

THE PUMP & POUND

South Perrott and Chedington Newsletter

Issue 86

December 2025/January 2026

That's another year drawing to a close. It seems to have flown by! We would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year! *The Editors*

Christmas in Chedington and South Perrott

Look out for the **Chedington Living Advent Calendar** starting on **1st December** with a new display lighting up every day until Christmas. Join us on **Christmas Eve** at the Village Hall at 4:30pm to light the final display and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine.

Chedington Christmas Party is on **Saturday 20th December** in the Village Hall at 7pm for supper and Christmas fun. RSVP to sammackenziegreen@btinternet.com.

South Perrott's Village Christmas Lunch is on **Sunday 7th December** in South Perrott Village Hall at 12:30 for a 1pm start. This is a traditional 3 course lunch plus mince pies and complimentary drink on arrival. A wine bar will be available throughout. Tickets are £20 per person with a £5 deposit. To book contact Hilary 01935 891115 or by email to hilary.spvillage@gmail.com.

Once again, this year's **Grand Christmas Raffle** has some amazing prizes; £100 and £50 CASH plus vouchers for pubs, shops and more. Tickets are available now and will be on sale throughout November and December until the draw **by Martin Clunes at Winyard's Gap Inn on Wednesday 17th December** at 7pm. (*To book a table contact Winyard's Gap on 01935 891244*). Tickets are available for £5 for a book of 5 and are on sale from Sue on 07971979155 or sue.coutanche@btinternet.com. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church. *Sue Coutanche, Raffle Promoter*,

A **Carol Service** will be held in St Mary's Church on **Christmas Eve** at 6pm accompanied by complimentary mulled wine and mince pies, Everyone is welcome.

Christmas and New Year Rubbish Collection

There is no change before Christmas. After Christmas, collections will be on **Tuesday 30th December** (recycling and food) and **Tuesday 6th January** (rubbish and food). Collections return to normal on Monday 12th January. Up to two extra sacks of rubbish beside your bin will be collected on 6th January. Garden waste will **not** be collected on Tuesday 30th December.

Chedington Village Hall

Our coffee mornings in Chedington Village Hall take place on the first Saturday of the month from 10:30am. The next ones are on **Saturday 6th December** and **Saturday 3rd January**. Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes are served and all are welcome. Donations towards Village Hall funds are appreciated.

South Perrott Village Hall

The Village Hall hosts the **SP Café** on most Saturday mornings from 10am until midday. Everyone is welcome to come along, enjoy a coffee/tea and a cake, have a chat with your friends, use the internet (free of charge) and generally relax. **PCSO Alex Bishop** will be with us on **13th December** and **10th January**. Alex hopes to meet many residents so please come and enjoy a coffee and a chat with your local PCSO. Please note that there will be no café on **Saturday 27th December**. The café has been running since April 2022 and prices have been held at £1 for tea/coffee and £1 for cake since then. Sadly, with increasing costs, it has been decided that the price for a slice of cake will increase to £2 from January. It's still exceedingly good value though!

On **Saturday 7th February** we will be holding our annual quiz for teams of up to 6 people competing for the **Dave Smith Memorial Trophy**. Entry is £10 per person and this includes a curry as well as a contribution to the prize fund. There will be a pay bar all evening. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. To enter a team, please contact Dave on 01935 891891 or by email davemcskelly@gmail.com. If you are not a member of a team but would like to take part give Dave a call anyway – we will find a team you can join

Big Breakfasts

The winter season of Big Breakfasts in South Perrott Village Hall continues in 2026 on **4th January, 1st February** and **1st March**. We look forward to welcoming you with a Full English Breakfast, our popular Jumbo Big Breakfast or a healthy porridge alternative, and the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours.

SPLottery – 2025/26

SPLottery winners in October were the holders of numbers 99, 26 and 44 and, in November, numbers 32, 72 and 79. The next two draws will take place at the SP Café on **Saturday 13th December** and **Saturday 10th January**. Thank you as always for your support, *Hilary*

South Perrott Coffee Club

The next coffee clubs are on **Monday 1st December**, hosted by Patsy and Peter in Pattens Cottage (01935 891292) and on **Monday 5th January**.

The Parrett Hotel

Charity Breakfasts in aid of Woman V Cancer will be held on **21st December** and **11th January** from 10-12pm. On Christmas day, the bar will open for drinks from 12 noon until 2pm.

Millennium Green Update

It was reported at the AGM of the South Perrott and Chedington Millennium Green Trust held on 13th November that the appointment of South Perrott Parish Council as sole Trustee of the Trust was completed on 10th October. The lease of the Millennium Green is still held by the Trust, with the Parish Council as Trustee. Day to day responsibility for the running of the Trust will rest with a small Steering Group of residents, supported by the Secretary of the Trust. Requests for expenditure on grass cutting or other ad hoc maintenance will be made to the Parish Council for approval. Existing funds belonging to the Trust will be transferred to the Parish Council and ring fenced for expenditure on the Millennium Green. Martyn Gillingham has resigned as Secretary of the Trust after 14 years in post and a new secretary is sought.

Martyn will remain involved with the Trust as Parish Councillor with special responsibility for the Millennium Green. If you would be interested in taking on the role of Secretary or would like further information on what it entails, please contact Martyn on 01935 891931 or email mcvgillingham@btinternet.com. Also, if you would like to join the Steering Group, then please get in touch.

Chedington and South Perrott Gardening Club

The next meeting of the Gardening Club is on **10th December** with a talk on Gardening for Wildlife For more information call Rosemary (07813983821) or Dave (07837064011).

Steel Band Taster Workshops

Are you aware that, for the last nine years or so, South Perrott has had its own steel band? Under the guidance of Mike Hayes, this group has had many members, at different times, and has progressed to being able to perform at village and other events. However, our numbers have dwindled and we are keen to provide an opportunity for anyone interested to have a go! There will be a series of 3 sessions in January, in which you will be invited to have a try on the various instruments that make up a steel band. The dates are **8th, 15th and 22nd January**, from 6.30 – 7.30, and the sessions will be run by Michelle and Mike Hayes. The cost for all three sessions will be £12 in total. Please contact Michelle and Mike on 01935 891034 to book in advance. All are welcome, young and old, musical or not, and previous members who would like to revisit, are welcome too. Come along to these fun and joyful sessions, try something new for 2026, and let the ring of the steel pan brighten your January!

STOP PRESS! = Something else to brighten January –Save the date: **Friday, 30th January**, The Cratchits and The Hayes are organising a ‘Cheer up Cheese and Wine evening’ in the Village Hall. More details will follow.

BT Digital Voice and Vulnerable Customers - Update

The switchover to Digital Voice for BT customers is coming soon! Apparently, BT only has 146,000 customers left in the South West to switch from analogue to digital. The BT Connected Together website (www.bt.com/connected-together) provides customers, families, support networks and organisations with guidance, resources and support all in one place.

If you have not yet registered as a vulnerable customer with BT, it may not be too late. You should receive 4 weeks’ notice before being moved onto Digital Voice and a BT/EE engineer will set up the equipment for you. You can also ask for a free battery back-up as the Digital Voice phone will not work in a power cut. Also, ask about free DV adaptors for additional phones. *Cllr Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931*

Neighbour Car Scheme

The Parish Council is exploring re-launching the above scheme, which provides transport to hospitals, doctors, dentists, opticians, chiropodists, prescription collection, etc., for those residents who do not have their own means of transport.

Beaminster Country Cars currently operates a similar scheme, and would be willing to extend their area of operation to include South Perrott and Chedington. Ideally, this would be feasible **if South Perrott and Chedington could supply two volunteer drivers** for the scheme. Drivers would need to have their own “social, domestic and pleasure” car insurance cover, which should include cover for non-profit making journeys under a voluntary driving arrangement. Users of the service contribute 50p per mile to the driver to offset travel expenses.

If you are willing to volunteer as a driver for this scheme, please contact Cllr Martyn Gillingham on 01935 891931 or email cllrmartyngillingham@southperrottparishcouncil.gov.uk for further information.

2025 Poppy Appeal

As in previous years, South Perrott residents generously donated to the Royal British Legion’s Poppy Appeal. Anthony and I did our usual rounds in the village and are delighted to report that we raised £297.43. Thanks go to Tom who once again placed 10 large poppies at various points around the village including on the “Tommy” at the bottom of Church Hill. Thank you everyone for your support. *Sue Coutanche & Anthony de la Poer*

Footpath Update - November 2025

Overhanging Foliage – residents are reminded that it is still the growing season and are politely requested to cut back any foliage (Shrubs, Bushes, Trees) where it is overhanging onto footpaths and roads. The vegetation that is obscuring road signs has been reported to DC to action.

Dogs on leads - Dog owners are politely requested to keep their dogs on leads at ALL times when walking across farm land even when it is not apparent that there is livestock present. Farmers have sheep grazing in their fields and have also stocked their woodlands with pheasants for the shooting season. It is therefore imperative that when walking across their land dogs are kept under control and on leads, and pedestrians must take note of all signage.

Langmoor Lane –Dorset Council’s Senior Ranger, Stuart Semple, has been informed that there is a tree overhanging the bridleway by Hunters Hatch that is quite precarious and a potential danger to the public. This is in addition to the outstanding repairs required to the bridleway.

As a result of the recent strong winds there are other trees in the village that also need pruning back. Stuart has been informed of these.

Sue Coutanche, SP Footpath Officer

South Perrott Parish Council (SPPC) Meeting – 4th November 2025

Below is an outline of the main topics covered in this meeting and brought forward from the meeting held on 2nd September 2025. Full details are available in the draft minutes which are posted on the Parish Council noticeboard and on www.southperrottparishcouncil.org. In attendance were four councillors and acting clerk Angela Gillingham. Apologies were received from Cllr. Robin Ketteridge, PCSO Alex Bishop and Clerk Mark Payne,

- ❖ **5G Signal:** Suitable sites within the vicinity of the village are being sought for the installation of a 5G Mast.
- ❖ **Overgrown Hedges and obscured Road Signs:** See *Footpath Update*.
- ❖ **Neighbourhood Car Scheme Update:** See *Separate item*
- ❖ **Flooding on the A356 outside Sarum:** Cllr. Gillingham in his River Warden's report referred to the flooding that frequently occurs on the A356 outside Sarum when there is a period of rain. He had logged an enquiry to Dorset Council Highways on 22/09/2025 requesting that the blocked culvert under the road is pressure jetted to resolve this problem. To date no action had been taken. *Subsequent to the meeting, the residents of both Sarum and Winton Cottage, on 14/11/2025 contacted Highways requesting that urgent action was taken due to the danger presented by the flood at this location. Highways attended within two hours but without the necessary equipment! Dorset Cllr. Craig Monks is now involved and senior officers have been made aware of the problem*
At the same time Cllr. Gillingham reported that the gully on the A356 at Lecher Brook on the eastern side of the village needed attention due to frequent flooding that occurs here too..
- ❖ **Road Safety and 20mph speed limit: Road Safety and 20mph limit through the village:** In the last couple of months, SPPC had issued every resident of South Perrott with a voting slip to ascertain if residents would like the introduction of a 20mph within the village where it is currently 30mph. The return rate was 60% and of those returned 72% (99) were in favour; 27.5% (34) were against; 0.5% (4) were inconclusive. A discussion ensued and the Chairman Cllr. Footitt agreed to contact Dorset Cllr. Monks to discuss the next step.
- ❖ **Millennium Green** It's official, South Perrott Parish Council is now the sole trustee of the Millennium Green (MG). *The report from the MG AGM held on 13/11/25 refers.*
- ❖ **Digital Voice (DV):** Cllr Gillingham advised that in October BT notified him that he would be switched over to DV within the next 30 days and would be given four weeks' notice of the change. Landline customers on the old system should be aware as the switch over is imminent.
- ❖ **Footpath Officer's Report:** See *Footpath Update for information.*
- ❖ **Finance:** SPPC Current balance at 04/11/2025 was £9,964.45
- ❖ **Budget 2026-27:** The Chairman presented the draft Budget for 2026-2027 totalling £6,643, which was accepted and approved. The precept requested for 2026-7 is £6,000 the same as 2025-6.
- ❖ **Environment- Plastic Free Community (PFC):** Yvonne Sullivan is South Perrott's PFC Champion and in the current issue (December 2025) of Team News Yvonne has highlighted the issues and challenges of becoming a PFC and encourages everyone to make small changes to reduce their plastic waste. This includes our local primary school Parrett & Axe where recently Yvonne and Sacha Buchan gave a talk.
- ❖ **Planters at School Hill:** A volunteer is needed now on a temporary basis, 2/3 months, to maintain the planters at the bottom of School Hill. If interested please contact the Clerk.
- ❖ **Planning:**
 - P/FUL/2024/06664 Shepherd huts at Picket Lane Nursery – application refused.
 Full details of all applications plus public comments can be viewed at:
www.planning.dorset.gov.uk/online-applications/

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 6th January 2026** at 7pm in SP Village Hall.

South Perrott Parish Councillors

Councillor	Telephone No.	e-mail Address
Richard Footitt (Chairman)	01935 891115	cllrrichardfootitt@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Robin Ketteridge (Vice Chairman)		cllrrobinketteridge@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Tom Scott-Malden	07830 115743	cllrtomscottalden@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Martyn Gillingham	01935 891931	cllrmartyngillingham@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Sue Coutanche	07971 979155	cllrsuecoutanche@southperrottparishcouncil.org

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mark Payne	clerk@southperrottparishcouncil.org
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Dorset Councillor for Beaminster Electoral Division

Craig Monks	01305 225968	cllrcraig.monks@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
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Parish Champions

Digital Champion	Jonathan Baker	07903 995696.	jonathan@southperrott.com
Listed Buildings Champion	Martyn Gillingham	01935 891931	mcvgillingham@btinternet.com

Editors – Pump and Pound

Dave McSkelly	01935 891891	davemcskelly@gmail.com
Sue Coutanche	01935 891019	sue.coutanche@btinternet.com

What's On in South Perrott and Chedington?

December 2025		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Monday	1 st	10:30	Coffee Club	Pattens Cottage	Patys/Peter - 891292
Saturday	6 th	10:30	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Sam - 07939 106381
Sunday	7 th	12:30	SP Village Xmas Lunch	SP Village Hall	Hilary - 891115
Wednesday	10 th	19:30	Garden Club with Gold Club	Chedington Village Hall	Dave - 891891
Saturday	13 th	10:00	Alex Bishop @ SP Café	SP Village Hall	Dave - 891891
Wednesday	17 th	19:00	Grand Christmas Raffle Draw	Winyard's Gap	Lucy/Bron - 891244 Sue - 07971 979155
Saturday	20 th	19:00	Chedington Xmas Party	Chedington Village Hall	Sam - 07939 106381
Sunday	21 st	10:00	Charity Breakfast	Parrett Hotel	James/Yvonne - 891355
Wednesday	24 th	18:00	Carol Service	St Mary's Church, SP	

January 2026		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Saturday	3 rd	10:30	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Sam - 07939 106381
Sunday	4 th	09:00	Big Breakfast	SP Village Hall	Martyn - 891931
Monday	5 th	10:30	Coffee Club	TBA	
Tuesday	6 th	19:00	SP Parish Council	SP Village Hall	
Thursday	8 th	18:30	Steel Band Taster Workshop	SP Village Hall	Michelle/Mike - 891034
Saturday	10 th	10:00	Alex Bishop @ SP Café	SP Village Hall	Dave - 891891
Sunday	11 th	10:00	Charity Breakfast	Parrett Hotel	James/Yvonne - 891355
Thursday	15 th	18:30	Steel Band Taster Workshop	SP Village Hall	Michelle/Mike - 891034
Thursday	22 nd	18:30	Steel Band Taster Workshop	SP Village Hall	Michelle/Mike - 891034
Friday	30 th	18:30	Cheer up Cheese and Wine evening	SP Village Hall	Michelle/Mike - 891034

Future Events – Saturday 7th February 2026– Dave Smith Memorial Trophy Quiz

Regular Events – Winter 2025/2026

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Every Saturday	10:00	Café (not 27 th December)	SP Village Hall	Dave - 891891
Every Monday	19:00	Short Mat Bowls	SP Village Hall	Doreen - 891431
Every Wednesday	09:30	Yoga	SP Village Hall	Jane C - 07925148222
	14:00	Craft and Natter	SP Village Hall	Jane B - 07771830006 01308 478304

To keep up to date with village events view:

Facebook Pages ("like" and "share"): South Perrott	www.facebook.com/SouthPerrott www.facebook.com/SouthPerrottSupportGroup
Chedington	www.facebook.com/ChedingtonVillage
South Perrott Parish Council website	www.southperrottparishcouncil.org

Local Contacts:

Chedington Village Hall:

Chairman Sam Mackenzie-Green 07939 106381
Bookings Rosemary Sanderson 07813 983821
Email chedingtonvh@gmail.com

Winyard's Gap Lucy/Bron 01935 891244

St Mary's Church:

Church Warden Christine Howard 01460 76405
Secretary Sue Coutanche sue.coutanche@btinternet.com

South Perrott Footpaths Officer

Sue Coutanche 07971 979155/01935 891019

South Perrott Village Hall:

Chairman Dave McSkelly 01935 891891
Secretary Angela Gillingham 01935 891931
Bookings SouthPerrottVillageHall@gmail.com

Parrett Hotel James/Yvonne 01935 891355

Millennium Green

Secretary Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931

CB3 Bus Service (Saturdays) 07716 643087

Dorset Community Transport 01258 287987

Issue 87 of The Pump & Pound, covering February and March 2026, will be published at the end of January. Contributions should be sent to Sue or Dave by **Friday 23rd January**.