able to reproduce. It can – and does reproduce that way, but can also produce fertile seeds by a process called apomixis, a form of asexual reproduction where seeds develop without fertilization, producing offspring genetically identical to the parent – a clone.

Some creatures, including honeybees, also collect pollen intentionally, which rather diminishes the efficacy of fertilization by pollen. Pollen has to be rich in nutrients to nurture the seed element of its cargo and this is why it is often sought out as a food source. All species of bees, and many other insects, collect it to feed their offspring. Bees in particular, mix pollen and nectar (or honey) to create 'bee bread' and this is fed to the larvae (grubs) so that they can grow and develop into adult bees. We've all read the story of the hungry caterpillar, and bee larvae are just a bee version of caterpillars. They gorge themselves on this bee bread, which supplies all the necessary nutrients, salts and fats for them to grow and grow. It also encourages developmental changes which encourage those larvae to undergo physical changes. Unlike butterfly caterpillars which create their own pupal protection (chrysalis), bee larvae are sedentary, not moving from their cells and are fed by adults until they are plump enough to pupate. The adult bees then seal them beneath a capping of beeswax and pollen (yes pollen) which allow the wax to breathe, and there they remain while metamorphizing into a completely different creature – an adult bee.

Honey bee queens lay male eggs and female eggs, and they can determine the sex of their offspring, but when it comes to producing a new queen, that is decided by the other female bees in the hive. They select a very young female larva and feed it a 'bee bread' cocktail of very rich, pollen enhanced, food. That enriched food makes physical changes in the larva, and it becomes anatomically different to the other females in the hive, with longer legs, and an extended abdomen, which houses enormous ovaries, and a queen is born.



*Queen bee -Stewart Gould*

Stewart Gould

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# Vivaldi Gloria

## Joint Choral Concert

Bruton Choral Society, King's Bruton Chapel Choir  
St Mary's Church Choir & Stringendo Ensemble

\*

Conductor: Ashley Marshfield

\*

St Mary's Bruton, Sunday 22 March 5pm

**£10 (18 and under free)**  
**Bruton Convenience Store, 01749 813161**  
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**Proceeds to St Mary's Bruton**

DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL LITTER PICK

WILL BE HELD ON  
SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE MEET AT 9.00AM:-

- AT THE JUBILEE HALL CAR PARK FOR DITCHEA AND WRAXALL
- AT THE ALHAMPTON INN CAR PARK FOR ALHAMPTON AND SUTTON.

*Rubbish bags will be provided. **It is essential to wear gloves and high-viz jacket or top.***



Robert Aramayo, Peter Mullan, Maxine Peake  
**Ditcheat Jubilee Hall**



**Friday 20th March**  
Come for a drink before the show  
Doors & Bar open 6.30pm, start 7.30pm  
Scan the QR code  
or buy tickets at the door - just £5.00

# Sally's Easter BINGO

In aid of Ditchheat Church

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Ditchheat Jubilee Hall

£2 entry - includes Refreshments

Doors open at 6.30pm, Eyes down 7pm

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**2026**

# Potato Days

[www.pennardplants.com](http://www.pennardplants.com)

## Pewsey

Small Admission Fee &  
Refreshments

(Saturday) 31st January 2026 10 am to 1 pm  
Bouverie Hall, Goddard Rd. Pewsey SN9 5QE

## Castle Cary

Free Admission &  
Refreshments

(Sunday) 1st February 2026 10 am to 1 pm

Our 'Pennard Plants' Somerset Potato Day

Caryford Community Hall, Maggs Lane, Ansford, Castle Cary, BA7 7JJ

## Marshfield

Small Admission Fee &  
Refreshments

(Saturday) 14th February 2026 10 am to 1-30 pm

Marshfield Community Centre, The Hayfield, Marshfield, SN14 8PG

## Frome

Small Admission Fee &  
Refreshments

(Sunday) 15th February 2026 10 am to 2 pm

Growing Frome Potato Day & Seed Swap

The Cheese & Grain, Market Yard, Justice Lane, Frome, BA11 1BE

Attended by Pennard Plants with wide range of Products, Heritage Seeds,  
Fruit plants & Potatoes. Also Fantastic Food, Workshops, Talks etc.

## Seedy Saturday Timsbury

Small Admission Fee &  
Refreshments  
& other Stalls

(Saturday) 14th March 2026 10 am to 2 pm

Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury BA2 0JQ

If you cant make it to our potato days, you can still order from our Website



Please keep abreast of any changes including admission fees and opening times  
via our website: [www.pennardplants.com](http://www.pennardplants.com)

## Ditcheat Book Group

### The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

The book, published in 2021 proved to be a very popular read as it coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic when many people felt isolated and anxious. At the age of 24 Haig had a nervous breakdown and he has used his own mental health experiences to write other novels on the subject.

The narrative begins with 35 year old Nora Seed hovering between life and death having overdosed thinking her whole life was pointless.

She becomes aware that she is in a vast library and is astonished to see her old school librarian, Mrs Elms who had been kind to her when Nora's Father had died suddenly. She explained to Nora that she had the chance to live all the past lives she could have had by going back to a time when she had made decisions she later regretted. She then went on to say that having sampled a life but decided against it she could never go back.

Nora experiences the 'what might have been' each time she selects a different career or pathway. It takes courage for Nora when she is suddenly thrown into situations where she has to improvise because for her everything is strange and new. People surrounding her often think her behaviour is unusual! Sometimes not knowing where to travel to next Nora is encouraged by Mrs Elms to experiment with lives she hadn't even thought of, occasionally meeting others who are also searching for a reason to live. Eventually she must choose to survive or not.

The book is in essence a series of short stories, quite funny in parts but by no means a compulsive read. It could be described as an intriguing and cleverly written self-help book.



Vee Lees

SOMERSET LEVELS RIDING FOR THE DISABLED CARRIAGE DRIVING

COFFEE MORNING and GARDEN SALE

SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026 10.30 – 12.30

THE CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT

COFFEE, CAKE, PLANTS, ETC.

# **REPORT OF EAST PENNARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

## **Held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm**

### **Public Participation**

None

**Present:** Adrian Pearse (Chairman), Martin Dearden, Roger Cock, Paul Heal, Martin Llewellyn, Claire Sully (County Councillor), Hilary Tripp (Clerk), Kerry Dodd (Footpath Officer) and 7 members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

None

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

An addition was made to the Matters Arising item of the minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to say that Adrian Pearse and Martin Dearden had declared an interest when discussing the Withial Combe Lane issue. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Matters Arising**

- **Cockmill Lane junction** – Roger Cock has moved some of the stones and the others have been pushed well back in. They have not been painted as they are easily visible.
- **Gov.uk emails** – the clerk was in the process of setting this up.
- **Withial Combe Lane** – see correspondence.
- **Anvil House** – this application has been refused because of phosphate mitigation. Claire Sully will bring up this application at a new planning surgery at the Somerset Council.

### **4. Financial Report**

The bank balance is £19,130, about half of which is the Glastonbury Festival donation. Putting some into a deposit account to earn interest will go on the agenda for the next meeting. Precept - it was agreed to increase this by the rate of inflation, 4%, to £4,160.

### **5. Glastonbury Festival Donation Spending**

Martin Llewellyn has been organising getting a defibrillator with the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. To proceed with liaison with the Hall Trustees.

### **6. Planning Applications**

- i) Footpath diversion request SM 9/6 at Hembridge

After discussion EPPC agreed to the revised route, subject to making it a condition that the subsequent management agreement of the proposed development there includes maintenance of the footpath to a good standard.

### **7. Shooting Ground**

Paul Heal reported that the petition now had about 70 signatures and had been submitted to the Monitoring Officer at Somerset Council - response awaited.

### **8. Glastonbury Festival**

At a debrief meeting with Phil Appleton and Steve Russell-Yarde of GFL, a number of issues had been discussed including crowd control within the festival,

Worthy View, and traffic management. East Pennard issues included problems re. postman, pressure on water supply and traffic problems on the Monday on Hembridge Road. GFL said they had no intention of spreading the footprint of the festival towards East Pennard and also that numbers were staying the same. A further meeting will take place towards the end of October.

### **9. Village Hall**

The decorating has been finished and there are new curtains. A corner of the exterior wall has fallen down. Adrian Pearse will repair this. A coffee morning had been held in December which raised over £540.

### **10. United Charities**

This Parish Council periodically appoints 2 trustees, currently Adrian Pearse and Harry Gifford - agreed that they should continue as trustees.

### **11. The Hunt**

The Council had sent a letter to Brett Worthington, the Police Wildlife Crime Officer with a copy to the BSV hunt. Mr. Worthington had replied saying what the police were doing about the problems as he was unable to attend. He sent information on reporting problems, copies of which were handed out. Martin Dearden suggested that a further letter be written to the Master of the Hounds of the BSV hunt requesting that they avoid the areas of Hembridge and Parbrook where problems had been reported, with copies to Councillors Mike Rigby, Bill Revans and Claire Sully.

### **12. Footpaths**

The footpath letters had been sent and a response received from one landowner saying they wanted to find the best way forward. There are no further footpath issues. Kerry Dodd would like some of the councillors to walk with her to identify further works, suggesting that EPPC might pay for materials as before, with the Mendip rambles providing the workforce. She requested that the clerk write letters to farmers growing maize to remind them that they need to leave a minimum of 1m. if the path goes across the field, or 1½m. if at the edge. Some of the footbridges are very slippery and need anti-slip measures taken. Claire Sully will try to find out what other councils do for this problem. Kerry also suggested that a parish litter pick be held.

### **13. Correspondence**

A letter had been received from Peter Edmondson about the access to Withial Combe. Martin Dearden had spoken to Matt Golledge, who said he'd put the fence up to prevent cattle access and he'd take it down when SWT reopens the path in the Combe. It was agreed to write a letter to Matt Golledge asking for proof of ownership of the access area and a letter to the SWT asking them to make the wood safe for people to use, so that the permissive path can be re-opened. There was also a discussion about registering the path as a public footpath with Somerset Council - the deadline for this had originally been missed in 1958, more research needs to be done to see if it is still possible. Peter Edmondson kindly agreed to look into this.

### **14. Next Meeting - Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.00pm.**

## East Pennard and District Royal British Legion



It is often thought by many that the Legion is only associated with the army, but of course this is not the case. It serves all the military branches, and they in turn support the Legion. A recent example of that is the four senior RAF officers rowing across the Atlantic to raise funds for the Legion. Another fundraising event that we are annually made aware of is the London Marathon, and many of the participants are supporting the Legion, be they former service personnel or not. Another popular way of raising funds is by organised cycle rides. Some of the rides cross the Channel and visit well known battle sites, particularly World War I sites. For the less active, fundraising walks in this country are also arranged.

This year sees the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of Operation Telic, the codename for the British Armed Forces deployment to Iraq, which started in March 2003. The initial phase was completed in weeks, but was followed by years of reconstruction, peace-keeping efforts and combating insurgencies. Combat operations finished in 2009, and the last British personnel withdrew on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011, marking Telic's end.

I can now give you details of this year's annual Legion dinner. It will take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at The Den in Pylle, 7pm for a 7.30 start. Your meal can either be three courses at £34.99 a head, or two courses – starter and main or main and dessert at £27.99 a head. In order to assist with the catering, we need to have your booking and meal choice by no later than Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. You can book a place by emailing me at XXXXXX or phoning on XXXXXX. We ask for payment prior to the evening either by BACS to XXXXXX, sort XXXXXX, account XXXXXX giving your name as the reference, or by cheque to East Pennard and District RBL, or by cash, both of which can be given to me or our treasurer, Pat Dando.

The menu is as follows:

### Starters

- Leek and Potato Soup with a Crusty Roll
- Ardenne Pate with Melba Toast and Tomato Chutney
- Prawn Cocktail on a bed of Lettuce with Granary Bread

### Mains

- Beer Battered Cod with Skin on Fries, Peas and Local Tartare Sauce
- Thorner's Steak and Stilton Pie or Sweet Potato & Buttered Squash with Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy
- Thorner's Lasagne with Garlic Bread and Salad with a French Dressing

## Desserts

- Homemade Apple Crumble with Vanilla Marshfield Ice Cream or Custard
- Handmade White Chocolate & Raspberry Cheesecake with Raspberry Marshfield Sorbet
- Lemon Meringue Roulade with Double Cream

As usual, we will be holding a raffle for branch funds, for which prizes would be gratefully received.

Charles Evans



## The Wildlife Group **Wild Women get crafty**

Date and Time: 10 am, Monday 18th April 2026

### Description:

Cut hazel wands and use them to make a sculpture of your choice. Bring secateurs if you have them and be prepared for the weather as this event will take place outdoors.



Children welcome but no dogs please.

Contact [thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com](mailto:thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com)

and ask Elaine to add you to the Wild Women WhatsApp group to get location address

**Wild Women let loose in Nature**

# FREE PROSTATE CANCER TESTING EVENT



**Saturday 21st March 2026, 10am-4pm**  
**Caryford Community Hall, Maggs Lane, Ansford,**  
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Somerset Prostate Support Association is hosting a FREE event on Saturday 21st March 2026 for men aged 40 and over.

Every year in the UK 40,000 men are diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and around 10,000 die from the disease. Early diagnosis can be crucial to successful treatment.

Appointments take 10-15 minutes and MUST be BOOKED ONLINE, IN ADVANCE. It will NOT be possible to be tested on the day without a prior appointment.

To book your appointment at a time to suit you:-

1. Visit <https://myspatests.org.uk/events/> or scan the QR code.
2. Register using your email address.
3. Click 'Find an event' - search for SPSA.
4. Select the event, scroll down, choose a convenient time slot and book it.



All tests are confidential and are carried out by qualified medical practitioners.

For any questions regarding the tests please contact Peter Hopwood:- telephone 01458 441669 or email [peterhopwood46@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopwood46@gmail.com).

Donations to SPSA for future testing events will be gratefully received either at the event or via [spsa.uk](https://spsa.uk) where you can donate online.

## From the Archive

Telephones arrived in Ditcheat 100 years ago, the evidence is from a newspaper report to an event at the Green Tree Inn on the departure of the linesmen who lodged at the inn, Herbet Mintern was the licensee at the time. This picture shows a pole with the direct lines coming back to the switchboard in the Post Office. Mr Butt was an early telephone user with the number 27.



### THE EVERGREGGH JUNCTION AND FROME SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY.

THE Selection Committee appointed by the above Society have hired Mr. CRAMER'S fashionable, well-bred 5-years-old Stallion,

#### THEALE ST. JOHN

to travel this district for the coming Season.

THEALE ST. JOHN is by that well-known Stapleton Caisman, 40168, the sire of many prize-winners, including Theale Joan that was first at the London Shire Horse Show in 1931, by Rokeby Caisman 36023 by Champion's Caisman 29221, Supreme Champion in London, 1917.

Dam 122811 Bluebell by Monk's Green Michael 38408.

g Dam 93611 Hindwell Primrose by Hale Forest King 25252.

Theale St. John has won the following prizes:—

1930 1st Tring; 2nd Bucks County; 1st North West Bucks; 1st Bucks Fowl Show; 1st and Cup, Winslow; 4th Peterborough Produce Stakes.

1931 6th London; 1st Royal Counties.

For route cards apply:—

J. S. BUTT,

Alhampton,

Tel. Ditcheat 27. Ditcheat, Bath.

Shepton Mallet Journal - Friday 29 March 1935  
Image © Reach PLC. Image created courtesy of  
THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.

**Farewell Gathering.**—A very pleasant evening was spent at the "Green Tree Inn", on Friday last, on the occasion the departure of the Post Office Linesmen, who have, for this last three months, been residing in the village during the installation new lines. Mr. George Merrifield, speaking for the villagers, said that the company the linesmen would be greatly missed, and that if they did happen to return to the district at some, future date, they might be sure of very hearty welcome. Mr. Bert Lockyer, replying on behalf the linesmen, spoke highly of Ditcheat hospitality, and said that they would always live in the hope of returning to the village, if only for short stay. The Ditcheat Jazz Band, which was in attendance during the evening, and rendered excellent music, was ably led Mr. Herbert Mintern.

Shepton Mallet Journal - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 1926

Roger Yeoman

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## St Mary Magdalene, Ditcheat

	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Brass</u>
March 1 <sup>st</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	No Flowers	Judith Rowsell
March 15 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	"	"
Easter Day April 5 <sup>th</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

March	Shirley Baldwin Clare Hogg
April	Jane Allen Penny Kayes
May	Helen Ablitt Hilary Tripp



A date for your diary: the **Big Clean at East Pennard** will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, no April fool. I will be there with polish and refreshment, please do come and join us even if you are not on the team, let's make it a community event.

**Windows team**, this is a reminder that we will be decorating our windows for the Easter service which is on 5<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30. Spring flowers and Easter emblems please.

Bridget Tel: XXXXXX

**Send us your pictures!**

**If you've taken a local photograph that would look good on the front cover of the magazine please send it, with a title and your name, to:**  
[editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk)

## RECTOR'S NOTE

Introducing myself:

Andi and I are moving up from Bournemouth, where we have lived for over twenty years, raising our three children Connor (age thirty, lives in London, marrying Emmie in June), Brook (age 28 lives near Radstock, got married to Mollie last month) and Maddy (age twenty-five, lives in Brighton), and being a foster family for much of that time.

Andi has been running her own business by the sea – Alexander Lodge B&B – for the last few years. We love living on the coast, but at the same time are really looking forward to going back to rural life having been townies for years!



I love football, films, music and cooking and am partial to the occasional Single Malt or Bourbon when pressed. Over the last eighteen years I have worked in Chaplaincy, Parish and Pioneer ministry and am particularly interested in the intersection between church and local community. The Church of England has, mostly rightly, taken a bit of a bashing in recent years. Yet on the ground locally, we still have such astonishing opportunities to serve, love and bring the peace and good news of the gospel.

I lost my dad just before Christmas, and my mum now lives (in the house they built by hand sixty-five years ago) in a small farming village on her own, so I am personally aware of how vulnerable some are in rural areas when not close to essential services. The role of local churches in providing community, support and practical help is essential – thank you SO much for all you do in this regard, and for keeping the wheels turning during the clergy vacancy.

What we are currently referring to as the emerging Fosse Mendip Benefice is a large area so I will need you to point me in the right direction from time to time, both figuratively and literally. And for those who enjoy hospitality, please consider asking a couple of neighbours over and inviting Andi and me to join. We look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months.

James



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



- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**  
10.30 am      **Lent 2**  
**Joint Holy Communion at Ditcheat, with bring and share lunch**
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
10.00 am      **Lent 3**  
**Holy Communion at Ditcheat or 9.30 Pilton, 11 North Wootton**
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
10.00 am      **Lent 4, Mothering Sunday**  
**Holy Communion at East Pennard**
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
10.00 am      **Lent 5**  
**Holy Communion at Pylle or 9.30 Pilton, 11 North Wootton**
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**  
10.30 am      **PALM SUNDAY**  
**Joint Holy Communion at Alhampton**
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup>**  
6.30 pm      **Monday of Holy Week**  
**Compline at Alhampton**

**Church Services for Early April**

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
7.00 pm      **Maundy Thursday**  
**Maundy Thursday Liturgy at Croscombe**
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
12.00 and 2pm      **Good Friday**  
**Good Friday Meditation, North Wootton and Pylle**
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
9.30 and 11.15      **Easter Day**  
**Holy Communion for Easter Day at East Penard and Pilton**

*Email contacts are on page 50*

**PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED**

## **Fosse Trinity News**

**If you would like to write an article for the magazine, submit a photograph for the front cover (and win a recipe book) or a news item, let us know of any changes to the contact details or advertise with us, go to ([www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk)) for the details.**

**You can also view a copy of the current FTN, archived issues and downloadable page templates to use.**

**PERSONAL DETAILS REDACTED**

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### Fosse Trinity News

Editor	Margy Cockburn	editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk
Sub-editor	Tim Sanders	subeditor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk
Advertising	Steve Fisher	advert@fossetrinitynews.co.uk
Distribution	Chris Ringrow	distrib@fossetrinitynews.co.uk
Web editor	Chris Ringrow	web@fossetrinitynews.co.uk
Treasurer	John Clarke	treasurer@fossetrinitynews.co.uk

### General

Ditcheat Parish Council	Pam Griffiths	clerk@ditcheatparishcouncil.org.uk
Community Police	TBA	
Priest in Charge	Revd James Sharp	revjamessharp@gmail.com



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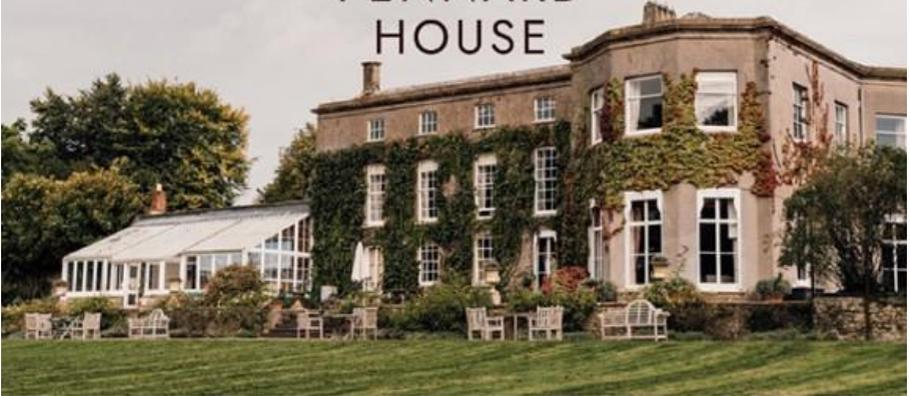
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