

THE PUMP & POUND

South Perrott and Chedington Newsletter

Issue 87

February/March 2026

The decorations have been put away and all New Year resolutions have been made and put into practice or broken already! Anyway, we hope that you all have fond memories of our Christmas festivities. Both villages' usual activities have now resumed. Although we are small villages, we have very socially active communities, so please take advantage of all that is on offer – everyone will always receive a warm welcome!

The Editors

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 7th February** and **Saturday 7th March**. 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 **7th March**. 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 7th February** and **Saturday 14th March**.

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. If you have not already entered a team and wish to do so, 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 that you can join.

On **Saturday 14th March**, we will be holding a **St Patrick's Day Supper** with Irish themed food and music. Tickets are £15 for a two course meal and doors open at 6.30 for 7.00pm. There will be a full cash bar. To book contact Hilary on 01935 891115 or by email to hilary.spvillage@gmail.com.

Please note that village Hall bookings, other than events, are now being handled by Heather Noon whose details are shown on the back page.

Big Breakfasts

The final Big Breakfasts of the season in South Perrott Village Hall are on **Sunday 1st February** and **Sunday 1st March**. We look forward to welcoming you with a Full English Breakfast, our popular Jumbo Big Breakfast or a healthy porridge as an alternative, and the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Jumble Sale

The next jumble sale is on **Saturday 28th March** in South Perrott Village Hall. Doors open at 2pm and entry is £1. Proceeds go to St. Mary's Church.

SPLottery – 2025/26

Another two of our very own SPLottery draws have taken place: the winning numbers for December were 22, 31, 82 and for January were 30, 68, 36. The final draws of this current round will take place at the SP Café on **14th February** and **7th March**. Good luck to all those who have yet to win a prize! *Hilary*

South Perrott Coffee Club

The next coffee clubs are on **Monday 2nd February**, hosted by Ann in The Granary (01935 891224) and on **Monday 2nd March**, hosted by Doreen in Pipplepen Cottage (01935 891431).

The Parrett Hotel

Charity Breakfasts in aid of Woman V Cancer will be held on **15th February** and **22nd March** from 10am -12noon. The bar will now be open from 6:30 every evening but will close at 7:30 if there are no customers by then.

Winyard's Gap

Our first **quiz** of the year is on **Sunday 1st February** from 6pm, for teams of up to 6 people, in aid of Halstock FC. Entry is £5 per person. Our kitchen will be serving some finger-food snacks, including mac 'n cheese bites and dirty fries to keep you fuelled between rounds. Booking is essential - call or email us to reserve your team's place.

From **Thursday 5th February** to **Saturday 14th March**, you can catch up on all the **Six Nations** action on our big pop-up screen in the bar.

On **Sunday 8th March** from 6.30pm, our **Jazz Supper Club** features a live jazz quartet with Kate Mullins on vocals and includes a seasonal two-course supper. Enjoy some fantastic live jazz music in a relaxed, intimate setting - an easy-going way to finish the weekend. Entry is £30 per head. Spaces are limited and booking is essential so call or email us to reserve your place.

We are taking bookings for **Mother's Day** on **Sunday 15th March**.

Chedington and South Perrott Gardening Club

The next meeting of the Gardening Club is on **Wednesday 11th February** with a talk on “The island of Tresco in the Isles of Scilly” by Ian Condon. On **Wednesday 11th March**, there will be a presentation on “Adventures with plant photography – visible and invisible” by Adrian Davies. Meetings start at 7.30pm and all are welcome. For more information call Rosemary (07813 983821) or Dave (07837 064011).



BT Digital Voice and PlusNet Customers - Update

The switchover to Digital Voice is now in its final year to meet the deadline of January 2027. Although the South West was targeted for last Autumn, the programme has been concentrating on the remaining customers in the South East. Hopefully our turn will be next!

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.

Whilst BT and EE customers are being moved to digital landlines, **PlusNet** have confirmed that they will not be offering a digital landline service after January 2027. They will be writing to their customers to provide information on alternative solutions for those who wish to retain a landline phone service, either by transferring to EE or to a different provider. *Cllr Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931*

WANTED – VOLUNTEERS - YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Parish Council would like to re-launch the **Neighbour Car 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. Two volunteer drivers are needed from South Perrott and Chedington to sign up to this scheme. This is not an onerous commitment as the vast majority of residents have their own cars. **Please** think if you can help to provide this essential service. Users of the service contribute 50p per mile to the driver to offset travel expenses.

Also, the post of **Secretary to the Millennium Green Trust** remains vacant. Duties include arranging one or two meetings a year with the Steering Group to decide on maintenance issues, and the AGM in November. The annual return to the Charity Commission also needs to be completed. **If you have exciting ideas on future plans for the Green, then this is your opportunity!**

If you are interested in either vacancies, or require further information, please contact Cllr Martyn Gillingham on 01935 891931 or email cllrmartyngillingham@southperrottparishcouncil.gov.uk for further information.

The 2025 Grand Christmas Raffle

I'm delighted to report that the 2025 Grand Christmas Raffle raised £1,406 for St. Mary's Church, South Perrott and Chedington. This is the most raised by the Raffle to date and sets a new target to achieve this year!

Martin Clunes, did a great job drawing the Raffle, and it was lovely that his wife was there too. A big thank you goes to Bron and Lucy who hosted the Raffle Draw at Winyard's Gap. There were over 20 prize winners and 23 prizes that were generously donated; all the sponsors have been personally thanked. It was a most enjoyable evening and thank you to all who attended and of course all who bought tickets during the preceding months; you all contributed to its success!

We are now looking forward to this year's Grand Raffle, which again will be held at Winyard's Gap in December. *Sue Coutanche St. Mary's PCC Raffle Promoter*

Footpath Update

Good news! The new owner of Orchard Farm has confirmed that he intends to retain the 'Permissive' path that crosses his land. The alternative to access the Millennium Green and beyond to Chedington is to use the Bailey's Lane bridleway that goes through the River Parrett, which is often fast flowing and can be quite deep in places.

Langmoor Lane continues to need attention. In my last correspondence from DC's West Dorset Ranger, it was explained that currently there was no funding available, or that could be identified, to carry out the necessary repairs to this bridleway. I will continue to request updates from DC and a possible site visit in the coming months.

I have regular informal contacts with the farmers who keep me updated on their "shoots" and other land matters. In addition to those in South Perrott who use the local paths there are a number of regular Mosterton walkers too.

Sue Coutanche, SP Footpath Officer

South Perrott Parish Council (SPPC) Meeting – 6th January 2026

Below is an outline of the main topics covered in this meeting and brought forward from the meeting held on 4th November 2025. Full details are available in the draft minutes which are posted on the Parish Council noticeboard and on www.southperrottparishcouncil.gov.uk. In attendance were five councillors, Dorset Cllr. Craig Monks and clerk Mark Payne. Apologies were received from Yvonne Sullivan

- ❖ **Overgrown Hedges and obscured Road Signs:** These have now been reported to Dorset Council (DC) along with the chevrons that need reinstating.
- ❖ **Shepherd's Huts application** – The owners of Picket Lane Nursery have withdrawn their planning application following initial refusal by DC.

- ❖ **Neighbourhood Car Scheme Update:** Volunteer drivers for SP and Chedington are needed. See *Separate item "WANTED-Volunteers"*.
- ❖ **Mobile/5G Signal:** Cllr. Craig Monks reported that work to improve mobile coverage in the Mosterton/South Perrott area is ongoing with suitable sites being sought.
- ❖ **CB3 Community Bus:** This service which is run by volunteers is continuing to be regularly used by two SP residents and, on occasions, by other residents too.
- ❖ **Flooding on the A356 outside Sarum:** Following an initial request to DC made by Cllr. Martyn Gillingham on 22nd September 2025 to clear the blocked culvert under A356 outside Sarum, the culvert was eventually jettied and cleared on 2nd December 2025. In the intervening months the road had flooded regularly at this location. Despite recent heavy rainfall, including Storm Bram, no flooding has occurred here. There had, however, been flooding on the A356 between the village and Misterton. Cllr. Martyn Gillingham thanked everyone who had reported the problem which led to a successful outcome. Cllr. Monks also reported that he has been chasing Highways regarding routine maintenance across the Ward which includes South Perrott. Highways have also assured us that rodding and gully clearance will continue.
- ❖ **Road Safety and 20mph speed limit through the village:** Further to initial consultation with residents, an assessment was made by SPPC from the evidence provided by the survey and against the DC criteria. The results showed that South Perrott did not meet the minimum thresholds set by DC; however, despite this it was agreed, with Cllr. Craig Monks' support, to submit an application to DC to progress to the next step in the process. In the meantime, Cllr. Craig Monks agreed to make a request to Dorset Police to conduct a Speed Detection operation at a strategic location in the village.
- ❖ **Millennium Green:** Cllr Martyn Gillingham has resigned as Secretary of the South Perrott and Chedington Millennium Green Trust and a new Secretary is urgently needed. *Reference item "WANTED -Volunteers"*.
- ❖ **Footpath Officer's Report:** See *separate item*.
- ❖ **Finance:** SPPC's current balance at 6th January 2026 was £9,200.57
- ❖ **Budget 2026-27:** The precept of £6,000 was accepted and submitted to DC. There has been no increase as it has been set the same as 2025/6.
- ❖ **Planters at School Hill:** As there had been no volunteers Cllr. Richard Footitt purchased £12 worth of plants, which he planted himself.
- ❖ **Digital Voice (DV):** See *separate item*.
- ❖ **Planning:**
 - P/ESC/2025/07348 – Wessex Water Waste Treatment Plant
 - P/HED/2025/00007 - Hedgerow removal in conjunction with the above. SPPC had not been formally consulted as they are both located in Somerset, however there were no objections to these proposals.

Full details of all applications plus public comments can be viewed at: www.planning.dorset.gov.uk/online-applications/

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2026 in South Perrott Village Hall at 7pm.

Subsequent meetings in 2026 are at 7pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5th May (AGM), Tuesday 7th July, Tuesday 1st September and Tuesday 3rd November

South Perrott Parish Councillors

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

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mark Payne	clerk@southperrottparishcouncil.gov.uk
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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?

February 2026		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Sunday	1 st	09:00	Big Breakfast	SP Village Hall	Martyn - 891931
		18:00	Quiz	Winyard's Gap	Lucy/Bron - 891244
Monday	2 nd	10:30	Coffee Club	The Granary	Ann - 891224
Saturday	7 th	10:30	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Sam - 07939 106381
		18:30	Dave Smith Memorial Quiz	SP Village Hall	Dave - 891891
Wednesday	11 th	19:30	Garden Club with Ian Condon	Chedington Village Hall	Dave - 891891
Sunday	15 th	10:00	Charity Breakfast	Parrett Hotel	James/Yvonne - 891355

March 2026		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Sunday	1 st	09:00	Big Breakfast	SP Village Hall	Martyn - 891931
Monday	2 nd	10:30	Coffee Club	Pipplepen Cottage	Doreen - 891431
Tuesday	3 rd	19:00	SP Parish Council	SP Village Hall	
Saturday	7 th	10:00	Alex Bishop @ SP Café	SP Village Hall	Dave - 891891
		10:30	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Sam - 07939 106381
Sunday	8 th	18:30	Jazz Supper Club	Winyard's Gap	Lucy/Bron 891244
Wednesday	11 th	19:30	Garden Club with Adrian Davies	Chedington Village Hall	Dave - 891891
Saturday	14 th	18:30	St Patrick's Supper	SP Village Hall	Hilary - 891115
Sunday	22 nd	10:00	Charity Breakfast	Parrett Hotel	James/Yvonne - 891355
Saturday	28 th	14:00	Jumble Sale	SP Village Hall	Ann - 891224

Future Events Family Bingo Friday 10th April in SPVH
St George's Day Dinner, Saturday 18th April

Regular Events – Spring 2026

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Every Saturday	10:00	Café (not 7 th February, 14 th March, 28 th March)	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

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.gov.uk

Local Contacts:

Chedington Village Hall:

Chairman Sam Mackenzie-Green 07939106381
Bookings Rosemary Sanderson 07813983821
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 07971979155/01935 891019

South Perrott Village Hall:

Chairman Dave McSkelly 01935 891891
Secretary Angela Gillingham 01935 891931
Bookings southperrottvh@gmail.com
Heather Noon 07399886103

Parrett Hotel James/Yvonne 01935 891355

Millennium Green

Secretary Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931

CB3 Bus Service (Saturdays) 07716643087

Dorset Community Transport 01258 287987

Issue 88 of The Pump & Pound, covering April and May 2026, will be published at the end of March. Contributions should be sent to Sue or Dave by **Monday 23rd March**.