

ENMORE GREEN COMMUNITY NEWS

Autumn 2026



Editorial

It has been a long, hot summer. Are there any Climate Change disbelievers out there now? Will it be a wet Autumn, cold Winter? We do love discussing the weather and it can be the favourite point of contact when meeting up with a stranger or someone you don't know very well. The weather affects everyone.

We can count our blessings here in Enmore Green as whatever the weather there are places to walk – The Donkey Field Orchard, Breach Common, bottom of Castle Hill or to sit and have a quiet moment in St. John's Churchyard.

We do have our wonderful Arts Centre 'up the top' in Shaftesbury but there are events going on in the Enmore Green Church Hall as well, see our Events Page. This leads me on to encourage you to let us know your thoughts about the future of the Hall.

Jo Churchill

A Defibrillator

In the Winter edition, 2023/2024. of our Newsletter, there was an article about the need for a Defibrillator in Enmore Green. Shaftesbury charity, Swans Trust, was supporting projects for defibrillator installations. The article suggested that a small group might be formed to take this idea further.

Jo Slade of Enmore Green took up the challenge and liaised with Swans Trust which led to discussions about where it should be put. Ideally it should be in The Knapp, the centre of Enmore Green, but residents were reluctant to have the installation fixed to their buildings/walls and attached to their power supply. Although a little way down Church Hill, St. John's Church offered the use of its Hall and the power supply.

STOP PRESS. By the time you read this newsletter, a Defibrillator will have been attached to St. John's Church Hall, plugged in and ready for use. Thank you to Swans Trust.

Having a life-saving machine installed in Enmore Green is a real bonus but thought must be given not only to make sure that the machine is working correctly at all times, but to raise a small fund to keep it operative. Every time, the machine is used the pads have to be replaced at a cost of around £70.00 (we will be searching for the best deal after the machine is installed)

Swans Trust will arrange for a training session to be held in the Church Hall once everything is operating correctly. Jo will put posters around to advise about the date and time. There will be a small charge of £5.00 a person for the trainer and £5.00 to start a small fund to pay for extra pads as they are needed. The machine has an 8 year guarantee and a 5 year guarantee with the batteries.

The use of a defibrillator can make the difference between survival from a heart attack and not. The nearest machine at the moment is outside the Ice Cream shop by the Town Hall.

Please let Jo Slade know if you would be willing to join her in looking after this lifesaving equipment for Enmore Green. Jo's contact details: 01747 853935 or joslade75@yahoo.com

Enmore Green Community Field

For new Residents – where is the Community Field?

The pedestrian entrance is half way down Church Hill, on the left and through the Orchard. Further down the Hill, past St. John's Church, turn left at The Butts. There are double gates to allow for vehicles when appropriate. A single gate is open at other times. Coming along Breach Lane, turn right at The Butts.

The Field is 90m x 50m approximately and has three bench/tables. There is one football post; only one because we did not want to give the impression that it was just a football field. It can be used for outdoor activities, Tai Chi Yoga or just somewhere for children to run about. Because it is securely fenced, it can also be hired for a private event. No dogs are allowed in the Field because it is scheduled as an Activity area. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to run activities, especially for children.

Contact Jo Churchill on 01747 850432 or jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk if you want to discuss using the Field.

No Mow May

St. John's is always keen to do more for the environment and when the call came to stop grass cutting during the month of May, we joined in. Hitherto, the Hall grass had always been kept short. During the month a wonderful display of Daisies, or Marguerites as some call them, appeared. They grew and grew to about 4ft tall – just a beautiful sight and completely unexpected. Naturally we left them to continue flowering. Come July, they had faded and died. We then realised that the small lawnmower we used for the Hall Garden would never be able to cope with the daisy forest. It took many hours of strimming and mowing to bring the grass to a suitable level and cost us an extra £70.

Was it worth it? Yes and we will do the same next year.



Friends of Breach Common

Whew! this hot, dry weather has really caused us all to batten down the hatches and hide indoors hasn't it! Our ponds are bone dry but the bramble hasn't been affected and is going to produce a bumper crop. We've tried to keep the paths wide enough for you all and hope you are all managing to traverse the common. At least there are lots of shady spots to bask in... and I have been.

As promised, here is the Breach Common guide with key. We will put a link on our Facebook page so you can download it to your phone once we find someone with better IT skills.

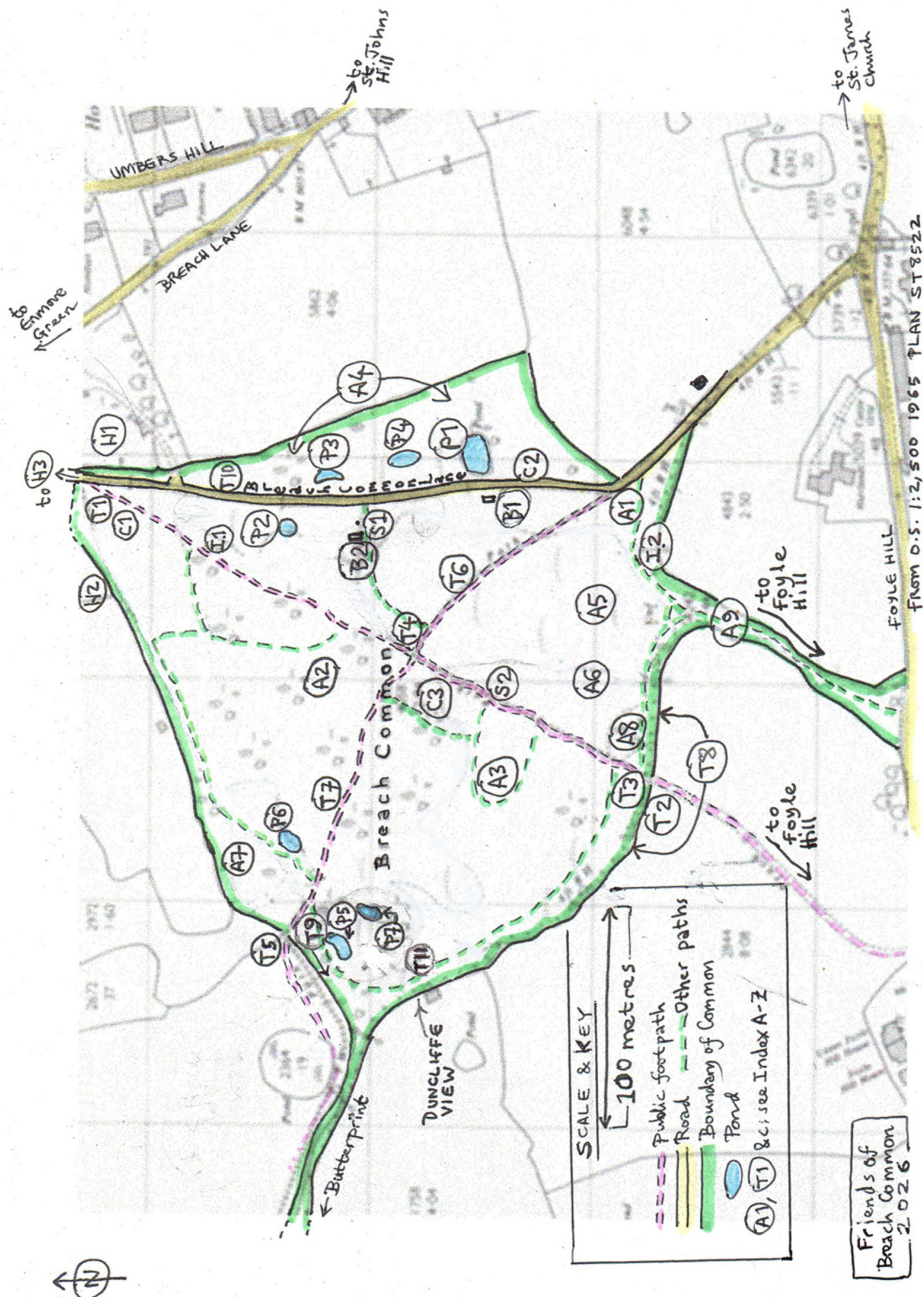
Look after yourselves

Fran

B1	Stuart & Jeannie Hamilton memorial	S1	Apple
B2	Metal bench	S2	Crab apple
Courses (Water-)		Tracks, public footpaths etc	
C1	"Shazzle" (to improve drainage from White Hart Link - T1)	T1	White Hart Link - PFP** NI/37
C2	Breach Common Lane ditch	T2	Hardy Way - PFP N59/8

C3	Mire drains 1 & 2	T3	Parish stone/ kissing gate
T5		T4	Crossroads
T6		T5	Bull stile to PFP N59/6
		T6	Upper footpath PFP NI/36
Houses		T7	Lower footpath - PFP NI/36

H1	Sandfield	T8	East-West Hol-loway
H2	Ridge House	T9	Holloway west-wards towards Butterprint
H3	Castleton House	T10	Breach Common Lane
		T11	Duncliffe View(with rough-wood bench)
		**PFP = Public Foot-Path, num-bered (N1/36 etc) by Dorset Council	
Invasive species		Friends of Breach Common, 2026	
I.1	Japanese Knotweed*		
I.2	Japanese Knotweed*		
[*treated 2025 by STC contractor]			



The Workhouse at Umbers Hill, Enmore Green

Should local taxes help poor people? Only if those people are put in a workhouse, said the Government 200 years ago: so from 1840 to 1950, Alcester House stood at what is now Umbers Hill. It was built under an 1834 law placing duties over the poor or workless upon local “Unions” or districts run by boards of elected guardians, aiming to reduce the cost of poor relief. This never worked properly, being harshly criticised by Dickens in *Oliver Twist*.

The 1841 census listed 70-odd inmates. The Board’s minutes were researched by Brenda Innes, who wrote that for the sick poor, workhouse conditions were perhaps better than at home: “subscriptions to hospitals at Bath and Salisbury were paid, so paupers could be sent for special treatment”. There were payments to reduce unemployed numbers by lending workmen money for tools, or e.g. £1-worth of seed potatoes to start in food production; and payments to move away in search of work, to Wales or even Florida!

By the 1930s it was run by the County Council as a cross between a hospital and an old people’s home, with in 1939 a matron, seven nurses, and 70 residents, all men; the oldest George Kirby born 1846 “general labourer, retired”. Other trades, all “retired”, included blacksmith, cattle-drover, hawker, kitchen porter, small-holder, and many farm labourers.



Alcester House

Ride and Stride – 12th September 2026

This is an annual event run by Dorset Historic Churches Trust. Basically, folk are encouraged to walk, run, ride a bicycle, horse, mobility scooter and plan a route to visit Dorset Churches. Those taking part then get themselves sponsored. This could be for the number of churches visited, miles covered or an amount just for taking part. Any monies raised are then divided in half – half to DHCT and half to your Church.

Dorset Historic Churches Trust does what it says on the tin. It supports any denomination of church within Dorset with financial help towards building repairs. St. John's has benefitted in the past and they have already given to our current Appeal.

Jo Churchill will be joining Sue Richards from St. James. Each year, Sue organises a fascinating tour of 4/5 churches – most of them off the beaten track – and points out all the special artefacts and history of each one.

We find a spot for a picnic which makes it a very enjoyable and interesting day out. It is a jolly of course but the serious side is that everyone in the party endeavours to get sponsored for their church; in my case of course, St. John's.

I do not have to be the only person taking part on behalf of St. John's. Anyone can collect a Sponsor form and get going!

Come the day, enthusiastic riders and walkers may be seen out and about around the Shaftesbury area. Visiting our Shaftesbury C of E churches is challenging: from St. Peter's at the top, down the hill to St. James and then across from St. John's Hill to Church Hill to Enmore Green. There will be refreshments and the chance to sit down at each Church.

Jo Churchill

St. John's Church Events

Wednesday 2nd September - Coffee Morning

In the Church Hall. 10.00am to 12noon. Foodie Raffle. £2.50

Friday 11th September – Quiz Night

St. John's Church. 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Tables for 4-6 or just come along as there will always be a table for you to join
£8.00 per person including soft drinks, crisps and nibbles. Wine/lager available

Thursday 17th September – Bingo Afternoon

Church Hall. 2.00pm. Eyes Down 2.30pm. Book £5.00

Refreshments available

Friday 18th September – Harvest Supper

St. John's Church. 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Ploughman's Plate plus pudding and coffee

Drinks available/Entertainment

£15.00 Please book with Jo Churchill on 01747 850432 jo.churchill@enmore-green.co.uk

All Welcome

Sunday 20th September – Harvest Service

St. John's Church. 11.15am

Gifts of Fruit/Vegetable/canned and packet items can be left in the Church and they will be distributed to Open House in Shaftesbury.

Sunday 4th October – Shaftesbury Carnival Thanksgiving Service

3.00pm. Led by the Reverend Anne Heywood

All Welcome

Wednesday 7th October - Coffee Morning

In the Church Hall. 10.00am to 12noon. Foodie Raffle. £2.50

Thursday 15th October – Bingo Afternoon

Church Hall. 2.00pm. Eyes Down 2.30pm. Book £5.00

Refreshments available

Sunday 31st October in St. John's

ALL SOULS SERVICE

Full details about this special service will be available later; details on our website and Church poster boards.

“Death is not the extinguishing of the light, but the putting out of the lamp because the dawn has come”. *Rabindranath Tagore*

Wednesday 4 November - Coffee Morning

In the Church Hall. 10.00am to 12noon. Foodie Raffle. £2.50

Wednesday 11 November Remembrance Day

10.50am at the Cross Roads, Enmore Green

Thursday 19 November – Bingo Afternoon

Church Hall. 2.00pm. Eyes Down 2.30pm. Book £5.00

Refreshments available

DONKEY FIELD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

At the time of writing we've just entered the last month of summer. Please don't tell me it's been wonderful - it has not! The natural world is struggling desperately without any meaningful raindrops for months and burning temperatures are causing absolute chaos for the rhythms and cycles of life which we might normally expect. Although "normal" isn't any longer the right word. I mean, it's not like we can pretend that nobody saw this coming. So here we are, 2026, and climate chaos isn't something to deal with sometime in the future. It's reality here and now.

In the Donkey Field Community Orchard I fear that oak saplings planted by Clayesmore students as a hedge along The Butts might have succumbed due to lack of rainfall. Quite simply, it's been impossible to transport and apply sufficient water on a consistent basis.

With watering in mind, I do wonder about the wisdom of actually planting trees. Not all trees, obviously. In an orchard we want particular specimens in particular places. And it's the same in a garden. But what about roadside verges, shelter belts, field corners, community green spaces and the like? Plantings thus involve costly labour, nursery-grown stock, unsightly tubing, wooden stakes and don't forget the aftercare - mowing and watering! How about simply fencing these areas off and leaving them to regenerate as nature intends? Sure, it's less immediate, we have to change the way we interpret what we see, plus ceding control over choices of what grows where. But in terms of costs, resources, effort and outcomes, a winner surely?

Last season was bumper in terms of trees producing seeds and nuts. A so-called 'mast year'. Consequently, just look at 'unmanaged' ground and local woodland floor. It's often thick with tiny oaks, ash, hazel, hawthorn and the like. All springing up and plunging their roots down despite the drought. I always reckon the best and strongest trees are those that plant themselves. Manufacturers of planting equipment and paraphernalia, architects, designers and nursery owners mightn't agree, but what better and more sensible way to help redress the damage caused by generations of humans?

Speaking of damage, deer browsing in the Donkey Field is an issue. Interestingly, it's where we've cleared brambles from around more recent plantings that the effects are most pronounced - a reminder of the vital (and valuable) role played by 'scrub' in protecting trees from the nibbling and rubbing of beasts.

Our drought-stressed orchard trees are already dropping fruit. The small committee which oversees planning and admin tasks will be meeting soon to discuss the date for Apple Day. Quite likely we shall bring it forward in response to the early arrival of autumn. Please watch our notice boards on Church Hill and The Butts for news of this very important date.

And finally, if you've not already done so and if there's any left to enjoy, please help yourselves to the edible harvest which is all around us.

Joe Hashman

Shaftesbury Home Grown

Down at Shaftesbury HomeGrown on Breach Lane we have been watering like mad for the last few weeks and as a result now have a good crop of vegetables to harvest already: cucumbers, the ubiquitous courgettes, potatoes, cabbages, onions, squash and kale. This year we planted sweetcorn through holes in black membranes to deter the weeds and it's growing beautifully. Flowers have also been a great success. Lovely Sweet Peas in particular. A lot of our volunteers have been and still are going away on holiday (it's that time of year!) but we've managed nevertheless to just about keep on top of the watering, weeding and harvesting, and the hens have continued to lay quite well despite the heat. We are planning to add a few new hens to our flock next month, so if anyone is interested in offering a retirement home to any of our older ladies, please do let us know. And of course, we would welcome more volunteers to join our happy band of like-minded folk. We have work sessions **on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings from 10am till 1pm.**

The Garden Table in The Knapp

Through this very hot Summer, it has been difficult to keep all the gifts of plants watered and Sue Hake set up a 'Nursery' at the side of her house to give extra attention to plants that, like us, had been overcome by the heat.

We would hope to keep the Table operative at least through September but – as always, it depends on the weather.

St. John's Church

Even though we are surrounded by scaffolding, our services each Sunday proceed as usual. All 11.15am

1 st Sunday	Parish Communion
2 nd Sunday	Morning Prayer
3 rd Sunday	Morning Prayer with Lay Worship Leader
4 th Sunday	Morning Prayer

And then there is there is the 5th Sunday, occurring three times a year. This gives the opportunity for all eight churches in the Shaftesbury Team to join together in a Communion Service in one of the bigger Churches,

Our Church is open every day from 10.00am to 3/ 4 pm.

All residents of Enmore Green are entitled to use St. John's for special occasions such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and to be buried in our Churchyard if they so wish.

Some of the restoration work has been held up as one piece of special curved guttering was on a 10 week delivery from Europe! However, by the time this newsletter is distributed it is hoped that all the outside work will have been completed. We then have to wait for the building to dry out before starting work on the interior. Most of the damage inside is to the West End and will need re-plastering.

We have also made a leap of faith..... another one. We thought it would look a bit odd to have the West End looking bright and glorious and the Nave continuing to look somewhat shabby. The 2nd phase of our Fundraising Campaign has now started for a further £30,000 to include 20% VAT and if we are successful this will include the Nave when the interior scaffolding goes up.

And every little helps. At our small community events, we have a Tombola and sometimes a Raffle. If anyone has unwanted gifts that we can use as prizes these would be gratefully received. Please leave in the Church.

Jo Churchill

QR code for the Appeal



Listen Up

St. John's has an Audio and Hearing Impaired system installed and this is checked annually by Gordon Morris, a division of Sonova UK Limited.

Earlier this year, we were having problems with the Audio so called in the representative Mr William May. I went to meet him and we had an interesting conversation about who was 'Gordon Morris'. He couldn't remember when Mr Morris set up his company but he did so because he had severe hearing problems himself and dedicated his life to fitting suitable equipment, especially in small churches. William was his Apprentice. On Mr Morris's death, his company was taken over by Sonova and, because such a good reputation had been built up, they kept the family name. And William May continues to work for Gordon Morris under Sonova UK Limited and shares his former employer's dedication to those dealing with impaired hearing.

St. John's Churchyard

With a two tier churchyard, it is not easy to keep everything under control. The blitzing of the brambles last year has not held back re-growth and the brambles and long grasses have grown up over the summer months protecting and encouraging our wild life but will need cutting back during the winter months so as not to take over completely and to give the Spring flowers a chance to shine, especially our circle of daffodils that come up each year round the oak tree.

A fox appears to be living in the churchyard and several rabbits (do they realise the danger?) and a small deer has been seen picking its way through. The hot summer weather brought an abundance of butterflies this year too.

Our Churchyard is truly a wildlife haven.

Sonya Foreman



St. John's Church Hall

Although the Hall belongs to St. John's, we have always considered it to be a part of Enmore Green, there for use by the community. Over 50 years it has seen Mother and Baby Groups, children's parties, meetings and for over 20 years used by the Early Learning Centres before Primary Schools took over this role.

It is showing its age in many ways. A small group has recently met to discuss the future and a possible upgrade to make it more accessible to everyone. It will always be a small Hall but its size need not be a drawback especially for events and groups that might function better in a homely atmosphere.

We would welcome thoughts, suggestions (positive as possible please) of what might be achieved in the future. What would you like to see included in a Hall upgrade?

If anyone has photographs of the Hall from previous years or perhaps remembers being in the Hall, do let us know.

Jo Churchill

01747 850432

Jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

Friends of St. John's, Enmore Green

Who are the Friends?

People who may not wish to become a member of the church but who would like the church to remain as part of the community and to be there for life events in any family life – Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

The Friends contribute to the maintenance of the Church building and upkeep of the churchyard. They also pay for the printing of this Enmore Green Community newsletter which is distributed by hand to the almost 300 households in Enmore Green.

How much will it cost? The minimum subscription is £20.00 but amounts over this would be very welcome. In addition Gift Aided subscriptions bring in more revenue with no extra cost to the giver.

The Friends Application Form can be found on the Enmore Green Website - www.enmoregreengreencommunity.com/ - which was set up by the Friends and is maintained by them. Any dates/photographs you would like your community to see please get in touch.

It would be so great to have some new members.

Jo Churchill

Church Going

I needed to remove the ancient steel helm before we began repairing the church's ceiling vault, and we had to finish early due to a funeral on the day in question. The helm lifted easily from its spike, and as I carried it to the vestry for safekeeping I failed to control my curiosity; I put it on my head before sliding the visor down to check the visibility through its eye slit. I took a few steps, feeling very martial. It was light, being made of thin steel but incredibly claustrophobic – my head feeling like it was being squeezed into a can of peaches. Breathlessness descended into cold horror when I realised that four hundred years of corrosion was about to conspire against me opening the visor- and that I wasn't going to be able to get the thing off. Then, as I was pulling at it, the first mourner arrived. I dashed behind a nearby curtain and stayed there for the whole service, sweating as I waited for proceedings to conclude. Once the funeral goers had filed out, I drew back the curtain – but to my dismay, the family of the deceased were still standing around the coffin, staring at me. There was nothing else I could do but express my sympathy from behind the steel and retreat behind the curtain.

From *A Stonemason's Guide to the Churches of British Isles* by Andrew Ziminski

(sent to us by David Godden)



ADVERTISING

The Search for Sally King A story of Enmore Green. £8.00 per copy.
Available at our Coffee mornings on the first Wednesday 10.00am to 12noon in
St. John's Church Hall, or from The Shaftesbury Museum., Gold Hill.

St. John's, Enmore Green and the Weir Family

The Weir Pulpit and the Enmore Green War Memorial £2.50.

Contact Jo Churchill on 01747 850432/jo.churchill@enmoregreen.co.uk

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Yoga with Emily - if you are interested in booking a class or have questions please email Emily at: yogaemilyshaftesbury@gmail.com or contact her on 07495 379042