

VILLAGE NEWS

COVERING

HASELBURY PLUCKNETT

AND

NORTH PERROTT

FEBRUARY 2026

Volunteers Edit, Print, Collate, and Distribute this Village News. From time to time, we need reserve helpers to cover folding and distribution whilst people are on Holiday, or unwell.

You may not be needed too often, but it is always very comforting to know we have reserve volunteers.

If you would like to be part of that reserve list, please contact either vneditor2@gmail.com, or vnadvert@outlook.com, or call us on 01460 391816.

Thank you

Ian and June

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Editorial

Belated Happy New Year. Your Village News returns with the usual articles; events and advertising, and I have to admit it feels good to be putting this together again.

The May Fayre in Haselbury Plucknett will be back on the 9th May 2026; usual times and usual place. The plans for this year's Fayre are underway and a Public meeting will be held in - hopefully - March. The only thing we can't plan for is the weather, although I think we are overdue a dry event this year.

There are plans to introduce a 20mph speed limit in North Perrott, this was discussed at the Parish Council meeting, I've copied the minutes of that part of the meeting onto page 8 for everyone to see. There are major development plans in Crewkerne that could adversely affect both Villages. A campaign group has been formed to try and fight these proposals, please see page 14.

As usual, if you have an article or event you would like to include, please email it to vneditor2@gmail.com. The same email if you would like to volunteer to help sort and deliver this publication.

The advertising email address has changed to vnadvert@outlook.com. We've had to do this after buying a new computer and forgetting the password for the old email.

Ian Stewart

New Arrivals - North Perrott

If you are a new resident in North Perrott you might like a copy of the Parish Council's Village Welcome Pack.

Let us know by emailing: northperrottville@gmail.com or ring/text Helena Sturridge on 07802 964949

Haselbury Plucknett Women's Institute

Registered Charity no 227699

Your local WI

Please note that for the winter, when the clocks go back we will be switching to afternoon meetings from 2.30 to 4.30 so please note in your diaries that from our November 5th meeting to the March 2026 meeting it will be afternoons only.

December 3rd meeting we made Christmas wreaths under the expert tutelage of Pauline Bailey. Keith Mayes had provided all the necessary greenery from the gardens in the village! Plenty of tea, cake and wine was consumed!

At our January 7th meeting, we had a talk from Amanda Bell from the Ark@Egwood, an amazing community charity based between Merriott and Lopen providing a safe and inclusive space for anyone needing social, emotional and mental health support. Well worth finding out more.

February 4th we are having the Dorset and Somerset Air ambulance showing us CPR and defibrillator training. If you wish to join us, please could you ring Lesley or Gill first as space is limited.

Our programme will be on the North Perrott village hall website if you would like to find out more of what we will be up to this year. There are some great speakers and we are a very friendly small group so think about joining us.

You don't have to live in Haselbury to join and if you are new to the area (Haselbury, North Perrott and beyond) being a member of Haselbury Plucknett WI gives you an opportunity to enjoy yourself and make new friends. Our WI has a page on the North Perrott Village Hall website (www.NPVH.co.uk) where you can see our current programme of events for the rest of this year and a gallery showing what our ladies get up to. Our programme for next year will be posted in January.

Contact Lesley Idle 07732 030279 or Gill Wood 01460 271134 with any queries. Haselbury Plucknett W.I meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the church of St Michael and All Angels in Haselbury at 7.30pm during the summer months from March 2026 to September 2026.

NORTH PERROTT & HASELBURY PLUCKNETT GARDEN CLUB

Our January meeting was well attended considering the awful weather. Claire Greenslade gave a very interesting and informative talk on Gertrude Jekyll's influence on Hestercombe Gardens in Somerset, and how many gardeners are still being influenced today.

FEBRUARY – Ian Condon will give a talk on 'How I started bee keeping'

New members welcome. We have some very interesting speakers booked throughout the year and it's a good way to pick up new ideas and tips for your garden from established gardeners.

Membership £12:00 per annum. Guests £2.50 (which will be refunded if you choose to join the club). Plus membership benefits.

Meetings are usually held on 3rd Tuesday of the month at North Perrott Village Hall, Middle Street, North Perrott, except in December which will be the 2nd Tuesday in December.

The hall opens at 7pm for 7:30pm start.

If you are interested in joining our club, please contact:

Ian Benfield. Chairman 01460 929027

Barbara Spence. Treasurer 01460 73847

Christine Bentley. Secretary 07788 316984

Welcome to Haselbury Plucknett

For many years St Michael's and All Angels Church have produced a Welcome Booklet for new Residents in Haselbury Plucknett. If you have recently moved into the village or know of anyone who has and would like a copy, please contact Margaret Rendall, [51 New Close, 01460 73949].

Haselbury Plucknett Primary School

The spring half term is well underway at Haselbury Plucknett Primary School, and the children have enjoyed a vibrant and enriching start to 2026. A particular highlight has been the whole-school visit to Dorset Museum to celebrate art work and explore a wide collection of historical and creative exhibits. Staff at the museum were quick to praise the pupils, commenting on their *exemplary behaviour* and their clear *enthusiasm, curiosity and engagement* throughout what was a long and busy day. The school community is immensely proud of the way the children represented Haselbury Plucknett, demonstrating both their interest in the arts and their respect for wider learning experiences.

Back at school, pupils have been busy taking part in a range of additional opportunities beyond their core curriculum. Key Stage 2 children have been working with Miss Neill in preparation for upcoming local football tournaments, an exciting chance for pupils to represent the school while developing teamwork, determination and sporting confidence.

Meanwhile, Miss Chapman has been preparing a group of pupils who will take part in a County careers event, where they will present their ideas on sustainability. This initiative has sparked thoughtful discussions among the children about the environment, future careers and their role as young citizens—a theme that continues to grow across the school.

The school's commitment to promoting environmental awareness has also expanded through a new lunchtime club, led by the eco-ambassadors and organised by Mrs Jukes. Open to all pupils, the club explores nature, sustainability and practical ways in which children can care for the world around them. It has already gained impressive interest and enthusiasm.

Haselbury Plucknett Primary School continues to prioritise a rich offer of experiences to support children's wider personal development, encouraging creativity, responsibility and curiosity alongside academic learning.

The school extends its gratitude to the community for its ongoing support and interest in the children's achievements. The staff and pupils of the school would like to extend our thanks to the community for their encouragement and support over the festive period. With further events and initiatives on the horizon, the school looks forward to continuing to celebrate the successes of its pupils within the wider Haselbury Plucknett community.

Lois Bowery Executive Headteacher

Wanted - Treasurer for North Perrott Village Hall

The current treasurer is standing down from the position at the next AGM in March 2026.

Do you have some free time and an interest in becoming more involved with the village hall? We are looking for someone who would like to join the management team and as with all committee members, this is a voluntary role and only takes up an average of a couple of hours per week. You do not have to be an accountant- the accounts that we keep are very simple and you would just need to be able to use a computer with preferably Excel. You would work in association with the Chair and booking clerk, and with the support of a friendly Management Committee.

Tasks include checking the bank account on a regular basis, reconciling the balance once a month, electricity, insurance and internet are all paid by direct debit so passing entries to record these, making a few payments for invoices, billing our clients once a month for hall hire and recording cash receipts from coffee morning and fund raising events that the hall puts on through the year. It is not a very time consuming job, you just have to be conscientious about record keeping and filing.

If you are interested in the role, please contact Pip Oxenbury 01460 73308 or Lesley Idle 07732030279

ROLL UP for a ROLL UP

South Perrott Short Mat Bowls Club is happy to welcome new members. The club meets on Mondays from 7.00 p.m.to 9.00p.m. in South Perrott village hall DT8 3HS. Each session cost is only £2 per person which includes light refreshments, free use of club bowls and initial coaching if required. For more information please contact our secretary Doreen on 01935 891431.

20mph Speed Limit proposal in North Perrott

Taken from the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on the 6th January 2026:

20mph Speed Limit / restrictive weight Limit: Councillors met with G Warren of Somerset Highways. Based on pre-work, speed data purchased by the Highways and speed-related criteria, GW brought a proposed plan for a North Perrott 20mph Zone.

The proposed zone starts at the entrance to the village by Grey Abbey Lodge and runs down past the junction with Willis Lane at about the level of the Farm Shop (where the SID post is located). The Zone extends to Church Lane, Downclose Lane (edge of the village), East Street, Back Lane, Eastfield Lane, Willis Lane and Trindlewell. It was agreed that this was a good and worthwhile proposal. GW's next step is to take this to the Police as a recommendation. He hopes to have a formal response along with legal recognition of the zone in March. We need to advertise the proposal and arrange a meeting later this month to discuss the proposal and take a vote, (pending cost confirmation).

GW needs this as backing to take this forward. Indicative cost is £2.5k - £5k. GW will come back with more definite numbers. Works will involve some additional furniture and roundel reminders approximately every 200yds. There may be some tension between the need for this and the desire to keep the village "clean" of furniture and markings. J Hoskyns raised the request for the extension of the 30mph down towards the bridge out of the South of the village in recognition of the speed, visibility and width of the road. GW countered with a proposal to remove the centre marking, add white lines to the edges and add signage (oncoming vehicles in the centre of the road). We thought this was a good compromise. It will have its own cost implications which will need to be agreed.

J Hoskyns also raised the request to extend the 20mph to Nut Tree. GW considered that the speed data he holds does not support the request (i.e. it is too high currently) and also maintains that it would detract from the currently proposed 20mph zone starting by the Farm Shop. He did suggest maybe the moving of the existing horse sign (in advance of the hazard) and the addition of a sign in the opposite direction.

Plans to campaign for a restrictive weight limit will be postponed until the 20mph limit has been put in place.

Action – J Hoskyns to arrange a village meeting to undertake a survey on the desirability of a 20mph.

Action - LG to chase GW for a definite cost for this proposal.

Haselbury Plucknett Chairs Chat – Jan / Feb 2026

Hello

Let me first wish you all a belated Happy New Year – and welcome to 2026.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and some time with your families and loved ones.

Following the cold spell, it is now forecast to be wet for the next 10 days. We will continue to monitor the water levels and have identified a potential cause of flooding on North Street and at the A3066/A30 junction.

The Parish Council Highways team have also persuaded Somerset County Highways that Swan Hill and Puddletown are not suitable for HGV's and have agreed to place appropriate Signage on the A30 access to Puddletown and on the A3066 from North Perrott into Haselbury. We look forward to the new signs which will be installed later this year.

There is a separate article in the Parish News giving an update from the action group opposed to the outline plans for an additional 325 houses between Crewkerne and Misterton – please have a look at this and if you can help and support, it would be appreciated.

You will also see we have published the precept for the Parish Council. We do our best to keep any increases to a minimum, so have agreed 5%. The largest additional costs are for emptying the litter and dog bins in the village. This used to be covered by the old SSDC but with the cost constraints of the new Unified Somerset Council are no longer covered.

Looking forward to Spring and some warmer dryer weather.

Thanks, and Regards

Hugh Williams

North Perrott Village Hall – Chairman’s Report

A lot has been happening at the Village Hall since I last wrote in the Village News.

First we had the Festive Dinner where around 60 people sat down to a 4 course meal produced by our great team led by Belinda. The hall looked festive thanks to Julie and Alan and outside the Christmas Tree lit up the Green to add to the effect.

Thank you to the Parish Council for providing the tree and Alastair and Sally for decorating and electricity.

On New Year’s Eve we had a party in the hall when 40ish people ate drank and sang the night away and Bob was the star of the karaoke. After that night it was a surprise to see about 25 people turn up for the New Year’s Day Walk at 10am. The short walk finished at Lola and John’s for mince pies and mulled wine then the longer walk via the airfield and Common Lane took us back to the hall for tea and coffee and more refreshments.

In the last two months we have had 2 quizzes and 2 music nights and a games night all organised by our small hard working team. Coming up we have a quiz on 11th February and music night the day after and games night on the 21st. By popular request we have the return to North Perrott of the Wareham Whalers shanty group with their new charity concert Shanties and Strange Stories. You will need to get your ticket quickly as it was a sell out last year.

Hope to see you at our events and of course Monday coffee mornings.

Pip Oxenbury

Chairman, Village Hall Committee

07778 744516

If someone you know is in a play about skiing,



is it still ok to wish them good luck with ‘break a leg’?

Classified Ads:

Samsung Large fridge / freezer. Model RSA1 SHNP
91 cm w x 67 D x 178 H. £90 - 07880 737366

One elderly 3 foot by 4 foot trailer has served it's purpose here and is looking to be useful in a new home. No payment is asked, so, if you are interested please call 01460 72945

If you are a resident of Haselbury Plucknett or North Perrott and would like to place a free classified ad in next months Village News, please email it to vneditor2@gmail.com. A maximum of 3 lines of script, no names or addresses, just contact details. Entries must be received by the 20th of the month to be entered in the following months village news

The Haselbury Plucknett Charities

Registered Charity No 201573

Can we help?

The Haselbury Charities are three old charities set up to support those in the parish in particular need. Although our annual income is small, we try to help wherever we can. In these times of increased costs of living you might find yourself struggling with heating/electric bills. If you live in Haselbury and find yourself in difficulty, ask us. We may be able to help.

Apply in writing to:

The Secretary to the Trustees
Haselbury Plucknett Charities
Globe Farmhouse
North Street
Haselbury Plucknett
Crewkerne
TA18 7RP

Haselbury Wildlife and Habitats Group

Christmas and New Year have come and gone and apart from still eating Christmas cake it seems like a long time ago. We are now back to normal, which means that the WHG have been busy!

The bulbs have been planted alongside the new footpath - our chairman decided he'd finish the job on Boxing Day! Last weekend we put more bulbs in the wildflower area of the play park. Now we just wait and see what comes up!

We will be working on/in Small Brook during the next month and also continuing the restoration of Rebecca's Well. The latest flood map tells us what we already knew - that a lot of Claycastle has a very high water table and that there is little we can do about it.

Having had a mild, if wet, winter so far, many of our wild animals have been seen out and about.

Hedgehogs, squirrels and rabbits to name but a few. When walking Bria over the last few days, it has been foggy and so very quiet. The birdsong is all that can be heard and it is so beautiful.

There was a flock of about 150 redwings and fieldfares the other morning with the fieldfares' distinctive clicking song. Garden birds, too, were singing loudly and claiming territory for the coming nesting season. It is lovely to be aware of so many birds but we need to treat them with respect and not disturb either their nests or roosts. I have seen great tits already defending a bird box and blackbirds are nest building.

Snowdrops are coming up in Frog Lane and alongside the verges of other roads and many daffodils have been flowering since before Christmas. It's lovely to think that there will be daffodils now until April.

Alison Scott

I was washing the car with my son earlier, when my neighbour suggested a sponge might be more effective



St Michael's Community Orchard update – February

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's wassail. There was a good turnout in the orchard and North Perrott Village Hall. Thank you to all who helped to make the fire, with the cooking and on the night. The event raised £360 for the orchard.

In February and March, we are back to our normal maintenance mornings. These will be on:

Saturday 7th February – 10:30-12:30

Saturday 14th March – 10:30-12:30

Please come along and support these maintenance events. Bring your own tools to tidy the orchard boundaries, clear around the trees, and do some pruning. We stop for refreshments, and community orchard cider is available to all supporters of the orchard. For more information please get in touch (bryant.haselbury@gmail.com).

Matthew Bryant

Haselbury Plucknett May Fayre

Date for your diary

9th May 2026 - 12:00 to 16:00

Public meeting in March will be announced next month

Volunteers needed to help run stalls - mainly Toy Stall; Lucky Dip, but others as well

Also to help set up on the evening of the 8th and on the morning of the 9th, and help close down the Fayre afterwards

If you would like to help, please email hpmayfayre@gmail.com or call 01460 391816

Ian Stewart

CREWKERNE & NEIGHBOURHOOD CRISIS

Crewkerne & Neighbourhood Crisis (CNC) is a community-led group formed by residents who are deeply concerned about the proposed Station Road planning application (25/02044/OUT) for 325 homes and mixed-use development on land between Crewkerne and Misterton, closing the open countryside that currently separates the town from its neighbouring parish, with consequences for Crewkerne, Misterton, Haselbury Plucknett and North Perrott alike.

This proposal would change the character of the area forever and place years of intense pressure on roads, services and the environment that are already stretched to breaking point. Traffic is already overwhelming our communities. Misterton recorded 4,600 vehicle movements in a single day, even before other approved developments are completed.

Crewkerne, Misterton, Haselbury Plucknett and North Perrott are on their knees from the volume of traffic, heavy goods vehicles and frequent road closures. When one road closes, traffic is forced through small villages, causing gridlock and serious safety concerns.

Large HGVs are regularly diverted through narrow village roads with no pavements. In Haselbury Plucknett and North Perrott, the weight, size and speed of these vehicles have previously caused vibration damage, with cracks appearing in historic houses that were never designed to withstand such traffic, this is not a theoretical risk, it has already happened.

If approved, this development would bring at least five years of construction traffic, including heavy vehicles delivering materials and removing waste, on top of existing congestion. Once occupied, 325 additional households would generate hundreds more daily car journeys. With limited local employment opportunities, many residents would be forced to commute, worsening pollution and congestion still further.

Flooding is another serious concern. Crewkerne and Misterton have experienced repeated flooding in recent years. Without independent, professional flood assessments, residents have no confidence that building on this elevated land will not increase surface water runoff and flood risk elsewhere. This is why CNC is raising £6,500 to commission independent traffic and flood surveys and to obtain specialist planning advice, so that community voices are heard and evidence is taken seriously, not decisions driven solely by developer profit. This is a moment for the community to come together. If you share these concerns, you can support this work by visiting our crowdfunding page at: <https://crowdfunder.co.uk/p/crewkerne-and-neighbourhood-crisis> Hugh Williams Haselbury Plucknett PC – Jonathan Hoskyns North Perrott PC

Latest News from Willis Lane – home of North Perrott CC

THE POETRY OF CRICKET RETURNS, ALMOST

To Bowl, To Run, To Stump, to Throw, Every Nerve collected at each mighty blow.

Just one line from *Cricket, An Historic Poem* written in 1744 (yes 1744) by the playwright, actor and poet James Dance, part of a written commentary of the first ever fixture of an England team against the ‘County of Kent Men’ reputed to be England’s best team.

Its time to turn poetic as the start of the 2026 cricket season is almost upon us. By the time you read this, the first netting practice will have taken place at Perrott Hill (22nd January 7.30 pm) and players and supporters alike will have started purchasing their new kit from the club web site (see link below). And when the rain stops (!) we’ll be seeking volunteers to help prepare Willis Lane** for the season ahead when once again the Men’s 1st XI will be punching above their weight in the West of England League.

And this season with a new captain – Sam Rowsell returns as skipper having handed over the reins last season to Jamie Salaman. Sam says he feels honoured to return to Willis Lane for his second spell as skipper and is grateful to the club committee for once again putting their trust in his leadership.

Sam’s aim is to build on the steady progress under Jamie last season. ‘It was a tough challenge to keep us up in the West of England, but everyone got behind Jamie as North Perrott teams do and my challenge this year is to build on last year’s solid performances.’ And of course, Jamie will be back in what should be a strong batting line up.

It was a tough season too for the second XI who struggled to survive at times but doggedly kept going and took the opportunity to blood many of our younger players, several of them still also playing school cricket.

Off the field, the North Perrott CC Hundred Club draw has continued to add some critical funds to the club’s coffers. And the winner of the £150 prize in the 100 Club December Bumper Super Draw was Alan White – track him down in the bar!

** Its not just the playing wicket and the field and boundary areas that need attention in our big Willis Lane wash and brush up, but paint brushes, mowers, nails, electric drills will all be taken out of winter hibernation for the annual assault on the pavilion!! We’ll be sure to let you have date and time next month for your chance to join the NPCC maintenance crew.

Link for club kit and goodies: <https://teamshop.nxt-sports.com/find-your-club/north-perrott-cc/>

Martin

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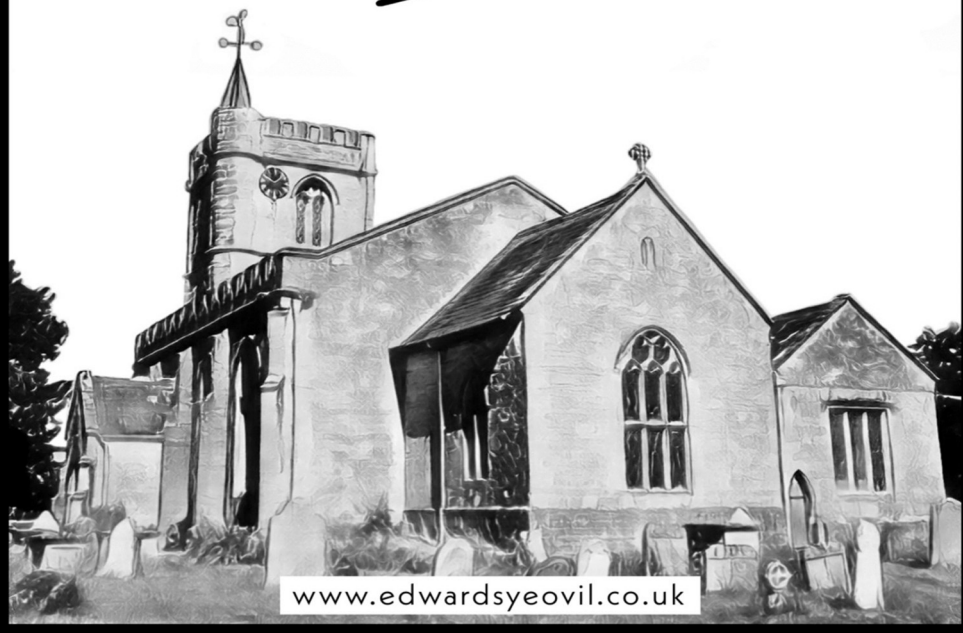
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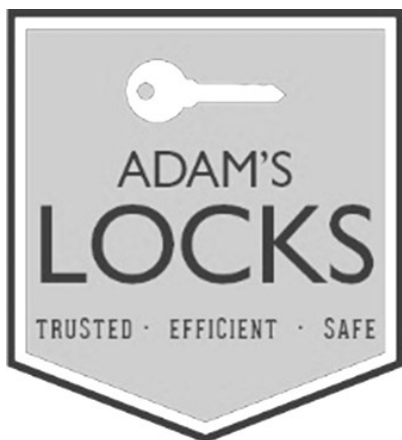
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Cllr Bridget Reader bridget.villar@gmail.com
Lucy Gibbons (Clerk) northppc@gmail.com

North Perrott Parish Council meets bi-monthly on the first Tuesday in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept and November at 7.30pm in the Hoskyns Memorial Hall. Agendas and minutes are published on the website and village notice board.

I normally knock on the fridge door before I open it.
Just in case there's a salad dressing



Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council

Chair: Councillor Hugh Williams	williahc@hotmail.com
Vice Chair: Councillor William Hunt	wdghunt@gmail.com
Councillor Matthew Bryant	bryant.haselbury@gmail.com
Councillor Lucy Dear	Lucyloo1989@icloud.com
Councillor Mike Wroe	mwroe2304@gmail.com
Councillor Richard Bourne	rasm.bourne@hotmail.com
Councillor Margaret Rendall	
Councillor Jim Farrant	jim.farrant@btopenworld.com
Councillor Alison Scott	alijoscott@gmail.com

North Perrott Parish Council Meeting November 2025

Taken from the published minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th January 2026, 7.30pm at the Hoskyns Memorial Hall, North Perrott.

Present: Cllr's J Hoskyns (Chairman), T Winder (Vice-Chair), B Reader, J Bradley, J Hall and L Gibbons (Parish Clerk) Members of the Public: Three

Public Open Forum: Issues raised: An inquiry was made regarding pruning of the tree on the Green. This is not due for another two years. There is a blocked culvert in Stonage Lane. Action – J Hoskyns will clear this culvert

Planning Decisions: 25/01838/FUL - Erection of external toilets within the site of St. Martin's Church primarily for the use of the congregation and attendees of public functions at the church with full disabled access - Land at St Martins Church Lane - Application permitted with condition

20mph Speed Limit / restrictive weight Limit: See page 8 for more details from the published minutes

Village Gateway: The new gate will be built later this year. Action – J Hoskyns to remove the existing sign and meet with G Hall to discuss the new size and design of the gate

Highways Update: J Hoskyns has chased the contractor regarding the curbing of Downclose Lane. Issues reported include: runoff of water in East St (which is damaging private property), a blocked drain in Church Lane, a blocked culvert at Pitt Farm and the condition of the pavements in Middle Street. Action – LG to write to L Norman to request a site meeting to discuss these issues. The direction that the 'Slow' signs in Willis Lane faces has been raised. Action – JB to discuss this with Somerset Highways.

Residents of Downclose Lane have contacted the PC concerning mud on the road where tractors exit the fields in the village. Action – LG to write to Combe Farm, requesting that mud on the road be cleared quickly when it happens. Willis Road Mirror: JB has done some research into de-misting mirrors. The cost is prohibitive. This will be put on hold and considered as part of the 20mph zone discussions

Village Maintenance, including flooding and fly tipping: J Hoskyns has cleared the main road and emptied one Gully, removing silt from Church Lane. Action – JB to investigate the possibility of different contractors able to clear the pavements of leaves, if J Hoskyns is unable to complete the task in a timely manner. There was minor flooding opposite the Farm shop. This is due to the culvert at Pitt Farm, which Somerset Council are aware of. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on: Tuesday 3rd March 2026 7.30pm

Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 12th January 2026

Present: Cllrs H Williams, W Hunt, J Farrant, L Deer, M Wroe, R Bourne, M Bryant, M Rendall, and L Gibbons (Parish Clerk) Members of the Public: None
Apologies for absence: Cllr A Scott and Unitary Cllr M Hewitson.

LCN: We have been asked to indicate interest levels in a potential Chapter 8 training course organised by the LCN. HW will report that we have one or two people who would take up this offer, depending on the cost of the course.

Planning: /02586/S73 - Land OS 6400 Part, Claycastle. The Parish Council has reviewed the revised SRHA published on 24 December 2025 and wishes to offer the following comments. The incorporation of a Drainage Field does not mitigate the phosphate discharge; it will merely delay its eventual release across Claycastle into Small Brook. The updated surface water flood risk map further confirms the lack of natural drainage, with runoff from the site accumulating on Claycastle and discharging naturally into Small Brook. Our objection remains in place.

Budget/Precept 26/27: Budget calculations were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. A lengthy discussion was held regarding additional expenditure that may arise. It was proposed and seconded that we would increase our precept by 5%. Our reserves will be used for any unexpected expenditure. A resolution was passed to set our precept at £18858.

The Park: Safety checks: The five inspection reports for the previous reporting period have been disseminated to councillors by WH. There are no significant outstanding issues. WH advised that there was a delay in the manufacture of the new fence and that the Ranger is planning to install it on the 9th of February.

Road and Footpaths: The second part of the Drainline Report was received. JF and MW will contact MH for help with this matter. The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) will also be contacted to see if there are any grants available for this work. Swan Hill/Puddletown road (local minor road - C5479) A site visit was finally arranged in December with A Barron (SC Traffic Management Engineer) to look at possible locations to install "Unsuitable for HGVs" signs. After a lengthy investigation a site on North Perrott Road and one on the A30 Yeovil Road from the Crewkerne direction were agreed.

Adoption of Frog Lane: Reeder surveys have prepared the drawings necessary for us to start the process for first registration of the land at Frog Lane. JF will start the paperwork for the Land Registry. Additional professional support may be required.

Next Meeting Date: 09/02/2026 at the Beaumont Room in the Church at 7:00pm

VILLAGE SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

DATE	HASELBURY St Michael and All Angels	NORTH PERROTT St Martin's
1 st February <i>Candlemas</i>	10.30 am Holy Communion CW	9.00 am Holy Communion CW
8 th February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	10.30 am Holy Communion BCP	
15 th February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	10.30 am Family Service	9.00 am Holy Communion BCP
Wednesday 18 th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7.00 pm Communion for Ash Wednesday MERRIOTT	
22 nd February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30 am Holy Communion CW	

Contacts

Rectors: Revs. Julia and Bob Hicks, The Rectory, Church Street, Merriott: 01460 76406

Lent

It feels as though Lent is galloping over the hill rather early this year. Ash Wednesday, the start of the church season of Lent, is on the 18th February. Make sure you have used up all your fat, flour and eggs the day before!! Most of us will know this day as Pancake Day, but in the church, there is another name; Shrove Tuesday. This comes from the English word 'shrive', which means to give absolution for someone's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. Shrove Tuesday was therefore named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent. While this practice has fallen away somewhat, we will offer everyone the chance to make their confession and receive absolution at our Benefice Communion Service on Ash Wednesday. This will be at 7pm in Merriott Church. We will also offer to mark everyone's forehead with an ash cross ('ashing'). This is a powerful symbol of our fallen nature and our submission before God. If you have never experienced this, I strongly recommend that you come along and try it – it is incredibly humbling.

So what, may I ask, will you be doing differently this Lent? Will it be the usual 'giving up of chocolate'? Or perhaps giving up something else? While abstaining from certain foods and fasting are indeed traditional Lenten practices that go back a long way – the key things to ask yourself are: 'Will it bring me closer to God or will it help someone else or the wider world?' While changing our diet might bring benefits to the body, it won't necessarily benefit the soul. Lent ought to be a time for reflection, anticipation and amendment of life. A time to ask what God wants of us. A time to prepare to receive the Good News of Christ's Passion and Resurrection once more. A time to share that Good News. Please, by all means give up some luxury, but can I also encourage you to take up something too.

Something that feeds your soul.

Rev Bob Hicks 01460 76406



at St Michaels, the process has begun!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Fund Raising events that were held at the Church in 2025. Delicious Cream Teas, complicated Jigsaw Puzzles, toe-tapping Jazz'n'Carols and Tasty Christmas Treats between them raised in excess of £1,100.00, and just as importantly, they raised awareness in the Village and beyond of our plans to do the necessary work to the Church building and keep it as the focal point for community involvement and activity.

We have also received a number of very generous donations towards the Raise the Roof appeal for which we are really grateful.

The Churchwardens have now had an initial meeting with the Surveyor who carried out the 'Quinquennial Inspection' of the Church building, and he has set out how we obtain the necessary permissions to plan, specify, and undertake the work that is needed.

St. Michaels is a significant Grade 2* Listed Building, so the materials that we use, and the way in which the work is undertaken need careful selection and approval at every stage. We cannot simply ask 'Bob-the-Builder' to start work next week, -even if we could afford it!

However, we can use these constraints to our advantage and incorporate plans for other improvements to the seating, heating and lighting of the Church into the overall scope of work to make the building a welcoming hub for everyone, while still preserving its importance as a sacred space.

The Bible tells a story of a foolish man who started a building project without working out the full costs. His neighbours all laughed at him when he could not afford to finish the job, so careful financial control will need to be an important part of what we plan to do. Sources of funding are available from some charitable organisations, but the presentation of applications and setting out a good case takes a lot of skill and time. If you have any experience of this type of work and would like to help our efforts, the Churchwardens would love to hear from you!

Julian and Jim [Churchwardens]

I cant stop taking pictures of myself with the kettle boiling
my wife reckons its because I've got selfie steam issues



SPLAT Kids club



Friday nights of fun for children of School Year groups R-4. Games, songs, stories and more from 6:30-7:30pm, every Friday in term time. 50p entry.

FUSION Youth Café

A space to come and chill for young people from School Years 5-13, with board games, table-top games and a tuck shop. Every Friday 8-9pm, term time only. (SPLAT & Fusion are closed on Friday 20th Feb during half term and return on Friday 27th Feb.)



Contact Paula Harris for more details: 07807446106



Little Wrigglers



Our baby & toddler group is open on Mondays at 10am-11am in term time, with great toys, a singing time and our Oasis Coffee shop. Free entry! (No Wrigglers on 16th Feb during half term. Wrigglers returns on **Monday 23rd Feb**)

Contact Paula Harris for more details: 07807446106





The Oasis

First Sunday of the month
@ 10am
Starting 2nd Nov

Come and relax at
The Oasis with tea,
coffee, cakes and
space for children
to play



With....
ELEV8
Kids' group for 8-13yrs



Bible Christian Centre
Haselbury Plucknett. TA18 7QX

Bible Christian Centre

Haselbury Plucknett, TA18 7QX

Minister: Pastor Andrew Harris – Tel: 01935 864414

Admin: Paula Harris – Tel. 01460 73147 or 01935 864414

www.biblechristiancentre.com

Services for February 2026....

<i>Sunday 1st Feb</i>	10am The Oasis. Relax at The Oasis with tea, coffee, cakes and space for children to play. With ELEV8 kids' group for 8-13yrs. 3:30pm Family Celebration and worship and teaching.
<i>Sundays 8th, 15th & 22nd Feb</i>	10:30am Family celebration & worship with CREA'8 children's group. Communion on: 8th & 22nd Feb
<i>Wednesdays</i>	10:30am Morning devotion with Communion
<i>Thursdays 5th & 19th Feb</i>	7:30pm Bible Study
<i>Fridays</i>	10am - Prayer meeting
<i>Saturday 14th Feb</i>	7pm, Cinema night Refreshments available to buy. Free entry

For more details please visit our website: www.biblechristiancentre.com

'The faithful love of the LORD never ends. His mercies never cease.

Great is His faithfulness;

His mercies begin afresh each morning.'

(Lamentations 3:22-23)



I would like to see a world completely without plagiarism.



You may think that I'm dreamer but I'm not the only one...

**HOSKYNS MEMORIAL HALL
NORTH PERROTT**

Registered Charity 1029582

FUTURE EVENTS

Wednesday 11th February

Quiz

Doors and Bar Open 7.30pm Quiz starts at 8pm

Teams of up to 4 £3.50 per person

Booking recommended on the WhatsApp Village Social Page

Thursday 12th February

Music Night

7.30pm start

Saturday 21st February

Games Night

7.30pm for 8pm start

Pop Up Bar

Friday 27th March

Shanties and Strange Stories

A concert by the Wareham Whalers

Raising money for the RNLI and PLANETS Charities

Doors open and bar available from 7.30pm Concert begins at 8pm

Tickets £12 available from North Perrott Farm Shop

and Pip Oxenbury on 01460 73308

Weekly Coffee Mornings

every Monday 10.30am – 12 noon excluding Bank Holidays

Everyone Welcome – Come in for a Chat and Coffee and Biscuits

The Village Hall is available for everyone in the two villages.
If you are looking for a venue for a party, reception or other event
please contact Lesley on 07732 030279 to make a booking
or to arrange for someone to show you around.

The Village Hall website: Northperrottvillagehall.co.uk

Police Drop-in

Saturday 4 February 2026

11.00am to 12.00 pm

Crewkerne Town Hall Market Square TA18 7LN

Wessex Water

Community Drop in to Chat to us about
Water bill, Sewage and Save Water

10am - 12.00pm

Wednesday 11th September

Crewkerne Town Hall Market Square TA18 7LN

Crewkerne Farmers Market

Saturday 28th February 2026

Falkland Square, Crewkerne

09:00 to 13:00

COFFEE MORNINGS

10.30 – 12.30

AT THE
GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE

**THE 2nd THURSDAY OF EVERY
MONTH**



COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR TEA,
COFFEE, BISCUITS AND A CHAT WITH
THE BRANCH MEMBERS. MAYBE TAKE
PART IN A QUIZ, SOME OTHER
ACTIVITY OR JUST CHILL OUT!



Volunteers Day

10:00 am 26 February 2026

Meeting at the Aqua Centre, Henhayes Ln,
Crewkerne TA18 7LZ

Please wear suitable clothing and gloves if possible

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

THE ROSES (15)

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, and great kids.

Beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing. As Theo's career nosedives, Ivy's own ambitions take off, and a tinderbox of competition and resentment ignites.

in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 19th February.

Afternoon Performance at 2:00pm

Coffee, tea and cake available, doors open 1:30 pm

Evening Performance at 7:30pm

Licensed bar available, doors open 7.00 pm

Tickets: £5.00 in advance from Springfield Stores
(01935 862363) or on the door

Visit our website at: www.Hardington.net



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The deadline for submission of articles and adverts for the next edition is the
18th February 2026