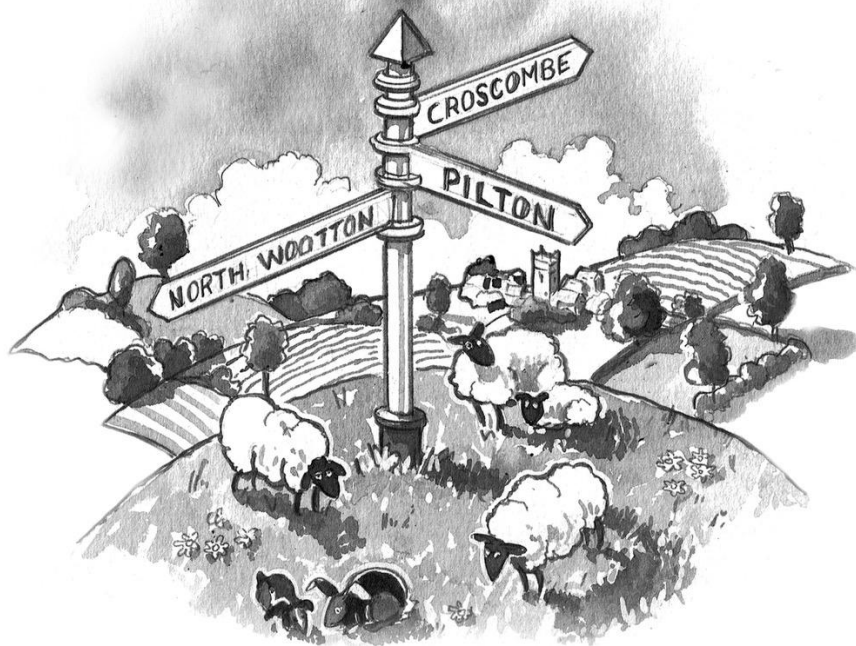


# The ROUNDAABOUT Magazine

February 2026



## **Enquiries about material for The Roundabout**

Please send emails to the email address [magazine@roundaboutnews.org.uk](mailto:magazine@roundaboutnews.org.uk).

All material in word or email please. **Deadline for March edition is 16 February**

## **Data Protection Ruling**

We are grateful for material for The Roundabout, which we distribute in our villages and make available on websites. Please contact us if you have any concerns about GDPR

## **Why is it called “The Roundabout”**

Well not a lot of people know this but between the parishes of Pilton, North Wootton and Croscombe there is a hill called The Roundabout. This hill is the only point with views over all three parishes. Thank you to Liam O’Farrell, a local Pilton artist - [liamofarrell.com](http://liamofarrell.com) - for providing us with our cover image depicting the hill (Map reference ST 58506 43515)

## **Welcome to the Community**

Welcome to any other newcomers in the villages, please let us know if you’d like us to include your name and details so we can all say hello

## **Donations**

If you are able to make a donation, no matter how small, towards the running costs of The Roundabout Magazine, please e-mail us at [magazine@roundaboutnews.org.uk](mailto:magazine@roundaboutnews.org.uk)

## **Roundabout Team**

Pilton: Liz Richards, John Broxup and John Dikes (Distribution)

Croscombe: Richard Cronin, Howard Sleaf, Libby Morgan and Darryl Morgan

# Welcome to February

The first signs of spring are quietly appearing in hedgerows and gardens, with snowdrops and daffodils arriving, heralding the changing of the season. Our days are getting longer, mornings lighter and the promise of renewal is in the air. It's a rhythm our villages know well and one we all see and feel, as those little, subtle changes move us from winter towards spring.

It is now a full year since we relaunched The Roundabout. Thank you for all the support. From those who provide the content and share the range of activities across the villages; to our wonderful volunteers who distribute the magazine; our advertisers and donors supporting with funding; and of course to you the reader. Together all of you have been part of the rhythm that makes the magazine such a success. We relaunched with a simple aim, to create a magazine that reflected the richness of our villages, celebrating the people who make them special, and offering a space where stories, updates, creativity, and community could sit side by side.

This month, we are also delighted to welcome our new Priest-in-Charge, Revd James Sharp, whose arrival marks another moment of renewal for our parishes. He takes up the post of Priest-in-Charge of Pilton, Croscombe, North Wootton, Ditchat with Alhampton, East Pennard and Pylle on February 26th at the official Licensing and Service of Welcome at 7pm in St John the Baptist's Church, Pilton.

As we step into the next year of The Roundabout, we want to keep building on what we've started. Seasonal renewal isn't just something happening in the fields and gardens around us, it's something we hope to reflect in the magazine too. With that in mind, we warmly invite your ideas, suggestions, and feedback. Whether it's a new feature you'd like to see, a story you think deserves telling, or a small tweak that would make the magazine even more useful or enjoyable, we'd love to hear from you.

This publication is for all, and its strength comes from the voices, experiences, and contributions of the people who call these villages home.

Liz Richards

# PILTON

## What's On in Pilton – February

9th	7.30pm	Pilton Village History Group	Village Hall
18th	2.15pm	Happy Circle	Village Hall
18th	7pm	Pilton Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
27th	10.30am	Writers Retreat	BA4 4PD
28th	9am	Village Litter Pick	Village Hall

## What's On in Pilton – March

9th	7.30pm	Pilton Village History Group	Village Hall
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*Pilton has an abundance of groups, associations and energy. A sample of what is on offer is listed below and should anyone else have any ventures that are not included please let us know.*

## Village Groups

Allotment Association

ASBO (maintaining footpaths and bridleways)

Bridge

Food Bank

Gabriels Orchard

Happy Circle

Judo

Pilton Community Speedwatch

Pilton Players

Pilton Show

Pilton Walks

Tai Chi

Village Voices

Ukulele

Art Group

Bell Ringers

Dance

Football

Hand Bells

History Group

Pilates

Pilton Craft Group

Pilton Playing Fields

Pilton Village Hall Trust

Table Tennis

Tithe Barn

Writers Group

Yoga



## **Pilton Village History Group**

- [www.piltonhistory.org.uk](http://www.piltonhistory.org.uk)

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm, Pilton Village Hall  
Our February meeting is our short, but important AGM, followed by our speaker on

**“HISTORY IN THE NORTH SOMERSET LANDSCAPE”**

On Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, Larry Cunningham will give an illustrated talk, following in the footsteps of Clare Balding, and revealing some of the fascinating history behind some intriguing features in the local landscape. For walker, Larry, who has a keen interest in the history of his local area, many questions were raised as he encountered features such as spoil heaps, ruins and derelict buildings in the local landscape, when out walking with friends Sue Fraser and Peter Bradshaw.

The friends would go on to research and discover interesting information about the features they saw on their walks using various methods including, looking at the Bath and North East Somerset Historic Environment website, studying old Ordnance Survey and Tithe maps and visiting Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum, where they found sources of information and often old photographs. Several local walks books by the three friends resulted from all this walking and researching. Each of the walks identified interesting historical features on the routes. Having completed 100 walks, Clare Balding visited Timsbury to record an episode of her ‘Ramblings’ programme and walked with Larry, Sue and Peter exploring the history in the landscape in and around the village.

All Welcome. Members free, Visitors £4 Refreshments

## **Pilton Happy Circle. Wednesday 18th February**

We are having Bingo with prizes, looking forward to a full house.  
Starting at 2.15pm. All welcome £2 for visitors. Tea and coffee +biscuits.

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## **Pilton Art Group**

We meet every Thursday afternoon 2 to 3 pm in the Chapel Cafe Top Street.  
We pursue our own artistic talents plus the occasional group creative challenge. Group visits to art galleries are always a pleasure. Do come and visit and see if our group is for you. We meet again on January 8th.

More info - Paula 01749 890323

## Pilton Litter Pick. February 28th, 9am

Meet from 09-00 at the village hall on February 28th. Pickers and bags will be provided

## The Crown Pilton

Introducing Taco Tuesday. Beginning 3rd February. 5.30 – 8.30pm

Tacos £15 + Margarita £5 Eat in or takeaway

	Opening Hours	Food
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	4pm – 10pm	
Wednesday	12 – 11pm	Fish and Chips 4 – 8pm Eat in or takeaway
Thurs – Sat	12 – 11pm	Lunch 12 – 2.30pm Dinner 5.30 – 9pm
Sunday	12 – 9pm	Roast Lunch 12 – 4pm

## The Crown – February Events

Wed 4th Feb: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway

7:00 PM – Have I Got Booze for You? Pilton's very own quiz night, hosted by Reg £2 per person

Thurs 5th Feb: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35

Wed 11th Feb: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway

8:00 PM – folk night

Thurs 12th Feb: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35

Fri 13th Feb: 6:00 PM – A Pound for the Sound. A celebration of alternative music culture

Wed 18th Feb: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway

7:00 PM – Pilton Pop Quiz. Hosted by Quiz Master reg £2 per person

Thurs 19th Feb: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35

Wed 25th Feb: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway

7:30 PM – Pilton's Big Comedy Night Out

Tickets available on website

Thurs 26th Feb: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35

8:00 PM – Open Mic Night

Fri 27th Feb: 6:00 PM – A Pound for the Sound A celebration of alternative music culture

## **The Pilton Stage and Village Hall**

### **PILTON TRIATHLON!**

2026 sees the return of the long awaited Pilton Triathlon. This is when, over a series of Saturdays, throughout January and February teams of three complete in a knockout competition to prove beyond doubt that they are the ultimate champions of Skittles, Darts and Pool. For obvious reasons we normally insist that only those in tip top physical condition enter but in order to properly mark the start of the second year of The Pilton Stage the minimum requirement for those taking part has been lowered to having a pulse and an aptitude for fun. So, think ahead, get your team together now and start training! This is serious!

For further information, events, dates & times please see our website [thepiltonstage.com](http://thepiltonstage.com) and Facebook @thepiltonpage and @thepiltonstage

## **February Writers Retreat**

Writers Retreat Day organised by The Write Assistant. Unlock your potential with a Writers Retreat. New year, new skills! With guided exercises and freeflow writing, get back to nature, channel your thoughts and get the creative mill grinding. Venue Postcode BA44PD, on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Please contact Nicola on 07955744331 or [thewriteassistant.co.uk](http://thewriteassistant.co.uk) for more details and the sign up form!

## **Pilton Walks**

For further information please check the **Pilton Walks** Facebook page.

## **Interesting Fact**

With the new series of 'The Night Manager' airing on BBC it is interesting to know that in 1953/54 John Le Carre lived in Vine Cottage, off Bread Street. At that time he was known as David Cornwell and was as an active resident of the village and a member of the Pilton Players.

Literary link - The church in Pylle was featured in his novel 'A Murder of Quality'

## **Pilton Show Committee**

The Grants Committee of Pilton Show at their meeting allocated grants to local organisations as follows:

Allotments Association £100

Art Group £50

Community Fridge £80

Community Minibus £200

Happy Circle £100

History Group £200

Parish Church £425

Playing Fields Trust £1,000

Pre-School £992

Roundabout Magazine £100

Tithe Barn Trust £500

Village Trust £800

West Pennard Primary School £1,208

Applications received were again much in excess of the amount available for distribution, which in any case is reducing each year due to the rising costs of holding the Show.

## **February Poem**

On Snow by Jonathan Swift

From Heaven I fall, though from earth I begin.

No lady alive can show such a skin.

I'm bright as an angel, and light as a feather,

But heavy and dark, when you squeeze me together.

Though candor and truth in my aspect I bear,

Yet many poor creatures I help to insnare.

Though so much of Heaven appears in my make,

The foulest impressions I easily take.

My parent and I produce one another,

The mother the daughter, the daughter the mother.

## **February Quote**

“Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you.” – Walt Whitman



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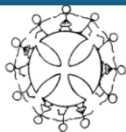
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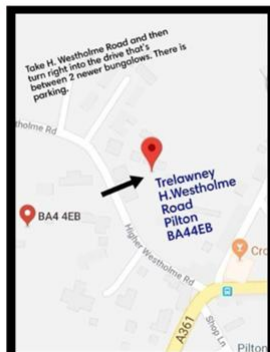
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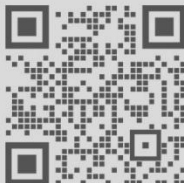
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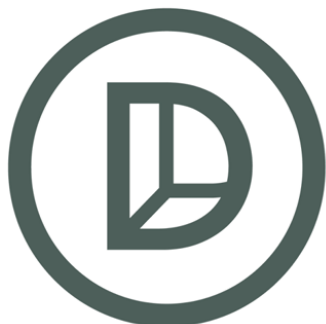


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# CROSCOMBE

## What's On in Crocombe – February

3rd	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
9th	7pm	Film Night	Village Hall
14th	10am	Village Hall Coffee Morning	Village Hall
28th	10am	Village Litter Pick	The George Inn

## What's On in Crocombe – March

3rd	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
8th	7.30pm	Orchestra Concert in Aid of Save the Children	Village Hall

## Crocombe Village Hall Film Night

Crocombe Village Hall presents.

I Swear. Certificate 15.

A powerful true-life story of Tourettes's Syndrome campaigner John Davidson in a funny, moving and life affirming account of his life.

Monday 9th February. 7.00 pm for 7.30 start . Admission £7.00 Bar available.


## Crocombe Village Hall Coffee Morning

February 14th (Valentine Day). 10 to 12am Delicious Home made Cakes.

Organic Brewed Coffee. Book stall and raffle. All welcome.


## Crocombe Frolics invite you to a MURDER MYSTERY



“Murder Chef / The Great British Bump Off” By Janet Chaplin


 Saturday 11th April - 7:00 PM


 Crocombe Village Hall

 Tickets £22 Includes a 2-course supper from The George Inn

 Over 18s only – Cash Bar

 Great Raffle  Prize for Best Food-Themed Costume (Individual or Table)

 Tickets on sale 9AM Friday 13th February Call: 01749 347780

 Names of attendees and dietary requirements needed

This will sell out fast (Last event sold out within 3 hours)



## **Voice of the Villages – Les Mears**

I'm Leslie Mears, born and bred in Croscombe, just before war broke out in 1939. So, as far as I was concerned, I didn't know very much about the war.

But when I was five a little bit of the war did come to us with a load of Americans up at Marksbury. They used to come down in their jeeps and throw chewing gum at us. We used to all sit on the wall and wait for them to come.

We had great times as kids in the village. That was the time of running wild up along the fields and woods.. We had a lot of freedom. We used to leave home around about 10 o'clock and get home about four, five o'clock ready for tea. Parents didn't worry because they knew where we were. It's a different world now. Back then it was much safer. Much slower as well.

As we got older, we started to spread on our wings. We used to go up to Ham wood. There was a little cave where we used to go, build a fire and have jacket potatoes. We always had somebody on the lookout in case the game keeper caught us. After the village school I went to the secondary modern in Shepton Mallet. I developed into a good sportsman, and I concentrated more on my sport, cricket, football, athletics, everything under the sun. I left school at fifteen and went to work at Clark's as an errand boy. I did that for twelve months and then went onto the production line. At nineteen I got called up to do national service.

After this I came back to the village. It had changed quite a bit but the community was still there and everybody knew one another. We used to have fetes and lots of different things going on. I liked Guy Fawkes night, we would have a fire, everybody came and let their fireworks off. We also fun days and when I was a kid, we used to dress up and parade round the village. That was really something.

When Shirley and I first married we lived in Oak Hill for twelve months, but we never settled and moved back here. There was always lots to do, like sequence dancing in the village hall, but I had two left feet. We did a calendar with some of the men in the village, like the one the WI did. That was interesting. Shirley loved the village and the school. She did 25 years there as an infant helper. Croscombe has been a wonderful place for me and my family. And we can call it home. Everybody knows me. And if they don't, I've been slipping.

## **Village Litter Pick. February 28th, 10 - 12**

An informal Litter Pick is taking place on Saturday 28th February. Starts from outside The George Inn at 10am.

## **Village Hall News**

Many thanks to the Dream Team for their kind donation of £500 raised at the Ceilidh in December. The Ceilidh was great fun and enjoyed by everyone there. This month we have made two grant applications , one for the Clark's Foundation and one for The National lottery , these grants are specifically for solar PV panels and batteries. The village hall committee have put a lot of time and thought into deciding the best solar system to install. For this project we will need to raise £25,000 but it will have a huge benefit to the hall by significantly reducing our alarmingly high monthly energy bills. The money saved on energy costs can then be re invested in other hall projects. We will know whether we have been successful in these grant applications in May/June. If you are interested in solar power and this project in particular please ask anyone on the committee for more information. Additional applications are being explored and fund raising will continue: the coffee morning, film night and 100 club play a large role in helping to raise the money required. Thank you for your continued support .

## **Orchestra Concert in Aid of Save the Children**

Jim & Suzanne Swainson and friends are presenting another Orchestral Concert in aid of Save the Children in Croscombe Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Sunday 8th March.

The programme will be: HANDEL Concerto Grosso op.6 no.7, HAYDN Cello Concerto in D major & SCHUBERT Symphony no.5.

WILL HARRIS, a talented young musician who has recently returned from studying cello at the prestigious Eastman School of Music, Rochester, USA will be the soloist in the concerto. Tickets at £12 (to include canapés provided by Save the Children) available from James Swainson 01749 346079, Hilary Cain 01749 428015 or [jgswainson@gmail.com](mailto:jgswainson@gmail.com)

## Parish Council Meeting

Crocombe Parish Council will be changing the day of their monthly Parish Council Meetings to the 1st Tuesday of every month, from 3 February 2026.

Schedule for PC Meetings in the Church Rooms, Church Street, BA5 3QS, is as follows:

3 February 2026

3 March 2026

7 April 2026

5 May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

*Date TBC for the Annual Parish Meeting* [www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Postage Stamps** - I am still collecting postage stamps - used, unused, U.K. and foreign for charity (RSPB at present). They can be left at my house - Livadia, Fayre Way, Crocombe. Charities are always grateful for donations. Many thanks for those received recently. Janet Dowding

## The George Crocombe

What's Happening @ The George Crocombe Tel 01749 342306

"Celebrate our Silver Jubilee – family-run for 25 years 2000 - 2025"

Open Mon-Sat 8am - 3pm, 5pm - 11pm

Sundays 8am - 5pm

Food served 8am - 2pm, 5-8pm (not Sunday evenings)

A few things we'll be doing in February:

Tues 10 Feb -- Folk Session 8-10pm free admission

Thur 12 Feb -- Chinese New Year buffet, £20pp booked in advance

Sat 14 Feb -- Valentine's Special Menu 2 for £50 booked in advance

Sat 21 Feb -- Seafood Supper £30pp booked in advance

Thur 26 Feb -- Curry Night buffet £20pp booked in advance

NEW: Every Wednesday **Somerset Steak Specials**

NEW: Every Weekday **Family Special** 5-7pm. Free Child's meal with each adult's

NEW: Every Weekday **Lunch Special** free tea or coffee with any two course meal

## Crocombe Directory

Welcome to the all-new Crocombe Directory – a handy, easy to read guide to what's going on in the village. If your group or event is not listed here and you would like it included please email Libby Morgan ([libbymorgan65@btinternet.com](mailto:libbymorgan65@btinternet.com)). Alternatively, if you are included and need anything added/altered then please also get in touch.

### Allotment Association

Looking to grow your own vegetables, meet like-minded people, and enjoy the outdoors? We have 3m x 9m plots available at our welcoming Crocombe site. The plots are affordable, there is water on site, with a shared shed and tea station for a cuppa and a chat. The allotment holders are a friendly, knowledgeable community who are ready to help and we have seasonal socials throughout the year. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced grower, there's a warm welcome waiting for you. Get growing with us — we'd love to have you!

**Contact:** Bruce Rawlinson 07707529775

### Bell Ringers

We practise most Monday evenings at St Mary's, Crocombe from 19:30 to 21:00. There are eight members of the band, but we often have one or two ringers from Wells and Wookey. We aim to ring for all Sunday services at Crocombe, and also for any special national events (Coronation, VE Day etc). Due to the nature of the ancient art of bell ringing, our practices are always a public performance!

**Contact:** Helen Brown [helenbrown1998@gmail.com](mailto:helenbrown1998@gmail.com) Ken Brown [ken98b@gmail.com](mailto:ken98b@gmail.com)

### Church Flower Arrangers

We are a group of (mainly women, but there is a man who puts in the occasional appearance) who arrange window and altar flowers, some on a regular basis, others for the big events, Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas the occasional wedding and funeral. We are all volunteers and many use flowers from their own gardens, but that isn't a necessity. We would love you to join us, no experience is necessary, if you can put a bunch of daffodils in a vase they you would be very, very welcome.

**Contact:** Louise Tully [chateautully@btinternet.com](mailto:chateautully@btinternet.com)

### **Church Key Rota Volunteers**

Our beautiful C15th Church, which is an architecturally acknowledged treasure, (Pevsner described it as "one of the most complete cases of the survival of Jacobean church furnishings in the county") is open every day for visitors who often come specifically to the village to view its significant carving. Several village volunteers are responsible for the locking of the Church each evening (the morning opening is covered by one person), it's usually about two weeks each year. We lock generally at dusk depending on personal commitments and if you find you cannot fulfil your week then we swap around but I am the backstop. If you feel you would like to be added to the list, please contact me ... many hands make light work.

**Contact:** Louise Tully [chateautully@btinternet.com](mailto:chateautully@btinternet.com)

### **Community orchard group**

Croscombe Community Orchard is a burgeoning orchard of young trees largely sponsored by members of the Croscombe community comprising varieties of apple, pear, cherry and plum. A dedicated group of volunteers manage and maintain the plot on Thrupe Lane just south of the Croscombe burial ground.

**Contact:** Louise Tully [chateautully@btinternet.com](mailto:chateautully@btinternet.com)

### **The Dream Team**

We are a group of five local women who organise one or two fundraising evenings each year. We never do the same event twice so expect the unexpected and be prepared to join in the fun! Thanks to the generosity of everyone who supports us we have raised money for local charities such as the Shepton and Wells food banks and Children's hospice south west, as well as for the village playground and Ukraine. We meet regularly to plot and plan our next fundraiser (possibly over a glass of wine or two!) and we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help on the night of the event. Do get in touch if this appeals to you- it's hard work but a lot of fun. **Contact:** Mary Cadogan [marylucia.cadogan@gmail.com](mailto:marylucia.cadogan@gmail.com) Hilary Cain [Hilary.cain@gmail.com](mailto:Hilary.cain@gmail.com)

### **Film Night and Coffee Morning**

Regular film night and coffee mornings (usually monthly) are held at the village hall and these are advertised in the Roundabout and on Facebook

**Contact:** Pauline Drew [pauline.drew@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pauline.drew@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Frolics/Take Art**

We are an Am-dram group who put on a February traditional family panto and other ad-hoc shows and also host occasional professional theatre and dance via Take Art. Anyone interested in getting involved on stage, back-stage, front-of-house, tech etc etc please do get in touch to hear more

**Contact:** Howard Sleap [h.sleap@btinternet.com](mailto:h.sleap@btinternet.com) Richard Cronin  
[richard.cronin567@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.cronin567@btinternet.com)

## **Fun Day**

A day in the village for the village, held in the summer. There's lots of variety including a range of market stalls and activities, a bouncy castle, skittle alley, barbeque, live music – all of it run by volunteers. More volunteers always welcome and it's a great way to meet the village if you're new.

**Contact:** Nick Fowler [fowlernj1@sky.com](mailto:fowlernj1@sky.com) (or contact on Facebook messenger)

## **OAPs and Children's Fund**

A not-for-profit fundraising group which supports the OAPs and Children in the village. All funds raised pay for the OAPs Christmas dinner and the annual summer coach trip to Weymouth. Funds raised for the children include funding the bouncy castle and barbeque at the Fun Day. Father Christmas is also invited to visit the village and gifts are provided for the children. Fundraising events include a harvest auction which is held at the pub.

**Contact:** Nick Fowler [fowlernj1@sky.com](mailto:fowlernj1@sky.com) (or contact on Facebook messenger)  
Imelda North [lan4848@gmail.com](mailto:lan4848@gmail.com)

## **The Parish Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Croscombe**

We are the Parish Church for Croscombe. At the moment we hold Sunday services at least twice a month - usually the second and fourth Sunday. Details appear each month on the back page of Roundabout and on our Church Near You website. Use your internet browser to search for achurchnearyou, then select A Church Near You, enter your BA5 postcode, choose address option, click right arrow, select Croscombe: The Blessed Virgin Mary. Our village school also holds its services in the church several times each year. St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building and well worth a visit

### **Play Area Working Group**

We are a group of parishioners who are involved in improving and maintaining the children's play area. This involves finding out what options are available, determining what the children would benefit from most, fundraising, arranging quotations and organising contractors to undertake any new works. If you have any ideas, fundraising opportunities, or want to be involved in any way then please get in touch.

**Contact:** Ben Gudzelak [cllr.gudzelak@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.gudzelak@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk)

### **Sequence dancing**

We meet every week in Crocombe village hall at 8pm to 10pm on a Tuesday. The cost is £2.50 pp which includes a tea/coffee and biscuits at half time. We do not actually teach but are only too willing to help anyone who would like to learn. It is good exercise and a good memory booster. A very social group and we always welcome new members .

**Contact:** Lyn Manvill [lynmanvill@gmail.com](mailto:lynmanvill@gmail.com)

### **Tai Chi**

Held on Mondays at Crocombe Village Hall between 10.30-11.30. Tai Chi is an easy exercise available to all. It improves balance and coordination, as well as relaxes and enhances health and wellbeing. We are a friendly group sharing some gentle exercise together. The moves may be performed standing or seated and are suitable for all ages and abilities. We end the lesson with a cuppa and biscuit for those who can stay a little longer.

**Contact:** Jan Hodge [hodgejan@icloud.com](mailto:hodgejan@icloud.com)

### **Suppers at The Cross**

The Cross at Crocombe is more than just your local award winning B&B. On a regular basis it holds suppers and is very lucky to have the talented culinary wizard Kate Hunter cooking at these events Kate started her catering career with an apprenticeship at the 3 starred Michelin restaurant, Le Gavroche, under the tutorship of Albert Roux. Cheffing for luxury yachts and private resorts in the Caribbean, the Jockey Club in Saratoga, and European Villas followed. Since settling in Crocombe Kate's ongoing passion for the culinary arts has seen her skills much sought after for private lunches, dinners and weddings. Kate sources many of her organic ingredients from local markets, by foraging and by growing her own vegetables. The evenings start off with complimentary drinks and nibbles followed by a seasonal set 3 course meal

(vegetarian options are available). The Cross dining room is the perfect size to create a welcoming and warm atmosphere. There is even a covered walled garden to enjoy your pre dinner drinks and meet your fellow diners. For more information visit [www.info@cross-crocombe.co.uk](http://www.info@cross-crocombe.co.uk) and if you sign up to my e-newsletter I will keep you up to date with future supper dates and menus. There are also opportunities for private functions to be held which can be tailored for your needs.

**Contact:** [www.info@cross-crocombe.co.uk](http://www.info@cross-crocombe.co.uk) 01749 343352 Terri

### **Village email**

The purpose is to send out information from the police Neighbourhood Watch and village organisations including allowing villagers to offer items for sale or put individual notices out to others. If you would like your email address added please get in touch.

**Contact:** Chris Jackson [cj1311@gmail.com](mailto:cj1311@gmail.com)

### **Village Hall**

Crocombe village hall hosts a wide range of clubs and societies and offers a venue for weddings and parties. The management committee provide regular film nights and coffee mornings to support funding for the hall. We welcome new members joining us on the committee either as trustees or volunteers.

**Contact:** Katharine Little. Bookings, Caretaker [katharinegarvey@hotmail.com](mailto:katharinegarvey@hotmail.com)  
Pauline Drew Chair

### **Village Orchestra**

We have been encouraging people in Crocombe and surrounding area to make music together and explore the orchestral repertoire since 1975! Practices are Every Friday from 7.15 till 9.00pm in Crocombe village hall. We do two concerts each year, one in January and the other in May. There are also others by invitation. The orchestra welcomes new players of any age.

**Contact:** Tony Bevan [arbevan@icloud.com](mailto:arbevan@icloud.com)

### **Village Voices from Crocombe**

We would love to start a page for Village voices from Crocombe. If you would like to contribute a short piece about your life in the village then please contact Libby Morgan by email on [libbymorgan65@btinternet.com](mailto:libbymorgan65@btinternet.com). Alternatively, if you would like to nominate someone whose voice you would like to hear please drop her an email saying who it is.



## **West Shepton Short Mat Bowls Club**

Short mat bowls is a version of the outdoor game but played indoors on green mats. It is a very user- friendly and relaxing game and is played by people of most ages. We meet at Croscombe Village Hall every Thursday from 2 to 4 pm and from 7 to 9 pm. Membership is £30 per year and we pay £3 to play and have breaks for free drinks and biscuits at each session. We are a friendly lot and welcome newcomers. I am the Secretary and can be contacted by email ( [patandjerry65@yahoo.com](mailto:patandjerry65@yahoo.com) ), mobile ( 0790 161 0369 ) or landline ( 01749 595140 ). Jerry Jeremiah, Secretary.

# **NORTH WOOTTON**

## **WHAT'S ON IN NORTH WOOTTON**

### **Village Events:**

- Quiz Night: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Every Month at the Crossways Hotel, 7pm start, £2 pp on the night. All Welcome.

### **Crossways Inn 2026 Restaurant Specials:**

- Monday Thai Curry Night £12.00
- Tuesday Pie Night £15.00 (4 different choices)
- Wednesday Nepalese Night £18.00
- Thursday Curry Night £12.00
- Friday Steak Night £18.00
- Saturday Bottomless Brunch £35.00 – 12:30pm – 3:00pm

Reservations Recommended [enquiries@thecrossways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thecrossways.co.uk) 01749 899 000

# AROUND AND ABOUT

## A Day in the Life of a Strawberry Line Volunteer

The Strawberry line is a traffic free path from the Mendips to the Sea following the route of the old Strawberry Line railway.



It's 9:30am on a bright and sunny January morning. Thank goodness yesterday's rain has abated. I'm meeting my team of fellow volunteers at Rock Farm under the leadership of Jane who has taken delivery of 800 hedging whips that need to be planted on the new stretch of path from the Windsor Hill viaduct up to Thrupe Lane. When I arrive I'm delighted to see a total of 15 other volunteers and everyone is in good spirits. I mark out 25 metres on each side of every bench using string and poles. This is a No Planting Zone, so that path users will still have good views across the fields. Then the

task is simple; using 40cm measuring sticks we plant two rows of Rowan, Dogwood, Hazel, Elder, Downy Birch and Dog Rose in a zigzag pattern. Luckily the soil is not frozen and it is actually quite easy to push in a spade and wiggle it to create a nice slit. I push the whip's roots down into the soil and close the gap with the heel of my boot. Then I push in a bamboo cane to support the guard that goes over it. I've never actually seen a deer on the path yet, but their hoof prints are evident and we don't want them eating all of the lovely whips. After an



hour or so we stop for coffee and Jane brings round delicious blueberry muffins for us to enjoy before we get back to work. I can't believe how quickly and easily these whips are going into the ground. This definitely isn't always the case! It's approaching one o'clock and all the whips are planted. Amazing.



Everyone is in great spirits as we start to pack up our equipment and head back to our cars.



I reflect upon the fact that I have been doing some good, physical work alongside such a variety of different people. Great conversations and good laughs have left me buzzing. I need a warm shower and a good lunch when I arrive home but the feeling of joy and satisfaction stays with me for the rest of the day. I will definitely be walking my family up there soon to see all of our good work.

Would you like to find out more about how you can help us?

Different groups of volunteers work on different days on different sections of the line. You can become a member of our society or find out all about volunteering on our website <https://www.thestrawberryline.org.uk>

We are a really friendly group and would welcome any help you could offer.

## **What's On in Shepton Mallet**

Every Friday

Weekly Friday Market

### **Shepton Mallet Repair Café 14th February 11am – 1pm. Art Bank Cafe**

Our volunteers are ready to fix broken electrical appliances, mechanical and wooden items, jewellery, bags and clothes. Come in and see us!

Find out if your item is fixable, if it needs parts, if it's safe (we have a PAT Tester for electrical appliances) and if we can fix it on the day and save it from landfill – we will!

Find our more details at [www.helloshepton.co.uk](http://www.helloshepton.co.uk)

## West Pennard Church of England Primary School

We started back after the Christmas break with somewhat of a spring in our step, ready for the busy term ahead. All the children were very ready to be back and to get going with their learning. On the first Wednesday Year 5 visited the Rural Life Museum for a Saxon workshop, complementing their knowledge and understanding of the Saxon period in British history. They had a fantastic time finding out about Saxon settlements in the local area and will be able to apply this knowledge when learning more about the Saxons and specifically the finds at Sutton Hoo.

Year 6 were certainly back in full swing, starting their new text 'Who Let the God's Out' by Maz Evans and in using traditional tales within their writing. The children worked really hard to create their own versions of traditional tales, with some surprising and creative endings.



Year 3 visited the earth Science Centre to learn about rocks and fossils. The children were extremely excited to visit the working quarry and watch the huge machines at work; dumper trucks emptying great boulders into the noisy crusher, big conveyor belts filling lorry after lorry with tonnes

of rock. They even enjoyed having the mini bus go through the wheel wash!

We carried out interviews for a new EYFS teacher towards the end of term and were inundated with many extremely strong applications, which we narrowed down to a very capable field. We are pleased to announce that we appointed Katy Gurl as our new EYFS lead. She will take up the post after February half term and touch base with the pre-schools of our September 2026 intake after our list of new pupils is announced in April.

Best Wishes

Tony Wheat. Headteacher

## Parishes of Pilton, Croscombe, and North Wootton

Reader	Sue Green	01749 890524
<b>PILTON PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>		
Churchwardens	Mr Paul Warry	01749 890434
	Mrs Wendy Bower	07967 663 993
PCC Treasurer	Mr Paul Warry	01749 890434
PCC Secretary	Mrs Jayne Sims	01749 890350
<b>PILTON METHODIST CHURCH</b>		
Minister	Rev Andrew Prout	16 Acacia Drive, Frome BA11 2TS 01373 301092 andrew.prout@methodist.org.uk
Chapel Stewards	Gordon Taylor	07388 123824
	Mrs Deborah Towner	01749 342614
Secretary	Mrs Deborah Towner	01749 342614
Steward	Foina Case	01749 899125
<b>CROSCOMBE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN</b>		
<a href="http://www.stmaryscroscombechurch.org">www.stmaryscroscombechurch.org</a>		
Churchwarden	Mr Terry McCarthy	01749 345139
PCC Treasurer	Mr Terry McCarthy	01749 345139
PCC Secretary	Mrs Janet Dowding	01749 330725
<b>CROSCOMBE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b>		
Pastor	Jeremy Tremeer	07956 627233
Elder	Mr Simon Hawkins	07958 656705
Treasurer	Ms Yolan Search	01749 34285
<b>NORTH WOOTTON PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER</b>		
Churchwardens	Christine Raphael	01749 890310
	Mr Alistair Bovey	01749 707017
PCC Treasurer	Mr Jeffrey Macklin	01749 890210
PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Lester	01749 899559
Editor, North Wootton News	Mr Steve Ruddock	01749 890045

## **LICENSING SERVICE OF REVEREND JAMES SHARP**

**in St John the Baptist's Church, Pilton on Thursday 26th February at 7.00pm**

This is the official Licensing and Service of Welcome for Revd James Sharp who takes up the post of Priest-in-Charge of Pilton, Croscombe, North Wootton, Ditcheat with Alhampton, East Pennard and Pylle on February 26th.

In the following weeks James will be leading worship in all the parish churches. He will be getting to know us and these services will be a good opportunity for us to get to know him. The first of those services, to which everyone is welcome, will be at Ditcheat on Sunday 1st March at 10.30am. There will be details of the services around the benefice in March in next month's magazines.

The Churchwardens

## **BIBLE READINGS**

1st February	Hebrews 2: 14-end	Luke 2: 22-40
8th February	Romans 8: 18-25	Matthew 6:25-end
15th February	2 Peter 1: 16-end	Matthew 17: 1-9
22nd February	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1-11

## **CHANGES IN SERVICE PATTERNS**

There are some changes in the service patterns at the three Parish Churches so do make sure that you check first.

When we have a new priest-in-charge they will have seven churches so will not be able to cover the number of services, especially Communion services, as at present.

There will be services in each church on most Sundays and some will be lay led.  
The Churchwardens

## **ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18th**

There will be services of Holy Communion with ashing available at the Parish Churches at Pilton at 11.00am and Alhampton at 6.30pm.

The Bible readings will be:

2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6: 10 and Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21.

## **SUNDAY 1st MARCH**

10.30am at St Mary Magdalene Church, Ditcheat  
First Service of Revd James Sharp

## **DATES FOR COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

on the following Sunday evenings:

1st February

15th February

1st March

If you would like further details about joining in this simple evening service, please contact [rector.pcnd@gmail.com](mailto:rector.pcnd@gmail.com)

**PUZZLING QUESTIONS** will meet on February 3rd at 2.30pm in The New Room Coffee Shop at Pilton Methodist Church. Everyone is very welcome to join this informal Discussion Group.

## **ABOUT PEOPLE**

We are sad to report the death of Wendy Nicholson of North Wootton.

We remember Clive Chivers of Dinder who has died after a long illness.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Edward Moore of Croscombe. We send our loving sympathy to the families and close friends of these people.

## **ONLINE SERVICES**

A weekly service with hymns and a sermon is available from the Church of England website.

Please Google: CofE online services,

Click on weekly service. There is no need to sign up.

Scroll down and click on the picture for the service.

## **DURING THE VACANCY when there is no Rector...**

... church life will go on.

For any enquiries you can contact the Churchwardens in your own parish or the Reader Susan Green (890524). Their contact details are advertised every month in the magazines. You can also send any emails to [rector.pcnd@gmail.com](mailto:rector.pcnd@gmail.com)

These messages will be forwarded to someone to deal with.

Safeguarding Officer for the Parish Churches: Susan Green (890524) or an email would be forwarded from [rector.pcnd@gmail.com](mailto:rector.pcnd@gmail.com)

# PILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Chapel Services begin at 10.30am.

## PARISH CHURCH SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2026

<b>1st February</b>	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>	
10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Croscombe
<b>8th February</b>	<b>2nd Sunday Before Lent</b>	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Pilton
11.00am	Morning Service	Croscombe
11.00am	Morning Service	North Wootton
<b>15th February</b>	<b>Sunday Next Before Lent</b>	
9.30am	Holy Communion	North Wootton
11.00am	PCWT Service at the Parish Church	Pilton
<b>18th February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
11.00am	Holy Communion with ashing	Pilton
6.30pm	Holy Communion with ashing	Alhampton
<b>22nd February</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>	
9.30am	Morning Service	Pilton
11.00am	Holy Communion	Croscombe
11.00am	Morning Service	North Wootton
<b>1st March</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>	
10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Ditcheat