

BRENT KNOLL **NEWS**



NOVEMBER
2025

75p

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Other things to remember in November:

**Saturday 29th November - "Sausage Sizzler" in conjunction with a
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Monday - 8.30am - 2pm;

Tuesdays - Saturday 8.30am - 5pm;

Sunday 8.30am - 12noon;



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The Parish of Three Saints

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

Contacts The Parish is currently in vacancy Please contact Church Office	Baptisms To arrange a Baptism, contact the Church Administrator. Please also see Church of England website for more information- www.churchofenglandchristenings.org 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 Funerals Your chosen Funeral Director will contact our Church Administrator to arrange your requirements. ***** 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
Associate Priest Reverend Neil Biddiscombe Tel 07862 045215 e-mail - associatepriest.tpots@outlook.com	
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	
Churchwardens St Michael's, Brent Knoll Mike Smith 01278 760691 mikesmithchurch@gmail.com Frances James 01278 760287	
Church Treasurer – Contact Church Office 01278 769082 / office.tpots@gmail.com PCC Secretary – Mrs Carole Carter 01278 769082 / office.tpots@gmail.com	



November 2025

2 nd	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Christopher's, Lympsham
9 th	10.00am	Service of Remembrance	St Michael's, Brent Knoll
16 th	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Eucharist	St Mary's, East Brent St Mary's, East Brent
23 rd	10.00am	All Age Eucharist	St Christopher's, Lympsham
30 th	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Michael's, Brent Knoll Joint Service with Berrow & Brean

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.

Brent Knoll Take-Away

Dates for your diary:

13th November 5-7pm - Fish & Chips 27th November 5-7pm - Fish & Chips

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

Minister	Revd. Steve Bennett
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We held our closing service and Harvest Festival at Brent Knoll Chapel back in September and we were simply overwhelmed by the attendance. The Church was packed with friends from around the Village and from the whole of the Methodist Circuit. Those of us who have worshipped in Brent Knoll over the years shared in the service and we were all uplifted, sustained and encouraged by Rev Steve's sermon, which hit the perfect note of thanksgiving for the life and members of our Chapel, whilst acknowledging the understandable emotions we felt at its closing.

And it was so good to catch up with friends after the service over excellent homemade refreshments (a big "Thank you!" to all who helped with this). We even had visitors from another Methodist District, as it was wonderful to catch-up with our former Minister Rev Andrew Biggs and his wife Julie (who are currently serving in Chipping Norton and the surrounding area). I caught up with them afterwards and during a time of reminiscing, Andrew said he always remembered Brent Knoll with great fondness.

The following week, we had our first service at East Brent since our building's closure. One of our Local Preachers, Janet Widdess, led an excellent service which also incorporated a true message of unity as we all go forward into this new chapter of our Church life. Also, a big thank you to the East Brent cake makers who provided an excellent spread of cakes to welcome us. Truly appreciated and for which we were all grateful.

Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November this year. The service will begin at the Memorial at St Michael's at 10.45am before moving into the Church.

God bless you all, from all of us. As always, you remain held tightly in our prayers.

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

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

2nd November : Rev Judith Lincoln (Holy Communion)

9th November : Remembrance Sunday: 10.45am @ St Michael's;
10.00am @ Brent Church (East Brent)

16th November : Mr Len Horlock

23rd November : Rev Michael Pullen

30th November : Rev Marcus Torchon (at Burnham Methodist Church)

All-Sorts Choir

Where are all the Male Singers? We would love you to join our choir. Don't be shy, I promise we won't hurt you! We just have one male singer who would love to have others to sing with. Are you that person?



We are the All-Sorts Choir who rehearse on Thursday nights in the East Brent Village Hall from 19.30 – 21.15.

We are also looking for ladies as well so please come along to our rehearsals to see if we are the choir for you.

Throughout the year we sing at Care Homes, Associations, Churches or at events to support local charities and it would be great if you could join us. There are no auditions, just come along for a taster session.

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Notes from the Parish Council

October meeting



Approval of minutes of the meetings held on the 3rd September.

Planning Matters – None

07/25/00024: Erection of drying parasol, office unit and screens for car wash business at Sanders Garden World, TA9 4HJ.

Response: To Support the proposal but having due regard to the Environment agency submission made regarding this application regarding water disposal and lighting. Unanimous of those voting.

07/25/00025: Fell 1Birch (T1) (TPO Ref T2) at Woodlands House, Hill Lane, Brent Knoll, TA9 4DF.

Response: To support this proposal on the grounds of good arboreal practice. Unanimous of those voting.

07/25/00026: Reduce height of secondary branches of 3 Lombardy Poplars (T1,T2,T3) by 2-3 m at Greystones, Burton Row, Brent Knoll, TA9 4BP.

Response: To support this proposal on the grounds of good arboreal practice. Unanimous of those voting.

Financial Matters Agreed

- (a) Statutory Payments List: Approved by Members for 2025/2026
- (b) Variable payments List: Approved by members at this meeting.
- (c) Invite Tenders for Contract for Toilet Cleaning from January 2026.
- (d) Budget Update pre circulated to members.

Other Key Decisions taken by the Parish Council

- (a) SID Repair and return to manufacturers up to £600.00 agreed.
- (b) Batteries for the SID to be ordered with Evolis.
- (c) IT Working group meeting considering new Website and Domain.
- (d) Worn out Picnic Bench on the rear of green to be replaced.
- (e) Flower Boxes at the village entrances completed.

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 5th November** at 7pm in the **Jubilee Room**. The Parish Surgery will be on **Tuesday 4th November** 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 19th November.

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

Brent Knoll's Community Shop News

Somerset's growing number of Community Shops, set up by volunteers to replace closed commercial shops, are now joining forces to share ideas and experience.

Sixteen representatives of eleven Community Shops held their third meeting last month (October) in Brent Knoll, hosted by Brent Knoll Community Shop, which opened as an "Emergency Shop" at the height of the Covid crisis almost six years ago, after the closure of our village shop and Post Office.

The newly formed Somerset Community Shops Group already has members from Hinton St George, Westbury-sub-Mendip, Oake, Norton sub-Hamden, Seavington, Draycott, Stogumber, Winsham, Kingsbury Episcopi, Crowcombe, Bicknoller, Brent Knoll and Roadwater. Other Community Shops in the county are now being urged to join the new group.

The Brent Knoll meeting was also attended by a senior representative from the Plunkett Foundation, the national charity that has supported more than 350 community shops and helped them to achieve a much higher survival rate than the average for new business ventures.

Topics addressed at the meeting included marketing, social media, profitability, recruiting and retaining volunteers and the required policies and procedures.

All member shops are now in email contact for sharing information or requesting advice and will meet again after Christmas, while Plunkett is helping them to contact the other Community Shops in Somerset.

While October saw our shop enter the Halloween spirit with locally grown pumpkins, a "guess the weight" contest and a host of spooky treats, the focus now is on the approach of Christmas. This year, we'll be hosting a Christmas Card Post Box for the Scouts, who will deliver your local cards.

As usual, we'll also have order-forms for all your locally sourced Christmas meats, and set up our gazebo on the village green for you to collect your orders.

Meanwhile, we'll be holding our next "Sausage Sizzler" at the Parish Hall from 10am to 12 noon of Saturday 29th November.

David Sturgess

BRENT KNOLL PARISH SURGERY

with our Parish Clerk

Owen Cullwick and a Parish Councillor

will be holding a Parish Surgery on

Tuesday, November 4th, 2025

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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St Michael's Churchwarden's report

We welcomed the school into Church for their Harvest Service in October. We also have the Tea and Chat use our church vestry/ room for their monthly meeting. We are so happy the church building is being used and are pleased to see that our honesty café is being used too. Please when you are near the church which is open daily have a look around and see our new facilities of the honesty café and borrow books stall.

Thank you to all who help look after the buildings and grounds, special thanks at this time of year go to Jason for looking after the grass so well for us.

The buildings and grounds committee are busy working on future projects of getting the ash tree pollarded, coping stones repaired and awaiting further information on the recent quinquennial from the church architect.

We are still in vacancy and appreciate so much all that Rev. Neil Biddiscombe and Rev. Eric Petrie do to enable us to have a weekly service of communion in the Parish each week. Sadly Rev. Marion Hance who was a retired vicar overseeing the churches in Berrow and Blean with whom we will share a new Priest in Charge (when one is found) sadly passed away after a very short illness in September and her funeral service was held in Berrow taken by their previous vicar.

In November we welcome the Royal British Legion for their Act of Remembrance at the war memorial and service in the church on Sunday December 9th at 10.45am.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Mike Smith, St. Michael's Church warden, 01278 760691, mikesmithchurch@gmail.com

Children's Book Sale - Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December



Brent Knoll Parish Hall are extremely lucky to have been given a wonderful collection of children's books. They range from books designed for young children to books aimed at teenagers, and all are in excellent condition. On the dates mentioned above we are aiming to hold a book sale, entirely devoted to children's books, just in time for you to find some really good Christmas presents for all those young bibliophiles who love reading or being read to – many also have a range of delightful pictures for those too young to appreciate the texts. The sale will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on each of those dates.





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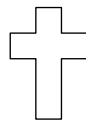
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Polecats – *Mustela putorius*.

We have always had members of the Mustelidae family - otter, badger, stoat and weasel, coming in to us as adults and juveniles. Now we are starting to see Polecats as casualties, but it's not always easy to identify them from an escaped ferret (although their behaviour is a good indicator).



The Polecat is starting to increase naturally from Wales after practically being exterminated by 1915 because of their fur which was valued for warm clothes and persecution by gamekeepers. *Mustela* tells you they are one of the families that rely heavily on the sense of smell as a recognition and repellent aid. *Putorius* means 'stink' and they certainly do, especially when frightened by emitting the smell from the two scent glands next to their tail!

Looking very similar to a ferret or mink, its brown fur covers most of the body, but the face has a facial mask which joins the nose. They were found all over England until persecution left just a few remaining animals in Wales. However, the success story means that they have now increased from approximately 5,000 to 46,000 in the current time. Polecats live happily in farmland, hedgerows and small woods. In the summer they will frequent rabbit burrows giving them accommodation and a supply of food. Their long slim body means they can hunt easily through the tunnels.

In the Middle Ages, polecats would be captured and trained to hunt out rabbits and birds for falconers. Even prior to this age, it is detailed that the Romans also used polecats for hunting. Polecats were very welcome by farmers as rats and mice are part of their diet and they would control these naturally. We had a tame polecat for several years when someone raised a small kit thinking it was a mink, so had planned to keep it in captivity. It therefore became very tame. Maurice the polecat doesn't have the same ring as Maurice the mink! He was with us for several years and was cared for by Stuart, one of our volunteers.



It's mainly orphan polecats that we get in and these, like stoats and weasels, take meat when they are only three weeks old. They are two to three months old before they are independent and will have turned wild, very capable of spitting and biting by then. This is why it was so unusual to have a tame polecat like Maurice. It's a success story to see these mammals increasing and living in the surroundings where they belong. Being mainly nocturnal, secretive and solitary, they are rarely seen.

Pine Martins have been seen historically in Scotland but with introduction programmes in Devon, Cumbria and now the Forest of Dean, means we will probably start to see them as they spread. The reason that they are being introduced is because they do belong in our countryside, having been made extinct in certain areas due to human persecution. However, they are also an animal that predates the grey squirrel which is another reason why they have been brought back to new areas. With a diet of nestlings and eggs, there is also a balance that needs to be seen to ensure that these introductions do not have an unwanted risk to other wildlife that frequents their territories.

Two enchanting mustelids that we shall see more often.

Pauline Kidner

Front Cover Photo -

Thank you to Ken Blick for the cover photo of the amazing sunset viewed from Hill Lane Car Park and also to Lyn Brafield for her photo of the same sunset from her garden. (Page 2).

Bob

Meet and Eat

Meet and Eat will be held on Monday November 12th at 12.30pm in the Brent Knoll Parish Hall. Lunch will still cost £5 a head thanks to a grant and a generous donation. Please book by email to Gill or telephone Liz on 01278 760810.

We look forward to seeing you. Do bring a friend too.

Please also keep the Christmas celebration date which will be on Monday December 8th.

Meet and Eat team

Tea & Chat

We will meet in November on Wednesday 10th at 2.30pm in St Michaels church vestry/church room.

As well as our usual tea, cake and chats, we will be working on an exhibit for the Christmas Tree Festival. You don't have to be crafty to join us we welcome supervisors and quality controllers! As in previous years.

This group is open to all ex-WI members.

Margaret Smith, 01278 760691

Women's Society

Fourteen of us enjoyed a very, pleasant lunch at the Pavilion, Lympsham on 25th September.

We hope to meet for afternoon tea on Thursday 23rd October, venue to be arranged.

Our Christmas Meal at the Red Cow is on Thursday 4th December at 12.30pm. Choose your own from the usual menu. Names please to Julie nearer the time as she may confirm the number to the Red Cow.

No meeting in January

Further details for 2026 programme to follow in Brent Knoll News.

Julie

Fun in Fundraising

After a successful Autumn Fayre in September, we are looking forward to our next event.

November 1st - 2 to 4pm -

Spud and Pud lunch in the Parish Hall.

Spuds, fillings, salads, home-made puddings and hot drink will be served.

Tickets costing £10 available on the door (cash only).

December 12th/13th and 14th -

Christmas Tree Festival in St. Michaels Church

Application forms have been distributed to individuals, charities and groups but it is still not too late to apply to exhibit.

This year the trees will be on display on Friday 12th from 3 to 7pm and on Saturday 13th/14th from 10 to 4pm.

We are hoping to have some live musicians join us during the festival including singers, organists and instrumentalists.

We will also this year be having Santa's Grotto nearby.

Looking forward to your support.

Mike and Margaret Smith, 01278 760691; mikesmithchurch@gmail.com, on behalf of the

Fun in Fundraising Team, St. Michael's Church

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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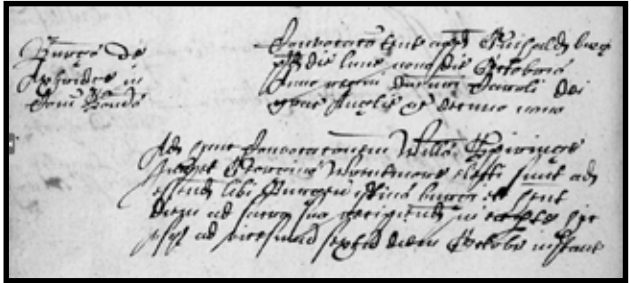
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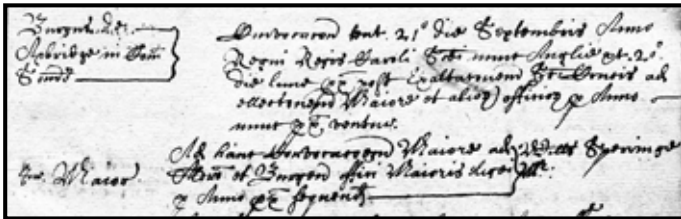
Brent Knoll House Histories – 102

William Spearinge, who was mentioned last month as the person who acquired the local properties, was born in Brent Knoll, but moved to Axbridge and became a burgess of that town. Unfortunately, the Register of births in this village does not start until 1678, so I do not have an exact date of birth for him, but it is probable that he moved to Axbridge due to marrying a girl from there. There is a marriage recorded in 1643 between a William Sperring and Agnes Jeffery on the 18th May and it is that year in which William becomes an Inferior, or Free (libi) Burgess of Axbridge as shown here.

There were two levels of Burgesses in Axbridge, the Inferior, or Free, Burgesses and the Superior, or Capital, Burgesses. There were normally



only nine Capital Burgesses, but rather more Inferior Burgesses, though their number varied at differing times. Unsurprisingly, the Capital Burgesses had the major power, including acting as the Mayor and Alderman at various times, whilst the Inferior Burgesses tended to do the dirty work, amongst which would be acting as Constables, Bailiff, Bread Weighers, Ale Tasters, Leather Wardens, Shambles Wardens, Moor Wardens and Street Wardens. William is recorded as a Constable in 1644 and as the Bailiff in 1645, but shortly after becomes a Capital Burgess and, as regularly happened at that time, a new Capital Burgess would become Mayor during the following Convocational year. Which, in his case, stretched from September 21st



1649 to the 20th of September 1650. In this picture he is recorded as "Maiore."

Also following tradition, the next year was the one where he would become

the Alderman of Axbridge. If no new Capital Burgess was appointed during a year the other Capital Burgesses took it in turn to hold those senior positions and, as a Capital Burgess remained in that post for his lifetime, unless he moved away from Axbridge, offered his resignation or was caught in some misdemeanour, that meant that some Capital Burgesses held those offices a number of times. In William Spearinge's case he was Mayor four times and, of course, Alderman four times. His second term was shortly after his first, in 1656-7 and 1657-8 respectively, whilst the third and fourth terms were in 1669-70, 1670-1 and in 1679-8, 1680-1.

Interestingly, he made his will in 1688, two years before he died, which suggests he may have been suffering from illness or age at that time, although it would seem likely that he was close to having a fifth term around then.

Continued on page 20

Brent Knoll House Histories – Continued

Mind you, it was a rather tempestuous time that he lived through. When he became an Inferior Burgess Charles the First was still on the throne, but the first Civil War was underway. His first term as a Capital Burgess and Mayor happened during the second Civil War period. His second term was during the Commonwealth, his third and final terms were under Charles the second and he then survived during the reign of James the second and the Monmouth Rebellion, wrote his will about the same time as the “Glorious Revolution” and finally died in the reign of William and Mary.

In Axbridge church there is a monument to William Spearing, stating that he was mayor four times and noting his age as the 74th year of his life. Which means he was born in the reign of James the first.

In his will, William Spearing leaves “all that messuage or tenement and the several lands, meadows, pastures and hereditaments thereunto belonging, situate in South Brent and East Brent in the County of Somerset, containing by



estimation 30 acres”, to two of his friends who were also Capital Burgesses: Thomas Lovell, senior, and John Tuthill, senior. Notably both are referred to as ‘senior,’ which means that they have sons with similar names, who are also living in Axbridge. They, however, held the lands “upon trust that they should permit and suffer the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the said parish of Axbridge....to let and dispose thereof to the best advantage, so that the rents and profits thereof might be employed and disposed of for the benefit of the poor of Axbridge, and for such other purposes as were thereafter expressed, viz. that 4s (20p) should be weekly laid out in sixpenny loaves of bread by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor....or in any other way which might be most advantageous for the poor, which said loaves of bread upon every Sunday morning yearly before morning service and sermon should be brought into the parish church of Axbridge, and decently placed in some convenient place made for that purpose only and after the morning service and sermon the said loaves of breads should be every Sunday distributed and given by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor....as should come usually to the said parish church to hear divine service and sermon.” William did not use the term, ‘second poor,’ but made it clear that the distribution of the loaves of bread “should prefer and principally respect poor housekeepers...who should receive no relief by the public rates,” which is a reasonable description of the second poor.

He also required 10s (50p) of the income from those estates to be used for paying the local minister to preach a sermon on Good Friday in the morning. Next month I will conclude the terms of the will and look at how his charity continues to be used today.

John Page

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Brent Knoll Tennis Club

Congratulations to our ladies' team for coming top of their division in the North Somerset Tennis League this summer.

Winter league mixed doubles matches start soon, on Sunday mornings. The first home match will be at Brent Knoll on Sunday 19th October.

We continue to play club tennis throughout the autumn and winter, unless it is pouring with rain!

Check our website: <https://brentknolltennisclub.co.uk/> for details of club sessions or to contact our coach, Dean.

Alison Hillyer



Village Ceilidh - Saturday November 15th

Don't be put off by the name of the event, the word 'Ceilidh', just means a social event with Scottish or Irish folk music and singing. We have the New Brewery Band playing for us on Saturday 15th November. They are Bristol and Somerset based and I believe are a new line up of the Brewery Band. They have a wealth of experience playing mainly English Dance Music (no not disco, rave, or whatever today's craze is). As with most musicians they play in several bands and these musicians are no exception.



So, do you know your cittern from your mandolin and your left foot from your right?

Whether you want to dance or just listen to some excellent music it should be a brilliant event.

Tickets cost £12.50, available from the village shop, the Bazaar on the 8th November and Jenny Butters 01278 760477 or 07748 781593.

There will be a bar selling the usual beverages and snacks. A raffle. All in aid of the Parish Hall. Doors open 7pm, music from 7.30pm.

Jenny



Meet & Eat

Thanks to Lesley Royal for this lovely picture of the October Meet & Eat.

It's a fantastic social group for our village and a particular thanks to Rosemary and her team for organising this every month.

Check out Page 16 to see how you can join this very social group for a fantastic meal this coming November and December.



Burton Row Community Speed Watch update

Location B3140 Burton Row Speed Limit 30mph

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

Reporting period 1st September to 30th September

Speed watch 1 hour sessions - 6 Total vehicle numbers - 652
Maximum speed - 65mph % Exceeding (30MPH): 29%
Vehicle speeds recorded Exceeding Burton Row (B3140) Highway Legal (30MPH) Limits (Shown as % in ascending order) as follows:
(1) 01 Sep: 9% (3) 15 Sep: 30% (5) 22 Sep: 49%
(2) 02 Sep: 21% (4) 20 Sep: 40% (6) 26 Sep: 52%

There were **19 letters issued by the police** for those speeding during August.
Burton Row Speed Watch Group

In the News

- 1944 December
- Mr Frederick William Rice aged 37 of Burton Row Farm found dead in a pond. His wife is Marion.
Alan William Rich of Northgrove Farm and Mr Hancock of Laurel Farm are mentioned.
- 1945 January 20
- James Spencer Lang presumed dead. One of the crew of a Boston aircraft whose identity the German authorities were unable to establish at present.
- March 3
- Death of Lady Fox
The death occurred on Sunday at the Manor House, Brent Knoll of Lady Ethel Mary Fox, widow of Sir Charles Edmund Fox KCSI in her 89th year.
She was the eldest daughter of the late Sir Charles Parry Hobhouse, Bart. Lady Fox took a keen interest in the various activities at Brent Knoll and was for many years President of the Women's Institute.
She was greatly esteemed by the people of the village.
(1st appearance in Kelly's 1931 which would have been researched in 1930)
- October 27
- Burnham info.
Two landing craft were wrecked on Wednesday morning about 9.30am in a storm.
The craft with their "mother" craft had been used the previous weekend for "Thanksgiving Savings week".
They were due to leave on Monday but delayed due to bad weather. The mother ship put to sea, narrowly missing the Pavilion.
- November 3
- Birth Announcement. Rich, 30th October 1945 at the Towans to Mina, wife of Colonel CA Rich MBE late of 3CLY – a son (Nigel).
- November 10
- Howard Gichard Geach, buyer for British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) Close Cottage, Brent Knoll.
- November 17
- Marriage. Driver Richard James Tuffin (Brean) to Lillian Edith Parsons, second daughter of Mr & Mrs Parsons, Apple Tree Cottage, Brent Knoll.

George Brown

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2 nd Saturday	Bazaar, Farmers' Market and Parish Café 10am-12 noon	
15 th November	Ceilidh (Kay-Lee)	21 st & 22 nd March Book Fair (pm)
Live Band (New Brewery Band) (eve)	18 th April	Jumble Sale (am)
6&7 th December	Children's Book Fair (am)	6 th June Village Fête (pm)
2026	18 th July	Music on the Green –
28 th February	BAD Performance (eve)	'Funkydillies' (eve)

Next meetings - Monday 10th November, 7.30pm in the "Jubilee Room".

Sandra Few

Service of Remembrance

Sunday 9th November 2025

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November Sudokus

Easy Sudoku

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

Hard but not too much

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

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

Brent Knoll Village Green wins Somerset Playing Fields' Association Field of the Year - Play Areas

Bob Filmer, receiving the Cup and certificate on behalf of Brent Knoll Parish Council as winners of this prestigious award, presented by Richard Young the Secretary of the Somerset Playing Fields' Association.

Bob said, "It is fantastic that the efforts of the Parish Council have been recognised with this award, we have always tried to make the Village Green as good as possible for our local residents with play facilities for a range of ages and benches and tables for families.

This year we have seen the addition of the Zip-Wire as requested by the local children, when the Parish Council worked with the village school to ask what extra play equipment the kids would like. We secured grant funding from the Nuttall Trust, another local Trust, used Community Infrastructure Levy Funds, which the Parish receives when there is development in the parish, contributed funds from our play reserve and also had donations from a GoFundMe page.

We have also carried out a refurbishment of several of the play items, so it really is good to see that rewarded in this way. We will continue to enhance and improve the Green in the future where we can."

Bob Filmer



Just for Fun – November Crossword

Across -

- 3) Removed the hair (6)
- 7) This makes seawater undrinkable (4)
- 9) Proverb (5)
- 10) Proportionately; proportionately; proportionately (4)
- 12) Much about nothing (3)
- 13) Prized shellfish (7)
- 15) Speedy (5)
- 17) Preacher (abbr.) (3)
- 18) Most skilled (9)
- 21) Skill, technique (3)
- 23) Remained upright (5)
- 25) Furniture off which we eat (6)
- 27) Open and genuine (7)
- 28) Henry ----; the much married king (4)
- 29) Small biting insect (4)
- 30) Bedcovers (7)

1		2		3		4		5	6		7			8
9								10		11				
				12				13				14		
15				16						17				
		18						19		20		21	22	
23	24								25		26			
					27									
28											29			
				30	31			32						
33		34								35		36		37
38				39		40		41						
		42	43							44				
45						46		47						
				48						49				
50						51								

- 33) Method of walking through tulips (6)
- 35) Fibbers (5)
- 38) A beam of light (3)
- 39) Hiding away (9)
- 42) Common rodent (3)
- 44) One more time (5)
- 45) The U.S.A. (7)
- 47) Chest bone (3)
- 48) An immeasurably long time (4)
- 49) Vegetables, the Welsh emblems (5)
- 50) Crusty surface of a healing wound (4)
- 51) Tranquil (6)

Down -

- 1) Young ladies (6)
- 2) Coarse cloth (6)
- 3) On a chair (6)
- 4) Higher (5)
- 5) Rub out (5)
- 6) Pat on a small amount (3)
- 7) Busy time in store!(4)
- 8) Larcenies (6)
- 11) Mongol (6)
- 14) Cricket playing-field (4)
- 16) Flower-seller (7)
- 19) Compete in a race (3)
- 20) Cooks in a liquid (5)
- 22) Fix (6)
- 24) Unimportant details (6)
- 26) Asking for alms (7)
- 27) A fling (5)
- 31) Mailman (6)
- 32) Melody (3)
- 33) Steps (6)
- 34) Funeral fire (4)
- 35) Legally responsible (6)
- 36) Semi-precious gemstones (6)
- 37) The least mad (6)
- 40) Machine for lifting heavy objects (5)
- 41) Uncanny, weird (5)
- 43) A man of the desert (4)
- 46) Lettuce (3)

Trevor Wellavize



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Nature Diary November – Lichens

In 2018 a lichen expert from Scotland contacted me to say that there was a rare lichen growing on the north aisle wall of St Michael's Church. He was keen to revisit the church to check whether it was still there. Unfortunately, he was unable to visit again personally but he promised to put us in touch with a local lichenologist who would take a further look at the church and the churchyard. Time went by, Covid-19 lockdown 1 intervened and the lichenologists finally arrived at St Michael's on August 5th, 2020, to do their survey of the church and the churchyard.

The study of lichens is a highly specialized subject and we were looking forward to seeing them at work and learning from their expertise. Unfortunately, we had a slow start because early morning cloud had turned to a steady drizzle and we discovered that this can cause problems for identification because lichens look different when they are wet. Nothing daunted the team got to work and began to examine the walls in minute detail with illuminated magnifiers. Most of the time recognition was instant but when it wasn't various chemicals were dropped onto the lichens to see what colour they produced. If this didn't work the next stage was to take a very small quantity and put it in a test tube for later examination under a microscope. Over 80 species were recorded.

So, what did we learn on the day? The first thing is that lichens are made up of two types of living organism, a fungus and an alga. The relationship between the fungus and the alga is a type of symbiosis (= the living together of unrelated organisms) for the benefit of both organisms. The alga provides food for the fungus partner and in return the fungus provides the algal partner with protection and somewhere to live. Algae are plants and fungi are neither plant nor animal, being quite different from animals and plants. Overall, there are about 1800 species of lichen in Britain so our churchyard population covers roughly 5% of all species known in Britain. When they are named scientifically (remember the binomial system developed in the 18thC by Linnaeus – see May 2025 BKN) their names take that of the fungus. Fungi of lichens are extremely diverse having evolved from many unrelated non-lichen fungi. Most lichen fungi are cup fungi (Ascomycetes) but there are a few toadstools (Basidiomycetes). There are far fewer species of algae in lichens, perhaps only a few hundred. The algae belong to some very different groups. Most lichens contain a green alga but from groups of green algae that are not closely related. About 10% of lichens species contain photosynthetic bacteria (cyanobacteria = blue-green algae). The type of alga is associated with the ecology and geographical distribution of the lichen.

Lichens are very hardy and can survive in very hostile environments. Many people will be familiar with the yellow colour that rocks have at the tideline on a rocky shore. This is due to a lichen and the colour protects the species of algal cells which occur in these lichens from strong sunlight. They can survive regular wetting and drying and a wide temperature variation twice a day. Looking at our church and churchyard lichens you can see that the stonework of the church and the gravestones are covered with lichens of various colours. Many of these are surviving in direct sunlight but there is a clear preference for them some of them to grow on the north side of the church where temperature variation is less and the atmosphere is more moist.

Lichens are of three broad types, crusty (hugs the stone), leafy (raised and like a leaf) and shrubby (like a small bush). They can be confused with mosses and liverworts. Mosses and most liverworts have very small but individual leaves on a stem and are mostly a grass-green colour. Liverworts do not have leaves but have spreading lobes which are green on top and underneath. Very few lichens have a grass-green colour and those that do have a different colour (usually white) underneath.

Continued on Page 43

Brent Knoll Feature – 58

Although I did mention much of what follows in October 2024, I think it is important to repeat it, because on the first of November 1875 a rather important event occurred in Brent Knoll. This year is the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of that event and, although the eventual outcome has proven to be less attractive, it should definitely be remembered, as it had a major impact on this village. I am, of course, referring to the opening of the railway station in the village. There had been a railway line running through the village since 1841, when part of the line, from Bristol to Bridgwater, was opened in June of that year. By 1844 the opening of the remainder of the route to Exeter was celebrated, but nothing stopped at South Brent, as our village was known then.



Shortly after that, between 1846 and 1849, the South Devon Railway was opened and as a part of that, a station was opened in another South Brent, near Dartmoor, in 1848. It was a policy of the railways not to repeat the name of a station, so when eventually a station was built here, it could not be called South Brent station. An obvious replacement name was the name of the hill which the village lies beneath. So, our station became Brent Knoll station and the following year, the Bristol & Exeter amalgamated with the GWR.

For some time, people still continued to use the original name for our village, but it became increasingly obvious that others were using the name of the station instead. Finally, on the 8th of June 1883 the Local Government Board issued an order officially altering the name from South Brent to Brent Knoll.

Unfortunately, only one train each way per day ran for many years and the station was closed permanently in 1971, just four years before its centenary. Nothing exists today except, of course, for the fact that the village is still known as Brent Knoll, rather than South Brent, and that the brick-built stationmasters house still remains.

John Page (myrtle.bk@gmail.com or 01278 760986)

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Nature Diary November – Continued

As mentioned before lichens can survive complete drying out which enables them to thrive on exposed surfaces. They obtain water from rain and by absorbing water from humid air. Lichens which contain cyanobacteria need liquid water from rain but lichens with green algae can absorb some moisture from the air. One particular alga (*Trentepohlia*), which occurs in several lichens is very efficient at doing this and can be seen in St Michael's churchyard.

Lichens reproduce in one of two ways; first, the fungus produces microscopic fungus spores which float away to a new location where they germinate and, if a suitable alga is present, form a new individual and second, by forming small particles known as soredia that contain both fungus and alga. These are larger than spores and can distribute the lichen widely.

Lichens are known for their sensitivity to pollution. In the second half of the 20th century, lichens were decimated in urban areas by sulphur dioxide pollution. This pollution has since been reduced to low levels and lichens have returned to our cities. Now we have discovered that lichens are being seriously affected by nitrogen pollution from traffic and agriculture. Nitrogen pollution is of international concern since we are putting so much nitrogen into the soil for crops it is causing a massive imbalance to the earth's environment.

If you would like to learn more about lichens you can visit St Michael's churchyard where you can study the lichens on the church walls and gravestones. We have set up a comprehensive lichen trail that starts at the west door of the church. This can be accessed through our website using the QR code on the trail marker. Alternatively, there is a Simple Lichen Facts guide that can be downloaded through a QR code on the St Michael's Information desk in the North aisle.

PS the rare shrubby lichen on the North wall of the church is thriving!

Ged

BRENT KNOLL BAZAAR FARMERS' MARKET & PARISH CAFÉ SATURDAY 8th November

at Brent Knoll Parish Hall (TA9 4EH) – 10am to 12 noon

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Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Brent Knoll



I had a lovely welcome to an all-school assembly at Brent Knoll C of E Primary School and the privilege of presenting a certificate to Elsie (pictured), whose striking and colourful design won her the 'Star Designer' Award in the Bridgwater Carnival Mask Competition.

As I write, I'm looking forward to attending the Brent Knoll Harvest Supper, having fun whilst celebrating village life, farming and good food.

Since my last update, I've spent more time in Somerset, as Party Conferences keep MPs away from Westminster for a few weeks.

Nonetheless, in Parliament I've raised several issues for constituents including the new 'Duty of Candour' for public servants, action on poor care for patients with surgical mesh implants, the scourge of pavement parking and the Environment Agency's withdrawal of river maintenance.

Last month, I was honoured to be voted in as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Flooding and Flooded Communities, hitting the ground running meeting the Association of Drainage Authorities, representatives from Councils and agencies in Eastern England and addressing the Flooding Resilience Conference 2025.

I've used the Conference break to visit businesses and charitable organisations like Weston HospiceCare. Having met their wonderful team, I'll be pressing the Government to fund them to deliver more outstanding care, rather than continually slashing the funding which delivers an incredible offer in our local hospice.

Finally, I've been reading and responding to the huge numbers of you who have written about the Government's plans, particularly those relating to introducing digital ID. Thank you for contacting me.

If you'd like to meet me to discuss any matter, a full list of my surgeries is available when you call or email me, but these are your most local:

Saturday 1st November from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Lamb Inn, Axbridge**

Friday 7th November from 12:00 to 13:00 at **The Red Cow, Brent Knoll**

Monday 10th November from 10:00 to 11:00 at **Frankie Howerd Hub & Café, Loxton**

Saturday 15th November from 17:30 to 18:30 at **The New Inn, Cross**

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

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 – September 2025

After a hot and dry summer, September's weather probably came as a welcome change for many people. Temperatures throughout the month were refreshingly normal and, perhaps more importantly, the rain which began during the last few days of August continued until the 17th of September. The ground was warm, and three weeks or so of regular rainfall was enough to get the grass growing again. By the end of September the Knoll was looking quite green.



The rain was brought to us by the procession of Atlantic lows and these systems drew in air from within the Arctic Circle. This cold air became unstable as it passed first over a very warm Atlantic and then over the still-warm UK landmass. The result was towering Cumulus clouds (my favourite), occasionally heavy convective rain and thunderstorms on the 3rd, 7th and 8th.

Unfortunately, the wet weather continued over the Scarecrow weekend on the 13th and 14th. Saturday wasn't too bad, with sunny intervals and only an isolated shower during the afternoon, but Sunday was dull with persistent showers from lunchtime onwards. Even so, there were a few hardy souls walking through the village with soggy scorecard in hand. By the end of the day the rainfall total for September had surpassed that for the whole of the summer.

In the middle of the month a large area of high pressure developed to our south. This nudged the Atlantic lows onto a more northerly track, bringing our wet spell to an end. The rain wasn't far away, though; on the 20th a slow-moving front brought persistent rain in a line from Cornwall to Yorkshire, resulting in flooding and disruption. At the same time a developing low moved quickly up the Bristol Channel into the Midlands, resulting in gales here during the evening.

The 21st brought another change in the weather. A large area of high pressure over the Atlantic blocked the flow of lows from the west, while low pressure over the Baltic drew cold Polar air over the UK. The equinox on the 22nd was a day of unbroken sunshine, and around dawn on the 23rd the temperature dropped to 3.6C under a clear sky. There followed a series of cool but sunny days with just a few fair-weather Cumulus clouds; if you could escape the northerly breeze, it was pleasantly warm in the sunshine.

The high pressure moved slowly east across the UK and was over the Baltic by the 25th, allowing the Atlantic lows to return briefly. The 26th began sunny but cloud moved in at lunchtime and the 27th was overcast with rain during the evening and overnight. On the 28th a ridge of high pressure from the Azores brought a return to sunshine and blue sky, with a chilly 3.3C recorded during early morning fog on the 29th. The ridge stayed with us on the 30th to bring a sunny end to the month.

The average temperature for September was a very ordinary 14.9C with no extremes of heat or cold. The beginning and end of the month were sunny, the middle of the month less so – overall sunshine was about average.

I mentioned last month that the rainfall total for September 1976 was 181mm, breaking the long drought. This year we recorded half of that – a total of 90.6mm made this the third-wettest September I have recorded, but it was not enough to have any impact on reservoir levels. On 30th September Cheddar reservoir was at 27% of capacity, which is 1% less than the figure on 26th August (just before the rain started). One of the problems in 1976 was that the hot, dry summer followed a dry winter; despite the wet start to September, therefore, we need much more rain between now and next summer to rebuild our reserves.

Stephen Baggs; www.knollweather.co.uk

Useful Village Contacts:

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,	Owen Cullwick	clerk@brentknollpc.co.uk	07917 445215	
Clerk	Bob Filmer	bobf@brentknollpc@gmail.com	760760	
Chairman	David Knott	davidkbrentknollpc@gmail.com	07772 867771	
Planning enquiries	Amanda Reason	amandarbrentknollpc@gmail.com	07971 687174	
Footpath Contact	Jenny Butters	administrator@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760477	
Parish Hall	Bazaar	vicechairman@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760308	
	Chairman	chairman@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760760	
	Secretary	secretary@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760451	
	Treasurer	treasurer@brentknollparishhall.co.uk	760986	
Doctor	John Page		760313	
NHS Non-Emergency Urgent Medical Helpline			111	
Western Power Distribution	Power Cut?		105	
WRVS Prescription Service			760313	
Brent Knoll Primary School	Chris Burman	office@brentknollprimaryschool.org.uk	760546	
Brent Knoll Primary Pre-School	Hayley Richens	office@brentknollprimaryschool.org.uk	760546	
Community Shop			During Opening Hours - 07376 224886	
Village Post Office (Sub-Postmaster)				
Brent Knoll News,	Production Editor	Bob Filmer	bob@flockman.com	760760
	Distribution	Elaine & Eddie Fuller	eddie77_elaine@btinternet.com	760308
		Ash Ricketts –	9926@avonandsomerset.police.uk	07849 305834
Police PCSO 9926			101	
Police Non-Emergency Number				
Rhyne Problems	Lower Axe Draining Board		789906	
Village Agent	Kim Wilcox	Kim@Somersetcc.org.uk	07943 555519	
National Trust Honorary Ranger				
Secret World Wildlife Rescue			01278 783250	
Wildlife and Badger Care			07954 036687	
Village Societies:				
All-Sorts Community Choir	Sue Toon	sue.toon@btinternet.com	760753	
Brent Amateur Dramatics (BAD)	Sarah Joyce		787493	
Brent Knoll Companions	Ann Robson		760981	
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	
Short Mat Bowling Club	Allan Rayner	johnallanrayner@gmail.com	07833 291 334	
Tennis Club	Alison Hillyer		01934 815407	
Women's Society	Julie Baker		751229	

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Diary for November



Page

1 st Hand Bell Ringing Group [Saturdays]	Ivyclad Hall	10.00am	
1 st Spud & Pud Lunch	Parish Hall	2.00-4.00pm	16,38
3 rd SORT IT+ Recycling	Your House	Early!!	
3 rd Short Mat Bowls Club [Mondays]	Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.00-4.00pm	
3 rd Pilates [Mondays]	Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	6.15pm	
4 th Burnham/Cheddar Bus [Tuesdays]	Brent Street/Burton Row	9.30-2.30pm	
4 th "Chatty Café" [Tuesdays]	Lympham Pavilion	10.00-1pm'ish	14
4 th Parish Surgery	Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	10.00-12noon	7,8
5 th Pilates [Wednesdays]	Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	8.30am	
5 th Parish Council – Public Session	Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	7.00pm	7
Parish Council Meeting	to follow immediately		7
5 th Guy Fawkes Night	<i>If you're having Fireworks, please let your neighbours know in advance, so they can take care of their animals!</i>		
6 th B&H Choral Society [Thursdays]	Methodist Hall, BoS	7.30pm	
6 th All-Sorts Choir [Thursdays]	East Brent Village Hall	7.30-9.15pm	4,32
7 th Burnham/Cheddar Bus [Fridays]	Brent Street/Burton Row	9.30-2.30pm	
7 th Short Mat Bowls Club [Fridays]	Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.00-4.00pm	
8 th Bazaar, Farmers' Market & Parish Café	Parish Hall	10.00-12noon	31,43
9 th Remembrance Sunday	War Memorial, St Michael's	10.45am	3,4,31
10 th Recycling & Rubbish	Your House	Early!!	
10 th Meet & Eat	Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	12.30pm	16,27
10 th Parish Hall Committee meeting	Jubilee Room, Parish Hall	7.30pm	31
12 th Green Waste Collection	Your House	Early!!	
12 th Deadline for December Brent Knoll News		12.00 noon	50
12 th Tea & Chat	Front Vestry, St Michael's Church	2.30pm	16
13 th Fish & Chips	Village Green Car Park	5.00-7.00pm	3
14 th Mobile Library [Friday]	Old Post Office	9.15-9.45am	
15 th Village Ceilidh 'New Brewery Band'	Parish Hall	7.00pm	27,31
17 th SORT IT+ Recycling	Your House	Early!!	
19 th Brent Knoll Companions:	Harris Room, Parish Hall	2.30pm	
19 th Provisional Parish Council Meeting	Jubilee Room	7.00pm	7
24 th SORT IT+ Recycling	Your House	Early!!	
26 th Green Waste Collection	Your House	Early!!	
27 th Fish & Chips	Village Green Car Park	5.00-7.00pm	3
29 th 'Sausage Sizzler' + 'Table Top' sale	Nuttall Room, Parish Hall	10.00-12 noon	2,8
29/30 th Christmas Pop-up Shop	RSPCA Centre	10.00	32
30 th St Andrew's Day			



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