

# The Lydden Vale News

🎆 Happy New Year! 🎆



Orion Nebula



January 2026



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

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

The Lydden Vale News is delivered to  
over four hundred households and has  
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**POUNDBURY WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

## The Bit at the Beginning ....

As we welcome another New Year does anyone else wish that this year goes a little bit slower. 2025 whizzed by without taking a breath.

I'm sure we all have big plans for 2026 – I know I certainly have lots of projects to get on with – just need to come out of hibernation!

One of the challenges to be faced this year is the fact that Microsoft Publisher (which to be fair is a bit old school) will be no more. This is a problem for the Lydden Vale News as this is the software we've used for some time now. There are alternatives like Word, but it will mean a lot of adjusting and re-sizing. I don't claim to be an expert by any stretch of the imagination so any help, tips or advice on other software programmes that would be suitable would be gratefully received. We have until October. I know a lot of community newsletters are no longer produced and that there are people who still value receiving a hard copy of the LVN, (although it can also be found online at the Buckland Newton Community website). Is this the time to stop and rely on social media for our local information? Unfortunately, this would exclude some of the population. Also, do we consider the environment and all the paper it takes to produce over 400 copies? The cost of producing it is always a consideration as prices for printing have risen and we are solely dependent on advertising revenue, of course. Email [lyddenvalley@gmail.com](mailto:lyddenvalley@gmail.com) with any thoughts, comments or suggestions.

Thank you.

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](mailto:lyddenvalley@gmail.com)

Meetings/interviews: arranged via email

## Lydden Vale News Team

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[lyddenvalley@gmail.com](mailto:lyddenvalley@gmail.com)

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**Alan Simmons**

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**\* 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: Keith Wright (see page 26)**

The Buckland Newton  
Community Website

**[www.bucklandnewton.com](http://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 - JANUARY 2026

### Thursday 8th and 22nd January - 2 - 4 pm



We will meet for 2 sessions in January.

On **Thursday 8th** from 2-4pm - in **BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL**.  
There will be a charge for this session of £2 per person to cover the cost of Village Hall rental and tea/coffee.

On **Thursday 22nd January** from 2-4pm - we will be back at The Gaggles of Geese.

Come along and join us with whatever craft you like to do.  
All crafts and skills levels very welcome.

Lyn Cox 01300 345739

Jane Willis 01300 345477



### Friday 9th January – 12.30 pm

#### **2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB** (See page 12)



**2026**

**Happy New Year everyone** and our first get together is again in Buckland Newton Village Hall.  
**Friday 9 January 12:30 p.m. for 12:45pm start**

The menu is as follows:  
Chicken Pot Pie or Corned Beef Hash  
Apple Crumble or Lemon Surprise Pudding

If you would like to join us and have not already done so, please contact Bridget Hodges (01300 345493).

\*\*\*\*\*

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 1830 – 2000

**BUCKLAND NEWTON YOUTH CLUBS 'PANTOMIME IN A DAY' - BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL** (see page 6 for details)

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**Monday, Tuesday and Friday**

**POST OFFICE 9am-12 noon Buckland Newton Village Hall**



**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January – 7.15 for 7.30 pm**

**LYDDEN VALE GARDENING CLUB – BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL** (See page 6)



\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 8.30 pm**

**PUB QUIZ – THE GAGGLE OF GEESE** (See page 7)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 30th January 2026- 10.30 am**

**BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE CAFE**



The cafe is always on the last Friday of the month. Let's put the dates in our brand -new calendars!!

The first cafe of 2026 in on **Friday 30th January** from 10.30 to 12 noon in Buckland Newton Village Hall.

Everyone welcome.  
Come along and catch up with friends and neighbours after all the Christmas festivities.

Lyn Cox 01300 345739      Liza Hill 01300 345230

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Dates for your Diary:**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 4.30 pm**

**SERENDIPITY CONCERT OF MUSIC AND READINGS – BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL** (See page 23 for details)

\*\*\*\*\*

**IMPORTANT - Defib and CPR practical Training Morning**  
**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 10am to noon** in Buckland Newton Village Hall

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



\*\*\*\*\*



## Gaggle Events



**January Break** to give us and our team a break, the pub will be closed until 2pm on Thursday 22nd January.

**Knit & Natter** - Thursday 22nd January - the fortnightly crafting social group. Free to attend. Bring a project and perhaps some cake! 2.30 til 4.30pm

**Pub Quiz** - Wednesday 28th January – our popular 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# Buckland Newton Defibrillator

## The Defib Committee

**Fizz Lewis, Sandie Stout (01300 345135), Diana Wells and Jane Willis (01300 345477)**

Every year we publish information about the Defibrillator that we have here in Buckland Newton which is of particular benefit to those who have recently moved into the village.

## Where is it?

The Defib is housed in an **unlocked cupboard** on the outside wall of BN Village Hall by the back door, off the kitchen. It is available for use in an emergency, after dialing 999 and as advised by the paramedics. It is in full working order, daily checked and maintained by the committee.



## Using the Runner System

Anyone can fetch the Defib, but we have 'runners' in the village who can fetch the defibrillator for you if you want. A list of them plus phone numbers is published every month in the inside cover of the LVN. Do not call them for any other medical emergency, dial 999.

Current list in order of proximity to 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

## Who can use Defib?

Anyone can use Defib, as it 'speaks' clear instructions about what to do. Keep 999 paramedics on the phone on speaker until ambulance arrives.

## Useful Tips in an Emergency

Some or all of the following symptoms could indicate a need for CPR and Defibrillation

- No signs of life - unresponsive
- Pale and clammy skin, blue lips
- Not breathing or unusual breathing

Give some thought about how our defib scheme could work for you.

Talk to a friend/neighbour in advance about fetching the defib in case you should need it.

Attend a Training morning (see page 9)

Try to stay calm.

Turn on house lights, especially at night for ambulance to find you.

Leave front door open

Put phone on speaker

The school also has a Defib for use during school opening hours.

Cont . .



## **NB. Careline Users**

If you are a Careline User, please ensure your provider is aware of the existence of the Defib in the village.

## **IMPORTANT - Defib and CPR practical Training Morning**

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 10am to noon** in Buckland Newton Village Hall,  
led by Alan Hale, who runs an excellent practical session. Anyone can attend. £5 (Runners free)

Contact Fizz Lewis [froglewis@hotmail.com](mailto:froglewis@hotmail.com) to book a place.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Buckland Newton Community Car Scheme – How things have changed**

The BN Community Car Scheme was set up in 2014 and was originally aimed at supporting individuals over 50 years old who lived in the parish of Buckland Newton, who may have been at risk of rural isolation. The aim was to support them get to medical appointments, assist with shopping, taking them to hairdressers etc. Volunteer drivers supported these individuals.

The intention was never to take away business from the local bus service or in those days local taxi services.

In 2018 we covered 195 requests for lifts but in 2024-25 only 45. Most of the journeys back in 2018 were over to Cerne Abbas surgery for doctors' appointments – how life has changed in so few years!

The scheme has evolved over the years to support the needs of community, especially after Covid and now we find that many medical appointments are further afield with journeys in the last year to Taunton and Bouremouth hospitals as well as dentists on Portland.

Clients now need to register with us, and they pay an annual £10 subscription to be able to use the service. We ask for a donation of 50p per mile travelled, to go towards paying for the drivers' costs, insurance etc. We ask for at least 48 hrs notice of requests for journeys.

Volunteer drivers give up their time freely to support the scheme, and they often support other activities in the village too. All are DBS checked and are issued with hospital parking permits and receive 45p per mile they have driven.

Although we lost our bus service a few years ago, there is still a taxi company based in Cerne Abbas who may be able to assist, although they generally do airport runs. Alternative transport options were investigated by the Parish Council, but they were not viable due to costs. A letter has recently been written to Edward Morrello, our local MP, who is apparently following up parishioner concerns about the lack of public transport.

Many community car schemes only cover journeys to medical appointments and are struggling to find volunteer drivers. In our last financial year, the lifts were covered by 10 volunteer drivers, however we also had 5 drivers who had to stand down at various times of the year, due to various reasons. Although we don't want to, we may in future have to prioritise the type of lifts we can cover.

If you feel that you would like to know more about either using the car scheme as a client or as a volunteer driver, then please contact Sheila Crouch on 07733 849264 or email on [bncarscheme@gmail.com](mailto:bncarscheme@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Winter feels like a quieter time in nature. Lower temperatures and less daylight make a lot of wildlife less active, but many species are still easy to spot and will appreciate a helping hand in chilly conditions.

**Plant a hedge:** Winter is tree planting season and if you have the space, creating a mixed hedge or shrubby border of native species can make an enormous difference for wildlife. Plants will offer vital shelter from the elements, dense, spiny branches are great nesting spots and abundant flowers and berries will feed all manner of bees, butterflies, birds and more.

Supply a smorgasbord for most of the year by selecting species carefully. Blackthorn and hawthorn are great choices for early spring blossom. Good options to provide pollen, nectar and fruits for late spring through to autumn include dog rose, field maple, guelder rose, dogwood, bramble, wild honeysuckle and common ivy. Many of the berries, including those of blackthorn and hawthorn, will last well into winter.

**Help birds find a home:** The spring breeding season is just around the corner and as soon as the new year dawns, birds will be scouting for homes to raise their chicks. Winter is a good time to give existing nest boxes a good clean in preparation, or to put up new ones.



**Leave seedheads standing:** As plants die back, delay the traditional garden tidy up and choose to leave some of the seedheads standing. The seeds will provide food for birds and small mammals, and hollow stems and intricate seedheads are valuable shelter for overwintering insects like ladybirds. They'll add structure and interest to your outdoor space for winter too, with common plants like angelica and sea holly looking as stunning dusted with frost as they do in flower. Alternatively, cut stems back and leave small piles in quieter areas.

**Avoid turning the compost heap:** Turning your compost won't hurt wildlife, but it will disturb any hibernating slow worms, frogs or hedgehogs from their winter slumber. Moving compost around in cold conditions will lose some of that all-important heat needed for decomposition too, so it's best for everyone to wait until spring when the weather warms up and any residents have moved on.

**Monitor hedgehog feeding stations:** Hedgehogs can hibernate from around October to April but may still be out and about in early winter if conditions are mild. They may also wake up for brief periods to search for food as fat reserves deplete, especially if they were born later in the year, so it's worth leaving some food undercover at all times. A bowl of cat biscuits will stay dry and edible for at least a week.

**Thaw icy waters:** When temperatures drop, remedy frozen bird baths whenever possible so wildlife can access drinking and bathing water. When surfaces freeze, defrost them by carefully pouring warm water over them – but not boiling water as containers could crack. For ponds, try floating a ball in the water to maintain an airhole for frogs and newts that may be hibernating in the depths.

**Make a toad abode:** Toads don't hibernate in winter but spend most of their time burrowed into mud or compost to conserve energy, emerging to forage during milder spells. Give them a ready-made shelter with a large, upturned plant pot in a shady spot. Place it upside down over soft soil with one edge propped up for toads to crawl under and burrow or lay the pot on its side and half fill it with soil, moss or leaves.

**Feed the birds:** As temperatures plummet and food becomes difficult to find, a helping hand can make all the difference for birds. Keep tables and hanging feeders topped up with calorie-rich supplies like fat balls, peanuts and sunflower hearts to help them replenish the extra energy they use to keep warm.

Plan ahead for future winters by planting a tree and letting nature provide. It's the perfect time to plant and one of the most satisfying and hassle-free ways to offer valuable food and shelter for a whole host of wildlife.

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

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## Village History

Are you interested in joining a group to research and record the history of Buckland Newton?

We are looking for like-minded people who are willing to put some time and effort into researching, presenting and archiving the history of the parish, and to make it readily accessible to all on a long-term basis.

Initially we have thought of four areas for research:

1. The period from 1840 to 1939. There is a lot of information readily available in the form of tithe map, census and other data. This could be analysed and presented to tell the story of the village over that time period.
2. Prior to 1840, back to medieval times and beyond, there is material to be researched. This would probably mean time being spent on-line or in the Dorset History Centre, for example.
3. Recording the history of the parish from the Second World War to the present day for future generations before it is lost. This could be recording peoples' memories, taking photographs, recording important events, etc.

Tracing the history of individual buildings in the parish.

We appreciate that several people over the years have researched various aspects of Buckland Newton history. If those people are willing to share their work, we think it would be good to assemble it in a common format and make it available to both present and future generations.

If you are interested, in the first instance contact either:

Andy Waring at [andywaring12@gmail.com](mailto:andywaring12@gmail.com) or

John Baker at [johnbaker386@outlook.com](mailto:johnbaker386@outlook.com)

## Family History

On a slightly different matter –

Are you interested in researching your family history, but don't know where to start or would like some help?

Would you like to join a self-help group to perhaps meet once a month, where those with experience could help those who are just starting out?

If so, whether you are starting out or you have skills to offer, please contact me, John Baker, at: [johnbaker386@outlook.com](mailto:johnbaker386@outlook.com) or 01300 345386.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Lunch Club

December's Christmas lunch in the Village Hall was WONDERFUL. We had a fantastic traditional meal, and everyone agreed it was one of the best ever.

Secret Santa was very generous, and everyone received a present. As always, our volunteer helpers were very busy before, during and after the meal itself.

We do appreciate the work they put in to give us such a lovely time, and we were pleased that for once they were able to sit down and eat with us.

*Janet Sealy*

*(Photos opposite)*





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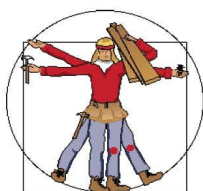
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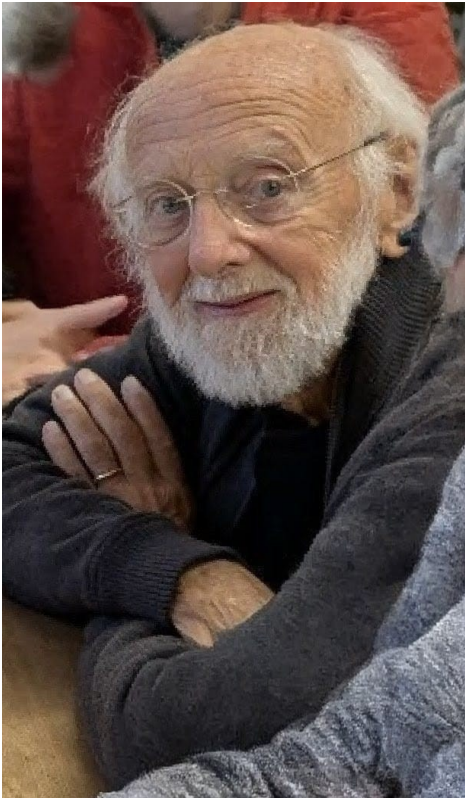
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Middlemarsh, DT9 5QW**

**Birthday Bells**



Pete on his 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December the Buckland Newton Bell Ringers (and friends) rang a quarter peal to celebrate Pete Willis' 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Pete is currently the oldest resident in Buckland Newton and since his 90<sup>th</sup> it has become a bit of a tradition to mark the day with a quarter peal.

Following a day of celebrations with his family, Pete listened to the ringing from the comfort of his home whilst Jane rang the Treble, her first quarter peal in over a year!



The band – Nick Baker, David Brooks, Tim Filtness, Jan Keohane, Jane Willis, Will Burnett

\*\*\*\*\*

**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**

**BUCKLAND NEWTON'S  
Children's Literary  
Festival 2026**

**GET INVOLVED!**

**MARCH 2026**

Final date of first two events to be confirmed:

w/c 2 March, belong to a book club (or would like to start one) come along, 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

w/c 9 March, Buckland Newton does Scrabble night. Bring your scrabble board and team of 4 to the Village Hall. The individual and the team that has the highest score at the end of the evening each win a prize!  
Cost £3 per person

Friday 20 March, 1530 - 1700 - read aloud your favourite children's story to an afternoon/after school audience of children and young people.  
**FREE EVENT**

TO BOOK A PLACE EMAIL  
BUCKLANDNEWTONYC@GMAIL.COM



## Buckland Newton Youth Club

I write this at the end of December as the weather forecast is predicting a cold snap and possibly snow at the beginning of January 2026. It therefore feels appropriate that Buckland Newton Youth Club's Pantomime in a Day in 2026 will be "A Touch of Snow White". The Pantomime will be performed on Tuesday 20 January with the curtain rising at 1830 in Buckland Newton Village Hall. Tickets are £5 a family or £2.50 each and pre-ordering is strongly recommended - it was a sell-out performance last year!

In February BNYC will be taking part in an art project to produce promotional materials for the Club, think "Lively, Fun, Chaotic, Crazy!" words that the young people have used to describe BNYC. The project will continue into the half-term, when the Yr 8s+ will also have the opportunity to go on what is becoming an annual residential in London.

And then in March, BNYC will work with Buckland Newton School to take part in Buckland Newton's first Children's Literary Festival. This will be a Literary Festival with a difference! Think of a cross between Wind in the Willows and Prokofiev's Peter & The Wolf, the children and young people will:

w/c 3 March: Write the story, working with the Creative Writing Charity, Bank of Dream & Nightmares (based in Bridport).

w/c 10 March: Work with a young illustrator to illustrate the story.

w/c 17 March: Work with local musicians to put the story to music.

w/c 24 March: Work with Jo Simons, Artistic Director to perform the story - on Thursday 27 March at 1830 at the Village Hall.

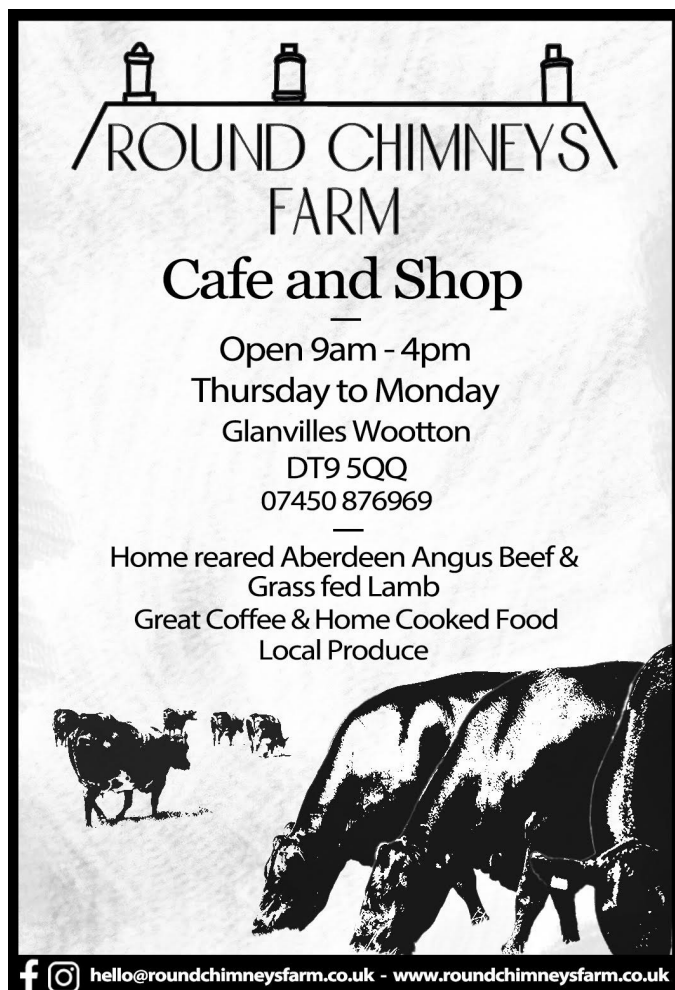
But BNYC would like to extend the offer of the Literary Festival to everyone in the Community so there will be opportunities for older people/families to come together and share their book club/reading groups, compete in a scrabble night and read stories at an afterschool event on Friday 20 March.

You could also come up with your own ideas for an event or activity in March connected to reading - what could you do?

*Kate Parish*



\*\*\*\*\*



January Quiz

- 1. In what year was the album “The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars” by David Bowie released?
- 2. In what year was British Telecom separated from the Post Office?
- 3. Whose world record in the 200m was beaten by Usain Bolt in 2008?
- 4. How many named lines are there in the London Underground?
- 5. What was the world’s largest landlocked country before the dissolution of the USSR (now the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest after Kazakhstan)?
- 6. What was Queen Victoria’s name when she was born?
- 7. What was the name of the tower block where Del and Rodney Trotter lived in Only Fools and Horses?
- 8. What was the bestselling new car in the UK in 2024?
- 9. What is ichthyology?
- 10. Which short story writer became the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature?

By Simon Spencer

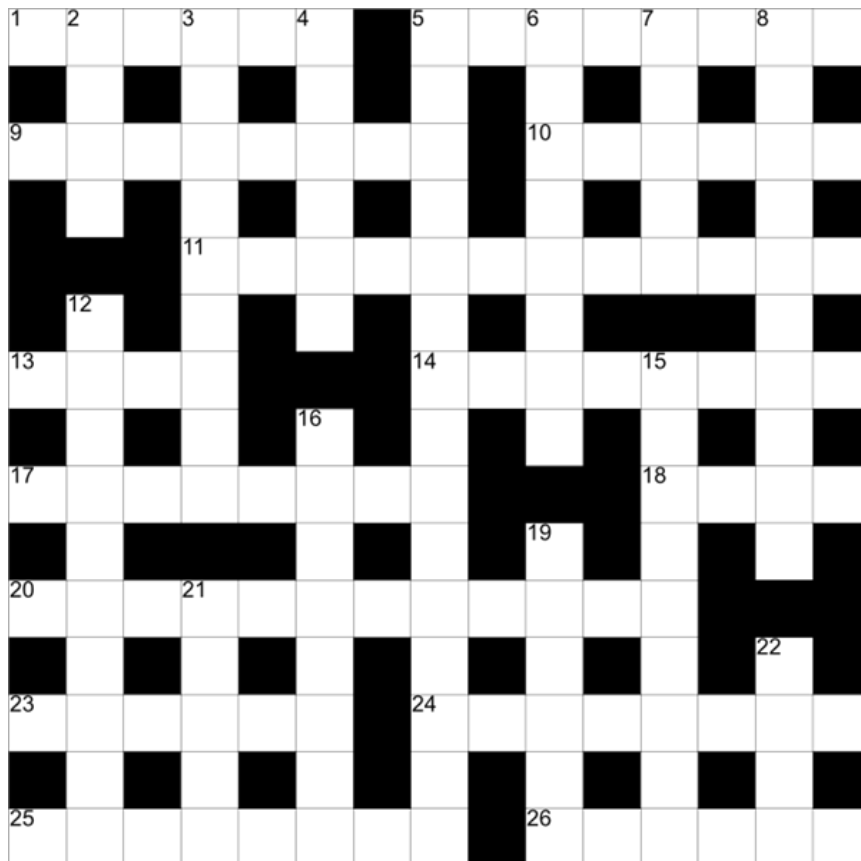
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8	4					7		1
				8			5	
		6						4
	7		1	3		4		
	2	3				1	9	8
			5					3
7	9							
				2				9
		8		4			3	

Sudoku by mathsphere.co.uk

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

WHERE WILL YOU FLY TO - OR FROM?  
BENBECULA  
BELFAST  
BOURNEMOUTH  
BRISTOL  
CARDIFF  
EDINBURGH  
EXETER  
GATWICK  
GLASGOW  
HEATHROW  
LUTON  
LYDD  
MANCHESTER  
NEWQUAY  
NORWICH  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SOUTHEND  
STANSTED  
STRONSAY  
TEESIDE



**Crossword and Wordsearch  
by Carole Spencer**

**Across**

1. Exchanges about a thousand bogs (6)
5. Portray defender as an inconvenience (8)
9. A little bit of weather (8)
10. Getting ready to drive (6)
11. Ok then, no chav can be a playwright (5,7)
13. In the first instance place outgoing submission thus in the mail (4)
14. Ask nerds about gloom (8)
17. Orange Palace dog (8)
18. Ian gets left to hammer it home (4)
20. But ruder moll is a changed writer (6,6)
23. Female movie star (6)
24. Name for tiny tide change (8)
25. Echo motored about – see how far they've gone with this (8)
26. The sailor is to obtain his goal (6)

**Down**

2. Withdraw from you and I with tailless ant (4)
3. Guy with pork pie and brown cocktail (9)
4. Layers get back at arts (6)
5. "Confused head up in a murder" wrote Rebecca (6,2,7)
6. Lionheart lost his head and became a villain (4-4)
7. Bravo! Disclosure is dismal (5)
8. "Ban chess and porn" I raged (10)
12. Christmas chicken for another playwright (4,6)
15. Grandma and Oscar go over a yard for a very short distance (9)
16. Put it on before you go (8)
19. Plays flute around mid-evening readily (6)
21. Salty racecourse (5)
22. Nasty eye condition is contained (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

### January 2026 Services

**Sunday 4 January**

Matins at 9.45 am

**Sunday 11 January**

Holy Communion at 9.45 am

**Sunday 18 January**

All Age Service at 4 pm

**Sunday 25 January**

Holy Communion at 9.45 am

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

### Reporting Issues With FOOTPATHS or BRIDLE-PATHS

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/  
rightsofway/reportproblem/](http://www.mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem/)

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MOB: 07774-838851



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



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### OPENING TIMES

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

**Don't forget to ask about our Loyalty  
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## In the Buckland Newton Book Corner

I have devoured this book in just a few days! I love an epistolary story - one told via letters - and that is what first drew me to **The Correspondent** by Virginia Evans. This is a tender, witty and deeply emotional portrait of a woman who has spent her entire life communicating through letters

When we meet Sybil, she has just turned 73, and we read a letter she has written to her brother, Felix, thanking him for his birthday card, fountain pen and a book. These are gifts that are gratefully received by someone who has written letters for most of her life. It is how she makes sense of the world around her and how she communicates best. She also loves to read, and many of her letters are to authors whose books she wants to comment on. Surprisingly, many of them respond, and at least one has formed a friendship with her.

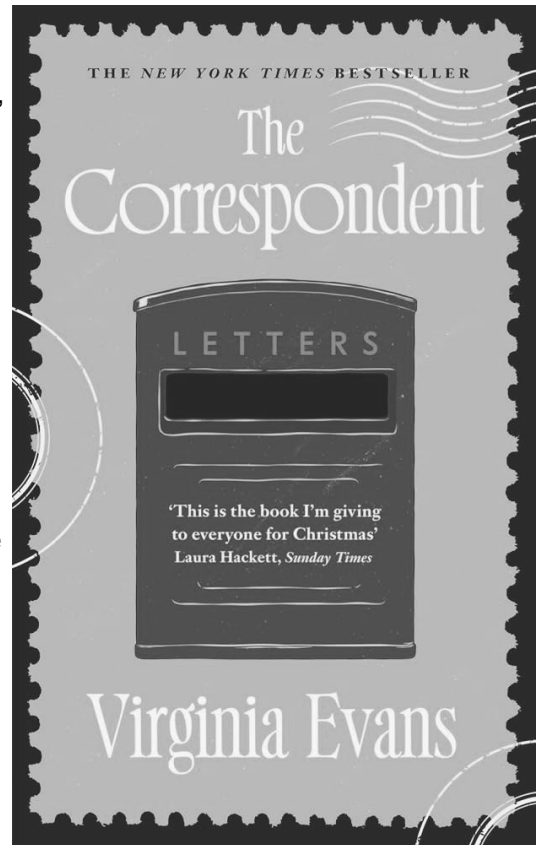
We learn about Sybil's life through the letters she writes and the ones she receives. Often, she must join the 21st century and send and receive emails, but her preference is to pen longhand letters to those she loves - and those she doesn't! Her correspondences are etched on a particular stationary she orders from England because it's the best she's found. Each is clearly marked with the recipient's address and the date, including the emails, so we, the readers, see the chronological progression.

There is one mystery, a letter that Sybil continues to write, but not send, to an unknown recipient. Those pages, unlike her other letters, have no salutations or address, just the date on which the letter continues. It's obvious that these mystery pages are written in a style that is more relaxed and direct. We know that Sybil is writing to someone with whom she feels a closeness, but we don't have any idea who that might be until we learn more about Sybil and her sometimes tragic past.

The Correspondent is Virginia Evans' debut novel and the tone is both sharp and tender. One moment you are smiling at Sybil's dry humour, the next you're holding your breath at the sheer honesty of her pain. It is emotional without being melodramatic, funny without being forced and wise without preaching. Her astute observations on relationships remind me of the brilliance of Anne Tyler's novels, and I can't wait to see what she writes next.

At its heart, The Correspondent is a story about forgiveness of the hardest kind – the one we owe ourselves. By the end you feel like you have truly come to know Sybil – her faults, her fire and her humanity- the kind of character who you will remember long after the last page.

*Karen Whiter*



## New Year = New Interest, Activity, Hobby?

How about learning the ancient skill of Archery?

I'm thinking of starting a safe, local, indoor and outdoor Archery Club  
for anyone from 10 to 100 years of age.

If you or anyone you know might be interested  
phone Chris Hildred on 01300 345850

## News from Cerne Abbas Surgery

### Understanding Coughs, Colds & Flu: Why Antibiotics Aren't the Answer

As we move through the colder months, many people find themselves struggling with coughs, colds and flu-like symptoms. These illnesses are very common — and thankfully, in most cases, they can be safely managed at home with self-care.

#### Why antibiotics won't help

Coughs, colds and flu are caused by **viruses**, and antibiotics only work against **bacterial infections**. Taking antibiotics when they aren't needed won't make you feel better more quickly — in fact, it can cause side effects such as diarrhoea, thrush and rashes. More importantly, unnecessary antibiotic use contributes to **antimicrobial resistance**, meaning they may not work when you genuinely need them.

#### Most symptoms improve on their own

Viral coughs and colds usually clear within **2–3 weeks**, and flu within **7–10 days**, although a cough may linger a little longer. During this time, self-care is usually the best treatment.

#### Helpful self-care tips

- Rest and keep warm.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Use paracetamol or ibuprofen for fever, aches and pains (if suitable for you).
- Honey and lemon in warm water can soothe a sore throat or cough.

Speak to a pharmacist — they can advise on over-the-counter remedies without needing an appointment.

#### When to seek help

Contact the surgery or NHS 111 if:

- symptoms worsen or don't start to improve after 2-3 weeks,
- you are very unwell or short of breath,
- you have a long-term condition such as lung, heart, liver or kidney disease,

your temperature is very high, or you feel extremely unwell.

Remember — most winter illnesses get better on their own and choosing self-care when appropriate helps keep GP and urgent care services available for those who really need them.

Stay well this winter.

**Logan Mitchell**  
Operations Assistant



**Cerne Abbas Surgery**  
51 Long St, Cerne Abbas  
Dorset, DT2 7JG  
T: 01300 341666  
[cerneabbas.surgery1@nhs.net](mailto:cerneabbas.surgery1@nhs.net)

## **Serendipity Concert of music and readings – a date for your diary**

On **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**, Serendipity Recorder Consort will be giving a concert of music and readings in Buckland Newton Village Hall, **stating at 4.30pm**. 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.

Over the years, many of you will have been to concerts given by this group, which Pete Willis started in the late 80s. There will be readings and music from across the centuries and from several genres, using recorders of all sizes, including the famous 'drainpipe'. The concert will be based on the theme, 'Matters of the Heart'.

Details of how to get tickets will be in the February edition of the LVN.

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

*Jane Willis*

## **BUCKLAND NEWTON**

### **40% SHARE FOR SALE**

### **2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN LYDDEN MEADOW**



### **Wren Cottage**

### **Buy a 40% share for £104,000**

**Monthly cost of becoming a Shared Owner is a combination of your Mortgage cost + £339.89 which covers the rent and service charge on unpurchased 60% held by Buckland Newton Community Property Trust (BNCPT)**

#### **Criteria for Application**

Local Connection to Buckland Newton or the surrounding villages via birth, living, family, work or school  
Family size fits a 2-bedroom house  
Cannot afford local open market purchase

**Application deadline 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The leasehold share is being marketed by Magna in conjunction with BNCPT  
For the full sale brochure go to [www.lyddenmeadow.co.uk](http://www.lyddenmeadow.co.uk)

To register your interest email [lyddenmeadow@gmail.com](mailto:lyddenmeadow@gmail.com) and [helen.rafferty@magna.org.uk](mailto:helen.rafferty@magna.org.uk)



**Buckland Newton Community Property Trust is a non-profit making charity based on the Community Land Trust model. It is run by volunteers from Buckland Newton for the greater benefit of the village and its inhabitants.**

## **BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

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

The next Full Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 January 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/2025/06936 - Forest View Farm, Kennels Lane, Middlesmarsh, Sherborne, DT9 5QL

Erect extension to agricultural building

*Comments by 23 December 2025*

P/FUL/2024/06192 - Court Farm Business Park Road to Court Farm, Buckland Newton, DT2 7BT

Retain hydroelectric generation system, including water wheel and associated infrastructure, feeder lakes and landscaping.

Comments by 11 December - Councillors have no further comments on this application.

#### **Applications for information purposes only - no comment required**

P/PAEW/2025/07313 - Court Farm Road to Court Farm, Buckland Newton - Construct a slurry lagoon

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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
Flood Warden	Bradley Perrett	07855 473641
	Doug Morse	01300 345707
	Kevin Morse	01300 345707
Rights of Way Liaison Officer	Stephen White	01300 345431
Parish Clerk	Sarah Mitchell	01258 817288 / <a href="mailto:clerk@bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Chalk Valleys Ward - Dorset Council – Cllr Jill Haynes 01300 341277 / <a href="mailto:cllrjill.haynes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">cllrjill.haynes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a>		



## POLICE REPORT

**NOVEMBER** - 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](#)

Our Face Book Page address is: [www.facebook.com/DorchesterPolice/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or call Freephone 0800 555 111

## News from Dorset Council Trading Standards

### Burning better

As the weather turns colder you can take a few simple steps to reduce the impact of woodburning stoves and open fires on both your health and the environment. Research reveals that only 1 in 10 people are aware that domestic burning is a major source of pollution that can seriously harm people's health.

The 'Burn better' campaign, led by Defra, is encouraging anyone who uses a solid fuel appliance to make small changes to their burning habits which can significantly improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions from domestic burning.

The campaign highlights that tiny particles released from stoves and open fires can damage the lungs and other organs, posing serious health risks. However, there are multiple benefits to be gained by adopting cleaner burning practices.

#### Tips to Burn Better:

Regular maintenance of your stove or open fire means it will perform better, use less fuel to produce more heat, and produce fewer harmful particles.

Have your chimney swept at least once a year. Soot and tar build up in your chimney over time, reducing its efficiency and increasing the risk of chimney fires.

Make sure you are choosing the right fuels for your stove. Choose cleaner alternatives, such as dry wood and manufactured solid fuels, as they produce less smoke and pollution and are cheaper and more efficient to burn.

Burn dry wood, freshly cut wood should be air-dried for at least two years before use.

When buying bagged fuel look out for the 'Ready to Burn' certification mark.

Some types of solid fuel have been banned from sale due to their high pollution levels. These include sales of wet wood in small units (less than 2 cubic meters), and traditional house coal for domestic heating. If you see banned solid fuel for sale report it to Dorset Council Trading Standards, visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer) or, phone the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

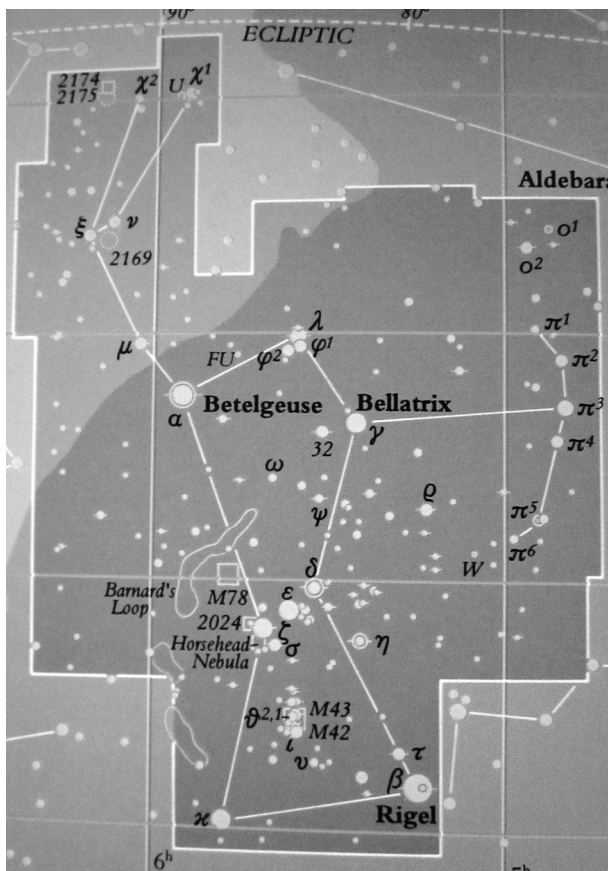
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## YOUR NIGHT SKY- JANUARY 2026

Did you manage to see any of the Geminids meteor show last month? I managed to spot a couple, one of which was really bright and quite slow.

Now that we are past the mid-winter solstice, our days are slowly getting longer. The bright and lovely constellation of Orion is back and dominating our southern skies once again and will do for this and next month. The constellation of Orion and some interesting objects which are nearby are therefore the subject of this month's column. Orion will be visible fairly high in the southern sky in the evening throughout the month. Of the three named stars in Orion, Betelgeuse, the brightest, is a red giant sun which is reaching the end of its life and will explode sometime in the future. This is called going supernova. When it does, it will be the brightest thing in the sky apart from our own sun. Betelgeuse is 642.5 light years away from Earth. The most interesting object in Orion for binocular observers is M42, the Great Orion Nebula (see this month's cover), which is in Orion's sword below the three stars in a line which are Orion's belt. It looks like a faint misty patch of light when viewed with the naked eye. Through binoculars or even a small telescope it looks like a vaguely bird-shaped cloud of glowing gas. It glows because the four newly born stars within the nebula light it up. There are other interesting objects in Orion, such as the Horsehead Nebula, but you need a pretty good telescope to see them directly (8-inch diameter or larger). My new Smart telescope, which is quite small, has managed to image the Horsehead nebula though.



ORION

There are more interesting objects to observe which are near Orion. The first is the open star cluster M35 which is beautiful when viewed through binoculars. It lies just outside of our star map, above and slightly to the left of the star marked  $\chi^2$  at the top of the chart. Our next object is near Sirius. It is the very bright star which is below and to the left of Orion. Sirius is in the constellation of Canis Major and is 8.6 light years away from Earth. It is the brightest star in the sky. Just below Sirius you will find M41, a lovely grouping of around 100 young stars which is easily visible with binoculars. It is 2300 light years away. Orion's belt points towards the star Aldebaran. Just to the right of this star is a "V" shaped cluster of stars call The Hyades, which is also worth a look. Star clusters, which all these are, are always a pretty sight through binoculars or a small telescope.

**THE PLANETS THIS MONTH.** Jupiter is at its best this month on January 10<sup>th</sup> when it will be closest to the Earth. It will be bright in the southern sky. Mercury is behind the Sun and cannot be seen. Venus will just be visible 15 minutes after sunset in the West-southwest at the end of the month. Mars is not visible. Saturn is visible in the South in the early evening at the beginning of the month.

**THE MOON.** Full Moon is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with new Moon on the 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be another supermoon (full Moon) this month.

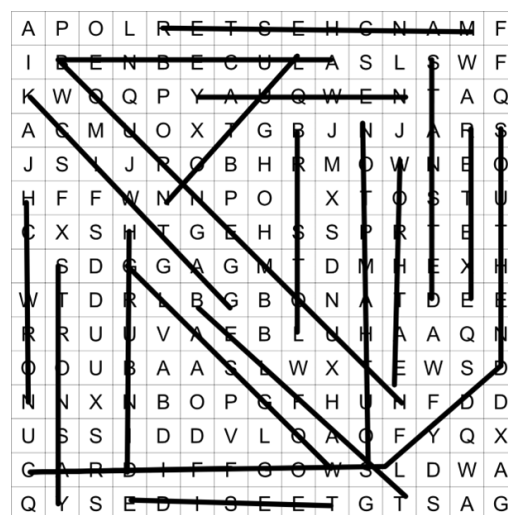
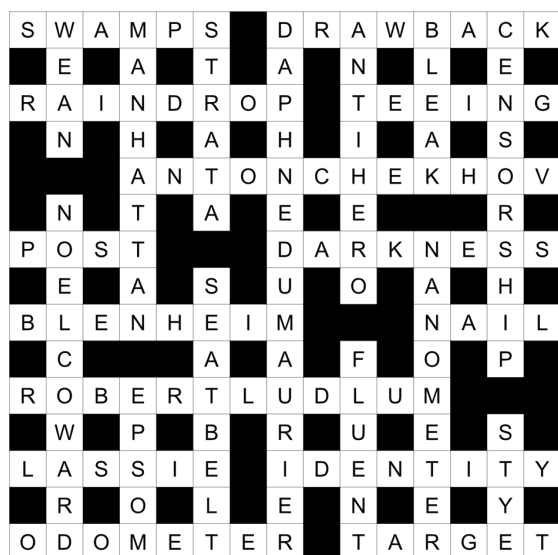
**SPECIAL EVENTS.** The first meteor shower of the year is the Quadrantids. It peaks during the night of January 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>. It can deliver a fantastic display. They will appear to come from just below the handle of the Plough low in the northeast. Unfortunately, the Full Moon will interfere with the display. The Moon will be close to Jupiter on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you need help with buying a telescope or with observing, I can be contacted on (01300) 345485 or at [keithmwright@compuserve.com](mailto:keithmwright@compuserve.com). The times when you can see the Space Station can be found at: [www.heavens-above.com](http://www.heavens-above.com). There are many free Apps which can be used on a tablet computer or smart phone which can help guide you around our night sky. You need to have the GPS turned on your phone or tablet for the best results.

*Keith Wright*

## Quiz Answers

1972. The album was Bowie's 5<sup>th</sup> studio album. Bowie said that the character's name came from a tailor's shop that he passed on a train, and that seemed appropriate as "the whole thing was about clothes".
1981. After this, in November 1984 was the first major share offering with over 50% of shares being offered to the public. The telephone service was brought under the control of the Post Office in 1912.
- Michael Johnson. Johnson is the only male athlete to win both the 200m and 400m event at the same Olympics, which he achieved at Atlanta in 1996. He carried the Olympic torch in 2012, firstly around Stonehenge at sunrise, and Salisbury Cathedral for the start of the day's official relay leg.
11. The lines are Bakerloo, Central, Circle, District, Hammersmith and City, Jubilee, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly, Victoria, and Waterloo and City. There are 250 miles of track, and of the 272 stations only 33 of them are south of the River Thames. The Elizabeth Line, Thameslink, DLR and London Overground are not part of the underground service.
- Mongolia. Mongolia is also the most sparsely populated country in the world, and there are more horses than people living there. 30% - 40% of the population is nomadic.
- Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent. She was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld and was born at Kensington Palace in London in 1819.
- Nelson Mandela House. Trigger's name was Colin Ball, but it is never used in the series (but occasionally in the credits) and although set in Peckham, much of the filming took place in Bristol.
- The Ford Puma. Selling 48,340 units it was followed by the Kia Sportage and the Nissan Qashqai in third. The Puma is famous for its Megabox, a deep, waterproof, underfloor boot storage with a drain plug, great for wellies!
- The study of fish. Fish are the most diverse vertebrates (over 33,000 species), have evolved unique body shapes, and some, like tuna, can be warm-blooded, while others, like salmon, sacrifice themselves to nourish entire ecosystems.
- Alice Munro. Known as the master of the contemporary short story, Munro won the Nobel in 2013. Her stories, mostly set in rural Ontario, were written in a laundry room and she opened a bookshop before focusing solely on writing.



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



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