

The Lydden Vale News



Buckland Newton New Year Plant Hunt

February 2026

Defib Runners in order of proximity to the Defib at Buckland Newton Village Hall

Lisa Peart	01300 345578
Keith Derbyshire	01300 345196
Gill Nell	01300 345825
Sandie Stout	01300 345135
David Morris	01300 345402
Geri Aitkenhead	07864 195619

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To promote your business in this space, please see the details on page 3



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Breakfast Club available from 8am for children aged from 2 years.

Government Early Years Funding accepted, non-funded hours charged at

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POUNDBURY WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The Bit at the Beginning

Thank you to everyone who responded to my comments in last month's LVN about the future of the newsletter. The general consensus is that, if possible, to keep going with a hard copy for as long as possible. I have been given a couple of possibilities, so I will be working on these in the next few months. Wish me luck!!

Lots of interesting stuff to read this month, so thank you to all who contribute. After the lull of January, it's good to see so much happening in February, from the regular clubs to quiz nights, music events, shows, coffee mornings and even a Teddy Bear Zip wire challenge (who knew!!). Plus, if you love the outdoors and like to get your hands dirty, you can get involved with the Community workday – it's great that we have people who care about where we live and do something about it. Let's hope by then the weather will have improved. I know the reservoirs need to be topped up in case we have another dry summer, but it is getting a bit tiresome. The good thing is that my dog Orla has a cracking new fleece that means we don't have a wet, muddy dog after walks and the inevitable layer of dusty dirt in the house. She doesn't

mind wearing it either and, yes, that is her fur ruff! I highly recommend Equafleece – and they come in all colours! I have this vision of lots of dogs in the village in bright rainbow colour fleeces – that would brighten up a dull day.

Amanda



Publication Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is on the **18th of** every month

Text, Photographs, Community Messages, Enquiries, etc. to Amanda at:

Email: lyddenvalley@gmail.com

Meetings/interviews: arranged via email

Advertising to:

Email: lyddenvaleadverts@gmail.com
Advertising fees (wef 1 April 2024)

**Adverts to be sent in Word or jpeg formats please.
(PDF is not compatible!)**

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1/4 Page*	£34.00	£67.50	£115.00	£145.00
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Full Page	£82.00	£197.00	£331.00	£415.00

*** 1/8 Page Landscape please. 1/4 Page Portrait - unless full width of page, in which case Landscape. Thank You!**

The LVN is a great place to advertise covering a broad and diverse area, whether you have a colour or mono advert! Kindly mention the Lydden Vale News when responding to advertisements.

This Month's Front Cover Credit: See page 13

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The Old Chapel Stores**

The Buckland Newton
Community Website

www.bucklandnewton.com

Your local website for up-to-date news, events, clubs, groups, directories for businesses and services - and information about the village and its surroundings (and the online version of the LVN!)

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WHAT'S ON - FEBRUARY 2026

Thursday 5th and 19th February - 2 - 4 pm



Our sessions for February will be on Thursday - 5th and 19th from 2-4 pm at the Gaggle of Geese.

Come along and join us with whatever craft you like to do - or come along for the "natter".

Everyone very welcome.

Lyn Cox 01300 345739

Jane Willis 01300 345477



Wednesday 11th February 6.45 - 7.15 pm. Followed by Meal 7.30 pm

LYDDEN VALE GARDENING CLUB - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND WINTER SOCIAL - THE GAGGLE OF GEESE (See page 16)



Friday 13th February – 12.30 pm

2ND FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB



This month, on **Friday 13 February**, we are again in **Buckland Newton Village Hall, 12:30 for a 12:45 start**.

Menu:

Fish Pie or Baked Gammon

followed by

Bread & Butter Pudding or Tropical Fruit Pavlova

If you have not already done so, please confirm your attendance to Bridget Hodges (01300 345493).

Wednesday 18th – Saturday 21st February

PIDDLE VALLEY PLAYERS – ‘THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS’ – BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL (See page 6)



Monday, Tuesday and Friday

POST OFFICE 9am-12 noon Buckland Newton Village Hall

Sunday 15th February – 10.30 am – 4 pm

FRIENDS OF POP MALLERS COPPICE – COMMUNITY WORKDAY (See page 17 for details)

Saturday 14th February – 10.30 – 12.30 pm

COFFEE MORNING – THE HALSEY ARMS , PULHAM (See page 6)

Saturday 21st February 11 am – 3 pm

THE GREAT TEDDY BEAR ZIP WIRE CHALLENGE – HOLY ROOD CHURCH (See page 21 for details)



Sunday 22nd February – 4.30 pm

SERENDIPITY CONCERT OF MUSIC AND READINGS – BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL (See page 8 for details)

Friday 27th February 2026- 10.30 am
BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE CAFE



Our next Cafe is on Friday 27th February from 10.30 - 12 noon in Buckland Newton Village Hall

Tea/coffee and cake £1.50

Everyone very welcome.

Lyn Cox 01300 345739

Liza Hill 01300 345230

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 7th March 10 am - noon

IMPORTANT - DEFIB AND CPR PRACTICAL TRAINING MORNING -
BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

Led by Alan Hale, who runs an excellent practical session. Anyone can attend. £5 (Runners free)
Contact Fizz Lewis frogylewis@hotmail.com to book a place.



Saturday 14th March 12 – 2 pm

LENT LUNCH – PURBECK HOUSE, BUCKLAND NEWTON (See page 21 for details)

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2026 COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Pulham Church Fund.

In the Function Room at
The Halsey Arms

(By kind permission of Ross and the Team.)

10.30am - 12.30pm

Come and enjoy a cuppa, delicious home-made
cake and a catch-up with friends.

Help preserve our lovely historic Church building.



18th -21st
Feb 2026

Buckland Newton
Village Hall

Tickets are £15 available at
www.piddlevalleyplayers.co.uk

Books & Lyrics By Howard Ashman Music By Alan Menken

Based on the film by Roger Cooman, Screenplay by Charles Griffith
Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)
Originally Produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City by WPA Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the
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BUCKLAND NEWTON'S Children's Literary Festival 2026

MARCH 2026

In partnership with Buckland Newton School & Youth Club,
children and young people will:
w/c 2 March, work with the Bank of Dreams & Nightmares to write their stories
w/c 9 March, work with a young illustrator to illustrate their agreed story
w/c 16 March, work with musicians to put their story to music
w/c 23 March, work with Jo Simons, Artistic Director to perform their story

FINAL PERFORMANCE ON THURSDAY 26 MARCH AT 1530
AT BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL
EXHIBITION OF WORK ON SATURDAY 28 MARCH
BETWEEN 1000 - 1230 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

sensory play **crafts** **outdoor play**

Little Goslings
Baby & Toddler Group

plus a wide variety of toys to keep little ones busy and learning

Everyone welcome!

Wednesdays Term Time
9.15am - 11.30 am
Buckland Newton Village Hall

Village hall playgroup for babies, toddlers and preschool age children

No need to book, turn up at any time

Healthy snacks for babies and children

Tea, coffee and home-made cake for grown-ups!

Find us on Facebook:
[@ LittleGoslingsBucklandNewton](https://www.facebook.com/LittleGoslingsBucklandNewton)

Gaggle Events



Knit & Natter - Thursday 5th Feb and the 19th Feb - the fortnightly crafting social group. Free to attend. Bring a project and perhaps some cake! 2 til 4pm

Open Mic Night - Wednesday 4th February & 4th March – pop down from 8pm to 10pm to enjoy and support local musicians. Or be brave and join in with a song or two.

Six Nations Rugby - catch the key games on the Gaggle projector and with a pint or two! Games start from Thursday 5th February. First England game (against Wales) is on Saturday 7th Feb.

Valentines - Saturday 14th February – the candles will be lit and some romantic specials to pick from on our Valentines menu. Booking highly recommended! Book via our website or by contacting the pub. And if you are single.... then more than welcome to grab a bar stool and prop up the bar for a few pints and a natter!

Pub Quiz - Wednesday 25th February – our popular monthly Gaggle pub quiz. Fun evening of head scratchers, cryptic clues and general knowledge. Teams of up to 6. £2 per person or free if you dine before the quiz. Booking required.

Mother's Day - Sunday 15th March – treat Mother to a Gaggle Sunday roast. Tables available from midday until 5pm. Book through the pub or our website www.gaggleofgeese.co.uk

Key Dates to look forward to...

Gagglefest – Saturday 25th July – our annual family friendly music festival. Early-bird tickets on sale from the start of February over the bar and via www.ticketsource.co.uk/gaggle

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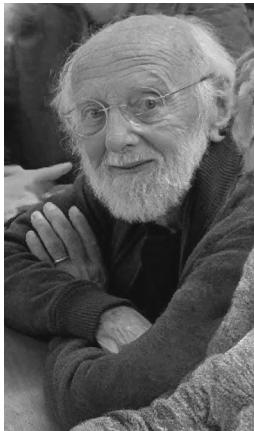
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A Caring Community



It is now twelve months since I returned home from hospital, and I'd like to express my warmest thanks for the 'envelope of care' that Jane and I have received.

From the first day of my return, we have had offers of help and support in so many ways: prepared meals, coming in for a chat, shopping, lifts and much more.

I was an avid reader, but I am now unable to read books myself, so I have especially enjoyed the times when people have been kind enough to come and read to me, often leading to much laughter and discussion.

Thank you also for the many good wishes, sent via Facebook, for my 96th birthday. My children and I listened as the Bell ringers marked this milestone with a quarter peal, which was very special as I was a ringer when I was a young man.

The team at Cerne Abbas surgery have been a wonderful support, with their swift responses and care for my medical needs. I have also been very fortunate to find two local carers to help me, both of whom always go that extra mile and manage to mix humour with their skills.

Everything you have done has made me realise how wonderful it is to live in such a caring community.

THANK YOU ALL

Serendipity, the recorder consort that I started in the village almost forty years ago, asked me to choose where to donate any money raised at the concert of music and readings that they are giving in February in Buckland Newton Village Hall.

As almost everyone in the community visits the doctors' surgery, I asked that the money should go there and, after discussion with the staff, we are hoping to fund some new chairs, with arms, for the waiting room.

I'd love it if you could come and join us at this concert.

Pete Willis

Serendipity Concert of music and readings - Matters of the Heart

Buckland Newton Village Hall

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026, starting at 16.30

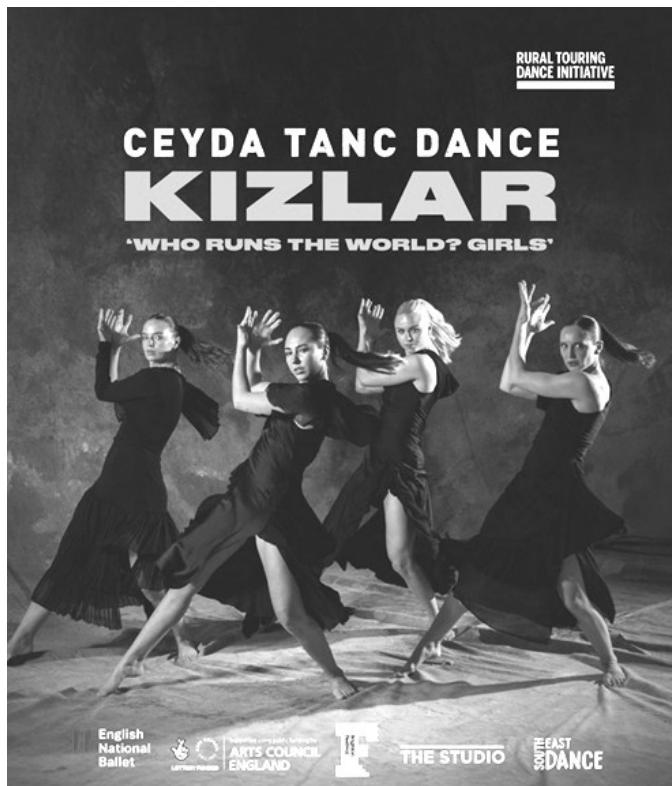
Tickets at £10 (free for children under 15) will be available on the door or from the village stores in Buckland Newton and Cerne Abbas (cash only).

All the money raised will be given to the doctors' surgery in Cerne Abbas and used to provide new chairs, with arms, for the waiting room.

Do come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon of music and readings, with cake, tea and coffee served during the interval.

Call Jane on 01300 345477 for more details.

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With an all-female company, KIZLAR transforms traditional male Turkish folk dances into a powerful, sensual, and visually stunning performance, accompanied by a hypnotic, rhythmic soundtrack which blends Eastern sounds with modern beats.

Having worked with Ceyda Tanc in a series of workshops, community dance groups Movers & Shakers and Dorset Youth Dance will perform a short curtain-raiser ahead of the show. There will also be the opportunity to dance socially after the show and learn a few steps from the company. Touring Dorset as part of the programme by Artsreach, Dorset's rural arts charity.

www.artsreach.co.uk

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Stephen White, as a Rights of Way Liaison Officer for the Dorset Coast & Countryside Service, investigates any issues within the parish of Buckland Newton, reporting to Dorset County Council. His contact numbers are

01300 345431 or 07773 283764

If you prefer to report issues directly to the council, you can do so by calling 01305 224463 or online at

[www.mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/
rights-of-way/reportproblem/](http://www.mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/rights-of-way/reportproblem/)

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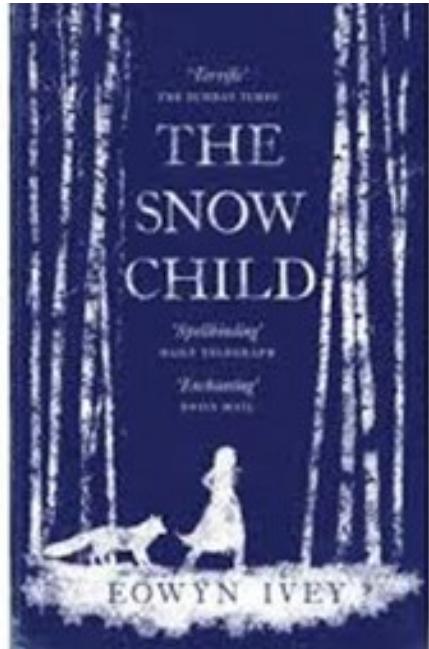
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In The Buckland Newton Book Corner

'A sad tale's best for winter', wrote Shakespeare.

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey, suggests that if you face winter head-on, as do the childless homesteaders in this story about life in Alaska in the 1920s, you may find more hope after sadness than you had ever imagined.

Jack and Mabel have moved from the East coast to start a new life, apart from anything to help Mabel get over the grief of having lost her only child in childbirth. Life in Alaska is tough and Jack struggles to farm his new homestead. Mabel feels lost and has moments of suicidal thoughts. Then in the first snowfall of the season, a playful snowball fight leads to the couple building a snowman, or more accurately a snowgirl. The next morning the snowgirl has vanished along with the mittens and scarf that adorned her and Jack sees a ghostly figure, possibly a young girl, running in the woods.....



Mabel and Jack's only real human contact is with their neighbours, George and the brilliantly portrayed Esther and their three sons. None of them know of any missing children in the area and have never seen the child that Mabel and Jack claim to have seen. Esther in particular thinks that it is some kind of cabin fever induced delusion. But Mabel and Jack claim to have met the girl, named Faina - a fairy-like child who visits them in the winter but disappears in the Spring.

Mabel recalls a book read during her Massachusetts childhood. The book, published in Russian in 1857, belonged originally to her father, and tells the story of "Snegurochka," or "the Snow Maiden," a girl, half-human and half ice and snow, who comes into the life of a childless old couple. Mabel has half-remembered this story, and asks her sister back East to send it to her. Why? She believes that she and Jack have fashioned a snow child of their own in front of their cabin and that it has come to life in the person of a blond-haired feral girl with a red fox as a mascot.

Mabel holds to the theory of the snow child's spontaneous origins: "frost ... and snowflake ... turned to flesh and bone." But Jack believes otherwise, that this wild child was orphaned at an early age and has created a life for herself in the mountains, woods and streams of the Alaskan wilderness.

Like Faina, the novel itself emerges lifelike and credible, with a delicate interface between fantastic story and realism that catches a reader's imagination from the beginning. This is such a heart-warming tale about two broken, lost people who slowly but surely find their way towards life and each other again through the sudden appearance of a wild child from the woods.

Many adjectives spring to mind in describing this novel. It is magical, ethereal, gentle, charming, beautiful and both sad and uplifting at the same time. The characters feel incredibly real, their emotions are genuine and complex. They have doubts and insecurities and beliefs. They go through such hardship, still loving each other, but also struggling with their own traumas and insecurities. They fight and love and sometimes drift apart then grow back together again. The novel holds moments of great human tenderness as well as being hugely atmospheric.

What I found most admirable is the way Ivey managed to blur the lines between genres. It is both magical realism and historical fiction and actual realism, the book hovers on the border between those things, somewhere, somehow. Compellingly, as a reader, you can never be completely sure about what is actually the truth.

Which, for me suggests that in some cases, a fantastic story, with tinges of sadness and a mysterious onward-pulsing life force, may be best for winter or any season.

Karen Whiter

Buckland Newton Youth Club

By the time the LVN drops through your letterboxes in early February, members of Buckland Newton Youth Club in partnership with Buckland Newton School, will have performed "A Touch of Snow White" - our 5th Pantomime in a Day since we started this annual dramatic event just after Covid. This year the Pantomime sold out and for some there was standing room only! Photos will follow next month.

BNYC will be recording its activities this year more closely than ever, because we have decided to create a book "A Year in the Life of Buckland Newton Youth Club, and its Allotment". The book will be written in partnership with the young people, and we shall be asking everyone to contribute, not least our amazing volunteers without whom the Youth Club would not be possible.

It therefore seems apt that our next big project will be in March when we shall be working with Buckland Newton School to provide Buckland Newton's first Children's Literary Festival.

2026 has been decreed (I am not sure by whom) as the National Year of Reading. Sadly, studies have shown that whilst levels of literacy amongst children (up to 11) has improved due to reading being taught as a skill, young people's literacy levels decline as they become older teens. It is our hope that the Literacy Festival will put the joy back into reading for many and encourage everyone young and old to pick up a book again for the simple pleasures of letting your mind relax, your imagination roam and let yourself unwind.

The Buckland Newton Literary Festival will (of course) be slightly different to others you may have experienced. Think a cross between Prokofiev's Peter & The Wolf and The Wind in the Willows.

In week one the children and young people will work with the Bank of Dreams & Nightmares, a creative writing organisation based in Bridport, to write their story.

In week two, an illustrator will help the children and young people illustrate their story.

In week three, they will put their story to music.

In week four, the wonderful Jo Simons from Dorchester Youth Theatre will return to work with everyone to pull together the story as a performance, that will be performed in the Village Hall.

In between all of this activity, there will be opportunities for grown-ups and families to take part in:

- * A book club night
- * A scrabble night/competition
- * An afternoon of children's storytime after school

See the flyer in this edition of the LVN (page 22) for more details and how to book your place(s).

The Toddler group will be getting involved too, with a Rhyme Time provided by Sherborne Library and a Morning of Music with the talented Emma House.

Hopefully there will be something for everyone, and you will find the time to support at least one activity and get involved!

Kate Parish

Buckland Newton Charity Christmas Card – Results!

A fantastic £406.39 was raised which has been split between The Weldmar Trust and Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Many thanks to all who donated and signed the card.

Amanda McKenna

BUCKLAND NEWTON NEW YEAR PLANT HUNT

A group of 12 hardy souls joined members of Buckland Newton Environment Group and braved the bitter cold to take part in the Buckland Newton New Year Plant Hunt - part of a country-wide citizen science survey organised by the BSBI to record flowering wild and naturalised plants.

We started by the bus shelter opposite the school and immediately found Daisy, Groundsel and the tiny Annual meadow grass all flowering beneath the iron fence. We moved on to the Parish Paddock where the recent ditch and pond work had made space for a few plants to flower - here we found Water chickweed, Figwort and Goldenrod. Then we crossed the fields towards Rew Lane spotting Dandelion in flower as we went. On Rew Lane the old hedge banks produced our first Snowdrops, Primrose and Dog's mercury. We carried on up Lanscombe Lane ticking off Red Campion and checking Ivy and Hazel as we went. Eventually we found these two in flower along Hilling Lane along with Gorse and Holly. As we headed for the churchyard, we enjoyed the scent of Winter heliotrope flowers and the mad flowers of Butcher's broom which appear to grow from the centre of its leaves. We returned to the start point having recorded 33 species and enjoyed some wildflowers in the depths of winter.



Wren Franklin

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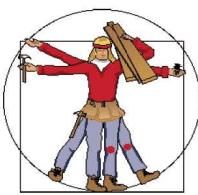
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Middlemarsh, DT9 5QW**

Mostly Moths - Gold Spot

Another colourful character with a pretty shape and apt name, albeit also the name of a mouth freshener. I like this little moth brightening up the trap. Designated 'Common' but nothing common about this little gem. Its range of habitats covers moorland and damp meadows, the latter being my own meadow. Sedges and the wild yellow flag iris attract this moth as larval food and here in the south it has two generations June/July and August/September. I caught this Gold Spot last August.



Fizz Lewis

Lydden Vale Gardening Club

February sees the end of our Gardening Club year with the Annual General Meeting and Winter Social in the Gaggle of Geese on Wednesday 11th February, when a two-course meal will be available to all who have pre ordered. If you haven't already ordered and want to do so, please contact Antony by email at Bladeley365@outlook.com . All members of the Club are invited to attend, and any potential new members will also be most welcome. This will be the first opportunity for Members to obtain a copy of the new programme for 2026/27.

The programme for the New Club Year is a full one starting on Wednesday 11th March, when our speaker, Mike Burks of Castle Gardens, will present an illustrated talk on the subject of "Weed Control"; a practical guide using chemical and non-chemical methods. The Summer months will see a series of visits to renowned gardens, horticultural establishments and estates. The autumn and winter will see a series of eminent speakers including TV Personality, Nick Bailey, of Gardeners World.

Antony Parson

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Middlemarsh, Dorset DT9 5QW
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www.norrisbodyrepairs.co.uk

Friends of Pop Mallers Coppice - Community Workday

Pop Mallers Coppice is a 14-acre woodland on the left of Spring Grove in between Buckland Newton and Duntish, used regularly by a handful of local residents who have 'permissive use'. We are holding another Community Workday with our friends from Buckland Newton Environment Group on Sunday 15th February between 10.30 and 4pm. Come along and join us, learn about coppicing, why it's important, it's history and how to do it.

If you are handy with a bowsaw, billhook or loppers please bring them with you or simply turn up and do as much or as little as you like. All ages and abilities can be accommodated and there's no obligation to stay for the whole day.

We'll provide tea, coffee and biscuits but you may want to bring some lunch if you plan to come for the whole day. If you're not up to a bit of manual work, you could help by baking a cake and coming along anyway to support the other volunteers and see what's going on.

If you're interested, please get in touch or look out for our Facebook post nearer the time and don't forget your tools & gloves! If the weather is poor on the 15th, we'll postpone the event until the following Sunday.

//shape.sparkle.cavalier

ST6903 0608

Damian Brothers and Emma Munday

damian.brothers@phonecoop.coop or emmamunday@btinternet.com

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OPENING TIMES

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	9.00am-4.00pm
Wednesday:	9.00am-6.00pm
Thursday:	9.00am-5.00pm
Friday:	9.00am-7.00pm
Saturday:	8.30am-1.30pm

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February Quiz

1. Which Premiership football ground (in the 2025-26 season) has the largest capacity?
2. Who was number one in the UK charts on the first of January 2000?
3. In which country was the first printed book made?
4. Where are the islets of Langerhans?
5. Which planet was discovered by William Herschel?
6. What do the South Korean company Cort produce?
7. Who wrote Ode to a Nightingale?
8. What is the least dense metal?
9. Who released the album Meaty Beaty Big and Bouncy?
10. What is the longest motorway in the UK?

by Simon Spencer

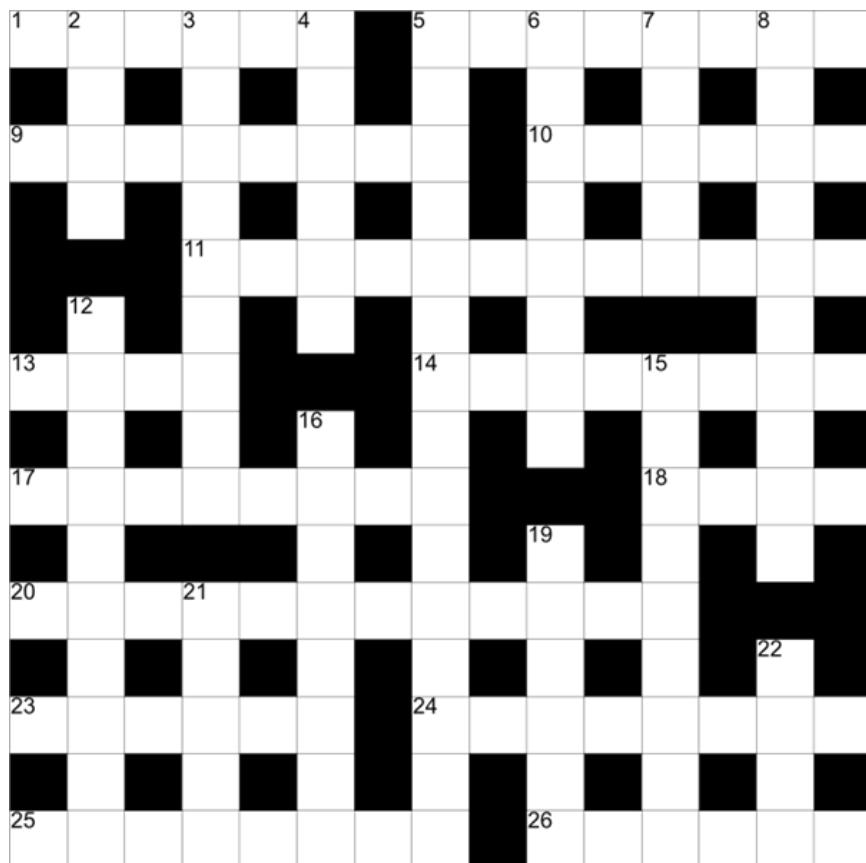
8	9		7	6	4	5		
	4		3				9	
3	2	7	9					
	8			5	3		1	
		6		1				
6						4		
7			4	9		8	3	
		9			8	2	7	

Sudoku by mathsphere.co.uk

R	S	E	N	O	L	H	T	A	I	B	E	V	B	O
B	G	N	I	P	M	U	J	I	K	S	E	G	U	X
E	C	I	O	I	K	O	B	U	P	H	C	Y	U	R
V	U	P	E	W	U	R	L	S	P	J	R	K	T	L
G	R	L	S	U	B	N	Z	A	V	S	O	C	O	Y
E	L	A	K	B	O	O	F	E	L	P	S	S	F	Z
P	I	S	I	N	B	R	A	E	S	S	S	X	R	K
I	N	K	I	O	S	D	F	R	D	R	C	S	E	R
P	G	A	N	T	L	I	Z	V	D	D	O	E	E	L
F	Y	T	G	E	E	C	X	K	P	I	U	U	S	Y
L	K	I	L	L	I	H	N	W	O	D	N	O	T	E
A	U	N	Z	E	G	Y	G	O	H	L	T	G	Y	K
H	B	G	V	K	H	B	I	E	R	O	R	H	L	C
B	L	E	O	S	L	O	P	E	S	T	Y	L	E	O
H	L	I	V	M	S	S	O	R	C	I	K	S	O	H

IT'S WINTER OLYMPICS TIME

ALPINE
BIATHLON
BOBSLEIGH
CROSSCOUNTRY
CURLING
DOWNHILL
FREESTYLE
HALFPIPE
HOCKEY
LUGE
MOGUL
NORDIC
SLALOM
SLOPESTYLE
SKATING
SKICROSS
SKIJUMPING
SKIING
SLOPESTYLE
SNOWBOARDING



Crossword and Wordsearch
by Carole Spencer

Across

1. Rang medic wandering around Hospital (6)
5. Alternative position after autumn (8)
9. Fiesta arranged by Ivan and Carl (8)
10. Figure it's more insensitive (6)
11. Work from one of three in a tub (12)
13. Opening presentation of military power display (4)
14. Try to impress? Pardon me – that's wrong (8)
17. A garlic I cultivated in Sardinia (8)
18. Rosy salmon (4)
20. Pete runs lamb around vehicle identifiers (12)
23. Keep location found on board (6)
24. Pessimistic sort of image (8)
25. His pony's changed with such treatment (8)
26. Piece of cake (6)

Down

2. Try three pairs irregularly (4)
3. Civil German city with no hotel gets one mate (9)
4. Eat about six - heavenly (6)
5. Messy, dank sandals fill south Atlantic territory (8,7)
6. Lend total broadcast in need of company (8)
7. Fawn over cute character (5)
8. Charlie was in Berlin (10)
12. What I use to say (10)
15. Banked money before newspaperman is back in store (9)
16. Not dark headland provides justice (8)
19. Put on kind of party for editor (6)
21. Notable conductor hold's this the wrong way (5)
22. President's office in a cricket ground (4)



Buckland Newton — Holy Rood

Vicar: Jonathan Still, The Vicarage, Back Lane, Cerne Abbas Tel: 01300 341251
Churchwarden: Jon Sulkin Tel: 07971 277584

Holy Rood is open every day from 9.30am
thru' 5pm for private prayer

Services at Holy Rood

Sunday 1 February
Matins at 9.45am

Sunday 8 February
Holy Communion at 9.45am

Sunday 15 February
All Age Service at 4pm

Sunday 22 February
Holy Communion at 9.45am

SELECTION OF BOOKS IN HOLY ROOD -£0.40 EACH OR 3 FOR £1.00

Dear Friends,

Do you feel it? Rising up through the soil? The urgent spikes of the Snowdrops? The tentative fingers of green? 6C degrees and the grass begins to grow, to feed the mother sheep to prepare the milk for the coming lambs. The day length grows around two minutes each day. Oh the thrill of it!

The Anglo-Saxon Church gave that term *length* to this season- Lent, the time of the lengthening of days. For the Celts before them it was Imbolc, the time of the return of milk as lambs and calves were born and sheep and cows lactated and fresh protein and fat was available after months without. The time of the return of butter and cheese! Oh Grommit!

It is a time of intense excitement and hope, preparing for the festival of Easter whose very name in the Anglo-Saxon world was derived from the Germanic goddess Eostre, bringer of spring-life, renewal and fertility, symbolised by eggs and bunny rabbits (for obvious reasons!).

It was the best way that the missionary monks like Aelfric of Cerne could express the hope and life of Resurrection, which in the Latin South was termed Pascha, derived from the Hebrew Passover festival, the setting for Jesus' Last Supper, death by crucifixion and resurrection- the beginning of the life of the Church as his risen and continuing life and body in the world.

This time is upon us now. On Sunday 1st February we will gather for 11.15 in St Mary's for the celebration of Candlemas, when Mary and Joseph gave thanks and paid their dues for the birth to them of their beloved child. Then around noon we will wend our way to the Holy Spring in the burial ground, the source and hope of life in Cerne since the last Ice Age retreated.

We will bless the waters and pass through St Brigid's Girdle from the Old into the New, from the Winter into the Spring, from the First Birth into being Born Anew.

We will share the sheep cheese and the oat biscuit and sip our sloe gin and put the grey dark days of winter behind us. Do come and join us.

Jonathan

The Great Teddy Bear Zip Wire Challenge

Intrepid, brave or just plain bonkers! Teddy bears of all shapes and sizes are invited to risk life, limb and their dignity to whiz down a zip wire from the Organ Loft to the Pulpit in Holy Rood Church, Buckland Newton on Saturday 21st February from 11am until 3pm



The morning will get underway from 11am with special prizes for the Best Dressed Teddy, Best Named Teddy, Fastest Descent.

Don't have a Teddy? Well, any soft toy can also have a go, or

'Rent-A-Ted Instead'

there will be a selection of willing participants just waiting to be picked out of the basket by you, hoping to make it down safely to lots of cheers.

There is even a rumour of a dragon having a go.....

To keep the Teddy Bear owners' strength up for this exhausting challenge, Bacon Butties, home-made soup, proper coffee, teas, soft drinks and cakes will be served. There will also be a Cake Stall with marmalade, chutneys, jams and jellies for sale plus a raffle.

Each run down the wire will be £2 or 3 goes for £5
all in aid of Holy Rood Chancel Roof Fund, Buckland Newton.

Meanwhile, the Bell Tower will be open for guided tours at 12 and 2pm

Keep the date, Saturday 21st February, see you there.

From Holy Rood PCC

We kindly ask for the support of the Buckland Newton community in helping to meet the costs for the cemetery, located in the centre of the village opposite Cranes Meadow, which is a shared place of remembrance for many families. The ongoing upkeep of the cemetery—including grass cutting, pathway maintenance, maintaining the beautiful wildflower area and general care—requires regular funding that the church alone struggles to meet. Any contribution, however small, would help ensure that the cemetery remains a beautiful, peaceful, dignified, and well-maintained space for current and future generations. If you feel able to make a contribution, please contact the church treasurer Diana Wells via email: holyroodpccbucklandnewton@gmail.com

Thank you - we are very grateful for all the continued goodwill and support of our community.

The Parochial Church Council of Holy Rood Church, Buckland Newton.

Rood News Rood News Rood News Rood News Rood News



Our Lent Lunch this year is by kind invitation of Mrs Bridget Hodges at Purbeck House. A wonderful selection of home-made soup and bread will be served on Saturday 14th March from 12 noon till 2.00pm.

As in previous years, donations will be divided between WaterAid and Holy Rood Chancel Roof Fund but there will also be a box for tinned and packaged foods in Holy Rood to go to the Sherborne food bank.

BUCKLAND NEWTON'S Children's Literary Festival 2026

GET INVOLVED!

MARCH 2026

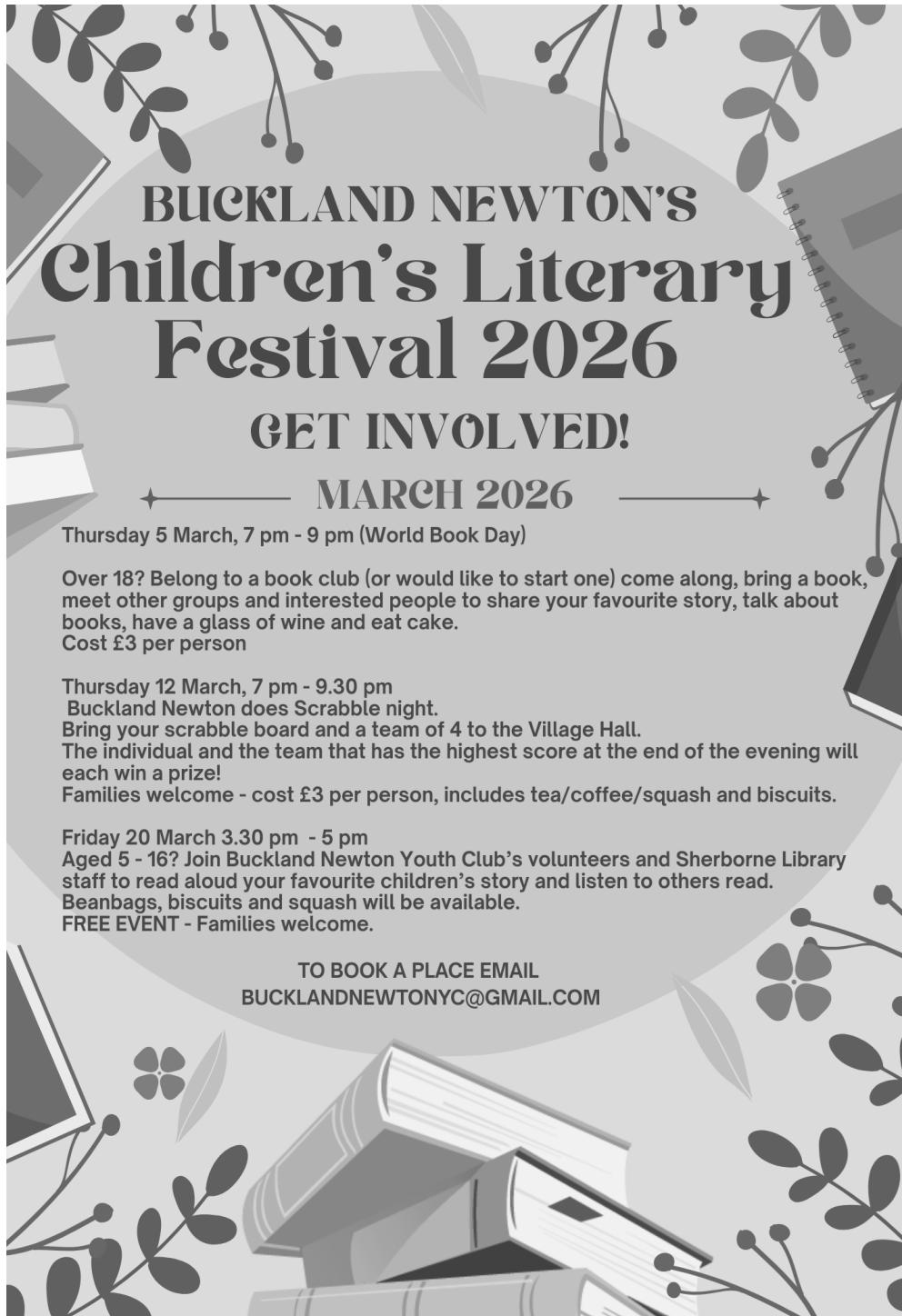
Thursday 5 March, 7 pm - 9 pm (World Book Day)

Over 18? Belong to a book club (or would like to start one) come along, bring a book, meet other groups and interested people to share your favourite story, talk about books, have a glass of wine and eat cake.
Cost £3 per person

Thursday 12 March, 7 pm - 9.30 pm
Buckland Newton does Scrabble night.
Bring your scrabble board and a team of 4 to the Village Hall.
The individual and the team that has the highest score at the end of the evening will each win a prize!
Families welcome - cost £3 per person, includes tea/coffee/squash and biscuits.

Friday 20 March 3.30 pm - 5 pm
Aged 5 - 16? Join Buckland Newton Youth Club's volunteers and Sherborne Library staff to read aloud your favourite children's story and listen to others read.
Beanbags, biscuits and squash will be available.
FREE EVENT - Families welcome.

TO BOOK A PLACE EMAIL
BUCKLANDNEWTONYC@GMAIL.COM



Piddle Valley Twinning

QUIZ



Thursday February 26th 7 for 7.30pm

PIDDLEHINTON VILLAGE HALL

£10 to include 1 drink, nibbles and a simple Ploughman's

Bar. Teams of up to six

Please phone 01300 348015 or 348154 to reserve a table

Warning issued as two Asian Hornet nests found in Dorset

An invasive species could be a problem for everyone in Dorset if nothing is done to prevent them getting established in the area, say beekeepers.

Last year, the UK recorded 544 confirmed yellow-legged hornet sightings, with 162 nests being destroyed - more than in all previous years combined. Several nests, including two in Dorset, were discovered only after the new queens had already dispersed, raising the likelihood of hornet migration into neighbouring counties this year.

The British Beekeeper Association (BBKA) previously revealed that a yellow-legged Asian Hornet nest had been found in Ringstead. The sighting was recorded between October 10 and 17, 2025. There was also a confirmed yellow-legged Asian Hornet sighting in Osmington on September 27, 2025. An additional sighting was reported in Verwood, with a nest reported to be in a birdbox in an address near St Stephens Lane on June 27.

The hornet preys on a wide range of insects including honeybees, according to the National Bee Unit. It presents a risk to invertebrate diversity in areas where nests are present at high densities and can be a health risk to those who have allergies to hornet or wasp stings.

Lynne Ingram, master beekeeper, said: "With the region on the frontline of potential establishment, coordinated action has never been more urgent. It is vitally important that everyone in the southwest knows how to identify a yellow-legged hornet, and how to report it." Yellow-legged hornets pose a series threat to honeybees and other pollinators, with significant implications for biodiversity, food security, the economy and public health. One yellow-legged hornet nest consumes 11kg of insects in a season, and up to 40 per cent are honeybees. They have been known to kill up to 50 bees a day and can deliver a painful sting to humans, which can be serious for those with allergies. Lynne added: "Although beekeepers are understandably concerned about the impact on honeybees, yellow-legged hornets could be a problem for everyone who lives and works in the South West if we don't prevent them getting established in the area."

dorsetecho.co.uk

NNSS
GB non-native species secretariat

www.nonnativespecies.org
Version 4.0. Produced by Lucy Cornwell, Olaf Booy (NNSS), Gay Morris, Mike Brown (National Bee Unit) with assistance from Colette O'Flynn (National Biodiversity Data Centre Ireland) Stuart Roberts (BWARS)

Asian Hornet Alert! Report sightings of this species:
• with the iPhone and Android recording app: Asian Hornet Watch
• online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
• by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Species Description

Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*
AKA: Yellow-legged Hornet
Native to: Asia
Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

Not easily confused with any other species. Dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. Smaller than the native European Hornet.

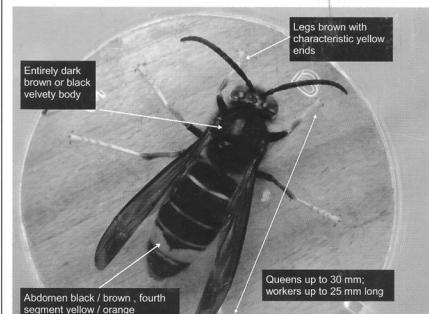
Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, in vehicles, or in/on untreated timber. The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.

A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

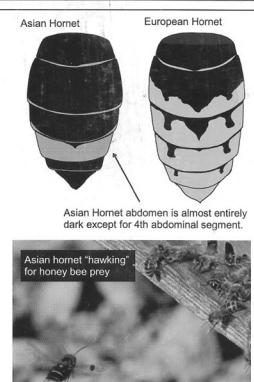
Do not disturb an active nest. Members of the public who suspect they have found an Asian Hornet should report it with a photo using the details provided in the red box at the top of this ID sheet.



Key ID Features



Asian Hornet **European Hornet**



BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

<https://www.bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.org.uk>

The next Full Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2026,
7.00 pm in the Parish Pavilion.



The Parish Pavilion is available for parishioners to use. If you would like to book the Pavilion, please contact the Parish Clerk for further details. The Pavilion has a toilet that is open to the public 24 hours a day.

Internet is now available within the Pavilion – Log in details are displayed on the noticeboard in the entrance.

PLANNING

Applications for comment

P/FUL/2025/07439 - LAURENCES FARM, BEAULIEU WOOD, BUCKLAND NEWTON, DT2 7DH

Erection of steel portal framed building to cover existing silage clamp.

Comments by 23 January 2026 - Parish Council supports this application.

Applications for information purposes only - no comment required

Dorset Council, in line with their agreed Statement of Community Involvement, will no longer be sending out neighbour notification letters for planning applications, unless they are specifically required by legislation. All applications will continue to be publicised via site notices, and press notices are also used where required by law. Details of all applications are also published online, and they will continue to consult statutory organisations and town and parish councils. Dorset Council are at present asking applicants and agents to help by displaying site notices on the Councils behalf.

Please note that these are applications known about up to the 16th of the month; others may be submitted after this date, therefore check the Parish Council Website.

Planning applications can be viewed on the Dorset Council website. To view all applications listed under Buckland Newton Parish, use the advanced search page and select Buckland Newton under the Parish drop down.

YOUR COUNCILLORS ARE:-

Chair	Andy Foot	01300 345511
Vice Chair	Mick Ames	01300 345497
Councillors	Mark Needham	01300 345293
	Chris Osmond	01300 345326
	Lin Townsend	01300 345306
	Nick Baker	07812 528170
	David Manny	07798 837122
	Bradley Perrett	07855 473641
Flood Warden	Doug Morse	01300 345707
	Kevin Morse	01300 345707
Rights of Way Liaison Officer	Stephen White	01300 345431
Parish Clerk	Sarah Mitchell	01258 817288 / clerk@bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Chalk Valleys Ward - Dorset Council – Cllr Jill Haynes	01300 341277 / clllrjill.haynes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk	



POLICE REPORT
DECEMBER - No reports

It is important to report all crimes/incidents so that the police can build up a picture of what is happening within the County. If nothing is reported, they cannot act on it.

Dorchester NPT website address is [Dorchester | Your area | Dorset Police | Dorset Police](https://www.dorsetpolice.gov.uk/area/dorset-police)

Our Face Book Page address is: www.facebook.com/DorchesterPolice/

Our Twitter Page is: <https://twitter.com/DorchesterPolice>

Our Instagram Page is: <https://www.instagram.com/dorchesterpolice/>

Dorset Alert messaging system registration to receive messages is: <https://www.dorsetalert.co.uk/pages/2451/1/Register.html>

Contacting Dorset Police (non-emergency)

Do it Online: www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/

Telephone: 101 *(Calls to the 101 non-emergency number from both landlines and mobiles are free)

Message an officer: www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/message-an-officer/

To report information to the police with 100% anonymity, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org or call Freephone 0800 555 111

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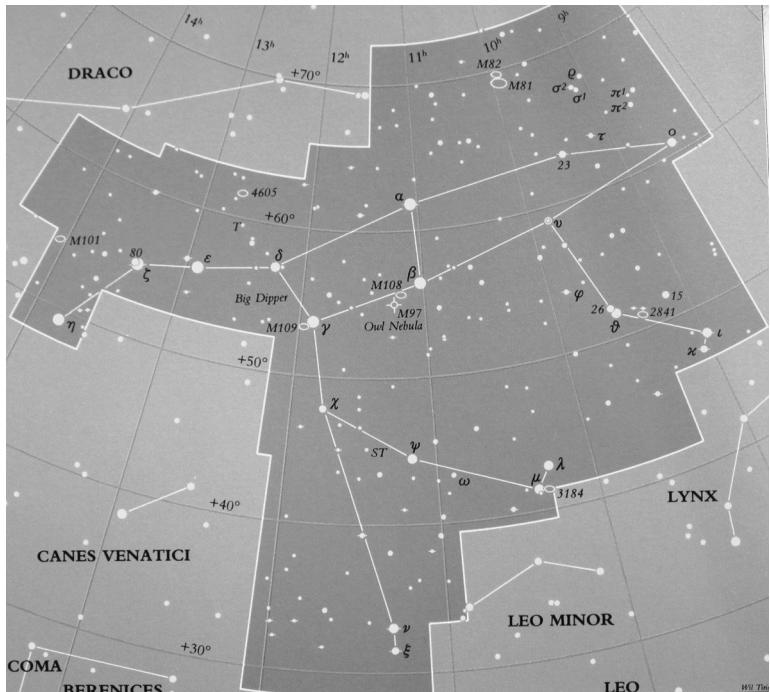
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YOUR NIGHT SKY - FEBRUARY 2026

January has not been spectacular so far for sky watching this year. Hopefully, February will be better as it is a good month to observe the Milky Way which stretches across the sky from North to South passing just to the East of Orion. It is always a lovely sight through binoculars. Lovely Orion is still in our southwestern sky and is always worth a revisit, although by the end of the month it will be setting in the west just after 10pm. This month's constellation is Ursa Major. It is almost overhead in February. Ursa Major is probably the most recognisable of the constellations in our sky after Orion. It is also known as "The Plough" and, in the USA, as the "Big Dipper". It is well known because it never sets in northern skies and because the two bright stars (the top star is named Dubhe and the bottom one is Merak) at the right-hand end of the "bowl" of the "Big Dipper" point directly to the pole star, Polaris. Polaris is the star about which our sky appears to rotate as the Earth turns.



THE PLOUGH



M81 & M82

Ursa Major contains a double star which can easily be seen with a pair of binoculars. If you look at the middle star in the handle of the "Big Dipper" you will see that it is two stars, Mizar and Alcor. These are gravitationally locked together, which means that they rotate around each other. Ursa Major also contains a number of galaxies, two of which can be seen through a good pair of binoculars on a really dark night. The sky will need to be very clear with no Moon. These galaxies are M81 and M82, which lie above and to the right of Dubhe. M81 is a spiral galaxy like our own milky way. M82 looks a bit of a mess in a large telescope as it had a close encounter with M81 about 300 million years ago. This caused an eruption of gas from M82's core. This gas is now forming into new young stars. Galaxies like M81 and our own milky way contain 200 to 400 billion stars. Unlike most constellations, most of the stars in Ursa Major are at the same distance

from us, are the same age and are moving in the same direction. The exceptions are the end stars of the plough shape, Dubhe and Alkaid. These two stars will move off in a different direction from the other stars in the constellation during the next few thousand years so changing the shape of the constellation.

THE PLANETS THIS MONTH. At the beginning of the month, Jupiter will be bright in the South in mid-evening. It will be in full darkness all month. Mercury is just visible in the west-southwest setting 30 minutes after the Sun on the 17th. You will need very good binoculars or better still a telescope to spot it. It is very low in the sky. Venus is visible, also low in the west-southwest, setting 30 minutes after the Sun at the beginning of the month and 80 minutes after the Sun at the month's end. Mars is not visible this month. Saturn is best seen at the beginning of the month in the southwestern sky in the early evening. It will be in the twilight by the month's end.

THE MOON. Full Moon is on February 1st with New Moon on February the 17th.

Cont . . .

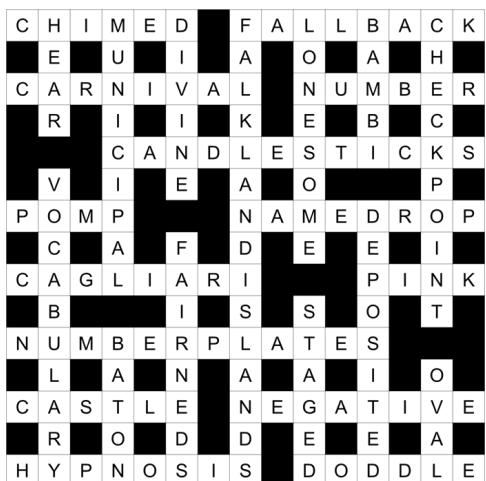
SPECIAL EVENTS. On the 18th of February, a very narrow crescent Moon will be between Venus and Mercury. Venus will be below with Mercury above. Saturn will also be slightly higher in the sky. On February A28 Praesepe, also known as the Beehive Cluster, will be immediately below the Moon. This will be a lovely sight in binoculars or a small telescope.

If you have, or are thinking of buying a telescope, and need any observing technical advice, I can be contacted on (01300) 345485 or at keithmwright@compuserve.com. There are many free Apps which can be used on a tablet computer or smart phone that will help guide you around our night sky. You need to have the GPS turned on for the best results.

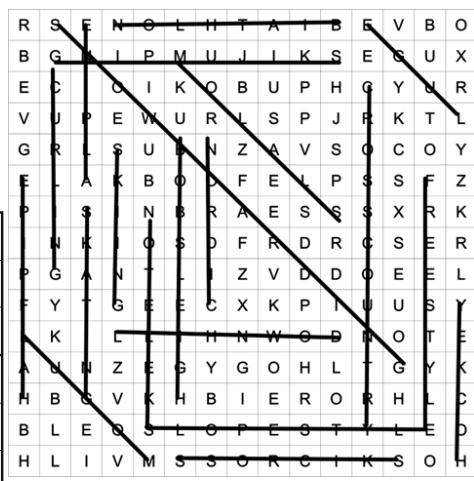
Keith Wright

Quiz Answers

1. Old Trafford. Manchester United's ground holds between 74,000 and 75,000 people (different sources give different numbers). It is second only to Wembley Stadium which can hold just over 90,000. Bobby Charlton called it the Theatre of Dreams.
2. Westlife. The double A side I Have a Dream/Seasons in the Sun was covers of Abba and Terry Jacks songs and gave the Westlife their fourth consecutive number 1.
3. China. The Diamond Sutra, a Buddhist scripture printed in 868 AD, was discovered in Dunhuang. It demonstrated advanced printing technology centuries before Gutenberg in Europe and includes a note specifying its creation date and purpose for free distribution.
4. In the Pancreas. There are about 1 million islets distributed throughout the pancreas of a healthy adult human. The average diameter is about 0.2mm. They are mostly involved with the metabolism of glucose.
5. Uranus. On the 13th March 1781, while making observations through his telescope from his garden in Bath, he noted a new object in Gemini. This was eventually found to be a new planet, the first to be discovered since antiquity. It was named after the ancient Greek deity of the sky.
6. Guitars. The company started making guitars in 1973, and as well as making guitars with its own name, it also makes guitars (mostly the cheaper ranges) on behalf of Ibanez, PRS, Squier, Epiphone and others.
7. John Keats. Written in 1819 it was either written in the garden of the Spaniards Inn, in Hampstead, or, according to his friend Charles Armitage Brown, under a plum tree in the garden of Keats' house. Keats composed the poem in one day and was first published in Annals of the Fine Arts the following July.
8. Lithium. It is light enough to float on water, it is soft enough to be cut with a knife, but it is highly reactive and needs to be stored in oil to prevent violent reactions with the water. Along with hydrogen and helium it was one of the first elements formed after the big bang.
9. The Who. The album is a compilation of singles that was released in 1971. The title refers to the four members of the band, Meaty being Roger Daltrey, Beaty is Keith Moon, Big is John Entwistle and Bouncy is Pete Townshend.
10. The M6. The oldest motorway in the UK is 231 miles long. Between Shap and Tebay there is an unconnected local road running down the central reservation.



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





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