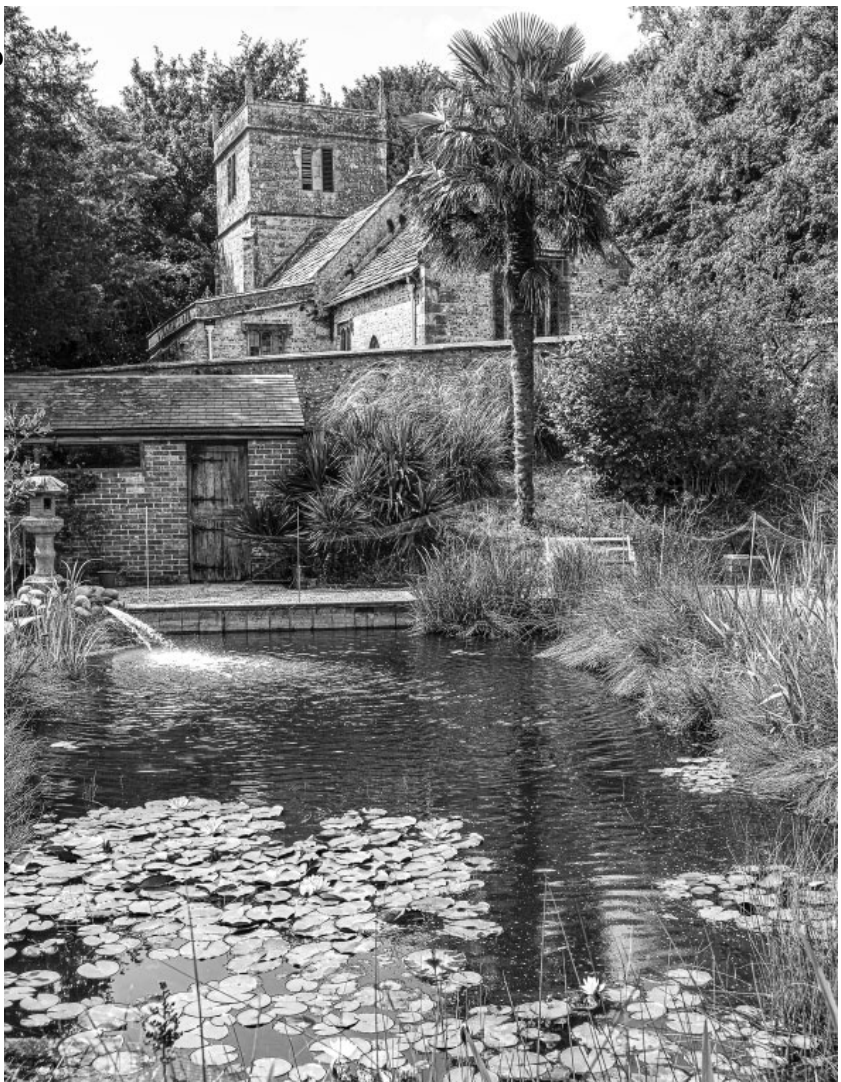


The Newsletter

Buckland Newton, Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone and Minterne Magna



Jane Tearle

Holy Trinity, Godmanstone, from the Manor.

Late August/September 2026 £1

Benefice	CA Village Hall	7	Cerne Historical Society	19	Sustainable Cerne Valley	23	
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Services in the Benefice

6 August

Isaiah 56.1, 6-8; Matthew 15.21-28

11th after Trinity	Godmanstone	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Cerne Abbas	11.15am	Holy Communion
	Buckland Newton	tbc	All-Age Service

23 August

Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

12th after Trinity	Buckland Newton	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Cerne Abbas	11.15pm	BCP Matins

30 August

Jeremiah 15.15-21; Matthew 16.21-28

13th after Trinity Benefice Service	Cerne Abbas	11.15am	Holy Communion
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6 September

Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20

14th after Trinity	Buckland Newton	9.45am	BCP Matins
	Minterne Magna	10am	Holy Communion
	Cerne Abbas	11.15am	Holy Communion

13 September

Exodus 14.19-31; Matthew 18.21-35

15th after Trinity	Buckland Newton	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Cerne Abbas	11.15am	Morning Service
	Godmanstone	6pm	Harvest Festival

20 September

Jonah 3.10-4.11; Matthew 20.1-16

16th after Trinity	Godmanstone	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Cerne Abbas	11.15am	Holy Communion
	Buckland Newton	4pm	All-Age Service
	Minterne Magna	6pm	Harvest Festival

27 September

Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32

17th after Trinity	Buckland Newton	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Cerne Abbas	11.15pm	Harvest Festival

Morning Prayer:

Cerne Abbas 9am
Tuesdays

*Flowers in the church,
Open Gardens, Cerne
Abbas.*



Jane Tearle

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From The Vicarage

Jane Tearle

Dear Friends,

As a 16 year old in 1976, harvesting potatoes at Hampreston Manor Farm, I watched the Dorset elms of the Stour valley succumb as the summer drought proceeded. Weakened by the fungal and beetle attack, we were left with a permanent elm winter of skeletal forms. Recently, the ash has been afflicted with ash dieback with similar devastating impact upon our beautiful valleys.

Last year Robin and Shelley Smale-Meagher had their marriage blessed at St Mary's Cerne Abbas. They will be living at Lyscombe, where their reception was held. Having been thus blessed, they are seeking to be a blessing to this, our shared space, through the regeneration of resistant strains of both species. They have set up a charitable entity, The Tree Growers' Club, in association with the John Innes Research Centre in Norwich.

They write: "The Tree Growers' Club has been set up to restore viable ash and elm populations across the UK. We have a strong connection with the Dorset Downs, having helped establish the new nature reserve at Lyscombe, Piddletrenthide. We are thrilled to announce that we will be running pilot projects in the Cerne and Piddle Valleys. We are looking for volunteers to help find and grow new lines of healthy trees and to test a model we hope to scale to a national level.

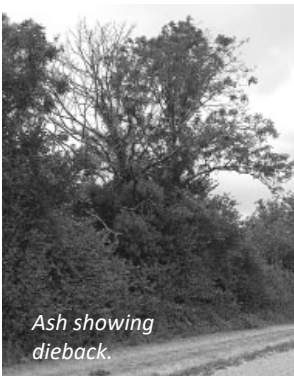
"As many of you will know, ash and elm trees are severely threatened by ash dieback and Dutch elm disease. Fortunately, there is hope as a small proportion of trees possess natural resistance to these diseases. Using techniques developed by the John Innes Centre, together we can collect seed from these resistant trees and rapidly germinate them at home, before planting out at select sites around

Cerne Abbas. If you would enjoy collecting tree seed, germinating seeds at home, or planting trees, we would love to hear from you. Please contact nathaniel@treegrowersclub.co.uk, or join us for an information session at the St Mary's, Cerne Abbas, on Monday 14th September at 7pm."

How wonderful to be able to be part of the fightback for the future in Cerne and Buckland Newton. Please do come and support and express your interest.



Sophia Gallia



Ash showing dieback.

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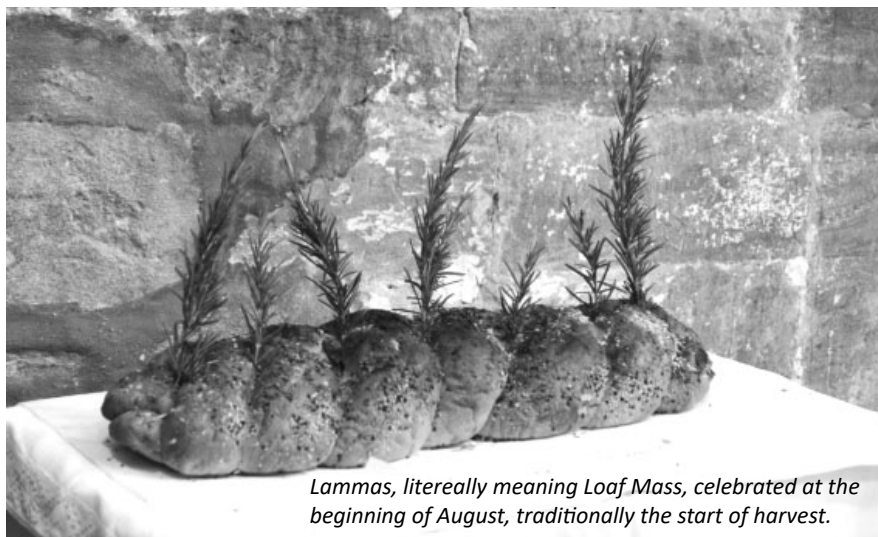
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St Mary's Church

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ST MARY'S The Harvest Festival Service this year will be at 11.15am on Sunday 27th September. We will give thanks for our crops and produce and celebrate gathering in the harvest. It would be wonderful if we could decorate the church with a bountiful display of our produce, as well as apples and flowers! Please bring any offerings to the church on Saturday 26th September from 10am. Tickets for the Harvest Festival Lunch to follow the service will be available in the village shop in September. Any help in producing puddings for the lunch would be greatly appreciated. Please sign on the list on the chest in church. Thank you. Adults £10, Children free.



Jane Tearle

Lammas, literally meaning Loaf Mass, celebrated at the beginning of August, traditionally the start of harvest.

Coffee, cake and chat

(CONTACT Moira Pinder 01300 341255)

The September coffee morning will be held on Wednesday 2nd September from 10.30 till 12 noon in St Mary's Church. A warm welcome is extended to all to join us at this informal and cheerful gathering where conversation is always lively.

Cerne Abbas Village Hall

(BOOKINGS 07508 039280, cernebookingsecretary@gmail.com)

Many thanks to all of those who attended the AGM. We were able to celebrate 20 years of the new hall with some of the original movers and shakers who provided us with such a great asset.

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After 20 years, the hall remains in good shape and is well used. However, certain bits are beginning to show their age including the stage lighting. The management committee is looking into improving this system alongside the possible installation of storage batteries to maximise the benefit of the solar panels. We hope to arrange some fundraising events and are open to ideas. If you have experience of fundraising and would like to join the committee, please contact Alastair Dunnet by email aldunnet@aol.com

We are also looking for a volunteer to take on the post of treasurer in the near future. This is not an onerous task but is vital to our financial well-being. The accounts are now done using online banking so again, if you can help, contact me at the above email address.

On a more mundane note, we continue with normal maintenance with window and gate repairs and replacement of the hot water control unit. Would users please note that there will be limited cleaning over the summer holiday and take extra care to leave the hall in a clean and tidy condition, sweeping up and flushing toilets before leaving. And please admire Rachael's flowers by the front door.

ALASTAIR DUNNET, HALL CHAIRMAN

Cerne Abbas Society for Horticulture

(CONTACT Fiona Hyden **07914 208057**, fmhyden@gmail.com)

FLOWER, VEGETABLE AND HOME PRODUCE SHOW Everyone involved in this year's show on 1st August entered into the spirit of a traditional village show, and created a wonderful occasion (see picture below). Thanks are due to everyone



Jane Tearle

who contributed to its success in some way, whether entering an exhibit (essential), working behind the scenes, providing teas, or coming to celebrate everyone's achievements. The range of talent that we have in and around Cerne is amazing – whether growing prize sweet corn, onions or fruit, nurturing beautiful flowers, making delicious cakes and preserves, creating lovely floral art displays, or handcrafting toys, garments or crocheted vegetables. Children's contributions are always well received and much enjoyed, including many examples of their handwriting done at Cerne Abbas First School. The nature-themed painting class is growing and we would like to expand the opportunities for everyone to showcase their talents in the future, so suggestions are sincerely welcomed (within reason!).

BIDS OPEN FOR WOODEN VASE Paul Ralph, one of the exhibitors in the woodworking section of the show, has once again very generously donated his prize-winning entry to the Society. We would like to offer this beautiful wooden vase of flowers (height approximately 40cm) to the highest bidder – bids to Fiona Hyden (Chair and Show Secretary, as above). The proceeds will go towards keeping the CASH planters stocked with plants (displayed outside the public toilets).

DISCOUNT SHOPPING AT CASTLE GARDENS, POUNDBURY at 2.30pm on Tuesday 8th September. 25% off everything but garden furniture, but only for members.

EVENING MEETING AND TALK at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th September at 7.30pm, to which non-members are also warmly invited. The subject of the talk will be 'Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens' by Dave Usher, former head gardener there.

25% OFF VOUCHERS for spring bulbs at Castle Gardens and Poundbury are available for members to collect at either of the above events or from the Vicarage porch now. Valid while stocks last.

Other village News

CERNE ABBAS MUSIC FESTIVAL Our thanks to the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC for making the church available once again for three dazzling concerts by the Gaudier Ensemble and enjoyed by full houses despite the overwhelming heat. We hope to see the musicians again in the autumn.

LADIES LUNCH These recommence monthly for the autumn and winter on 24th September at The Giant Inn. If you would like to join us for some good company and good food and have not been before, please do not hesitate to contact either Janet or myself. Caroline Ford on **07730 870573** or Janet Dunnet on **07983 810587**.

NEWCOMER'S WELCOME PARTY The annual village 'Welcome Party' for new residents in the village will be held on Friday 11th September at 6pm at the Vicarage in Back Lane. Anyone who has moved to Cerne Abbas during the past year should receive an invitation, but if you have slipped through the net, despite the best efforts of the organisers, and have not received one by two weeks before, or if you have previously been invited but were not able to come, you would be most welcome. Please call Helen Smith **01300 341995** or **zhelensmith@gmail.com**

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2026 OPEN GARDENS – LAST

rites Saturday of Open Gardens was very warm and we had about 700 visitors came. Sunday was very hot resulting in fewer visitors, about 500. Thank-you letters have been received from the beneficiaries of this year's event: Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and the Squibb Garden renovation project each received £5,100.18.

PROCESSION IN CELEBRATION OF CHALK

STREAMS Local residents are invited to Emerald



Susan Foulser, who nominated the Air Ambulance, presenting Josie Dear representing them, with a symbolic cheque. Flanking them are Bob Foulser, who has been organising Open Gardens for 40 years, and Caroline Manson who is succeeding him.



The Squibb Garden also received a cheque.

Ant's Bubbles and Squeaks riverside procession on Saturday 26th September in Cerne Abbas. A colourful event is promised that will celebrate our precious chalk streams. The event will bring together all the creative work done since May with five local schools, and families. The procession will also highlight the needs of our rivers, portraying the challenges they face, and

encourage positive action to be taken by households. Following the event there will be live music provided by State of Undress at Cerne Abbas Village Hall.

Spectators are welcome to join the procession or watch on route. It will start at 3pm at Cerne Abbey where children and families can collect the artwork they have made. Free car parking will be provided at Simsay Field. The procession will follow the River Cerne eastwards, then enter and go around the field below the Giant, before rejoining the river, and ending at the Village Hall.

An illuminated procession will follow in Powerstock on Saturday 17th October where all the artwork will be lit up.

Emerald Ant is looking for stewards to support both events. If you are interested please contact Sarah Butterworth at sarah@emeraldant.com



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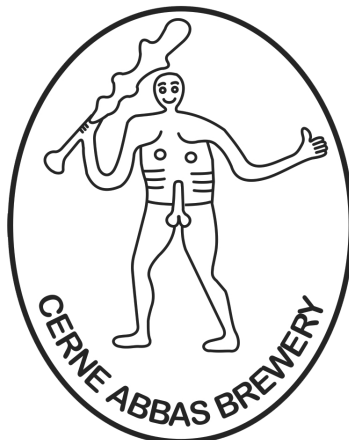
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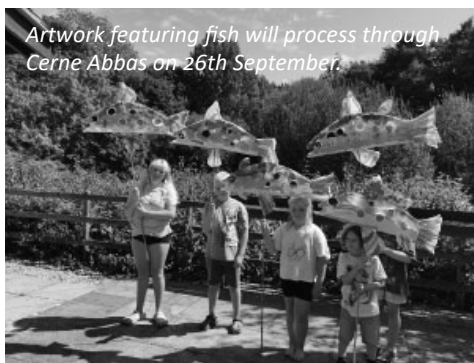
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More details of the project and events can be found at www.emeraldant.com/bubbles-and-squeaks

Emerald Ant CIC is a Dorset-based arts organisation that engages local people in heritage and nature through exciting art and giant spectacle. The Bubbles and Squeaks project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Dorset Council, National Landscapes and others. It is supporting Dorset Wildlife Trust's Water for Wildlife campaign and working with the National Trust.



Artwork featuring fish will process through Cerne Abbas on 26th September.

Cerne Valley NEWS

Cerne Valley Parish Council

(CONTACT Parish Clerk, Yasmeen Moore clerk@cernevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk, www.cernevalley.co.uk, tel 07482 520980)

The CVPC has not much to report for this magazine as no meetings have taken place since July. Fry's (builders) have had meeting with residents regarding the proposed development at Simsay.

OUR NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING will be held at Godmanestone Village hall 7pm on Thursday 10th September. All the sub-committees will meet later in September.

OPEN GARDENS The Parish Council would like to thank Bob and Sue Foulser for organising the Open Gardens in Cerne Abbas over the last 40 years. The event has raised tens of thousands of pounds for local organisations in and around Cerne Abbas. It has attracted thousands of people to the village, which has benefitted all the local businesses. Their dedication to this event has been amazing and very much appreciated.

FRED HORSINGTON

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PICNIC

TABLE Councillors from Cerne Valley Parish Council met with Elizabeth Flight, Senior Visitor Experience Officer and Ben Tasker, Head Ranger from the National Trust, to commission officially the new picnic table in Kettlebridge Car Park (see picture right). This



Jane Tearle

wheelchair-accessible table was supplied by the Charity Encompass Care and kindly donated to the village by the National Trust. It is made from recycled plastic bottles and will seat six people plus having space for one wheelchair and has been sited to provide easy access from the parking areas. It is a very welcome addition and enhances the facilities that have been provided or updated in the area by the Parish Council over recent years. Visitors and residents alike often express how much they enjoy the picnic area, play equipment and views from the bench along the permissive path together with the added facility of easy parking and the EV charger. The Parish Council would like to thank the National Trust and Encompass Care for this generous donation. The Parish Councillors present were: Cllr Linda Prowse (Chair of Kettlebridge Car Park), Cllr Karen Burghart and Cllr Helen Brown.

Cerne Abbas Surgery

SAVE THE DATE – FLU VACCINATION CLINICS Our annual flu vaccination clinics will be taking place on the first two weekends in October.

Getting your flu vaccine is one of the safest and most effective ways to protect yourself and those around you against seasonal influenza. It can also help reduce your risk of serious complications from flu, such as bronchitis or pneumonia, particularly if you're at higher risk of severe illness.

If you are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination, please keep an eye out for your invitation, which will be sent by text message during September. Once you receive your invitation, you'll be able to book your appointment at one of our weekend clinics. We look forward to seeing our eligible patients at the clinics in October!

PLEASE RESPOND TO NHS OR PCSE REGISTRATION LETTERS From time to time, you may receive a letter from NHS England or Primary Care Support England (PCSE) asking you to confirm your registration details. This is part of a routine process to ensure GP records are accurate across England.

If you or someone you care for receives one of these letters, please do NOT ignore it. If we cannot verify your address, your GP registration could be affected. Please phone the surgery to ensure you remain registered with the practice and continue to receive important invitations such as screening and vaccinations.

If you have recently moved house or your contact details have changed, please

let us know as soon as possible so we can keep your records up to date.



The archaeological dig begins again in Cerne Abbas.

Cerne Historical Society

(CONTACT Ian Denness **07717 773834, mr_denness@yahoo.co.uk**
or **cernehistoricalsociety@gmail.com**)

Our autumn schedule of talks kicks off on Thursday 24th September with a presentation by the recently retired National Trust archaeologist Dr Martin Papworth. Martin's subject will be the Durotiges in Dorset. The Durotiges were the pre-Roman residents of Dorset and its surrounding area, and Martin's talk promises to provide an interesting companion piece to Martin Smith's presentation on local Iron Age DNA which we hosted in March. We look forward to welcoming you for what will be an interesting evening.

Admission to the meeting is free for paid-up members and £5 for visitors. Wine and soft drinks will be available at a modest charge from 7pm onwards. If you haven't paid your £10 subscription for 2026, or haven't yet joined the Society, you will be able to do so on the night.



Cheryl Spray

Cerne Abbas CE VC First School

(CONTACT office@cerneabbas.dorset.sch.uk or **01300 341319**)

Can you believe that we have come to the end of another academic year! Time goes by so quickly. We are sad to say goodbye to our year 4's but know that they will enjoy the next step in their school journey.

SOME THANK YOUS We want to thank members of our community who have volunteered to help maintain our Peace Garden. We are very grateful.

Thanks to our singers, also, who sang their songs at our local fetes both in Cerne Abbas and Sydling. We are proud that they also sang songs for The Somerset & Dorset Schools Choir competition and have received a Highly Commended Certificate. That's brilliant and well done to the children who sang this with the Hummingbirds.

Thank you to everyone who comes in to help us maintain the school. We do this on one Saturday a month and they do an absolutely brilliant job. They have painted the steps, weeded and gardened and swept and mended. We have had to do this since our site manager left. This not only keeps our school tickling over, but it also is a great way for our community to come together. If you would like to help, the next date will be in the new term. Please phone the office for more details.

And thank you to everyone in our community (that is all of you) who support our lovely school. I am very proud to be the Head Teacher in Cerne Abbas and find it a privilege to teach the children. We would love you to follow us on our Instagram account. Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/amtfxtue> (or scan the QR code right). CATHERINE CRESSWELL, HEADTEACHER



Artsreach

(CONTACT Jane Still **07823 778758**, Eleanor Gallia **07779 299541**
www.artsreach.co.uk)

We'll be having two Artsreach events in Cerne Abbas in October.

The first is "a vibrant band which aims to breathe new life into old stories from across the British isles, injecting the energy they feel these narratives deserve". They are Jon Doran and the Northern Assembly. Jon was a finalist for the BBC Young Folk Award and they've been heard on Radio 2. They will perform at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd October in the Village Hall.

The second is a show for all ages, 5 and up, called *Curious Creatures* and is performed by Squashbox Theatre. It uses puppets, comedy, and live music to recreate a rather chaotic animal park. Learn about how animals evolved, how their amazing adaptations help them survive in the wild, and how they can help us learn more about ourselves. The show will be 10.30am on Tuesday 27th October in Cerne Abbas St Mary's Church. We hope it will be followed by an animal puppet-making workshop.

<https://www.squashboxtheatre.co.uk/curious-creatures>



Cerne Valley Cricket Club

(CLUB CONTACTS **Ladies:** Lindsay Griffiths **07724 967689**, lindsay1969@outlook.com;
Men: John Stiles **07759 403805**, stilesey@hotmail.com;
Juniors: Edward Gallia **01300 342101**, edward@nethercerne.co.uk)

We were delighted to welcome so many to our ground for the Village Match (pictured below), which continued this season's theme of tight finishes: The Village Team won by one wicket in the penultimate over. We hope everyone



Jane Tearle

enjoyed their visit and will return to watch some cricket through the remainder of the summer.

We also welcomed Kumar Sangakkara to Cerne... and got him out for nought, which has to be some sort of a victory, even if the match result was otherwise. Batters and bowlers have now all got into gear, with 100s from Gary



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French and Tom Atkinson; 50s from Tao White, Lloyd Mitchem, Mike Collinge (x2), Russ Hurford, Oli Hand (x2), Alastair Jones and George Chubb. Lloyd, Roger Edmunds and Oli have all registered hauls of four wickets or more. Consequently, results have turned our way with victories against Beaminster, Dorchester and Portland on Saturdays, Thornford (Sunday), Charlton Down and



Jane Tearle

Frampton (evenings), so hopefully the difficult start to the season is behind us. The Ladies' team beat Bere Regis to end 2nd in their league. They play Swanage in the semi-final of the cup competition on 16th August. The under 15s tied their fixture with Yeovil, with Robin B steering the innings (30, retired). The under 10s had their first tastes of "real" games with two very enjoyable matches against Bere Regis. The melon and brownies went down especially well!

A wide range of players have represented Dorset, with four CVCC players (Gary French, Mike Collinge, Dave Portch, and Roger Edmunds) playing for Dorset 50+ in the same game. Henry L and Thomas R have been playing for Dorset u11s. Amy L continues to play for the MCC Foundation.

We will be celebrating the season with our Awards evening on Friday 11th September.

Sustainable Cerne Valley

(CONTACT Pauline Pires (ppires@btinternet.com) or

Laurel Spooner [07785 537767](tel:07785537767) (laurelspooner@msn.com)

NEXT MEETING will be on Monday 7th September, 6.45pm for light supper and discussion, Chescombe Farmhouse, DT2 7JL. What have we achieved over the last year and what are we taking forward? Will you join us?

FLOOD AND PLANNING GROUP Thanks to our knowledgeable and committed members, the Flood and Planning group has come up with a well-researched report on the Simsay Field planning application for building 35 houses. We also visited the Cerne Abbas Water Treatment Plant, where our sewage and grey water go. We had an excellent guided tour from Wessex Water. There is something basic every household in Cerne must ensure. Wet wipes and sanitary products should never be flushed down toilets. The 3x Ps, pee, pooh and paper only please. We saw them filtered out into a skip. This material has to be shipped to Avonmouth for composting and then to Cornwall for disposal in a disused mine.

DORSET DOWNS TOURING REPAIR CAFE Organiser Lou Parker, louise.parker123@btinternet.com is bringing the Repair Cafe to Cerne Abbas on Thursday 17th December, 7-9pm, at the Village Hall. The initiative was launched in Cattistock in

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July, and a group went and came home with their devices fixed. Pauline is our village contact (see above). Please let her know if you would like to volunteer.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT Courtesy of the Phelan family, we are working on a long project to create a richly biodiverse environment. It seems we are already making a difference. The barn owl, absent for years, has returned to hunt since the grass has been grazed and mown shorter. Our ecologist, Wren Franklin, has a work programme mapped out. Currently we need volunteers from our community to grow cowslips from seed (we can provide). We will soon start removing suckers and overcrowded saplings. Contact Laurel (as above). Supporting nature is a pleasurable and sociable way to keep active and we need your help.

RECYCLING Projects continue in Not-the-Bus-Shelter. We have added unwanted private, but not NHS, hearing aids plus their unused batteries. We post them to the Lions HQ for projects in developing countries. Wrap them and put them into the glasses bin. NHS ones must go back to the NHS.

MORE RUBBISH BINS We are urgently pressing the Council for waste separating bins, which are especially important for the tourist season, to replace the unsorted overflowing one by our recycling centre in Long Street.



Laurel's grandchildren, disgusted by the overflowing bins!

Short Mat Bowls

(CONTACT Eugene and June Balbinski,
***eugeneandjunebalbinski@outlook.com*)**

The club has played three Blackmore Vale Summer League matches since the last issue. Its policy of including a mixture of experienced and less experienced players, prioritising development rather than results has continued. Despite this, Cerne won all three matches and are currently at the top of the league, though Hazelsticks will overtake them if they win their match in hand.

Cerne gained a good 4-2 win away at Odcombe winning one mat by a large score. Both of Cerne's two home matches had close and exciting finishes. In the first one against Stalbridge Harriers, one triple caught up four shots in the last two ends to force a draw on one mat and give the team a 5-1 win. In the second match against Templecombe, one mat had finished with Cerne ahead by four shots. However, starting the last end the other mat were down by four shots, so the winners would be decided by which team won the last end. With just one bowl to play, Templecombe had the jack surrounded, but, unnerved, Mike Pedrick, the Cerne skip, fired and miraculously gained a single shot to win the match 4-2.

Minterne NEWS

MUSIC AT MINTERNE Sunday 16th August at 5pm. Minterne is delighted to welcome Buskaid following their residence at ESTA Summer School in Wiltshire. We hope they will bring some South African sun for tea on the lawn, followed by some joyful music in the Trafalgar Hall. Please bring younger family and friends.

Buskaid – The Soweto String Ensemble, Programme: ● Jean-Philippe Rameau: Air pour les Guerriers; Entrée De Polymnie; Contredanses I & II; from *Les Indes Galantes* and *Les Boréades*. ● Henry Purcell: Fairest Isle; Rondeau; If Love's a Sweet Passion; Chaconne; from *King Arthur* and *The Fairy Queen*. ● Jean Sibelius: Impromptu. ● Johannes Brahms: Liebeslieder Waltzes Nos 4, 17, 18, 10 & 11. ● Kwela, Afro-jazz and Afro-pop. Arranged by Buskaid musicians.

Afternoon concert at 5pm preceded at 4pm by tea and cakes. Tickets: £35, Under 18s & Students £15.

Monday 5th October at 6pm. International Musicians Seminar, Prussia Cove:

Autumn Tour. ● Saint-Saëns: Piano Quintet in A minor, Op.14. ● Fauré: Piano Quartet No.2 in G minor, Op.45. ● Interval. ● Edgar Meyer: Duet for Cello and Bass No.2. ● Dvořák: String Quintet in G major, Op.77. ● Featuring: Bogdan Božović, violin; Charlotte Spruit, violin; Amira Abouzahra, violin and viola; Edgar Francis, viola; Francesco Dillon, cello; Adi Tal, cello; Will Duerden, double bass; Charles Owen, piano.

Evening concert at 6pm followed by buffet supper. Tickets: £60, Concert only: £35 To book tickets or to join Music at Minterne's mailing list, please email Zara at musicatminterne@outlook.com with your name and the number of tickets you require.

MINTERNE MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September at Minterne House at 7.30pm . Everyone welcome!

Godmanstone NEWS

Holy Trinity Church, Godmanstone

(CONTACT Churchwardens Will Best **01300 341415**
and Eleanor Gallia **01300 341750**)

Jane Tearle



Godmanstone fete.

ON SATURDAY 5TH

SEPTEMBER at 4.15pm, there will be performance in the church of sacred and secular music by highly regarded a Capella choir from Beaminster "Parnham Voices" with light refreshments afterwards. All are welcome, free entry, donations to Julia's House or Holy Trinity Church.



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ON SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER at 6pm, the Harvest Festival will followed by Harvest Supper in Church. All are welcome. Donations for supper to Ripple Effect (previously known as Send a Cow).

Godmanstone Village Hall

(BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES [**godmanstonevh@gmail.com**](mailto:godmanstonevh@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK [**Godmanstone Village Hall**](#))

Thank you to everyone who made the Godmanstone Garden Fete such a success. It was a very pleasant afternoon spent in the garden of the Manor House. Lots of people bagged some vintage bargains, books, cakes, plants, and some were lucky too on the tombola or winning one of the many amazing hampers from the raffle. With lots of games and activities for the kids and young at heart, plus the tea tent laid on a magnificent spread and the Pimms also went down well. There were lots of complements from visitors and the event raised £2,365, a superb result for our little village, half of which goes to the church and half will go to the Village Hall Roof Repairs.

SAVE THE DATE Friday 6th November, 6.30 for 7pm, for our next Talk (& Nibbles) evening in the Village Hall, the talk will be by a local metal detectorist, who will be bringing some of his finds, including from the Durotriges, and talking about some of the finds that are in museums including the British Museum.

Thanks, letters and other _____ **.... SNIPPETS**

THE OBSERVANT (DOG) WALKER Having missed last month's Observant DW, and with Ben Tasker taking on a post about his role as NT Ranger for Cerne I am glad to say I am learning lots more interesting facts about our valley. The fact that the Devon Reds had their TB testing and all was well, thank goodness; that we have a willing team of volunteers taking on a role to check that our bovine friends are fine and not in any tricky situations that may need attention; that a survey of the ash dieback trees along the hedgerows has been done, so maybe Paul Heron and I will be doing our last annual survey in August; eight years, I think, although making Beauvoir observations will still be necessary. Life moves on in this special place.

Walking with an energetic year-old puppy called Ponyo will challenge my walking distances and I do hope the weather will be a lot cooler. Having our lovely river path for the splash and wade for our canines is especially useful and enjoying the wildflowers on the opposite bank has been most satisfying. Thank you for the paths cut through it for a meditative wander! This has now been mown and there has been a radar survey done to see if there maybe dig-related finds to explore. And a reminder that dogs should be on leads in the churchyard, and to the obstinate dog walker who fails to pick up, even there! Please watch your dog and do the respectful thing!

Dig number four will provide lots more interest on our dog walks. Being respectful

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of the archaeologists work is part of the Cerne way along with their teatime cakes delivered daily!

JULY WEATHER (FROM PHILIP SPRAY) July was the hottest calendar month that I have recorded in Cerne Abbas since beginning recordings 20 years ago. It was not only the hottest but by an average of 2°C per day, an extraordinary amount. The previous hottest month had been July 2018 with the figure of 21.3°C for every day that month compared with an average of 23.3°C every day in July 2026.

For the 12 days 6th-17th July, the temperature reached 30°C or above, although not reaching last month's record of 36.1°C on both 24th and 25th June. During July, the day-time maximum again reached 30°C on 29th July. A maximum of 25°C or above was recorded on every single day in July. Night-time temperatures varied between 13.5°C and 21°C (fairly warm to fairly hot) with four nights reaching 20°C or more.

July 2026 was also the driest month recorded in Cerne Abbas over the last 20 years with only 1.2mm measured. This amount fell around 8am on Sunday 26th July. There was rainfall on at least two other occasions, but nothing that could be measured. The previous driest month for Cerne Abbas was June 2018 when 2mm was recorded. The average rainfall for July over the last decade has been 64mm. (always one of the driest months).

This dry spell has really been going from 12th June since when we have had less than 5mm of rainfall. The areas of short grass around the village have turned orangey-yellow whereas the nettles and weeds have gone berserk. The river is still flowing, thanks to last winter's heavy rainfall.

DORCHESTER POVERTY ACTION LOCAL MEETING on Wednesday 30th September at 7pm in the Dorford Centre, Dorchester. "Paths to Wellbeing" What does a social prescriber do at your GP surgery? What services do Access Wellbeing on High East Street provide? Come and find out more. Speakers: Social Prescriber, Access Wellbeing (Lantern Trust). Everyone welcome.

A traditional summer village scene – the Cerne Abbas fete at the Vicarage in July





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Carole Bradshaw 01300 341861

Holy Rood: Jon Sulkin, 07971 277584

Holy Trinity: Will Best, 07966 298485;
Eleanor Gallia, 01300 341750

St Andrew's: Lord Digby, 07974 399384;
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Clerk to Cerne Valley Parish Council:

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clerk@cernevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Headteachers:

Buckland Newton CE VC Primary School,
Phil Sales, 01300 345393

Cerne Abbas CE VC First School, Catherine
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THE CERNE EYE

Reporting village affairs with questionable accuracy since 2026

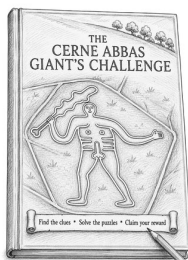


VOL. 1 ISSUE NO. 1

CERNE ABBAS STORES, DORSET

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SEARCH PARTY STANDS DOWN



Reports of families wandering around Cerne Abbas armed with copies of The Giant's Challenge have increased significantly.

Despite appearances, no one is actually lost. They are simply looking for the next clue, not admitting defeat and trying to keep up with their children.

Village residents are advised not to interfere unless authorised to dispense morale, refreshments or ice cream. We are pleased to report that almost everyone eventually finds their way back to the Stores.

THE CERNE EYE INVESTIGATES

Case File No. 001

The Curious Case of the Missing Loaf

A growing number of instances have been recorded about customers popping in to Cerne Abbas Stores for "a quick loaf of bread", only for them to disappear for an age.

Our investigation has established the usual sequence of events. The subject enters the shop with purpose before remembering three other things they meant to buy.

They are then distracted by the smell of freshly baked sausage rolls. A brief chat at the till develops into a nine way discussion. On leaving shop, the subject greets several dogs, chats to neighbours and agrees to sit on the bench "for five minutes". Witnesses confirm these five minutes routinely exceed twenty. The subject eventually returns home...**without the bread.**

No further action is being taken, as this appears to be perfectly normal behaviour in Cerne Abbas.



The Cerne Eye welcomes corrections, rumours and completely reliable village gossip.

CERNE STATISTIC BUREAU

Latest findings

Villagers who visit the shop multiple times in one day
79%

Customers who leave empty handed...
Investigations continue

LOST PROPERTY OFFICE

Recently handed in:

- 8 walking sticks
- 3 pairs of reading glasses
- 1 mobile phone

Several customers remain unclaimed, but appear perfectly content discussing the weather outside.

SHOPKEEPER'S NOTEBOOK

Working in a village shop gives you a front-row seat to village life. We never really know what sort of day we're going to have. Sometimes it's busy builders or hungry archeologists. Sometimes it's someone who simply wants five minutes to chat.

That's the nicest part of it all.

Thank you for being part of our story



Dates FOR YOUR DIARY

Date Event and page

AUGUST

- 14 CA Brewery Lil Giant Festival
- 15 CVCC Home match v Symene
- 15 CA Brewery Lil Giant Festival
- 15 CA Rock 'n Roll day
- 16 CVCC Home match Ladies v Swanage am
- 16 CVCC Home match v Dorset Wanderers pm
- 16 CA Brewery Lil Giant Festival
- 16 Minterne Buskaid concert 28
- 20 CA Brewery open mic night
- 22 Minterne St Andrew's coffee morning
- 23 CVCC Home match v Mere
- 29 CVCC Home match v Broadstone
- 30 CVCC Home match v Exiles

SEPTEMBER

- 2 CA Coffee, cake, chat 7
- 5 CVCC Home match v Luddites
- 5 CA Litter pick
- 5 Godmanstone Music performance 28
- 6 CVCC Home match v Suttoners
- 7 Sustainable CV Meeting 23
- 8 CASH Discount shopping, Poundbury 10
- 10 CVPC Council meeting 17
- 11 CVCC Awards Evening 23
- 11 CA Newcomers' welcome party 10
- 12 Minterne St Andrew's coffee morning
- 13 Godmanstone Harvest Festival 30
- 14 Benefice News deadline
- 14 CA Tree talk, St Mary's 5
- 15 CASH Evening meeting and talk 10
- 15 CATC meeting
- 16 Minterne Parish Council meeting 28
- 24 CA Ladies lunch 10
- 26 CAFS/Bubbles & Squeaks procession, CA 14
- 26 Minterne St Andrew's coffee morning

- 26 CA St Mary's produce for Harvest Fest 7
- 27 CA St Mary's Harvest Festival 7
- 30 Dorchester Poverty Action meeting 32

OCTOBER

- 3 CA Litter pick
- 4 BN Harvest supper
- 5 Minterne Autumn concert 28
- 10 Minterne St Andrew's coffee morning
- 13 CA Discussion Club meeting
- 17 Bubbles & Squeaks procession, P'stock 14
- 19 Benefice News deadline
- 22 CA Artsreach music performance 20
- 24 Minterne St Andrew's coffee morning
- 24 BN Games in the Village Hall
- 27 CA Artsreach Curious Creatures show 20

NOVEMBER

- 6 Godmanstone VH talk and nibbles 30
- 7 CA Litter pick
- 10 CA Discussion Club meeting
- 14 Minterne St Andrew's coffee morning
- 28 Minterne St Andrew's coffee morning
- 30 Benefice News deadline



Jane Tearle

*The October 2026 issue
copy deadline:*

VIA THE POST BOX Monday 14th
September. **VIA EMAIL** Tuesday 15th
September 12 noon.

DISTRIBUTION DATE: 25th September.

IF YOU HAVE DIARY DATES...

*Please email them to The
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