

BRENT KNOLL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026



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St Christopher's, Lympsham St Michael's, Brent Knoll St Mary's, East Brent

Contacts	Baptisms
The Parish is currently in vacancy Please contact Church Office	To arrange a Baptism, contact the Church Administrator. Please also see Church of England website for more information- www.churchofenglandchristenings.org
Associate Priest Reverend Neil Biddiscombe Tel 07862 045215 e-mail - associatepriest.tpots@outlook.com	Weddings Weddings can be arranged by contacting our Church Administrator who will discuss, availability of dates and times, also talk with you about the qualifying connection you must have with the Parish and to take your contact details. You will then be contacted to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet to discuss your commitment and requirements. Please also see Church of England website for more information- www.yourchurchwedding.org
Church Administrator – Mrs Carole Carter Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset, TA9 4HZ Tel 01278 769082 e-mail office.tpots@gmail.com Office is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am – 1pm	Funerals Your chosen Funeral Director will contact our Church Administrator to arrange your requirements. *****
Churchwardens St Michael's, Brent Knoll Mike Smith 01278 760691 mikesmithchurch@gmail.com Frances James 01278 760287 (Warden Emeritus)	Visit our website – www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk Facebook: TPOTS Twitter: @TPOTS6 Safeguarding – Contact Ginnie Soffe 01278 769117 or Church Office 01278 769082 e-mail safeguarding.tpots@gmail.com
Church Treasurer – Contact Church Office 01278 769082 / office.tpots@gmail.com PCC Secretary – Mrs Carole Carter 01278 769082 / office.tpots@gmail.com	



February 2026

1 st	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Mary's, East Brent
8 th	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Michael's, Brent Knoll
15 th	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion BCP All Age Eucharist	St Christopher's, Lympsham St Christopher's, Lympsham
18 th Ash Wednesday	7.00pm	Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes	St Michael's, Brent Knoll
22 nd 1 st Sunday of Lent	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Mary's, East Brent
1 st March	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Michael's, Brent Knoll

Night Prayer every Wednesday at 7.30pm – ZOOM – link from parish website

For latest information please see www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk or notices in church porches.

St Michael's Church Register

At Rest - Anthony Hill



Brent Methodist Church (<https://eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk/>)

Minister	Revd. Steve Bennett
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We were all saddened to begin the New Year by hearing the news that two members of our Church family had died over the Christmas period. Shirley Pycroft and Evelyn Tucker.

Evelyn was an integral and best loved member of East Brent Methodist Church for so many years and their organist. Although I'm certainly not doing her enough justice for her service to the church in such a short space, I know that there are big shoes to be filled because of her passing. A music machine will never replace an organist, and no-one could replace Evelyn, so much loved by our church. The empty seat behind the organ is a reminder of that.

Shirley, together with her husband Ronnie, had been central to the life of Brent Knoll Methodist Church ever since their moving into the area in 2004. A qualified nurse, a Sister, a health visitor, her calling was to midwifery. As a qualified midwife, her joy was in the care of mothers and babies.

I'll take this opportunity to say a big personal "Thank you" to Shirley for her unfailing humour, her contagious laughter and her unfailing faith which inspired mine.

Since September, when Brent Knoll Methodist Church closed its doors for the final time and we came together with East Brent Church to become Brent Methodist Church, our thoughts, our prayers and our love go out to all family and friends of those we have lost.

We share together the sadness of those who are no longer with us but celebrate the love and joy they gave us.

God bless all of you, from all of us.

Rosemary Krull (on behalf of all of us at Brent Methodist Church)

Services at Brent Methodist Church (East Brent) @ 10.30am

- 1st February : Rev Steve Bennett
- 8th February : Rev Andy Hardwick (Holy Communion)
- 15th February : Rosemary Krull
- 22nd February : Mr Brian Dallimore

All-Sorts Choir

A CHALLENGE AWAITS YOU



Do you want to do something different in 2026? Maybe something you haven't done for years but have enjoyed in the past? Do you want to build new friendships, enjoy a challenge, whilst having fun?

Come to the All-Sorts Choir, it's at the East Brent Hall from 19.30 – 21.15 on Thursday evenings. You don't have to be able to read music and the first session is free.

Just let me know if you would like to come.

Contact: sue.toon@btinternet.com or 01278 760753.

Sue Toon

Brent Knoll Take-Away

Dates for your diary:

5th February 5-7pm - Fish & Chips

19th February 5-7pm - Fish & Chips

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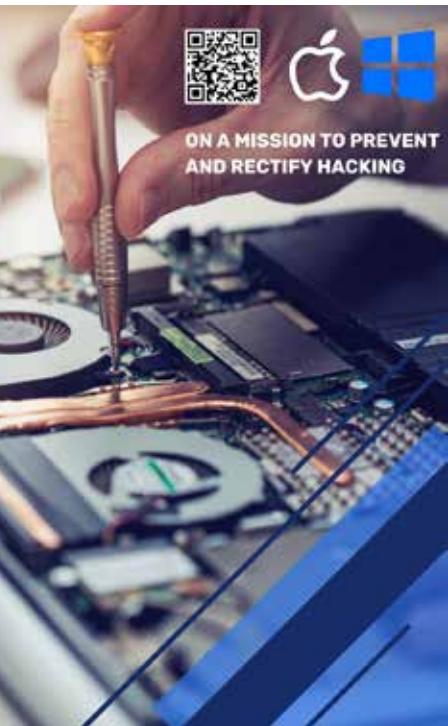
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Notes from the Parish Council

January meeting



Approval of minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January.

Planning Matters – None

Financial Matters Agreed

- (a) Statutory Payments List: Approved by Members for 2025/2026.
- (b) Variable payments List: Approved by members at this meeting.
- (c) Grants to local organisations approved as follows :

Somerset Citizens Advice:	£100
Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance	£100
Weston super Mare Samaritans	£100
Re engage	£100
St Michael's Church tree removal	£200

Pending for February meeting

Meet and Eat group and Good Companions

Individual grant from the Brent Knoll Charities account to members of the local guiding group.

- (d) A precept for 2026/2027 of **£69,966** was set and approved unanimously which represents an increase of **2.89%** over the current year.

National Grid improvement and Substation

The details for this proposal from the National Grid were identified on the December minutes and the National Grid will site a substation on a small piece of land just inside the village green perimeter with close access to the car park. It will be protected a close board fencing and the National Grid will require access to the substation. All costs of the legal transfer of land will be met by the National Grid and the Parish Council receive the added advantage of new white lining for the car park and the substation will be capable of upgrading to electric charging points in the future. The land on which the substation is to be erected will be transferred together with full access rights in the sum of £1 nominal fee. This project will now be the subject of both the legal process and arboricultural survey by National Grid. It was further requested that an agreement be reached for the ongoing maintenance of the feather boarding surround to the substation.

Other Key Decisions taken by the Parish Council

- (a) Development of a new website to comply fully with current legislation.
- (b) Hills to Levels improvement scheme - Significant progress has now been made in moving this project forward in 2026. Grant funding has been agreed in the sum of £4132 with no cost to the Parish Council for this part of the project. Declarations and Mandates for grant receipts are now ready for submission. The Parish Council formally agreed by a unanimous resolution to go ahead with the process. The Clerk to submit the appropriate signed paperwork

A **full copy** of the minutes is available on the website and can also be obtained by contacting the clerk. You can also view the meetings by following this link [Brent Knoll Parish Council meetings - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXx-BC7euoE9ha5ptq7HM2Q) or entering <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXx-BC7euoE9ha5ptq7HM2Q>.

Future Meetings

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on **Wednesday 4th February** at **7pm** in the **Jubilee Room**. The Parish Surgery will be on **Tuesday 3rd February** in the **Jubilee Room** of the Parish Hall from **10am to 12 noon**. Contact the Clerk on any Council matters. Provisional meeting may be on 18th February.

Owen J Cullwick, Tel No. 07917 445 215 clerk@brentknollpc.co.uk

Brent Knoll's Community Shop News

Brent Knoll Community Shop began 2025 with just £6,000 in cash reserves, having paid more than £66,000 on all the costs for fitting out the new shop. It ended the year with more than £34,000 in reserves, thanks to having attracted more customers, more volunteers and stronger sales.

Since moving into the new shop, monthly sales have increased by up to 20%. This strong trading, coupled with successful grant applications and profitable events, has enabled the shop to provide support for a number of community partners and initiatives. The latest example is a request for donated refreshments in support of an F1 school competition team.

Meanwhile there have been further improvements to the new shop, with investments to resolve the problem we had with the entrance mat, to provide our coffee machine with a mains-water supply and to increase the number of CCTV cameras.

Upcoming events are also in the diary. The next "Sausage Sizzler" will be on Saturday 28th February from 10am to 12 noon in the Parish Hall, while the next Quiz Night will be on 7th March, also in the Parish Hall. A wine-tasting evening is also planned for the Spring and the shop will be the beneficiary of an evening event at The Ritz in Burnham-on-Sea on 21st September.

Our diary also includes a number of events with our sponsoring body, The Plunkett Foundation. These include a training day for South West Community Shops at Powderham Castle in February, the next meeting of the Somerset Community Shops Group in March and an on-line seminar on controlling electricity costs. *David Sturgess*

Brent Knoll Short Mat Bowls Club

Are you looking for a new activity for 2026?

Join us at Brent Knoll Short Mat Bowls Club.

We play Monday and Friday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm in Brent Knoll Parish Hall.

It is a game for all age groups and will help to keep you fit.

Bowls can be supplied and beginners are welcome.

Please contact Glynis 07709970215 for further information.



Glynis Carey, Secretary

BRENT KNOLL PARISH SURGERY

with our Parish Clerk

Owen Cullwick and a Parish Councillor

will be holding a Parish Surgery on

Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026

10am to 12 noon

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St Michael's Churchwarden's report

Greetings to you all.

It was lovely to see the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass well attended and thanks to Rev Eric Petrie for taking this.

You may have noticed that although the Christmas Tree and decorations were taken out of the church for Twelfth Night, the Crib has been left in church and will be there until Candlemas on February 2nd, when we look forward to the school coming.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Soup and Pud lunch to be held in the Parish hall on Saturday February 7th between 12 and 2pm where homemade soups and puddings will be served.

March 7th we will be holding our annual Church Clear up day from 9.30am where light refreshments will be available and we would love to see as many as possible so we can get some much-needed jobs done.

We have been saddened to hear of the death of Tony Hill, a great supporter and friend of the church.

Sadly, recently there has been a break-in to both St. Marys, East Brent and to the neighbouring school. Fortunately, nothing was taken from the church, but damage was made to locks which have had to be repaired. We are grateful for all neighbours, walkers and dog walkers who keep an eye on the state of our church.

We now look forward to getting a date and location for a service of welcome for our new Priest in Charge for the Parish together with Brean and Berrow, Reverend Robyn Golden-Hann. Please continue to pray for Robyn as she prepares to begin a new ministry among us.

Many thanks to Rev Neil Biddiscombe who continues to serve us as Associate Priest and to all those who support us in so many ways.

*Mike Smith, St. Michael's Churchwarden, 01278 760691,
mikesmithchurch@gmail.com*

Tony Hill

It was with deep regret that I heard of the recent death of Tony Hill. He had supported me during the numerous Projects that I had undertaken covering items in the Village.

One in particular was the conservation of the only Chest Tomb in the Churchyard.

When I was at the point of giving up on the project due to the number of disappointments, it was Tony who persuaded me to keep going with the project.

Also, when I was researching Brent Knoll, he told me the following story.

When he travelled by train from Brent Knoll station to work, he could hear the train leaving Highbridge station and this would give him just time to cycle to the station and catch the train.

However, cutting it this fine, on one occasion when he arrived, the train was just about to leave. So, he got down from the platform, crossed the rails and got onto the train.

He needed to do this as there was no footbridge connecting the two platforms. To get from one platform to another you had to walk back to Station Road, cross over the railway bridge and then walk up to the station approach.

Of course, this would not be allowed today due to Health and Safety regulations. However, he said at that time the station staff were very helpful.

George Brown



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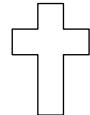
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Against all odds

In February a few years ago, we had an urgent call from a couple in Bristol. It was 1am on a very cold night. A distressed young man told me about a badger that was in the river next to the S.S. Great Britain in Bristol. "He's making a terrible noise crying for help," he said. I felt useless as we don't have any volunteers in Bristol at that time of night, nor could I ignore the situation. I explained that I would attend but that it would be nearly an hour before I could get there. "Please do try," the young man pleaded so I gave him my mobile number and asked him to let me know if the situation changed. I then rang my son, Simon, who lives next door to go with me and despite getting dressed very quickly, it was at least 15 minutes before we could de-ice the car and collect the cage and catching equipment.

Halfway on our journey there, the young man rang to say that the badger had hauled itself on to a tyre between a barge and the harbour wall. They were both going to stay to meet us when we got there which was nearly 2.30am by the time we arrived. They were both sitting near to where the badger was with a blanket around themselves to keep warm. Simon tried to get the badger with a net but as it was an 8ft drop to the tyre, he sadly missed and the badger dropped into the water. He swam past the barge and looked as if he was going to swim out to the middle of the river, but he turned and came alongside the barge. The effort of swimming and being cold meant he was making a lot of noise and we were hoping the noise wouldn't stop as it would mean he had drowned. By this time Simon was ready with the grasper, leaning over as much as he could with the young man and I holding on to his legs. Amazingly he caught the badger and it took all of us to pull Simon and the badger up on to the wall, quickly putting the badger in the cage. The couple were overjoyed and we were so pleased to have the badger and ourselves soon in a nice warm car travelling home. Placed overnight in our badger pen, she (as we found out) was soon asleep under a heat lamp. Checked out the next day by the vet, her lungs were clear and after a few days of hotel food, she was ready to go home – but where to as we really didn't know where she fell in.



Having looked at Google, we found a few areas near the harbour that seemed to be a possibility so by going back into Bristol at 3am for it to be as quiet as possible, we went to have a look. Badgers are territorial and it really is important that they get back to their own group otherwise they will fight. Luckily the first place we looked at had several badger paths, so fingers crossed we carried the cage to the area. Immediately the sow roused and desperately clawed at the cage to get out. Opening the cage, she immediately followed one of the paths – she was home!

Sometimes our rescues seem impossible, but this one was a very happy ending.

Pauline Kidner

Front Cover Photo -

Thank you to Rob Dalziel for the cover photo of Star Trails over St Michael's Church. Thanks to John Page for the nocturnal photo on page 2.

Bob

Meet and Eat

The Meet and Eat team were very pleased to serve a full Christmas dinner to 20 villagers. We were blessed with a visit from the Headmaster and young elves from Brent Knoll Primary School who helped serve the diners, told jokes and as Father Christmas was a little busy, they also helped hand out gifts and sang as they left. There was a lovely atmosphere.

The team would like to thank our diners for their generous gifts to us and wish everyone a healthy New Year.

Some team members were privileged to go and see Tony Winterburn, one of our long-term diners, to help him celebrate his 100th birthday, in January. He was in good form and related tales of his love of steam engines. Later in the day he talked to a reporter for an hour about his wartime experiences as a radio operator for Marconi on board merchant ships.

Meet and Eat will be held on Monday February 9th at 12.30pm in the Brent Knoll Parish Hall. Please email Gill Gill.poulter2@btinternet.com or telephone Liz on 01278 760810 to book before Friday February 6th.

Meet and Eat team

Tea & Chat

We will meet again in St. Michael's vestry/church room on Wednesday February 11th 2026 at 2.30pm. All past members are welcome to come and have tea, chat and maybe there will be cake.

Margaret Smith, 01278 760691

Women's Society

We will be in contact with our members with details of our February meeting. *Ann*

Fun in Fundraising

We were overwhelmed with finishing 2025 on such a high after the successful Christmas Tree Festival. We are grateful to all who made this so successful, the tree exhibitors, raffle and refreshments' providers as well as help setting up, taking down and during the Festival. The People's Choice was won by the Book Group with their book folding tree. This year's festival will be on 11th to 13th December 2026.

Sadly, we started the year with three of our committee members having to stand down due to other commitments and so we are after more people to join us. We only meet a few times a year, there isn't too much involved as we have some events we run every year, so except for trying to do better each year, we know what we do, as long as we have helpers on the day,

We are looking forward to the Soup and Pud lunch on Saturday February 7th from 12 to 2pm with homemade soups and puddings. Tickets available on the day for this fun social event.

Mike and Margaret Smith, 01278 760691; mikesmithchurch@gmail.com, on behalf of the Fun in Fundraising Team, St. Michael's Church

Dog Mess

Dog owners in Brent Knoll are reminded to clear up after their dogs when out walking them.

Please remember the other users of the roads, pavements and footpaths in the village, particularly children, older residents and those exercising who may not see what they are treading in before it's too late!! The Parish Council provides Dog Poo Bins *Bob*

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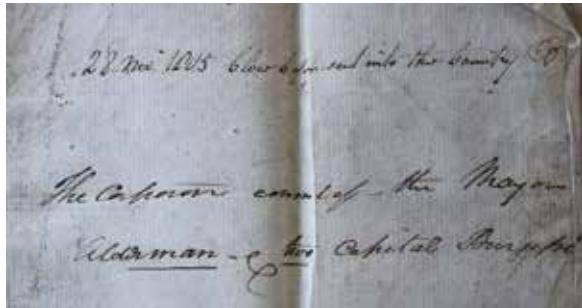
michaellapage@yahoo.com

**The Lodge, Shrub Farm, Burton Row,
Brent Knoll TA9 4BX**

Brent Knoll House Histories – 105

Notably the signatures at the end of last month's document, showing the audited accounts of the Spearing Charity properties in Brent Knoll, East Brent and Mark, include Gabriel Stone, who was the owner of Somerset Court, so would be fairly familiar with the properties not that far from his home.

This month, however, I am looking at the court case in Chancery between the Attorney



General and the Axbridge Corporation in 1805, in which George Symons, who is labelled an Esquire, Richard Cox, is a gentleman and John Crease, a carrier, (although Axbridge documents refer to him as a currier - someone who prepares leather) all, at one time or another, Burgesses (Symons being a Capital Burgess at this

time, whilst the other two are Moorwardens in 1804 – officers who monitor the use of the moorland within the parish of Axbridge), accuse the late Mayor, John Tucker, and various others, of causing a loss of income amounting to £50 (quite a lot of money then, going into multiple thousands of pounds today, though differing sites quote very different comparisons). This would, of course, be of considerable detriment to the poor of the parish.

Last month the date was stated to be 1792, which is the date listed in the Record Office calendar, but there does seem to be some confusion, as this document clearly states 1805 and John Tucker, for instance, was the Mayor, as stated in the document, in that year. At the top of the main text it does say "Amended by Order dated the 10th day of August 1805" and the cover dates it as the 28th November in the same year. I assume the August date is when the amendment was ordered and the November date was when the document was eventually completed.

I have been able to transcribe the document which, in the original runs to forty-one pages, so I will not be repeating it all here! As it happens, that is not the only reason for summarising the document, as the original includes many long titles naming the parties involved, which are invariably printed in full whenever they are needed, some extensive repetition of items from Spearing's original will, lots of margins, spaces between the lines and between the words and often tricky abbreviations. The spaces are supposed to be in case they need to annotate anything and are fairly regular in similar documents at that time.

Continued on page 20

Brent Knoll House Histories – Continued

The parties involved are, for instance. “*the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Axbridge*,” often supplemented with, “*for the time being*,” whilst the Council is invariably alluded to as, “*the Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of the said Borough of Axbridge*,” often supplemented with, “*and their successors*.”

There are also many abbreviations, which can be a bit tricky. “*s^d*” is obviously “said,” and it is said very, very often! “*afsd*” is “aforsaid,” “*shod*” is “should,” “*thor*” is “thereof” and “*pson or ps ons*” obviously “person or persons.” Perhaps a little less obvious is “*or*” which is “other” and “*Premes*,” which means “Premises.”

After explaining the terms of William Spearing’s will in considerable detail it then mentions that Thomas Lovell and Jno Tuthill, who administered the estate when Spearing died, were now dead themselves. As that was well over one hundred years ago that is not too surprising. What turns out to be a problem, though, is that the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor and Axbridge Council were responsible for distributing the proceeds, but the administrators of the estate continued to be Lovell and Tuthill. As Lovell died first, the estate became the responsibility of the remaining trustee, Jno Tuthill and on his death, his Heirs and assigns. Unfortunately, by the time of this court case nobody appears to know who Tuthill’s heirs are which means that there was considerable difficulty at law in being able to recover possession of the premises involved. One of the things requested by those bringing this case (the accusers) is that the defendants should find out who is the heir, by following his family tree and where he or she lives, so that they can handle the administration of the estate legally. If not, then they request that, in the meantime, the estate may be handled to the greatest advantage by “*this Honourable Court*.” After all, Spearing’s will did say that it should be handled to the most advantage and for the most money that can be reasonably got for the properties.

All this has meant that the value of the estate had previously been treated as though it remained at a value which was now considerably out-of-date. Apparently, there was an attempt by the Overseers, on the 29th of September 1803 to give written notice to Jno Lancaster, the then current lessee of the properties, siting termination of the lease on the 25th day of March the following year. They then advertised the lease for sale, but not all the Overseers took part and no survey of the properties was conducted to ascertain its true value. At the sale someone called George Dibble did offer as much as £120..5s..0d p.a. for the rent of the properties. This turns out to be about £50 or so above the rent which Lancaster was currently paying, but none of the Churchwardens or Overseers appear to have attempted to evict Lancaster and he seems to have refused both to leave the premises or to increase the rental he paid. The accusers suggest that “*Jno Lancaster, the occupier of the said Premises may be charged with the Rent for which the said Premises might have been let had he delivered up possession thereof according to the said notice*.”

There is also a strong indication that the rents which had accumulated had not, until recent times, always been used for the purposes for which they were intended, i.e. as specific distributions to the poor and that nobody maintained any accounts, which should also have been properly audited. In fact, they were very sceptical about how the Churchwardens, Overseers and Burgesses had handled the charity for most of the time.

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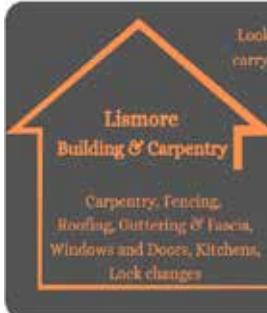
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CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP

Due to other events happening in the village in February we will be holding our annual St. Michael's Churchyard clear up on Saturday March 7th from 9.30am.



As usual please come armed with tools for general garden maintenance jobs.

Light refreshments will be available.

Looking forward to seeing you all there

YOUR Community Speedwatch Needs YOU



- If you are interested in joining Brent Knoll Community Speedwatch Team and giving a small amount of time every month, then please contact Mary Cole - nashcole48@gmail.com or ring 07736 826777.
- In 2024, the majority of road fatalities (60%) occurred in rural areas. Speed was the most common factor recorded in fatal collisions.

Bishop's letter - Generations growing in faith together

Our extended family recently got together for a celebration. We were nine adults from 24-68, one toddler and one dog, and it was glorious! The joy was simply in being together, whatever our age.

I sometimes wonder what would happen in the life of our churches if we could adopt the same outlook there? Each generation glad that the other is there. Each generation contributing something to the whole. Each generation looking to the interests of the others, making sure there was something that spoke to the others even if not to them.



The writer of the Chronicles records something you could miss if you weren't looking for it. In 2 Chronicles 20, when Judah was facing attack from Ammon and Moab, King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and summoned the people. This is what it says in verse 13:

"All Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives and their children."

At a time of great peril, when the king was seeking the LORD, all generations came together to pray.

We often think of intergenerational meaning us older ones passing on wisdom to the younger ones and that's certainly part of it. But a truly intergenerational family, which the church is, means all generations welcoming one another, valuing one another, learning from one another and praying with and for one another. It's not a one-way thing.

Our younger generations are ambassadors from the future, with wisdom to give us about their culture and how to share the timeless truths of the gospel with their peers. They are leaders and learners, just as we all are.

What might it look like across our diocese if we committed to making room for other generations? What might it look like if, like the people of God in ancient times, we came together in our year of especial focus on prayer - adults, young people and little ones - and sought the power and wisdom of God together? I have a feeling we'd be surprised!

Fiona Gibson

Who will become Bishop of Taunton on 8th February 2026

Advertising in the Brent Knoll News

The advertising year for the Brent Knoll News runs from September to July/August. We do have some spaces available for new advertisers for 2025/26

If you would like to advertise in the BKN, or know of a local business/organisation that would like to, please contact me on bob@flockman.com and I will forward details of the size and cost of advertising space available.

The BKN is delivered free to every household in Brent Knoll, is on sale at the village shop, parish church and online at <http://www.brentknollvillage.co.uk/BKnews/latest.pdf>.

Bob

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Burton Row Community Speedwatch update

Location B3140 Burton Row Speed Limit 30mph

Official Speed Watch Sites: Brent Knoll - 8. East Brent - 1

Reporting period 1st December to 31st December

Speed watch 1 hour sessions - 3 Total vehicle numbers - 438

Maximum speed - 40mph % Exceeding (30MPH): 22%

Vehicle speeds recorded Exceeding Burton Row (B3140) Highway Legal (30MPH) Limits (Shown as % in ascending order) as follows:

(1) 29 Dec: 15% (2) 22 Dec: 24% (3) 04 Dec: 27%

There were 3 letters issued by the police for those speeding during December.

Burton Row Speed Watch Group

In the News

1946 May 18th

Women's Institute

Mrs Abbott read extracts from "The History of Brent Knoll" kindly loaned by the Vicar.

June 1st Miss Ruth Sandy , youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs WG Sandy of Musk Farm married Mr Fred Bradbeer of Berrow. The Bridegroom is the popular professional of the Burnham & Berrow Golf Club.

June 29th Brent Knoll Horse Show and Gymkhana
Will take place on part of Brent Knoll Racecourse by kind permission of Mr PH Rich on Saturday August 10th.
Stabling may be arranged from Weston Horse Show by contacting Mr RT Rich, Northgrove Farm.

July 6th 2 advertisements
By order of the Executors of Lady Fox deceased.
The attractive residence known as Brent Knoll Manor incl. Lodge, 2 bungalows, small farmery, pleasure and vegetable gardens, wood and paddocks in all about 19 acres.
For sale at premises Monday July 1946 at 11.00am.
Also, Furniture and fittings, approx. 1000 lots for sale on Monday 15th, Tuesday and Wednesday.

July 20th Brent Knoll Manor sold to Mr Mann of Bristol for £7,600.

July 26th Ball Copse Hall sold through the sole agent W Hunt, The Esplanade, Burnham-on-Sea.

August 10th Mr & Mrs William E Standley, Elderberry Farm.

October 12th Mrs HR Parker of Southcroft, who with her husband is a Director of Cox and Co., brickyard, Springfield Road, Highbridge.

October 19th Miss Joyce Hancock of Laurel Farm was elected as "Miss Brent Knoll" during a dance held at the Parish Hall. This entitles her to enter for the Miss Highbridge Carnival Queen competition.

October 26th Mr F Crocker of Brent Knoll, recalled being in the band of 'A' company of the 3rd Somerset Prince Alberts Light Infantry and standing at the top of Burnham Pier 65 years ago (1881) "or was it a bit more" to welcome the steamer from Wales, which was opening a new passenger service to Burnham.

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PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS for your DIARY

2 nd Saturday	Bazaar, Farmers' Market and Parish Café 10am-12 noon
21 st & 22 nd March	Book Fair (am & pm)
18 th April	Jumble Sale (am)
6 th June	Village Fête (pm)
18 th July	Music on the Green – 'Funkydillies' (eve)
	24 th October Harvest Supper
	Live Band (Lipinski Bros) (eve)
	21 st November BAD Performance (eve)

Next meetings - Monday 9th February, 7.30pm in the "Jubilee Room".

Sandra Few

BRENT KNOLL PARISH COUNCIL

Flood Action Group 2026

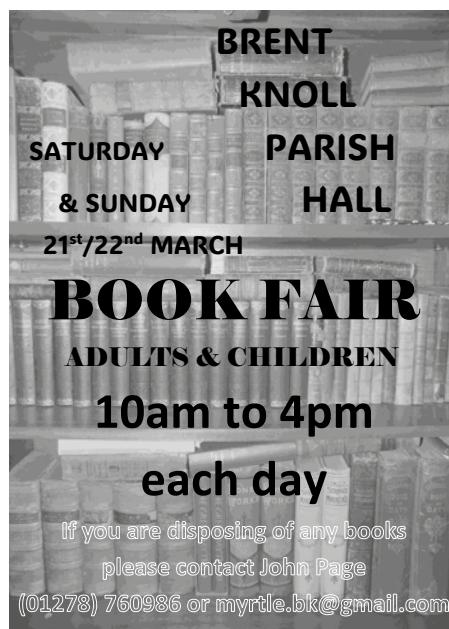
The Parish Council are anxious to ensure that maximum efforts are made to ensure that the village of Brent Knoll is taking all possible actions to make any water or flood matters urgently are dealt with them as smoothly and efficiently as possible. The Council is setting up a new flood action group and are keen for residents to offer some help with the group and make a real difference.

Please do contact Owen, details below, if you can help support the Parish Council.

Contact

Owen Cullwick, Clerk of Brent Knoll Parish Council

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February Sudokus

Gentle Sudoku

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A					6		2		
B				8	9				
C						5			
D	5	3		7					
E			9		2				
F	9	1		4					
G	3	4	8		1				
H	5	9	3	2					
J	2			7	8				

Moderate Sudoku

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A									1
B							3	4	
C							8	7	
D	8	7					1		
E		6	5		9	3			
F		3	5			6			
G	4	3			2				
H		5	1			9			
J	9		1	7	4				

Can I again thank Klaus Brenner for sending me a number of Sudokus so we can continue to have them in the BKN each month and to continue David's tradition. *Bob*

“200+ CLUB” – 2026

There has again been an excellent response to the 2026 200+ Club with over 320 numbers already reserved but we still have a few members from 2025 who haven't replied yet.

With the first draw for 2026 due to take place at the Parish Hall Committee meeting on 9th February, there is still time to join! Numbers cost £12 per annum and are open to anyone (you don't need to live in Brent Knoll).

If you'd like to join, you can drop in an envelope marked “200+ Club” (£12 per number) with cash or a cheque payable to “Brent Knoll Parish Hall” together with your name and address, at the Brent Knoll Shop or e-mail Bob at bob@flockman.com for more information on paying by BACS. The more numbers in the draw the more prizes issued!!

Bob Filmer, 200+ Club Co-ordinator

Blister pack Recycling

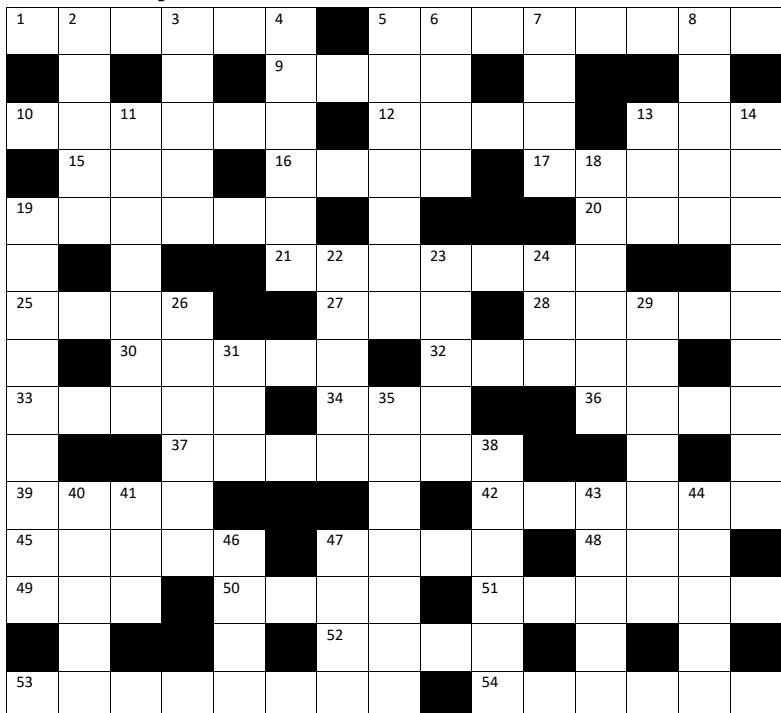
Blister packs are not recyclable at the kerbside as they are generally a mixture of foil and plastic which are not possible to be recycled with other plastics (and sorting facilities cannot separate them from other plastics). We do see a few types that are made of foil only and these would be acceptable to place in the blue bag.

For blister packs to be recycled, they need to be collected separately and sent as a single stream to a specialised reprocessor such as Terracycle or MyGroup. Both Boots and Superdrug have schemes where people can take back their blister packs for recycling. [Two high street brands expand recycling schemes for medicine packaging - The Pharmaceutical Journal](#). It's worth checking with the local store to see if they are taking part in the scheme.

Just for Fun – February Crossword

Across -

1) Get away (6)
 5) A little sugary to the taste (8)
 9) Before, in front of (4)
 10) Elastic band holding up a stocking (6)
 12) Curved lines (4)
 13) Enemy (3)
 15) Golf ball supporter (3)
 16) Where bets are placed (4)
 17) Elegance of style (5)
 19) Seek, try to locate (6)
 20) Hold sway over (4)
 21) Tightwad (7)
 25) Doles out bit by bit (4)
 27) Over (poet.) (3)
 28) Boyfriend (5)
 30) Wanderer (5)
 32) Fruits of the palm (5)
 33) Heading, name (5)
 34) Before (poet.) (3)



36) Twofold (4)
 37) Rubbers (7)
 39) Dutch Cheese (4)
 42) Live in (6)
 45) Plant whose pod is used as a laxative (5)
 47) Small bottle (4)
 48) Paddle (3)

49) Cunning (3)
 50) Billiard sticks (4)
 51) Fiddle (6)
 52) Dried-up (4)
 53) Ignores (8)
 54) Leaked slowly (6)

Down -

2) Roofing material (5)
 3) Daisy like flower (5)
 4) The ochres used by painters (6)
 5) Respect, standing (7)
 6) Existed (4)
 7) Alleviate (4)
 8) Region of shallow water (5)
 11) Active chemical (7)
 13) Winter illness (3)
 14) Forever and ever (9)

18) Manned a ship (6)
 19) The taste of Honey (9)
 22) Ciphers (5)
 23) To command (5)
 24) Our new tax (3)
 26) Earnest, humourless (6)
 29) In the normal way (2,5)
 31) French sea (3)
 35) Alters, rewrites (7)

38) Figures out (6)
 40) Dig into (5)
 41) One or some or all (3)
 43) Aussie bush call (5)
 44) Cost (5)
 46) Pain (4)
 47) Sleeveless, collarless garment (4)

Trevor Wellavize

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Nature Diary for February – British Plants Since the Last Ice Age

Recently I gave a talk on how the flora of the British Isles has developed since the last Ice Age. In this, and the next Diary, I shall draw on this talk to outline how the British flora has developed over the past 9,000 years or so.

The ice began to melt about 9,000 years ago and the glaciers started to retreat. At that point Britain was geographically joined to Europe. An expanse of low, marshy land was exposed in what is now the North Sea. This is now known as Doggerland and plants, people and animals migrated across this land bridge. Around 6,500 years ago Doggerland was inundated by rising sea levels caused by glacial meltwater, leaving Britain isolated from continental Europe.

Botanists regard species that were in Britain before the land bridge was lost as **native** and those that arrived after as **non-native**. One cannot be precise, but the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland reckon that, overall, there are 2,490 plant species in Britain. This is made up of 1,390 native species, leaving us with 1,100 species that have migrated to Britain by various means.

How do we know these numbers? Part of the answer lies in how we classify species of plants and last May's Diary dealt with the scientific classification introduced by the Swedish physician Linnaeus in the 18th century. But this ordering of natural species was preceded by significant fieldwork from English naturalists in the 17th century. In those days naturalists were generalists and their observations covered a wide range of natural subjects. They were "amateurs" in the sense that they were not paid for the studies that they undertook. In his book *The Naturalist in Britain* David Elliston Allen points out that their solitary excursions into the countryside could lead them into trouble - "For everywhere lurked thieves". As late as 1749 Horace Walpole lost his gold watch to two highwaymen armed with a blunderbuss in Hyde Park, near London. The wilder parts of the country were even more unsafe, partly because country people were suspicious that strangers wandering around peering at the ground were up to no good. In 1707 in Northumberland Dr Caleb Threlkeld was accused of being a spy "because I clambered up the rocks and kept not the high road". And when the idea of spies seemed too far-fetched, people were convinced that these strangers "were employed by the Parliament in order to raise further taxes". In 1760 Sir Joseph Banks, the botanist who accompanied Cooke on his Australian explorations, was "seized on suspicion of being a highwayman" and "hauled before Sir John Fielding at Bow St before the error was exposed".

Despite these social setbacks the 19th century saw an expansion in our knowledge of the underlying geology of the earth's crust and we began to understand geological timescales that operate over thousands and millions of years. Bishop Ussher's prediction that the world came into existence in 4004 BC was no longer believed. In the 20th century further scientific evidence from microscopic pollen analysis of core samples of soil led to discoveries about the plants that existed around the time that the glaciers were melting.

So, in summary science has put together much of the evidence on how Britain's flora has developed since the ice age. But humans have also played a part and in the next Diary, history will take centre stage when we will look at how humans have enriched our flora over the past 2,000 years or so.

Ged

Brent Knoll Feature – 61

In last month's BKN I noted that it was 100 years ago this year, in February, that the foundation stone of the Brent Knoll Parish Hall was laid by Miss Brain of Somerset Court. However, whilst delving into the building of the Hall a little more closely, I was reminded that what actually happened that month was the commencement of the building of the hall, but it was not until early September of that year that the foundation stone was laid. Mr W. P. Pechey, who lived in Sunnylearn (shortly after renamed The Croft) and was the Chairman of the Executive Committee, explained at the laying of the stone, that "*it was the custom some years ago for a foundation stone to really be the foundation stone of the building, but they were following the procedure of the Romans, who used to commemorate a special occasion with a white stone.*"

Exactly what that special occasion was is not entirely clear. A local builder, J.G. Steer & Sons, had his tender of £750 accepted for the building, which also appears to have included the design and had been working on it for most of the period from February. However, this was 1926, the year of the General Strike. Writing in the Deanery Magazine, the vicar, the Revd. A. C. Schofield, commented that, "*Delay...may be caused by the difficulty of obtaining bricks. Brickworks, alas, are being compelled to close down for lack of coal.*" Some while later he added that, "*The building of our Parish Hall is held up.*" He was not very complimentary about the background reasons for the strike.

As early as 1920 a committee had been set up to raise funds for the proposed Hall and succeeded in raising £85 in that year. A further £50 was raised the following year (that would be worth a few thousand pounds today), but no figure was given for 1922. In 1923 the vicar, the Revd. Gardner held a Fête at the vicarage, which raised £78. He also offered a plot of land for the Hall, which would have been fine if it were not for the fact that several conditions as to its use were imposed. These proved unacceptable to the Committee but, luckily, Alfred Bennis, who lived at that time in Ball Copse Hall, came to the rescue and purchased the plot, which he then gave to the Committee.

I assume that, as the vicar offered the plot he still remained the owner, although at that time it was part of the grounds of the "*old Bowling Club*," which, I assume, means it was no longer in use as such, although some locals were certainly still playing, as the builder, J.G. Steer, for instance, is mentioned in bowls tournaments in Weston-super-Mare. The house now known as Norefields was the actual site of the bowling green itself and The Hollies was used as the Club House in the early 1920s.

Presumably it took some time to sort out the details of these exchanges for it was 1925 when a major fund-raising effort took place. Various people in the village offered subscriptions and £195 was collected by a self-appointed Committee. Additional sums of £80, from a Garden Fête at the vicarage and £60, from winter entertainments, followed by £76 from a Fête and a dance the following year, meant the total had reached £650. This was still £100 less than the tender and that was only the cost of the structure: things such as heating and lighting would be an extra cost. Nevertheless, it was felt that it was important to proceed with the building and that would probably assist fundraising during the ensuing year.

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Fearless fundraisers will have the chance to test their limits at St Margaret's Hospice's Firewalk in Yeovil this February. Participants will walk barefoot over hot embers, raising funds for hospice services and proving that even the boldest of challenges can be overcome with courage and community spirit.



Before facing the flames, each participant receives expert training from professional instructors who guide them through the mental preparation needed to conquer fear and embrace the moment. With friends, family and supporters cheering them on, it's an unforgettable evening of adrenaline and achievement.

Date: Friday 27 February **Time:** 6pm

Location: St Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil, BA20 2HU

More information: <https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/event/firewalk/>

Izzy Rossiter

Just for Fun – January Crossword Answers

Across -

1) Tents	13) Spectra	21) Stylish	35) Aphid	41) Pistols
4) Dessert	14) Lapse	25) Spouses	37) Addenda	42) Slams
7) Rebate	15) Emperor	29) Striker	38) Searing	
9) Eager	17) Noose	31) Loose	39) Ennui	
10) Cheaply	19) Senator	32) Massive	40) Entire	

Down -

1) Trellises	6) Toy	18) Ooze	26) Peace	33) Sprat
2) Tress	8) Anchor	20) Neo	27) Ski	34) Van
3) Serpent	11) Ham	22) Tots	28) Sledges	36) Panel
4) Decrees	12) Lions	23) Irk	29) Sorest	38) Sap
5) Spade	16) Pay	24) Hardships	30) Readers	

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Owen Cullwick,
Clerk of Brent Knoll Parish Council

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Brent Knoll Weather Report – December 2025

December turned out to be another mild and wet month, in fact it was the wettest December I have recorded. Two weather patterns dominated; up to the 21st there was high pressure to the east of the UK, slowing the progress of Atlantic lows. These slow-moving lows drew in a south-westerly or, later on, southerly tropical airflow. As well as keeping temperatures well above normal for the first three weeks of December, this air brought plenty of moisture which was deposited as rain.



On the afternoon of the 7th we recorded 15.7C, a new record for December. This wasn't because it was sunny, in fact it was a dull, damp day, but rather it was a result of warm air being whisked up from the Azores under a powerful jet stream. At the same time Storm Bram was developing off Newfoundland and that too moved quickly across the Atlantic, arriving here on the 9th and causing flooding in several parts of the UK.

The wettest day of the month here was the 15th, as a cooler North Atlantic airmass pushed into the west of the UK bringing hours of persistent steady rain. By the end of the day we had recorded 23.0mm – that wouldn't be remarkable in upland areas, but for Brent Knoll it's a lot. The following day we were back in tropical air, this time from a more southerly direction and the 18th was another wet day with 20.0mm of rain; by now the rhynes were filling up, something we hadn't seen for quite a while.

On the 21st the weather pattern changed, with high pressure moving to our north, then covering the whole of the UK as Christmas approached. With low pressure to our south, we found ourselves in a cold easterly wind, but it put a stop to the rain and brought sunshine for the bracing Christmas Day walk. Towards the end of the month the high pressure moved out into the Atlantic, while a low developed over Scandinavia. This was a mirror image of the position for the first three weeks of the month – with high pressure to our west and low to the east, we were in a cold, dry Polar airflow. New Year's Eve started bright and sunny, but as mist drifted in during the afternoon the thermometer dropped below zero and that evening we recorded the lowest temperature of the month at -4.1C.

Rainfall for December came to 136.0mm (Cheddar reservoir is full) and the average temperature was 8.1C – well above average, but several recent Decembers have been warmer.

This has been an eventful year weather-wise, starting with a particularly wet January. February's rainfall was about average, but in March we recorded only 9.8mm. Spring 2025 was the second driest I have recorded (78.8mm) and summer was the driest by quite a margin (72.0mm). The Knoll went very brown, but I'm still not convinced it was as brown as it was in 1976.

Both spring (11.7C) and summer (18.6C) 2025 were the warmest I have recorded, with several notably hot spells. From 2008 to 2019 I recorded a temperature of 30C or more on 13 days, an average of just over one day per year. In summer 2021 I recorded 30C or more on five days. In 2022 it was eight days, in 2023 one day and in summer 2024 we only got to 29.9C. In summer 2025 I recorded 30C or more on 10 days. It isn't just us; hot dry weather meant that forest fires in Canada started early and the smoke could be seen here as it passed overhead in the jet stream. This was soon followed by smoke from fires in northern Spain. North Atlantic sea surface temperatures were 1.5C above the long-term average during the summer.

Finally, it won't be a surprise to know that 2025 was the warmest year I have recorded at 12.4C (my average figure is 11.2C). The rainfall total for the year was about what we would expect at 716.4mm, but less than a quarter of that fell during the spring and summer – January, November and December all topped 100mm. It's been quite a year.

Stephen Baggs; www.knollweather.co.uk

Useful Village Contacts:	Contact	e-mail	Telephone
St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll			
Parochial Church Council, Secretary,	Carole Carter	office_tpots@gmail.com	769082
Church Administrator	Carole Carter	office_tpots@gmail.com	769082
Church Warden	Mike Smith	mikesmithchurch@gmail.com	760691
Warden Emeritus	Miss Frances James		760287
Church Cleaners	Margaret Smith	mjbsmith87@gmail.com	760691
Church Flowers	Vacant		
Poppy Organiser	Mr Chris Poulter		760804
Brass Cleaners	Sarah McClean		07766 391774
Methodist Church,	Revd. Steve Bennett	steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk	784808
	Janet Southwell		760445
Baptist Church: Burnham, College St.	Revd. Steve Ayers		783920
Catholic Church: Burnham & Bridgwater	Father Frank Wainwright,		422703
Member of Parliament	Tessa Munt	tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk	01934 440639
Somerset Councillors	Bob Filmer	bob.filmer@somerset.gov.uk	760760
	Tony Grimes	tony.grimes@somerset.gov.uk	786208
Parish Council,	Clerk	clerk@brentknollpc.co.uk	07917 445215
	Chairman	bobf@brentknollpc@gmail.com	760760
	Planning enquiries	davidk@brentknollpc@gmail.com	07772 867771
	Footpath Contact	amaran@brentknollpc@gmail.com	07971 687174
Parish Hall	Booking Secretary	administrator@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760477
	Bazaar	vicechairman@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760308
	Chairman	chairman@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760760
	Secretary	secretary@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760451
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Village Societies:			
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Brent Knoll Companions	Ann Robson & Karen Russell		760981 & 769382
Conservative Branch	Bob Filmer	bob@flockman.com	760760
Ecumenical Group	Revd. Margaret Trapp		760573
Guides/Brownies/Rainbows	Jane Sinnott	jane_bkg@hotmail.co.uk	
Meet & Eat	Liz Bream		760810
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Diary for February

2nd Recycling & Rubbish
 2nd Short Mat Bowls Club [Mondays]
 2nd Pilates [Mondays]
 3rd Burnham/Cheddar Bus [Tuesdays]
 3rd "Chatty Café" [Tuesdays]
 3rd Parish Surgery
 4th Pilates [Wednesdays]
 4th Parish Council – Public Session
 Parish Council Meeting
 5th Green Waste Collection [Thursday]
 5th Fish & Chips
 5th B&H Choral Society [Thursdays]
 5th All-Sorts Choir [Thursdays]
 6th Burnham/Cheddar Bus [Fridays]
 6th Short Mat Bowls Club [Fridays]
 7th Hand Bell Ringing Group [Saturdays]
 7th Soup and Pud Lunch
 9th SORT IT+ Recycling
 9th Meet & Eat
 9th "Woolf Works" ballet
 9th Parish Hall Committee meeting
 11th Tea & Chat
12th Deadline for March Brent Knoll News
 14th Valentines Day
 14th Bazaar, Farmers' Market & Parish Café
 16th SORT IT+ Recycling
 17th Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
 18th Brent Knoll Companions:
 18th Provisional Parish Council Meeting
 19th Green Waste Collection [Thursday]
 19th Fish & Chips
 20th Mobile Library [Friday]
 21st Pancake Day
 23rd Recycling & Rubbish
 27th Fire Walk
 28th 'Sausage Sizzler'

		Page
Your House	Early!!	
Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.00-4.00pm	8
Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	6.15pm	
Brent Street/Burton Row	9.30-2.30pm	
Lympsham Pavilion	10.00-1pm'ish	31
Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	10.00-12noon	7,8
Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	8.30am	
Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	7.00pm	7
to follow immediately		7
Your House	Early!!	
Village Green Car Park	5.00-7.00pm	4
Methodist Hall, BoS	7.30pm	
East Brent Village Hall	7.30-9.15pm	4,43
Brent Street/Burton Row	9.30-2.30pm	
Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.00-4.00pm	8
Ivyclad Hall	10.00am	
Parish Hall	12.00-2.00pm	16,27
Your House	Early!!	
Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	12.30pm	16
The Ritz Cinema		
Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	7.30pm	31
Front Vestry, St Michael's Church	2.30pm	16
12.00 noon		50
		
14 th Valentines Day		2
Parish Hall	10.00-12noon	31,43
Your House	Early!!	
Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.30pm	2
Jubilee Room	7.00pm	7
Your House	Early!!	
Village Green Car Park	5.00-7.00pm	4
Old Post Office	9.15-9.45am	
Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	11.00-2.00pm	32
Your House	Early!!	
St Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil	6pm	44
Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	10.00-12 noon	2,8

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Deadline for the March 2026 Issue –

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