

ENMORE GREEN COMMUNITY NEWS

Autumn 2025



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Editorial

As we move into the Autumn with 'its mellow fruits' we can think back on the basking days of the 2025 summer. This editorial is being written in the middle of July and already we have had three official heatwaves. Climate change is certainly happening and we will have to adapt too.

And then, a big thank you. The St. John's Appeal went out with the last newsletter and we have been so touched by the response from the Enmore Green Community. Each month, our Treasurer tells me the amount. As I explained last time, because of data protection, I do not know who our donors are but if you see me about with my black and white dog, Thomas, then a hug and/or a handshake will be forthcoming!

We have two more Advertisers this time to add to our list of advertisers in Enmore Green.

Our Events from September through to November are varied and there is a list of them, with details, on Pp 15 and 16 that maybe you can cut out and keep.

Jo Churchill

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Friends of Breach Common

Well, it's been an eventful few weeks 'feeling hot, hot, hot' (The Merry-men lyric) What to water and whether to water has been constantly discussed. My routine is to fill the bird baths daily and water the pots once a week. Although I don't grow bedding plants which would need more. I don't water the flower beds as none of it is 'food'. The garden is looking pretty good all things considered, as is The Common. The ponds might be dry but the Common is lush, green and full of flower. The almost constant filtered sunlight is so calming and certainly soothes the soul.

There are some fantastic photos of insects on our Facebook page posted by Warren Port, a very talented ecologist, conservationist, entomologist and thoroughly nice chap. This morning's picture was of a Holly Blue butterfly, a rarity which shows the health of The Common. Fabulous news.

There is very little Balsam now and no sign of the dreaded Azolla. Happy days! I am meeting with one of the Town Councillors shortly to show them the Japanese knotweed which I wrote about in my last article, so hopefully this threat's final days are numbered.

We have, once again, attacked the Balsam on Castle Hill. With a morning's help from pupils of Claysmore School, we have made great headway.

I am going to tackle the elephant in the room about a recent 'niggle' regarding the use of The Common made on '*This is Alfred*'. The 'niggle' was regarding damage to a tree and the building of cycle tracks. This is the Friends of Breach Common take on things.

Firstly....Yes, we had a problem with large logs and the slide being thrown into the pond and Yes we had cycle jumps being made on the path. The second just needed some positive inter-action with the 'culprits'.

We had a couple of chats with a group of young, local lads. These young men were very respectful and understood what we are trying to achieve and keen to work with us to make the Common enjoyable for all. We showed them around the Common pointing out spaces where their efforts would have much less impact and be more enjoyable for them as steeper, longer and therefore much faster! Within hours they had moved their very large, very impressive 'mound' and started work on their track in the right place. I have to say that said mound was quite a feat of engineering.



These are children. They are doing what most of us were lucky enough to enjoy as youngsters.....playing outside, having fun, making memories and learning about the environment they live in. Much more healthy in every way than a computer game.

I'd like to thank those who showed me support regarding this, support given by all sections of our community: *This is Alfred* for sharing our viewpoint but mostly I'd like to thank the kids involved for just being themselves. Your parents should be proud.

The party line is that the Common is for use by all, from the oldest to the youngest and all the wildlife in between, apart from brambles! You might be a superb habitat, food source and shelter, but you have scratched me, left thorns in my skin, torn my trousers and ruined several pairs of gloves. 'You are the 'Thorn in my Side' (Annie Lennox 1986)

Fran

Enmore Green Community Field

Not much to report this time. The Field is there for everyone to use. It is just a field so we don't have any facilities such as a water supply. There is only one football post because we did not want to give the impression that our Community Field was only to be used for football. There is no net fitted for safety reasons.

Two years ago we organised an old fashioned Sports Day – egg and spoon, three legged races and so on. It was great fun but in the traditional way, half way through there was a mighty thunderstorm. We might consider doing that next year – 2026 - or perhaps a Village Picnic – in the Hall if wet!

Do let us have any thoughts.

Jo Churchill

Shaftesbury Home Grown



At the moment at Shaftesbury Home Grown we have plenty of delicious produce, despite all this hot weather: potatoes, kale, cabbages, beetroot, carrots and lots of beans and onions, not to mention raspberries, blackcurrants, blueberries and gooseberries! We spend our time weeding (the no-dig method gets us only so far), watering and harvesting, and can just about keep on top of things with our loyal band of volunteers.

We are planning to buy some new hens to add to our flock in the hope of raising our egg yield. At the same time we'd like to re-home some of our older less productive ladies, so if you are interested in adopting one or two (or three!) please let us know, by either contacting me on 07789 845498 or popping down to the farm in Breach Lane. As always new volunteers will be tremendously welcome. We have work sessions down there from 10am till 1pm every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday morning. We break for coffee (and usually cake too!) at around 11.15 and enjoy a good natter.

Helen English

The Garden Table

Our Garden Table is really popular. It is situated outside the home of Lionel and Sue Hake in The Knapp. Wonderful contributions from the Community and the Allotments. It has become a lovely meeting place for a chat.

Yoga With Emily

Emily is offering gentle, breath led yoga classes from her shed / garden studio which is blessed with birdsong and south westerly sweeping views towards Duncliffe Wood. Her schedule is as follows:

Tuesday 12.00pm Recover Ease, a very gentle practice done seated on the floor, and lying down, perfect for beginners and people recovering from illness / injury. There is a long relaxation at the end.

Tuesday 7.30pm Sundown Yoga, enjoy a relaxing practice with the setting sun (sun not guaranteed but inner peace and relaxation are!)

Wednesday 10am Commune + Tea, a friendly gathering of tea and chat followed by a gentle yoga practice.

Thursday 7.30pm Sundown Yoga, a relaxing evening practice with the setting sun.

Friday 11.00am Dynamic Ease, a more physical practice with sun salutations and standing postures. A great way to breathe and release the week and welcome the weekend!

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

Lauren Vermeulen - Victory-us

SEN consultant - educator - advocate

Offering bespoke support to Autistic individuals, their families and schools.

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Lauren.victoryus@gmail.com [@victoryus.lv](https://www.victoryus.lv)

St. John's Church

In our last newsletter we outlined our fundraising strategy including fundraising events throughout the year either in the Church or in the Church Hall. Details of events from September through November are listed on pages 15 and 16 and we hope people will come along and join in.

Although the Appeal is important to the future of the building, the life of St. John's goes on as well. We have a service every Sunday at 11.15am apart from a 5th Sunday when a Team Service is held in one of the larger churches. Everyone is most welcome to join us at

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

The Church is open every day from c.10.00am to 4.00pm.

An addition to the fundraising? Now that the summer holidays are almost over, folk may have spare foreign currency no longer required. Any gifts are most welcome.

Friends of St. John's

The Friends ran a very successful 'Tea at Tout Hill House' raising £387.00 for the St. John's Appeal. The weather was kind although a bit windy and everyone enjoyed looking round David and Elaine's lovely garden and then enjoying a Cream Tea with home-made cakes.

Don't forget to look at the Enmore Green Community website, run by the Friends, which does have details of all upcoming Events and, of course, our Community Newsletters.

The website is there for everyone in Enmore Green to use.

St. John's Church Hall

Our Hall has had a complete Repaint and Refresh. The first step was to dispose of all the 'stuff' that had accumulated over many years. As in our own homes because we all believed things would be needed 'some day'. Several runs to the Tip were required.

Sally Hobbs, one of our District Church Council members, cajoled several teams of volunteers from the church and the community to work together to paint both the inside and the outside of the Hall. The Swans Trust, Shaftesbury donated £400.00 towards the cost of the paint and the brushes. Working for 2/3 hours at a time the work was carried out over a few months. There are final touches to be done to the interior but these will be completed by the Autumn.

As we go to print, an Open Afternoon is planned for Saturday 9th August, inviting the community to have a look round, enjoy a cup of tea and cake, and, we hope, admire all that has been achieved.

Over the years, the Hall has been used by different organisations, Baby and Toddler, Early Learning, Yoga, Book Reading, Birthday Parties and Band Practice. We hope that our 'New Look' Hall will now attract other Users. We offer a small Hall, kitchen, toilet and a garden space. Charges are £10.00 per hour inclusive of heating. To visit the Hall and/or to book a session please contact Mrs Sue Hake on 01747 851338.

A reminder: Our regular Coffee morning is now only on the first Wednesday of the Month; 10.00am to 12noon. Foodie Raffle. £2.00 for coffee and biscuits.

Defibrillator

No concrete news but one may become available in September and will be fitted to the Church Hall. So keep well till then!

Jo Slade

St. John's Churchyard

It is not an easy churchyard to look after. There are bigger ones of course but not often on the side of a hill. The basic work is carried out by our Gardener, Jamie Fisher Pearson, and then the families who tend the grave sites, mainly now in the upper churchyard. We are grateful also that most people observe our plea not to have anything artificial. Artificial plants and flowers seldom last longer than natural plants and flowers but remain looking tired and desolate.

A thought for the future. We have mentioned that a member of our Church Community, Sonya Foreman, has been finding hidden and untended graves. We have been wondering how we could go forward with this. Not just combing through the churchyard to find and uncover them but how to record and maintain them for the future. Is there anyone who would like to help in this way? Do be in touch with us.

And then in the Autumn we will be talking with The Community Orchard and the Friends of Breach Common to discover the best way to maintain our wild life section and the link between the Orchard and the Churchyard.

Jo Churchill



The Rose

In the last newsletter, we referred to the sequel to *The Dead Tree* and the fact that despite being buried under the tree from December through to Spring, the Rose had pushed its way to the top and was thriving. An offer has been received to provide a metal structure to support the rose and this will arrive soon. Meanwhile the Rose is growing and spreading, looking very healthy and now in full bloom. A little bit of research and we have discovered that the name of the Rose is 'Blushing Lucy', it dates from 1938 and is still available to buy. We can recommend its hardiness.

Donkey Field Community Orchard

Firstly, an important change of date for Apple Day. We've moved it back a week to Sunday October 19th. The reason for this is that 2025 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Donkey Field Community Orchard and we're tying the occasion in with a special concert being put on by the Palladwr Choir to celebrate the Shaftesbury Orchard Town project. Palladwr Choir details to be announced...

If you've not heard of Orchard Town before then think of the Community Orchard on Church Hill, between the allotments and churchyard, extending and stretching across, around, up and over the town to merge with other already existing orchards and fruit tree specimens and collections in private gardens, plus orchards and trees as yet unplanted. Get the picture?

Returning to the Donkey Field, there hasn't been a great deal of human intervention since the last time of writing, aside from Town Council contractors keeping the central and perimeter path nicely clear for mooching and peregrinating. The chronic lack of rain has necessitated watering our most recent plantings. Thanks to those who've helped with that. But really, summer is about letting Orchard inhabitants do their thing. We'll start to gently nip and tuck here and there, with Apple Day in mind, as autumn approaches.

Meanwhile, I've been enjoying blackberries already. It's very early, I know. Please feel free to have a little forage yourself. Fill baskets, buckets and boots. Brambles are the most wonderful plants for wildlife and people and there's no shortage of them down here! Another consequence of our changing climate is that top fruit is ripening earlier too, so keep an eye on those apples and pears when you're passing through.

Curious about Community Orchards or Orchard Town? WhatsApp me on 07395 954579.

Joe Hashman

Ride and Stride – 13th September 2025

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.



Step forward Thomas, our Church Dog. He has taken part in the Ride and Stride for the past four years. Well, it is riding but not striding as with his companion, Jo Churchill, he travels in a car. In fact it is quite an adventure. Thomas and Jo join with friends from St. James under the leadership of Sue Richards, an archaeologist, and visit a group of churches, mostly within Dorset but we have strayed into Wiltshire on occasion, where Sue gives us architectural and historic background to each one. Best part for Thomas is the picnic halfway round.

In 2024, Thomas gathered sponsorship of £440.00 which was a record; can we beat this in 2025? There are sponsorship forms in St. John's if anyone would like to sponsor Thomas.

St John's Merchandise

Biros, various colours	£1.50	Large decorated unscented	
St John's Bookmark	£1.50	candle	£8.00
St John's Magnet Bookmark	£2.50	Sally King of Enmore Green	
Small decorated candle	£5.00	book	£8.00
Large decorated scented candle	£10.00	All these will be on sale at our various events - or just contact Jo.	

Shaftesbury Lido



It came to Margaret Cluett's attention that some people in Enmore Green might be unaware that Shaftesbury has a beautiful, heated outdoor pool and it is also the only Lido in Dorset.

The Lido has come a long way from its origin. When it started life in the 1800s it formed part of the water system for Shaftesbury Town. In those days it was known as The Tank!

The Friends of Shaftesbury Swimming was formed in 2021 (foss2021@btinternet.com for information or membership) and have worked with Shaftesbury Town Council to bring significant improvements. A salt-based water system was introduced to replace chlorine in 2024 – much kinder to the skin. In 2025, thanks to amazing local support for our Crowdfunder in March, there is now a new, improved filtration system. We hope this is not the end of the journey, and, dependent on future funding, we plan for more improvements.

There is still time to enjoy the lido this summer season before the heated Pool closes at the end of September. Visit the website – www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/services/lido to find out how to book and the current timetable.

The recent interest in the health benefits of cold water swimming has meant that the Lido is now going to be open at the weekend during the winter as a cold water facility.

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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Lauren Vermeulen SEN Consultant, Educator-Advocate

Lauren.victoryus@gmail.com @victoryus.lv

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

Tuesday 11th November

Please do not forget the 11th day of the 11th month at 11am.

We meet at the Enmore Green War Memorial on the crossroads at 10.50am
for a Service of Remembrance for all those named on the war memorial who
gave their lives for us.

Events - September to November 2025

Friday 12th September – Quiz Night

Place: St. John's Church

Time: 7.00 for 7.30pm

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

Tuesday 16th September at Motcombe Memorial Hall

Charity bridge and lunch (with raffle and prizes) in aid of Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, and St John's and St James's Appeals.

Bridge players as a table of 4 most welcome!

Time: Tuesday 16 September 2025 12noon – 4.00pm

Venue: Motcombe Memorial Hall, SP7 9PE

Play will commence at 12noon followed by a two course lunch at 1.00pm.

Cost: £35 per person

Not a bridge player? We need helpers with the raffle, the refreshments, washing up etc (even for an hour or so)!

For further information and the link to book , please call Dorset Bridge 07889 658410, email teach@dorsetbridge.com or call Sally Hobbs on 07889 988 522.

Wednesday 24th September – A Dorset Man

Place: St. John's Hall (top of Church Hill)

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

At 93 John Cluett is probably the oldest man who still speaks in the Dorset dialect. A lover of the works of the Dorset poet, William Barnes. John will be talking about his life as Folk Musician and Storyteller. Musical Interludes with Tattie Bogle (aka John and Margaret Cluett) Tickets: £8.00 pay at the door. Drinks available.

Friday 3rd October – Harvest Supper

Place: St. John's Church

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Ploughman's plate plus pudding and coffee

Drinks available/Entertainment

£12.00 Please book place with Jo Churchill 01747 850432 jo.churchill@enmore-green.co.uk

Tuesday 11th November Remembrance Service. See Pg 14

Sunday 23rd November – Dorset Heroines

Place: St. John's Church

Time: 2.30pm

David Beaton's illustrated talk, *Dorset Heroines*, covers over 350 years of colourful Dorset history, ranging from the Civil War to the Second World War; and is devoted to around ten out of the dozen women in *Dorset's Forgotten Heroes*, published in 2005 by The Dovecote Press.

We meet 'Brave Dame Mary; who held out in Corfe Castle for twenty months before being betrayed by one of her own group; and on the other side of the fence, the brave Women of Lyme, who held out against the Royalists.

There are women from all strata of society; the daughter of a cabinet maker who became famous throughout Europe for her fossil finds; a philanthropist of noble birth; another high born palaeobotanist who took the nation by storm with the publication of her controversial book, *Married Love*; a courageous nurse who served in both World Wars; a WW2 heroine who lived with the Maquis and was awarded the Croix de Guerre; and a dancer who decided to form a concert party to entertain the troops and who by D-Day had given over 1000 performances in army camps, air force bases and on naval ships.

It is an extraordinary catalogue of women of courage and dedication whose activities have helped shape the history of this remarkable county.

£8.00 per person. Tea and Cake during the afternoon