

BRENT KNOLL NEWS

JANUARY 2025



75p

BRENT KNOLL
COMMUNITY SHOP



*Wishing all our customers a prosperous New Year.
Thank you all for your continued support.*

Our first “Sausage Sizzler” of the year is Saturday 31st January and includes a local cheese tasting, so one not to be missed.

Opening hours:

**Monday 8.30am - 2pm; Tuesday - Friday 8.30 - 5pm;
Saturday 8.30am - 4pm; Sunday 8.30 - 12noon**



The Parish of Three Saints

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



January 2026

28 th	1 st Sunday of Christmas	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Michael's, Brent Knoll
4 th		10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Christopher's, Lympsham
11 th		10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Mary's, East Brent
18 th		8.30am	Holy Communion BCP	St Michael's, Brent Knoll
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Michael's, Brent Knoll
25 th		10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Christopher's, Lympsham

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.

Music by Candlelight

On Saturday 6th December at St Michael's Church, we were treated to a brilliant evening of music.

Our Village School choir, Guide choir and Winscombe School choir, individual children, young people and adults all performed a huge range of music from singing to playing piano and other musical instruments.

It was a privilege to see and hear such local talent. Thank you for a great evening.

Viv, Julie, Janet and Bob

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

Minister	Revd. Steve Bennett
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Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas fayre. We raised over £380 and all thoroughly enjoyed the day. Music was provided by the excellent local All Sorts choir and our bakers provided refreshments throughout the day. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success.

We will be joining our friends at Brean Methodist Church for our first service of 2026. This will be our annual Covenant Service where Methodists renew the promises they made at their Confirmation. A very special way to welcome in the New Year.

From all of us here at Brent Methodist Church, we wish you and happy and peace filled New Year as we continue to hold the Village tightly in our prayers.

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

4 th January	:	Rev Karen Murphy
11 th January	:	Rev Peter Davis
18 th January	:	Mr John Trebble
25 th January	:	Mr Gary Carey

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's from the 8th January 2026. 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

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

Brent Knoll Take-Away

Dates for your diary:

8th January 5-7pm - Fish & Chips

22nd January 5-7pm - Fish & Chips

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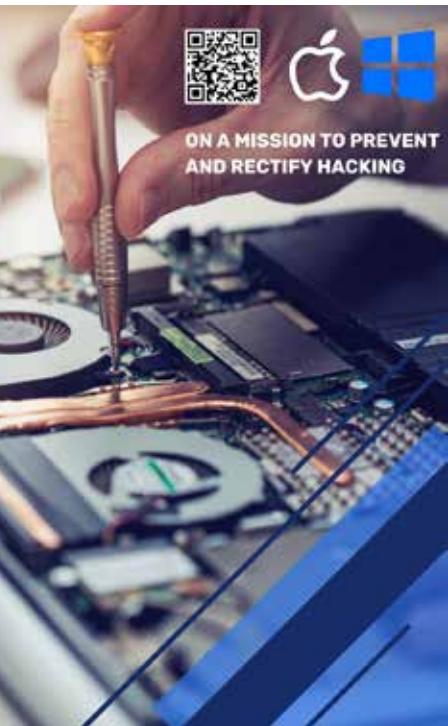
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Sunday Lunch Special

A choice of two roast meats locally sourced from our butcher. Accompanied by Roast potatoes, New potatoes, Chantenay carrots, Broccoli & Cauliflower cheese, Yorkshire pudding & Red Cow gravy

Vegetarian option available as well as vegan & gluten free option.

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Bookings and takeaways can be made by telephone only.

Booking ahead is advised during busy periods. www.theredcowpub.com

Full menu available for takeaway.

Notes from the Parish Council

December meeting



Approval of minutes of the meeting held on the 5th November.

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) Budget Update pre-circulated to members with discussions on the new budget for 2026/27 and the level of precept deferred until January 2026.

Other Key Decisions taken by the Parish Council

- (a) The Retention Fee completed payment to Ashley Baker £6788.62.
- (b) Agreement in principle to allow National Grid to install a Substation on the inside of the green behind the car park in order to improve electricity outage issues reported in the village.
- (c) Agreement to pursue Aubergine Parish Websites to create a new digitally compliant website in 2026.
- (d) A new flood group to be set up; to maintain strong mitigation measures details to be discussed, documented and decided upon.

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](#) or entering <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXx-BC7euoE9ha5ptq7HM2Q>.

Future Meetings

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on **Wednesday 7th January at 7pm** in the **Jubilee Room**. The Parish Surgery will be on **Tuesday 6th January** 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 21st January.

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

2025 Poppy Appeal Donations



The 2025 Poppy Appeal, undertaken within the Brent Knoll, East Brent and District area raised a fantastic total of £19,509.80, over £2,200 more than last year! Of this amount over half was received via contactless card payments from a very generous public. This total does not include money raised through either Gift Aid or from the QR codes which accompany all the static collection boxes.

The success of this year's Poppy Appeal was overwhelming and I cannot thank everyone involved enough. Thank you everyone for all the effort and time spent collecting this year and for your always positive interactions with the public. Special thanks should also go to those who are not members of the British Legion who selflessly volunteered to help, especially attendees of the East Brent Coffee Hub, held on Friday mornings.

Last and certainly not least, the staff at Sanders Garden Centre and both Sedgemoor Services who made us very welcome; also, to the people of the local area who so generously gave to support our past and present military and their families.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Poppy Appeal Collection 2026 please let me know on 07876345100 or email me woodhayes@btinternet.com, many thanks.

Chris Poulter, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Brent Knoll, East Brent and District

Brent Knoll's Community Shop News

The shop had a very busy and successful Christmas. One of the highlights for us was the sale of "Deepest Somerset" books. More than twenty were sold, with the shop benefiting by £5 for each sale, while one customer bought four copies as Xmas gifts.

Two of our volunteers, Ade Povey and Steve Wilcox, are to be thanked for turning out in the dark before 6am to take delivery of our customers' Christmas meat orders on 23rd December.

We've also benefited from more volunteers joining our team, which now numbers 35 active participants, with a number of former volunteers hoping to re-join us. Our shop is entirely run and "staffed" by volunteers, so we hope that others in the village will take the decision to volunteer in the New Year.

We're gaining a reputation for stocking really interesting cheeses. The latest additions to our stock include Cheddar with blackcurrant and Mexican Cheddar. Come along to our next "Sausage Sizzler" on Saturday 31st January (10am to 12 noon), when we'll stage a cheese-tasting.

Meanwhile, a recent meeting with the Parish Council and the new shop's architect heard him recommend that we install an awning to combat the rain in-flow that has damaged our door mat – and would also help the summer-time issue of the sun glare, which our investment in special window film has not totally resolved. This will require planning permission and Parish Council consent, but we are exploring prices.

We now have statistical proof that our new shop benefits enormously from events on the Village green and in the Parish Hall, like the monthly Farmers' Market and Bazaar. We've come a long way since opening as an "Emergency Shop" in the old village shop at the start of the first Covid lock-down in April 2020!

David Sturgess

Somerset County Cricket Club

Social Evening at the Red Cow

on January 29th

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Buffet and Speakers.

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Contact Tel No. 01278 760445.

Steven Southwell



BRENT KNOLL PARISH SURGERY

with our Parish Clerk

Owen Cullwick and a Parish Councillor

will be holding a Parish Surgery on

Tuesday, January 6th, 2026

10am to 12 noon

Jubilee Room, Brent Knoll Parish Hall

Please use this opportunity to meet your Parish Clerk and councillors to discuss any issues

Adam Popham
Director



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Sheri



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St Michael's Churchwarden's report

As for everyone December is a busy month in the life of the church. Having started Advent on November 30th we have lit the Advent candle each week for the Patriarchs, Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary and the final one at Midnight Mass/Christmas Day.

Midnight Mass this year is at St. Michael's at 11.30pm and Christmas Day service will be at St. Mary's East Brent at 10am. Our service on 28th December will be at St. Michael's, not as previously advertised.

Outside of the services we welcomed the Guides to an amazing concert of words, singing, piano, recorder, violin and cello playing. All raising money for Liv and Grace for their Indian trip.

The weekend of 12th/14th was our now annual Christmas Tree Festival. We are grateful to all those who take the time to make their exhibits and to those who came to support the event.

On December 16th the school held their Christingle service at the church. Another joyous occasion with the children in church.

A prospective candidate for the post of Priest in Charge visited our churches and those of Berrow and Brean and met with churchwardens, etc to find out about us and the following day was interviewed.

Stop Press

On December 14th the following notice was read out in St. Mary's, East Brent as well as in the Benefice of Berrow and Brean.

Following the recent interviews and the recommendation of the Parish Representatives, we are pleased to announce that the Bishop of Bath and Wells has appointed the Reverend Robyn Golden-Hann to the post of Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Berrow and Brean and the Benefice of Three Saints. This appointment is subject to a satisfactory completion of the usual statutory checks made on all clergy taking up a new post.

Details of a Service of Welcome will be announced in due course.

Please hold Robyn in your prayers as she prepares to begin a new ministry among us and pray too for Robyn's current congregation in Branksome St. Aldhelm, Poole in the Diocese of Salisbury who will also hear this news today.

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

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.

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Glynis Carey, Secretary



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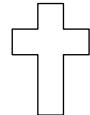
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Let it Snow!

Snow can sometimes be seen in January and of course it is loved by children. But it has its problems particularly for wildlife who not only find it difficult to stay warm but to find food as well. Heavy snow and subzero temperatures mean that we will see casualties unable to find their food and these can be ones that we rarely see. Lapwings that usually come to this country in the Winter are unable to cope with snow and others needing food from rhynes, rivers or streams like Egrets, Crested Grebes and Water rails will be brought in. The one animal that seems to still cope very well is the fox who can hear the voles under the snow as well as being very good at finding food. We humans have often put food out for them, or they make the most of visiting bins and fast-food vendors in towns and cities.



Badgers will probably stay snug in their setts. They don't hibernate but having put on extra fat in the Autumn making the most of the fruits from hedgerows, they can sleep away the really cold weather. The deep sleep is most important for the females. Badgers have delayed implantation which means that they can mate at any time of the year, but it is while they sleep that the embryos attach themselves to the womb and start to grow. The gestation is 7 weeks and even when born, cubs will stay underground for the first eight to ten weeks of their lives.

For us at Secret World, we are lucky that some of our staff and volunteers that live nearby will come in to help out, as travel can sometimes be almost impossible for those living a distance away. Now that we have a warm treatment centre, it means that we can cope with the frozen locks, water pipes and cleaning outside pens if we can go in for a coffee or tea and a warmup. There's even time for a snowball fight once the work is done!

This is the time when you can help by making sure that a dish of water is out for the birds and putting food out means that you may see some of the more unusual birds coming in. The snow makes the whole world look beautiful from inside a warm home, but we are eventually quite happy to see it go!

Pauline Kidner



Children's Book Sale - 6th & 7th December

Thank you to everyone who came to the Children's Book sale in December. We sold loads of books, helping to raise funds for the Parish Hall and also managed to donate £200 to the Children's Hospice South West.

Bob & John

Front Cover Photo -

Thank you to Mike Smith for the cover photo of the Churchyard at the Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks to John Page for the photo on page 2.

Bob

Meet and Eat

We wish all our regular diners a healthy New Year. The team take a break in January
more information in the next BKN.

Meet and Eat team

Tea & Chat

We had an enjoyable lunch out on December 10th, sadly due to illness and other commitments there were only 8 of us, it was lovely to welcome a new lady Val.

We will meet again in St. Michael's vestry/church room on Wednesday January 14th 2026 at 2.30pm. All past members are welcome to come and have tea, chat and maybe there will be cake.

Happy New Year to you all.

Margaret Smith, 01278 760691

Women's Society

We are **not** meeting in January 2026 but will be in contact with our members with details of our February meeting.

Julie and I wish you a Very Happy, Healthy New Year.

Ann

Fun in Fundraising

At the time of writing we are about to start our annual Christmas Tree Festival, it is amazing to see the creativity of everyone and we know that the individuals, groups and businesses have enjoyed working on their exhibits and we hope lots of people will come to see their hard work.

Our first event of the New Year is a Soup and Pud lunch on Saturday 7th February. Please put the date in your diary and look for posters and more details nearer the time. Wishing everyone God's blessing in 2026.

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

Local Crime Report

October Report for Sedgemoor North West Area, which includes:

Berrow, Brean, Brent Knoll, East Brent, East Huntspill, Eastertown, Lympsham, Pawlett, Rooksbridge, Stretcholt, Watchfield and West Huntspill.



Crime Type	Recorded: Sept 2025	Recorded: Oct 2025	Trend	Details
Anti-social behaviour	10	3	-7	
Burglary	3	2	-1	
Criminal Damage	4		-4	
Drugs	4	1	-3	
Other Theft	8	3	-5	
Possession of weapons		1	+1	
Public Order Offences	5	5	-	
Robbery	1		-1	
Shoplifting	1	1	-	
Vehicle crime	4	2	-2	
Violent crime	30	32	+2	
Other crime	1	1	-	

Twitter: @ASPsedgemoor for social media updates.

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Brent Knoll House Histories – 104

Notably, William Spearing states in his will that, "the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish of Axbridge...shall yearly and in every year upon Tuesday in the Easter week passe a true just and perfect account of the rents Issues and profits of the said tenement, lands and premises received and taken by them to the Mayor Alderman and Capital Burgesses of Axbridge." One suspects that he was not totally convinced that they would handle the estate properly otherwise. In fact, a little later in his will he enjoins the Mayor and Council "to see the rents and profits...be faithfully Employed according to the true intention and meaning of this my will." (he may have been correct in his assumption, as we shall see).

He also stated that "any overplus, should be divided into three equal parts and distributed "amongst poore householders ...who, notwithstanding their honest labours and endeavours, God is pleased to reduce under some degree of necessity and want." One part thereof should be at "the Feast of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," another third at "the resurrection of our Lord, commonly known as Easter" and the third part at Whit Sunday. Each of these was a public holiday at that time and Whit Sunday, in particular, had a traditional custom for children to receive a new set of clothes, even amongst the poorest families, so his benevolence would have been particularly welcome to them at that time.

So far I have found little relating to how the charity was conducted during its first



century or so, but there is an interesting court case in Chancery between the Attorney General and the Axbridge Corporation in 1792, in which George Symons, Richard Cox and John Crease, all Inferior Burgesses, accuse the late Mayor, John Tucker, of causing a loss of income amounting to £50 (quite a lot of money then, going into multiple thousands of pounds, though differing sites quote very different comparisons). This would, of course, be of considerable detriment to the poor of the parish.

Before looking at the details of that case, however, it is interesting to see a document, produced the following year, which shows the receipts and disbursements of the charity. The document (shown left) is divided into two, with the upper

House garden and two flocks going by estimation	
12 Acres	14.00
9 Acres	24.00
1000 4 Acres	16.40
Great yar 1 Acor	3.5.0
Bowl Half Acor	1.7.0
Three flocks in mark man.	0.0.0
two Acor and half acreable	6.0.0
	2.5.6
	55.15.0
	Yearly Value £ 55.15.0
	Yearly Distib. 9.5.0
	Yearly Distib. 46.9.0

Axbridge".

section showing the value obtained from "The Estate in the Ocipesen (occupation) of Mrs Hutchens, Lying in the Parishes of South Brent, Est Brent and Mark belonging to the Poor of

Continued on page 20

Brent Knoll House Histories – Continued

This comprises a house, garden and two closes going by Estimation: 12 acres, yielding £24..0s..0d, 9 acres, yielding £16..4s..0d (£16.20p), a plot known as Zier (the following names were mentioned in one of the earlier editions of this article) yielding £5..5s..0d (£5.25p), Great Zier 1 acre, yielding £1..7..0d (£1.35p), Bowls $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, yielding 13s..6d (67 $\frac{1}{2}$ p), three lotments (allotments, I assume) in Mark Moor, yielding £6..0s..0d and two acres and a half of arable, yielding £2..5s..6d (£2.27 $\frac{1}{2}$ p), which gave a yearly value of £55..15s..0d (£55.75p).

From that there are some deductions due to the disbursements of the Council

of £5 yearly Disbursements of the above Estates	£ 5 0
Church and Poor Rates to South Brent	2..4..0
Ditch to the Tenant	0..10..6
Ditch to mark	0..6..10
Ditches to 150 ropes of whole of Ground	1..5..0
Ditch at 2 per rope	0..5..0
Half fence to the same Ground	0..5..0
Ditch to the nine acres 100 Ropes 2 per rope - 3..4	3..4
Ditch to year 40 ropes at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 20 at 2 per rope 0..6..3	0..6..3
40 ropes in mark moor at 2 per rope	0..6..0
Bowls 10 ropes at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per rope	0..2..3
Balls field 44 ropes at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per rope	0..5..6
Repairing Gates &c	1..5..0
Abbots abbots Causeway on Gates on	0..5..0
Repairing the House	1..0..0
Visited and valued by us this 23 day	Total of £5 yearly Disbursements 5..4
of September 1793	John Smith A.R.P.
	John Giffing
	John Page

ropes used, it is a little difficult to interpret this figure. Zier definitely had 40 ropes, but these were obviously not of such good quality as they only cost 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per rope and 20 others were only $\frac{3}{4}$ d per rope. This meant they only cost 6s..3d (c32 $\frac{1}{2}$ p) and the 18 Bowls ropes and 44 Balls field ropes were also at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per rope costing 2s..3d (c11p) and 5s..6d (27 $\frac{1}{2}$ p) respectively. So, it seems that there was a lot of rope fencing required that year and of course, some gates needing repairing as well. This cost £1..5s..0d (£1.25p), though it does say "c", so other smaller costs may be included.

Finally, a couple of items regarding repairs to Abbots Causeway and Gates on Pilrow Wall in Mark, costing 5s..0d (25p) and repairing the house £1, which is presumably the house in which Mrs Hutchins resides. The reference to Abbots Causeway and Pilrow Wall is interesting as the road through Mark today is marked on maps as Mark Causeway, but the White Horse Inn does refer to itself as being on Abbots Causeway and Pilrow Wall is linked to the Pilrow Wall Rhyne which flows past the White Horse Inn on the opposite side of the road. I am not sure why the Axbridge poor estate is managing this area as my understanding is that South Brent, East Brent and Lympsham were responsible for its maintenance, as it was their route to Glastonbury to pay rentals at one time.

John Page

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2025 “200+ Club” Cracking Christmas Draw

The Cracking Christmas Draw was made at the Christmas Bazaar at the Parish Hall in December. The winning numbers were:-

December	No.	Prize	Name		
First Prize	104	£ 120	Mr & Mrs E.C. Fuller	Battleborough Lane	Brent Knoll
Second Prize	336	£ 60	Mr C.A. Usher	Farrier's Court	Wetherby
Third Prize	13	£ 40	Mrs S. Harvey	Church Lane	Brent Knoll
Fourth Prize	174	£ 40	Mr B. Francis	The Causeway	Mark
Fifth Prize	59	£ 20	Mrs P. Barry	Brent Close	Brent Knoll
Sixth Prize	49	£ 20	Mrs J.E. Driscoll	The Willows	Brent Knoll
Seventh Prize	17	£ 20	Mrs S.G. Holl	Burton Row	Brent Knoll
Eighth Prize	279	£ 20	Mrs S.A. Blick	Severn Drive	Thornbury
Ninth Prize	290	£ 16	Mrs A. Crosby	Burton Row	Brent Knoll
Tenth Prize	328	£ 16	Mrs E. Scott	Moorland Road	Axbridge
Eleventh Prize	00	£ 12	Mr R.D. Filmer	Brent Street	Brent Knoll
Twelfth Prize	345	£ 12	Mrs M.E. Dimmock	Harp Road	Brent Knoll
Thirteenth Prize	48	£ 12	Mr P. Blunt	Cedar Close	Brent Knoll
Fourteenth Prize	41	£ 12	Mr R. Leveridge	The Boundaries	Lympsham
Fifteenth Prize	81	£ 10	Anonymous donation to	Parish Hall	Brent Knoll
Sixteenth Prize	09	£ 10	Mrs C.E. Filmer-Ramsay	Sydney	Australia
Seventeenth	124	£ 8	Mr J. Gillard	South Brent Close	Brent Knoll
Eighteenth	333	£ 8	Mrs E. Ibrahim	Middle Street	Brent Knoll
Nineteenth	90	£ 6	Mr P.T. Osborn	Brent Street	Brent Knoll
Twentieth Prize	145	£ 6	Ms H.A. Greenfield	Birmingham Road	Bromsgrove

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Parish Hall by joining the 200+ Club, we have over **350** numbers. This helps make sure that our Parish Hall continues to meet the needs of our local community and remains at its heart.

Bob Filmer, 200+ Club Co-ordinator

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 - Time to learn to pray

'Lord, teach us to pray.' In Luke's Gospel it's these words, spoken by the disciples, that cause Jesus to give them the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). Jesus says to his friends 'When you pray say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

Many of us think that we should be able to pray automatically, and that if we can't, it's either because 'it's not our thing' or because we're failing. Yet in Luke's Gospel, the disciples still need to ask Jesus how to pray, even after they've been knocking around with him for ages. So maybe we should give ourselves a break and accept that working out how to pray is not obvious and that all of us need to learn.



In 2026, I'm asking all of us across our diocese of Bath and Wells to make the year one of especial focus on prayer. I'm hoping we'll all be able to say the words 'Lord teach us to pray' and that together we'll all grow in our experience, understanding, insight and practice.

How can we learn about prayer? We have to make a start. We need to make some mistakes. We need to learn from others. It doesn't happen in the abstract. Prayer is a 'learning by doing thing' where if we stick at it, we grow and change.

How might you learn to pray more this year? There isn't a master plan designed to get everyone on their knees. Most action will happen locally where we can identify what we need, work out who can help us and then get underway. Some simple resources designed to be helpful are being made available. More importantly, please do talk to your vicar or other church leaders about what might be possible where you are.

Together, let's say these words in the year that is to come: 'Lord, teach us to pray.' A very happy New Year to you all.

Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Church Clock

On Tuesday 9th December Cumbria Clock came to carry out the routine maintenance of the Church clock which was OK. I told the Engineer of the concern that has become apparent.

He took photographs using binoculars and camera to get as much detail as possible from the Churchyard. He then examined from the Ringing room as much as possible, as the new Clock backing plate restricts this. He could not ascertain whether it was fungal, algal or dust that was coating the Gilding.

The South-west face of the tower and clock both face south west where it receives the full blast of the prevailing weather, along with trees being close.

The engineer will report back to the Head office in Penrith, who will be in touch with the Church office and this will be relayed to Brent Knoll News.

David Wilford

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JANUARY

BRENT KNOLL NEWS

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 November to 30th November

Speed watch 1 hour sessions - 5 Total vehicle numbers - 662

Maximum speed - 60mph % Exceeding (30MPH): 19%

Vehicle speeds recorded Exceeding Burton Row (B3140) Highway Legal (30MPH)

Limits (Shown as % in ascending order) as follows:

(1) 08 Nov: 1% (3) 21 Nov: 22% (5) 12 Nov: 30%

(2) 04 Nov: 13% (4) 17 Nov: 28%

There were 20 letters issued by the police for those speeding during November.

Burton Row Speed Watch Group

In the News

1946 March 9 (Burnham)
POW Camp. All the Italian POW's have left the Coronation Field Camp and their places have been taken by German POW's. The camp is now surrounded by barbed wire and guards are on duty.

March 16th
16 roomed farmhouse mentioned in cottage tenancy case.
Statement was made by the owner of a 16 roomed farmhouse in Brent Knoll that he had made arrangements for it to be pulled down on account of its condition, when the Weston blitz occurred and he let it to a number of people from that town.
George Hill, farmer, of East Brent applied for recovery of possession of Lake House Cottage, which was let to Stanely Wilfred Hancock.
The 16 roomed house with an acre of land had been let 2 years ago on a lease of £2 per week and there were 3 persons living there. Mr Hancock was working in the building trade.
Edwin Miller and Joseph Edward Cropper mentioned.
The RDC have approved plans for 4 additional houses on a site already acquired.

April 13th
Late Mr H.G.J. Meldrum
Major Meldrum resided in Brent Knoll for 16 years. He was secretary of the Bowling Club and a member of the Church Council.
He founded the Brent Knoll Branch of the British Legion and was for some time secretary of the RAOB at Brent Knoll.
He died at Sycamore House, Church Street, Highbridge aged 80.
He saw active service in the 1914-18 war, retiring with the rank of Major. He was an officer in the Home Guard during the 1939-45 war.

April 27th
Sudden Death
Mrs Evelyn Clara Holloway aged 79 was found dead by her sister at her home, Knoll Cottage.
Cricket meeting held at Park Farm (owned by Major Abbott)
It was decided to reform the Brent Knoll Cricket Club. Hon Sec Mr Phillip Frost, Southholme.
Meeting was presided over by Mr A D Imlay the ex-county player.

George Brown

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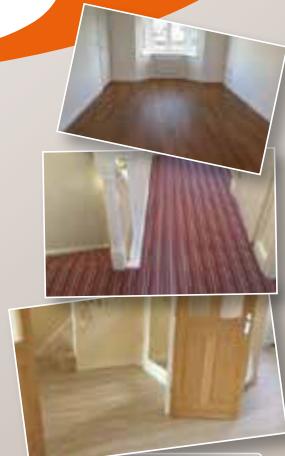


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2 nd Saturday	Bazaar, Farmers' Market and Parish Café	10am-12 noon
2026		
21 st & 22 nd March	Book Fair (pm)	18 th July Music on the Green – 'Funkydillies' (eve)
18 th April	Jumble Sale (am)	24 th October Harvest Supper
6 th June	Village Fête (pm)	t.b.c. Live Band (Lipinski Bros) (eve) BAD Performance (eve)

Next meetings - Monday 12th January, 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

Tel No: 07917 445215 email - clerk@brentknollpc.co.uk.

Brent Knoll Tennis Club



In spite of lots of autumn rain, tennis has kept going at Brent Knoll with a full winter program of club play, coaching and matches.

Check out www.brentknolltennisclub.co.uk for more information about playing tennis.

Alison Hillyer



Just for Fun

Have you ever considered that your sole purpose in life may be to serve as a warning to others?

I love terra firma – the more firma the less terra.

If you think you have it rough, read history books!

Whatever happens there is somebody who knew it would.

Is it true that all self-made men worship their creator?

John Page

New Year Dreaming

Sophie did not like bedtimes. Why? Because she knew amazing and funny things would happen when she has gone to bed and fallen fast asleep.

Mummy and daddy said she had to go to bed before eight o'clock as eight o'clock was very late. She didn't like:

her bedtime story.
Or her bedtime kiss.
Or being tucked in bed.

But most of all, Sophie didn't like missing any late-night fun.

Sophie believed that when mummy and daddy said she had to go to bed, this meant mummy and daddy could stay upFor HOURS AND HOURS, having LOTS AND LOTS OF FUN, games and laughter.

Sophie, wearing a pretty nightdress, stands with her arms folded tightly and the most unhappy face you have ever seen.

Her teddy bears and pillow are on the floor.

Sophie said "I don't want to go to bed. I'm not tired, I'M NOT TIRED!".

Mummy and daddy said, "Sophie, this is just silly. She wasn't missing anything and nothing funny happened at night time when she has gone to bed.

Sophie repeated "But I don't want to go to bed. I'm not tired, I'M NOT TIRED!".

Mummy and daddy knew Sophie could kick up a fuss, and be very stubborn, unless she got her own way.

Mummy and daddy rolled their eyes and sighed. Then they smiled and nodded to each other and said:

"Okay, Sophie. You and your brother Daniel can stay up tonight, But ONLY tonight, because tonight is New Year's Eve".

Sophie and Daniel shouted, "YAY! We can stay up!".

They both jumped up in the air and said, "We can see all the fun you have when we have gone to bed".

Next they sat, then started fidgeting, on the sofa next to mummy and daddy.

Daniel and Sophie's eyes were soon trying to close and they both started yawning.

Sophie kept sitting up straight to try and stay awake. She knew, Yes she knew, that something special would happen very soon.

Eight o'clock turned into half past 8 then 9 o'clock.

But still nothing happened.

Daddy fills the dishwasher while mummy tidied up all their toys yet again.

Daniel kept yawning and said, "This is boring! I want to go to bed." So, Daniel said goodnight, went to his bedroom, jumped into his bed and was soon fast asleep.

But Sophie still believed the fun would start soon. I'm sure of it! She thought.

Sophie, still watching mummy and daddy tidying up, continued fidgeting on the sofa, knowing her brother Daniel had gone to bed, is fast asleep, and would miss all the fun.

Sophie soon thought everything was becoming very blurry, just like she was looking into a white cloud.

Then she spotted something moving. It looked like a big white rabbit, with a Christmas hat on, carrying a big cake across the room.

The big white rabbit stopped, gently placed a finger across its lips, quietly whispering: "Psst, don't make a sound! Let's pretend there are no rabbits and no cakes in this room. Now follow me, the Party is in the next room".

Continued on Page 50

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January Sudokus

Easy Sudoku

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

Hard but not too much

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

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




Get fit where you sit

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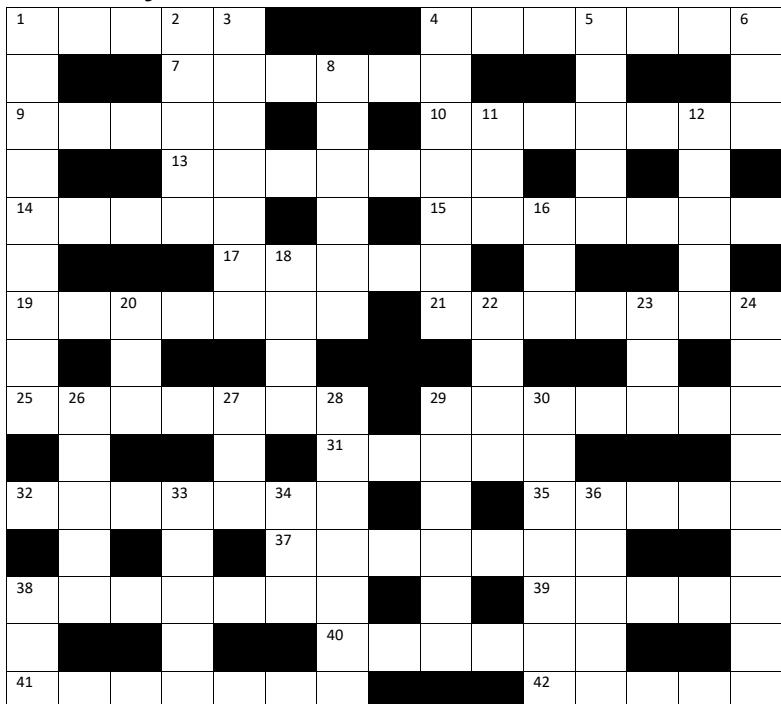
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Just for Fun – January Crossword

Across -

- 1) Canvas shelters (5)
- 4) Sweets course, usually at the end of a meal (7)
- 7) A refund, a discount (6)
- 9) Enthusiastic (5)
- 10) Inexpensively (7)
- 13) Rainbow-like arrays of colour (7)
- 14) To fall back, backslide (5)
- 15) Ruler of an empire (7)
- 17) Loop at the end of a rope (5)
- 19) An elected member of the Upper House (7)
- 21) Fashionable (7)
- 25) Husbands or Wives (7)
- 29) A worker who has "downdrafts" (7)
- 31) Not tight or confined (5)



- 32) Huge (7)
- 35) Sucking insect that injures plants (5)
- 37) Supplements at the end of a document (7)
- 38) Scorching, witheringly hot (7)
- 39) Weariness from lack of interest (5)
- 40) Complete, whole (6)
- 41) Handguns (7)
- 42) Closes a door violently (5)

Down -

- 1) Lattice-like supports for climbing plants (9)
- 2) Lock of hair (5)
- 3) Snake (7)
- 4) Proclamations (7)
- 5) Digging Tool (5)
- 6) Plaything (3)
- 8) The big hook that keeps a ship in place (6)
- 11) Smocked pig's leg (3)
- 12) Kings of the beasts (5)
- 16) Wages (3)
- 18) Seep (4)
- 20) Prefix meaning new, recent (3)
- 22) Young children (4)
- 23) Irritate (3)
- 24) Adversities (9)
- 26) Absence of hostilities (5)
- 27) Winter sports equipment (3)
- 28) Sleighs (7)
- 29) Most painful (6)
- 30) People who like books (7)
- 33) Small sardine-like fish (5)
- 34) Delivery truck (3)
- 36) A committee chosen to judge something (5)
- 38) Watery solution in plants (3)

Trevor Wellavize



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Nature Diary January – Bits and bobs

In December I looked back over the year and highlighted some significant issues arising from a very dry and hot summer. This New Year Diary amplifies some of these thoughts and is based on observations during November. Regular readers will recognise an obsession I have with bird feeders, so please excuse my returning to the subject. Ash dieback is in my thoughts as we plan to have a major tree in the churchyard pollarded in January. Finally, the consequences of a very dry year are still with us, so I shall return briefly to this theme.

Bird feeders – Every year that I put out my bird feeder I determine not to provide food for those that don't deserve it. By this I mean the squirrels, jackdaws, seagulls and wood pigeons who pinch all the food that I have put out for the tits, finches and other interesting small(er) birds. I am careful to place the feeder away from the blackthorn tree so that the squirrel won't be able to leap directly onto the feeder. This, of course, is useless because they simply shin up the pole and stretch themselves out as they devour the fat ball or peanuts, whatever takes their fancy. But, squirrels need to feed and they are well worth observing as they do so. This year has been good for seeds and fruit and I have watched our squirrel eating the sloes on the blackthorn. With a pair of binoculars I can see the whole performance, sloe held carefully between the paws, the nibbling action of the incisors and the quiver of both cheeks as it is consumed. The other observation about their feeding habits is that they don't consume much food at a single visit, so their visits to the fat ball are short lived. They eat little and often, which is why the fat ball disappears so quickly. However, they are not the only visitors to eat the fat ball. Jackdaws arrive in small flocks of about half a dozen and find it very simple to reach through the container and peck away.

So, despite the “unfair” advantage that squirrels and jackdaws have over the small birds, their eating habits provide some interesting wildlife observations.

Ash dieback and pollarding - The difficulty that I have with Ash trees is working out whether they are dying through Ash dieback or, more simply, old age. The large tree near the churchyard gate onto the Knoll footpath suddenly shed branches in May. My immediate thought was that it was diseased and that emergency action was needed. Our tree surgeon and local wildlife experts disagreed. The tree was old and dying, and it either needed complete removal or severe pollarding. Because of its situation and cost considerations the church has decided on the latter course of action. The work will take place on **Monday 26th January**, and the reason that I am being precise about this is that the footpath around the east end of the church will be closed for the day. **Walkers will be able to use the footpath up the Knoll by an alternative route through the west churchyard.** The work will create a considerable pile of ash logs that will be stored by the gate onto the footpath. Please feel free to collect a log or two. **There will be no charge but a donation to church funds would be much appreciated.**

Finally, the dry conditions and springs – despite the rain in November the usual spring at the bottom of the church steps has yet to appear. Other springs along Church and Hill Lanes are now leaking water into the roadway. I am sure that the New Year will see the reappearance of our church spring, but it does make you realise how important it used to be for springs to produce water. Nowadays we take our water supply for granted. It was not always so.

Ged

Brent Knoll Feature – 60



1

Last month I showed some pictures I used for a quiz at a Village Fête shortly after I arrived in Brent Knoll in the late 1990s. So, here are the answers.

2. The initial date on the monument at the top of the Knoll, commemorating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

3. This crinkle-crankle wall is the one at Somerset Court.
4. 100 years ago this year, in February, the foundation



3



stone of the Brent Knoll Parish Hall was laid by Miss Brain of Somerset Court.

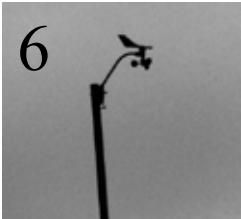
This stone was saved when rebuilding took place in 2004.



5

However, the Hall was not officially opened until 1927, so we will celebrate that event next year.

5. The bridge over the stream at Giles Cottage. It does have some small waterfalls close by now we have had some rain.



6

6. An appropriate weather vane above Cherry Trees in Brent Street. Which is the home of our BKN weather reporter. This is one not included in my 1990 pictures.

7. The gate post at Ball Copse Hall.

8. The Coat of Arms at Battleborough Farm - at the A38 end of the road.

9. The finial on the front of the Brent Knoll Primary School



7



8

John Page



9



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Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Brent Knoll

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to working with you and for you in 2026!

I really enjoyed UK Parliament Week last month, visiting schools and youth groups across the area. I love talking with students, teachers and leaders and taking their questions. I look forward to many more visits in 2026 - both here and when schools and other groups come on trips to Parliament.

On Budget day, my colleagues and I joined farmers protesting against the family farm tax and voted against it in Parliament - along with several other proposals which simply won't work for local residents. I'll continue to press the Government to drop their unfair taxes which will have a devastating impact on residents and businesses in the West Country.



This last month, I've been on Committees debating every line of 'the Hillsborough Bill', legislation relating to Armed Forces Chaplains, the Church of England's redress scheme for abuse victims and the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations. I've asked about Police reform, business rates, ME, prisoner releases, rehabilitation, books in prisons, the 1994 RAF Chinook crash, re-organising local councils, the loss of grant information by the last Government, estate agents' checks on homebuyers and Sudan.

As ever, if you have any concerns or anything you'd like to talk to me about, please write, call or come and see me. I'll be at the following locations:

Friday 23rd January from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Coffee Bank, Winscombe**

Saturday 24th January from 09:00 to 10:00 at **The Bluebird Café, Wedmore**

Saturday 24th January from 13:00 to 14:00 at **The Lamb Inn, Axbridge**

Friday 30th January from 08:00 to 09:00 at **Edelweiss Café, Cheddar**

Friday 30th January from 11:00 to 12:00 at **The Hub Café, Village Hall, East Brent**

No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

I know that for many, the transition into a new year can be difficult and the cold weather and dark evenings linger heavily. However the new year affects you, I wish you peace and happiness for 2026.

Thank you.

Tessa

You can contact me:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won't need a stamp!)

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Brent Knoll Weather Report – November 2025

November was a warm and wet month, helping to keep heating bills down and fill reservoirs up, but like October before it there was a distinct lack of sunshine. The month fell neatly into two halves, with cloudy but very mild conditions up to the 15th, and more typical November weather thereafter. The switch between the two halves began with Storm Claudia, which produced getting on for half the month's rainfall on the 13th and 14th.

The first week of November produced some remarkable temperatures for the time of year. A large area of high pressure moved into Europe from the Azores at the beginning of the month and by the 3rd it extended from Portugal to the Balkans. At the same time ex-hurricane Melissa was moving across the Atlantic on a track which took it between Scotland and Iceland. Although Melissa was no longer a hurricane (the North Atlantic isn't warm enough for that), this low still packed quite a punch and drew a mass of warm and humid tropical air over the UK.

The humidity meant cloud, although there were a few sunny spells, but the main feature was the warmth. Overnight on the 3rd/4th and 4th/5th the minimum temperatures were over 14C (a normal figure would be about 7C), while the daytime maximum was around 16C – only a 2C variation between night and day. On the 5th we recorded a maximum of 17.2C, and the 6th saw the highest temperature of the month at 18.1C – this is way above normal for November. During this time the cloud generated a few showers, but it was dry for Burnham Carnival and Bonfire Night.

Melissa moved away north-east on the 7th and at the same time the high over Europe moved further east, so for the second week of November the airflow was more southerly and still unusually mild. On the 10th a developing low crossed the Atlantic, deepening as it went, and it took up a position to the west of the Bay of Biscay on the 12th, its progress blocked by high pressure to the east. This was Claudia, named by the Spanish weather service because of its potential to bring heavy rain to Iberia.

At the same time an area of high pressure moved east from Greenland, so that by the 13th we were in the reverse of the position we had been in since the start of the month – high pressure to our north-west and Claudia to the south. The result was Polar air moving down across the UK, where it met the warm humid air from the south. At the boundary between these two air masses it rained – and rained and rained. The Midlands and Wales were most affected, with flooding in places, but here we recorded around 50mm of rain in 24 hours on the 13th/14th.

The Polar air brought a very different feel to the weather – it was colder, of course, but also fresher in the dry air, with more sunshine by day and the first overnight frosts of the month. The Mendips got a sprinkling of snow early on the 19th, with much heavier snowfall in the north of the UK.

On the 22nd an Atlantic low moved slowly across the UK bringing wind and showers on milder Atlantic air. This was followed by a brief spell of high pressure and a clear sunny day on the 25th, with the temperature dropping to -2.7C under a clear sky the following night. The end of the month brought more Atlantic lows with cloud and showers on more mild mid-Atlantic air.

Rainfall for November came to a wet 118.0mm and thanks to that long mild spell the average temperature was also well above normal at 10.0C. It was a dull month, but not a windy one.

The average temperature for autumn 2025 was 12.6C, about half a degree above normal but nothing exceptional. Rainfall came to 271.4mm, about 50mm above average and no doubt making a useful contribution to Bristol Water's reserves after the dry spring and summer. Talking of which, I see that Blagdon and Chew Valley are still rather low for this time of year (58%), but Cheddar is up to 79% which is a big improvement.

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
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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
Royal British Legion	Rod Southwell		760445
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New Year Dreaming - Continued

The white rabbit, wearing a red and white stripey pointy hat, shiny blue clothes and silver shoes, is carrying a big cake in one hand.

Sophie could not believe her eyes. What surprise!

She quickly looked at mummy and daddy and wondered why they hadn't seen the rabbit or the cake.

Sophie thought what a waste not to be awake as she would not have seen the big white rabbit and the cake.

When Sophie saw the big white rabbit and a group of talking bears go in her bedroom she said, "Wait! Wait! I'll come with you!".

When she reaches her bedroom, she sees a monkey hanging off the door, teddy bears and fairies are walking through the doorway. The party was in her bedroom!

Sophie lifts her bedsheets revealing lots of different toys, teddies and fairies dancing under a glittering disco ball and lots of colourful fairy lights.

New Year's Eve, beneath the bedsheets, was so exciting to attend, Sophie hoped it would never end!

It was nearly midnight.

Mummy, daddy and their friends were having a party and counting down the time until the fingers on the clock changed to 12 o'clock.

When Daddy said, "Wait, where did Sophie go?".

Mummy said Sophie, nearly asleep, had gone to bed without a peep.

They went to her bedroom just to make sure. When they poked their heads inside the doorway they could see Sophie was fast asleep.

"She must have thought the night was very boring," they were whispering to each other.

When the clock chimed 12 o'clock and someone shouted "It's Midnight! Happy New Year".

Sophie was dreaming, with a big smile on her face, that she stayed up to see the New Year in.

She was fast asleep in her bed with her special white rabbit and teddy bears tucked in, fairies and toys beside her, as her family looked in through her bedroom doorway.

Did Sophie see the old year out and the New Year in? Sophie says "YES, it was a wonderful party".

The End

Happy New Year to all. Hopefully it brings everything you hope for.

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Just for Fun – December Crossword Answers

Across -

1)Abduct	12)Melted	23)Ending	36)Absent	43)Nation
5)Recur	13)Spokes	26)Loans	39)Behind	44)Boasts
8)Loathe	14)Island	27)Beside	40)Rasher	45)Peters
10)Seamen	18)Beano	30)Superb	41)Amigo	
11)Areas	19)Sedate	34)Ocean	42)Bikini	

Down -

1)Assists	7)Risen	21)Ami	29)Don	38)Edits
2)Diamond	9)Tithe	22)Electrons	31)Uterine	39)Bepon
3)Clement	15)Son	24)Dip	32)Edifice	
4)Tones	16)Ali	25)Nor	33)Buddies	
5)Readiness	17)Dog	27)Bra	35)Asset	
6)Creel	20)Ere	28)Sis	37)Bravo	

A Visit from St Nicholas – Part 2



And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof
the prancing and pawing of each little hoof
as I drew in my head and was turning around
down the chimney Saint Nicholas came with a bound



he was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot
and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot
a bundle of toys he had flung on his back
and he looked like a peddler just opening his pack
his eyes how they twinkled his dimples how merry
his cheeks were like roses his nose like a cherry
his droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow
and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow
the stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth
and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath
he had a broad face and a little round belly
that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of Jelly
he was chubby and plump a right jolly old elf
and I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself
a wink of his eye and a twist of his head
soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread
he spoke not a word but went straight to his work
and filled all the stockings then turned with a jerk
and laying his finger aside of his nose
and giving a nod up the chimney he rose
he sprang to his sleigh to his team gave a whistle
and away they all flew like the down of a Thistle
but I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight,
happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Roger Ward

What is the “200+ Club”?

This is a brief explanation of the “200+ Club” for those who are not currently members. Members purchase one or more “Numbers” for £ 12 each. All Numbers are entered into 12 monthly draws with prizes of £20 and £12, plus two special prizes, one in June of £60 and one in December of £120.

If more than 100 numbers are purchased, the number of prizes is increased to keep the prize money and the chance of winning roughly in proportion. The draws are made at Village Events and Parish Hall meetings with winners published in the Brent Knoll News. Winnings are paid by cheque.

If you would like to join the “200+ Club”, with a chance to win a prize and to support the maintenance and ongoing improvement of the Parish Hall at the same time, please see the article and application form in this issue of the Brent Knoll News.

Bob Filmer, 200+ Club Co-ordinator

Walk 100 Miles With Your Dog

St Margaret's Hospice Care is calling on dog lovers to lace up their walking boots and take part in the **Walk 100 Miles With Your Dog Challenge** this January. The virtual event invites participants and their four-legged friends to cover 100 miles over the month while raising funds to support patients and families across the county.

Participants can sign up for FREE and receive a special doggy bandana, as well as a mileage tracker and a sponsorship form. Simply tick off the miles you have walked throughout the month and collect as much sponsorship as you can for the hospice.

Last year, 8-year-old Adeline and her Great Dane Olive completed the challenge and raised a fantastic £535 for the hospice! Her mother Karla, who works at the hospice, said, "Adeline is always keen to help anyone, and to see the impact her fundraising has made is very special."

More information: <https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/event/walk-100-miles-with-your-dog/>.

Christmas Tree Collection

St Margaret's Hospice's beloved Christmas Tree collection is back for its fifth year – and it's growing stronger than ever! This January, they are once again teaming up with Children's Hospice South West to offer a simple, eco-friendly way to recycle your real Christmas tree – all while raising vital funds to support people living with life-limiting illness.

The service is hassle-free: one of the hospice's teams will collect your tree from your roadside in exchange for a kind donation and local tree surgeons will chip it down for use in farms, gardens, and paths.

The event has become a true symbol of Somerset's generosity and teamwork, bringing together volunteers, local businesses and residents to turn festive clean-up into meaningful fundraising. Every donation ensures St Margaret's Hospice can continue to provide specialist support, comfort and compassion to patients and families facing life-limiting illness.

Date: 9th -11th January 2026

Location: Dozens of postcodes across Somerset. Register your interest today to help the hospice customise their radius!

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



“200+ CLUB” – 2026

There's been a very good response to the 2026 200+ Club with over 220 numbers already reserved. If you haven't joined yet, you can do so by filling in and returning the application form below, or, if you were a member in 2025, by returning your reply slip. Don't forget, the more members the more prizes!

Anyone aged over 16 years can be a member of the 2026 “200+ Club”. Don't forget, your relatives and friends can join (they don't even have to live in the village). As well as locals, we have members from America, Australia, Axbridge, Banwell, Basingstoke, Bracknell, Bristol, Bromsgrove, Burnham, Clevedon, Devon, Germany, Highbridge, Kent, Lympsham, Mark, North Curry, Puriton, Taunton, Watchet, Worle, Yorkshire and even East Brent! Your chances of winning are much better than the Lotto!!

Below is an application form for next year's membership. I would be most grateful if you could complete and return it to me, together with your subscription, as soon as possible, either via the Village Shop or directly. I shall write to all those who join, giving details of their allocated number(s) and the date of the first draw in 2026!!

NOTE - Cheques will **NOT** be cashed until after 1/1/2026 *Bob Filmer, 200+ Club Co-ordinator*

WIN UP TO £120!!

Monthly draws entitle winners to prizes including:

1st Prize £ 20 + others including £ 12

In addition, two annual draws entitle winners to EXTRA prizes including:

Summer Draw Christmas Draw

1st Prize - £ 60 1st Prize - £ 120

The **more numbers issued**, the **more prizes**, keeping the chances of winning just as high.

In **2025** we will have paid out **119 prizes** totalling **£ 1,856!!**

Numbers will be allocated at a cost of £ 12 per year (£1 per month)

ALL PROFITS TO BRENT KNOLL PARISH HALL

Complete below and return with your payment of £ 12 per entry to: Bob Filmer, Wascelyn, 48, Brent Street, Brent Knoll or the Brent Knoll Village Shop.

You can apply for 1 or more numbers. Why not get your friends and family to have a go and support your **LOCAL** Parish Hall at the same time. They make **excellent Christmas presents!!**

Your NameMr/Mrs/Ms

Address

.....

Telephone

Yes, I would like to buy number(s) in Brent Knoll Parish Hall “200+ Club”

Please enclose cash or cheque for £ 12 per “200+ Club” number.

 Cheques payable to “**Brent Knoll Parish Hall**”

If you would like to pay by **BACS** please tick and add your **e-mail** below



Diary for January

New Year's Eve

If you're having Fireworks, please let your neighbours know in advance, so they can take care of their animals!

			Page
2 nd	Burnham/Cheddar Bus [Fridays]	Brent Street/Burton Row	9.30-2.30pm
2 nd	Short Mat Bowls Club [Fridays]	Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.00-4.00pm
3 rd	Hand Bell Ringing Group [Saturdays]	Ivyclad Hall	10.00am
5 th	SORT IT+ Recycling	Your House	Early!!
5 th	Short Mat Bowls Club [Mondays]	Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.00-4.00pm
5 th	Pilates [Mondays]	Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	6.15pm
6 th	Burnham/Cheddar Bus [Tuesdays]	Brent Street/Burton Row	9.30-2.30pm
6 th	"Chatty Café" [Tuesdays]	Lympsham Pavilion	10.00-1pm'ish
6 th	Parish Surgery	Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	10.00-12noon
7 th	Pilates [Wednesdays]	Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	8.30am
7 th	Parish Council – Public Session	Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	7.00pm
	Parish Council Meeting	to follow immediately	7
8 th	Green Waste Collection [Thursday]	Your House	Early!!
8 th	Fish & Chips	Village Green Car Park	5.00-7.00pm
8 th	B&H Choral Society [Thursdays]	Methodist Hall, BoS	7.30pm
8 th	All-Sorts Choir [Thursdays]	East Brent Village Hall	7.30-9.15pm
10 th	Bazaar, Farmers' Market & Parish Café	Parish Hall	10.00-12noon
12 th	Recycling & Rubbish	Your House	Early!!
12th	Deadline for January Brent Knoll News		12.00 noon
12 th	Parish Hall Committee meeting	Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	7.30pm
14 th	Tea & Chat	Front Vestry, St Michael's Church	2.30pm
14 th	"La Traviata"	The Ritz Cinema	
17 th	Brent Knoll Wassail	Westcroft Farm	7.00pm
19 th	SORT IT+ Recycling	Your House	Early!!
21 st	Brent Knoll Companions:	Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.30pm
21 st	Provisional Parish Council Meeting	Jubilee Room	7.00pm
22nd	Green Waste Collection [Thursday]	Your House	Early!!
22 nd	"Hamlet"	The Ritz Cinema	
22 nd	Fish & Chips	Village Green Car Park	5.00-7.00pm
23 rd	Mobile Library [Friday]	Old Post Office	9.15-9.45am
26 th	SORT IT+ Recycling	Your House	Early!!
29 th	Somerset County Cricket Club Social	Evening at the Red Cow	7pm for 7.30pm
31 st	'Sausage Sizzler' + Wine Tasting	Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	10.00-12 noon

POSTAL Subscription

The Brent Knoll News is available by post for those outside the village. All you need to do is to send name and address together with a cheque for £20 (incl. UK postage), to the editor, payable to "Brent Knoll News" and we'll do the rest. You could even give it as a present!

Deadline for the February 2026 Issue –

All contributions to be received by noon on **Monday 12th January**, to:- bob@flockman.com.

The Brent Knoll News welcomes all contributions. Views expressed are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the editor or the standpoint of the Brent Knoll News. The Brent Knoll News does not endorse or recommend businesses that advertise in this publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit or amend any contribution.

BRENT KNOLL VILLAGE WEBSITE: www.brentknollvillage.co.uk

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