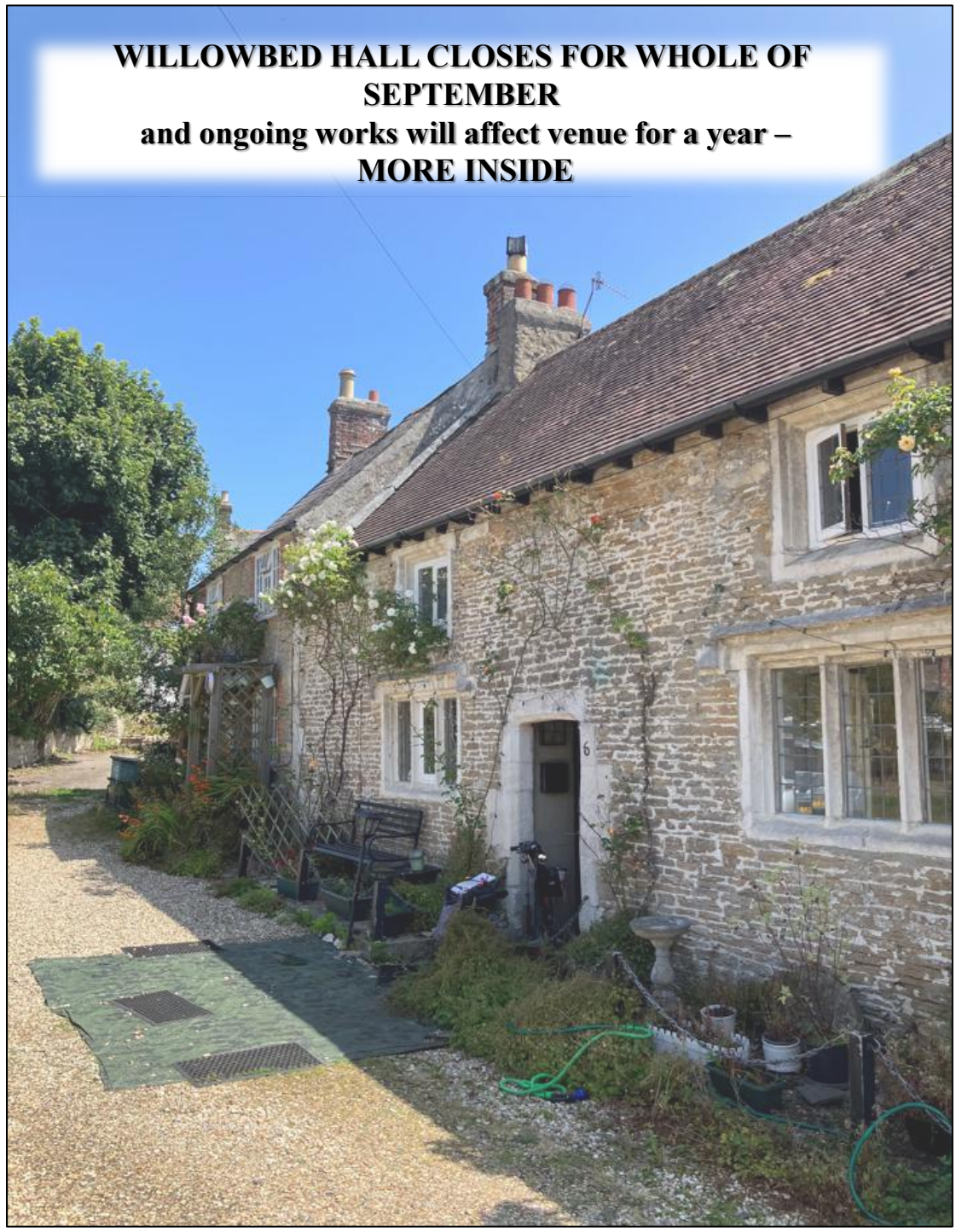
CONTACT

OCTOBER
Deadline 8AM
14th SEPT.
For **all** content-
Editorial &
Adverts

The community magazine for Chickerell and Fleet since 1976
SEPTEMBER 2025 No 570

WILLOWBED HALL CLOSES FOR WHOLE OF SEPTEMBER

and ongoing works will affect venue for a year – MORE INSIDE



Picture shows historic cottages in North Square – part of the village conservation area

INSIDE THIS MONTH

HEDGEHOG FAYRE – Help our prickly friends

MOTHS SPOTTED!

See Nature Notes

PANTO STARS
of the past revealed

PLUS: Children's party at Chickerell Library ✦ Special opening of water gardens

Please note earlier deadline for all articles/adverts for next issue

From the editor:

Well done to the Turks Head and their supporters for the successful cream tea event, raising £4,000 for the Breast Cancer Now charity.

This month we have put together an article on the Charlestown pantomimes of the 1950s. It was good to be part of those days, with so much fun and happy memories. It's a long time ago, but you may know some of the faces.
I am sorry to report of the deaths of Gweneth Daws, wife of the late Peter, and of Ken Pilgrim of Rolfe Close. To the families we send our condolences.
We have a warning from the police of a winter fuel scam – be prepared.
We have had a very warm summer. We do not really wish for heavy rain, but our gardens would be pleased with a few showers.
And finally, Bennetts Water Gardens are open on September 5th under The National Gardens Scheme for charity. Always worth a visit to these tranquil gardens and to see the Chickerell Museum and the history of Putton Brickworks.

John Dean

DIARY DATES SEPTEMBER
For more see local group entries

2nd: Colour & Chat (adults) library 2-4.
3rd: Craft & Chat, Methodist Church Chapel, 2pm.
4th: Chickerell Luncheon Club.
5th: Water gardens open for NGS (10am to 4pm)
5th: Coffee morning, Chickerell Library, 10am to 11.30am.
5th: Bingo, Charlestown Victory Hall, doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7pm.
8th: Children's Garden Party and Open Library Day, 2-4pm in the Peto Garden and Library.
8th: Peto Book Club, library, 2pm.
10th: Knit & Natter, library, 10.15-12.15.
11th: Walkers Club meets 2pm, Willowbed Hall. Fleet walk to Weymouth.
12th: Crafty Sew & Sews, 7pm, Chickerell Methodist Church.
13th: Chickerell Councillor surgery, (Neil Hudson) Library, 10am-12.

13th: Hedgehog Fayre, Methodist Church, 10am-12.30pm.

16th: Colour & Chat (adults) library 2-4.
17th: Craft & Chat, Methodist Church Chapel, 2pm.
19th: Bingo, Charlestown Victory Hall, doors open 6.30pm eyes down 7pm.
20th: Walkers Club easy one hour walk from Willowbed. Meet 9am, Willowbed Hall.
24th : Walkers Club Scenic Walk. Meet 10am, Langton Herring.
24th: Knit & Natter, library, 10.15-12.15.
26th: St Mary's Coffee morning in the church, 10am-12noon. Raffle, books, jigsaws, homemade cakes.
26th: Crafty Sew & Sews, 7pm, Chickerell Methodist Church.
27th: Chickerell Methodist Church coffee morning in the chapel, 10-11.30am.
29th: Walkers Club country walk. Meet in Dorchester, 10am.

WHO TO CONTACT: **Editor: John Dean**, 4 Rashley Road (01305) 785895. **Treasurer/Advertising Manager: David Tattersall: (**01305) 761643. email: **davidtattersall2003@yahoo.co.uk** Please contact David if you wish to place an advert or renew an advert. **Compiler: Caroline Tomlinson:** Email: caroline@elephantsears.org
Please send all letters to the editor, articles and editorial to the compiler. When sending an email, you need to put 'Contact Magazine' & the appropriate month in the subject heading, or it will be regarded as 'spam'. You need to add a phone number for queries. Letters and editorial contributions, which **may be edited**, are welcome but anonymous letters will not be published. Note: the views and opinions expressed by the contributors in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor, compiler or publisher. Every effort is made to ensure all information provided is correct at time of going to press. **Closing date for articles:** 5pm on the 15th of the preceding month. **Closing date for adverts:** (including amendments to current adverts) 5pm on the 15th of the preceding month. PLEASE SEND ADVERTS AS EITHER A JPEG OR BITMAP AND SIZED ACCORDINGLY. Thank you. All artwork is accepted on the strict condition that permission has been given for its use in this publication. Adverts are accepted in good faith in the strict understanding that goods and services described are both fair & accurate. Adverts will not be placed in Contact without prior payment.
Copies of Contact (if not delivered to your door) available at: Chickerell Library; Chickerell Pharmacy and hairdresser next door; Wessex Pharmacy; Sgt Bun Bakery, Lanehouse Rocks Road; Codfathers. Online in colour on the Chickerell website.

CHICKERELL WEBSITE By James Bennett: Find us at www.chickerell.com and view Contact Magazine including past issues.

HEALTH INFORMATION

WYKE REGIS AND LANEHOUSE MEDICAL PRACTICE: (with Chickerell Surgery) Registered patients are requested to use the internet site: wykeregisandlanehousesurgery.com for any medical query or appointment request. If unable to access this: Tel: 01305 782226. **Emergency Care Service: Dial 111. If critically ill call 999.** For critical conditions: DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL Accident and Emergency Department, Dorchester. Urgent, less critical: WEYMOUTH URGENT CARE CENTRE, Weymouth Community Hospital. Open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.
CHEMISTS: Chickerell Pharmacy 779054: Open 8.30-5.30pm Monday to Friday (closed lunch 1-2pm). Wessex Pharmacy (Lanehouse) 783287: Open 9-5.30pm Mon to Fri (closed lunch 1-2.15pm) Sat: 9-1pm.

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Contact is printed by Print Shop Express, Chickerell.

NEWS……NEWS…..NEWS…..NEWS….NEWS….NEWS….

WILLOWBED HALL CLOSURE AND LIMIT TO ACCESS: Chickerell Town Council has announced the Willowbed Hall will be CLOSED to ALL USERS FOR THE WHOLE OF SEPTEMBER with reduced facilities from October onwards for a year due to hoped for extension works. The refurbishment works in September will be followed by a phased re-opening from October 1st, but the kitchen will not be in use and there will be limits/effects for on-site parking.

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SUCCESS FOR BREAST CANCER CHARITY FUNDRAISER: The special fund-raising cream tea at the Turks Head in August raised £4,000 for the Breast Cancer Now charity. The organisers want to thank everyone who took part including local businesses, friends, family and the local community for their support with special thanks to The Turks Head for donating the cream teas and hosting the event. It is hoped that more people will host their own events for the charity and next month, raise money with the Wear it Pink event on Friday 22nd October – for more information see www.wearitpink.org

HEDGEHOG FAIR: Learn all about the prickly gardeners' friends and what can be done to support these little mammals at the **Chickerell Hedgehog Fair on Saturday September 13th** from 10am to 12.30pm at Chickerell Methodist Church, North Square. There will be stalls, hedgehog novelties, a tombola, raffle and more plus a map of local sightings that can be added to. Refreshments will be served (gluten free and vegan catered for) which will include cakes, biscuits and bacon butties. For more details email rjwdorsetnature@gmail.com or see Facebook - Chickerell Hedgehog Friendly Town Group.

ROAD CLOSURES AROUND WEYMOUTH FOR IRONMAN – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14th: Preston Beach Road will once again be closed for the whole day for this annual challenging sporting event. The road will be closed in both directions between Westerhall Road and the Overcombe roundabout **from 4am** to 6pm. Overcombe and Bowleaze, Littlemoor Road (eastbound) and Coombe Valley Road will also be affected up until 2pm and there are also road closures all day around Fordington in Dorchester. If you are travelling further afield, there will be road closures affecting Warmwell, Crossways, Tincleton, Puddletown, Piddletrenthide and Buckland Newton and Charminster, Cerne Abbas and Minterne Magna. For more information see www.ironman.com/im703-weymouth or email Weymouth@ironmanroadaccess.com

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YOUR CHANCE TO COMMENT ON DORSET'S FUTURE LANDSCAPE: Dorset Council is seeking views on how the county's natural beauty and wildlife should be protected and improved up until 2030. The Dorset National Landscape (used to be the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) consultation started in July and continues **until September 22nd**. Residents wanting to comment can take part online, collect a paper copy from libraries or request one direct from Dorset National Landscape team. For more info see dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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E SCOOTERS update from Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick: Mr Sidwick says being aware of public concern, Dorset Police is taking robust action. The force has seized more than 50 electric scooters and 33 electric bikes that have been driving illegally. Once seized, the illegally modified bikes, scooters and scramblers are taken away, crushed and recycled. Mr Sidwick adds that currently privately-owned e-scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission. "It is illegal to use them anywhere else and this includes public roads, pavements, in cycle lanes and pedestrian-only areas such as town centres and beach fronts." He says he would like to see manufacturers ensuring bikes cannot go above certain speeds combined with mandatory licence plates, driving tests and insurance combined with a minimum age for using them.

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NEWS FROM DORSET TRADING STANDARDS: Warning over counterfeit pet medicine: Trading Standards says a pet cat nearly lost his life recently because of a counterfeit flea product bought online. The product was a copy of a genuine and widely used tick and flea treatment and looked legitimate but inside was a toxic insecticide that led to emergency surgery. The warning is criminals are increasingly targeting pet owners through online marketplaces. More than 18,000 illegal animal medicines were intercepted last year. Many buyers like the ease of buying online and a recent survey found most believe the quality of counterfeit products would match the real thing. Counterfeit products can, however, make a pet seriously ill because they are untested and unregulated. Red flags are spelling errors, poor quality packaging and unusual smells. Trading Standards says people should only buy from trusted sources such as reputable pet retailers, pharmacies and licensed vets. Reports of fake products can be reported to Trading Standards via www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or via the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Wednesday 5:30pm & 7pm

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NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS, CLUBS & SOCIETIES – more overleaf

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S – Chickerell's historic, listed church in North Square

The 100 Club winners for August were numbers: 27, 29 and 63 Our next Coffee Morning will be on **Friday 26th September** from 10am-12noon in the North Aisle Café, with raffle, books, jigsaws and Homemade cakes. Entry is £1 to include your drink and biscuits and free refill, if required. Our Coffee Morning on July 25th raised a total of £137.50 (thanks to the cakemakers and purchasers, who contributed £55.50 to that total) and the sale of lavender bags over the past few months has raised £55. On August 15th we will have had our Seafront Stall, shared with Emmanuel Church and a report of that will appear in next month's Contact. A correction from last month's St Mary's News, concerning the wedding chairs; it was said that Stan Groves and his wife, Barbara were married in 1952. They were actually married on 26th December 1956 (Boxing Day).

LIFE & SOUL COMMUNITY TRUST

Unfortunately, there is **NO Life & Soul Village Cafe in September due to reconstruction work beginning on the Willowbed Hall**. This work continues through to early 2026 and means that throughout this period there are no kitchen facilities available. However, the Life & Soul committee is organising alternative arrangements from October onwards for this very popular event to continue while work is completed.
Details of these changes will be published in next month's Contact magazine and on the Life & Soul Facebook page. The Life & Soul Walking Club will still meet outside the Willowbed on **Saturday 20th September at 9am** as scheduled (*see below*).

LIFE & SOUL WALKERS CLUB: Group walks organised each month for those who like walking

Thursday 11th September: Fleet Walk to Weymouth. Meet 2pm at the Willowbed Hall. Walk to Pirates Cove and Rodwell Trail – five to six miles.
Saturday 20th September: Easy Hour Walk. Meet 9am at the Willowbed Hall via the Lugger to pick up those that want to start the walk there. Prams, dogs and mobility scooters are all welcome for this social stroll.
Wednesday 24th September: Scenic Walk. Meet 10am at Langton Herring on the first corner leading into the village. Medium walk, via West Fleet; a choice of a three-or-four-mile walk.
Monday 29th September: Country Walk at Poundbury, Dorchester. Meet 10am at St Johns Ambulance, Bridport Road (first roundabout into Dorchester from Monkey's Jump, by the Great Field). Three to four miles.

CHICKERELL LUNCHEON CLUB – First Thursday of the month at the Turks Head pub, East Street

Thank you to the staff at the Turks Head for a lovely meal in August. We are spoilt!
In **September** we are having one of our favourites; home-made beef steak pie with chips and vegetables, followed by crumble.
For queries/cancellations please phone: Ann 07387 223339 or Ruth 775364.

COMMUNITY LUNCH at Marshallsay Court Lounge returns this month on **September 30th**. Please telephone 07591851075 to book a seat. Suggested donation £2.50.

CHARLESTOWN VICTORY HALL, PUTTON LANE venue for classes, clubs and events

DIARY DATES Monday: pm: Ballet; Modern Tap* (WSB) Evening: Dorset Phoenix Folk Dancing (telephone 568674 for more details). **Tuesday:** pm: Ballet; Modern Tap* (WSB). **Wednesday:** pm – WHIST. **Thursday:** pm - Gymnastics* (WSB) **Friday:** Evening - BINGO (fortnightly). **Saturday**: am Cygnets Ballet* (WSB). *additional dance sessions available with WSB (Weymouth School of Ballet) contact: Lisa 07703463974.

NEWS: We have replaced the battery and pad pack for the defibrillator, thankfully it hasn't been used but emergency services have removed it several times, just in case.
Sad to have a poor turnout for our AGM; the volunteers put a lot of work in; it would be nice for people to come along to see us. Fortunately, we do have a new volunteer to help, which is fantastic.
Bingo dates for September are 5th and 19th. **Whist every Wednesday from 2pm**. Both events are a great way to make new friends.
Don't forget we are a drop off point for Chickerell Foodbank.
For all enquiries, please contact Joe Castleman on 01305 789125.

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CHICKERELL MOONFLEET WI: Meets 7pm on second Monday of each month at Willowbed Hall

A cream tea was enjoyed in one of the WI member's beautiful gardens.

During the summer, the group has enjoyed some lovely outings and events, including a visit to Kingston Maurward, followed by a pub lunch. To recognise the 200-year anniversary of the RNLI, the group had a tour of Weymouth Lifeboat.

It was a beautiful day (right) to climb aboard see all the equipment and to imagine the conditions the crew face when out at sea.

(Photos supplied)

For more information about future meetings please contact either Jacqui on 07870 411721 or Wendy on 07710 416681.

NEWS FROM CHICKERELL METHODISTS: CHURCH & HALL corner of North Square and West St

Lunch in Fellowship Together (LIFT) is on **Wednesday 3rd September at 12.30pm** – bring and share lunch with tea & coffee provided. Craft and Chat: 2pm in the Chapel on **Wednesdays 3rd & 17th September.**
Crafty Sew & Sews: Meets in the Chapel at 7pm on **Fridays 12th & 26th September.** Bring your own craft and enjoy a chat with friends or perhaps learn something new. We welcome new members to our craft groups or just come along for a chat. **Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 27th September 10-11.30am** in the chapel. Coffee/tea, cakes and raffle and a chance to chat with friends. All welcome.

MARSHALLSAY COURT: Events in the communal lounge in the flats in Marshallsay Road

Coffee mornings every Wednesday 10-11am with raffle.

CHICKERELL FOODBANK

Email: placemarys4@gmail.com Tel: 07591851075

A big thank you to all who donate to us; without your support, we couldn't support those in our community who need it. Special thanks to Sgt Bun, the Co Op at Charlestown, Wise Buys on Lynch Lane and Neighbourly.
We are in desperate need of the following: Tins of meat, i.e., ham, corned beef, mince, plus hot dogs; tins of baked beans with sausages; spaghetti (and with sausages); soup. Tea, coffee, sugar. Long life semi-skimmed milk. Jars of jam.Toilet rolls. Toiletries. Washing up liquid. Washing powder/pods/liquid.
Drop off points: 56 Lilly Lane (shed if out); Chickerell Library (when open); Chickerell Primary Academy (term time only); Wisebuys, Lynch Lane; Victory Hall, Charlestown; 57 Oldridge Rd; 11 Randall Close (garage if out).
Chickerell Town Council offices at the Willowbed Hall: The council can take donations Monday to Thursday, between 9.30 and 12noon. Anyone in need of help, please call or email (as above).
Thank you all so much - Jacqui and the team.

DID YOU KNOW THAT: As we continue to suffer from a lack of rain thanks to four heatwaves this summer, thoughts have been turning to saving water as many parts of the country face drought due to very low water levels. **The supply of water and sewage we can take for granted; but it has not always been a case of turning on the tap and flushing the toilet.** Chickerell, for instance, along with many rural areas, survived without mains water and sewage until comparatively recent times. Wells and pumps were a feature of the village with no less than 22 wells, and 18 pumps show on the map in 1902. There are records of drainage works in the late 1800s and a main drain recorded in the centre of the village – an open drain, part of which ran alongside the Turks Head, crossing the bottom of Lower Way and on to East Chickerell (Lower Putton Lane). There was a lot of concern by the end of the 1800s over a lack of water, the quality of it and flooding issues. The parish hoped to take advantage of a water supply to Portland, pipes for which could pass through the village. The first record of a water main in the village (owned by Weymouth & Portland Water Companies) is not until 1901. Even as late as the summer of 1952, water was provided by stand-pipes to Brickyard Terrace. Meanwhile, many were still using outside toilets – even as late as 1963 'night soil' was being collected from North Square, although mains sewage arrived in the late 1950s for most of the village. (*with thanks to Chickerell 'Yer Tiz' produced by Chickerell Parish Council*)

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CHICKERELL COMMUNITY LIBRARY – East Street, Chickerell. Telephone: 01305 760095

Opening Hours: **Tuesday 10am-12.30pm; Weds 10am-12.30pm and 4-6pm; Thursday 2-4pm; Friday 2-4pm; Saturday 10am-12.30pm.**

The summer reading challenge is still on until 12th September! The theme is adventures in nature & the great outdoors and is for all children from four to 11years of age. Sign up in the library or online. Six books need to be read, of their own choice, and once read, they will get stickers and then a medal, plus, a certificate, and their name on the wall of fame in the library!

A reminder the library has photocopying facilities & computers available and books & greeting cards for sale for a small monetary donation plus a range of local history books to borrow for anyone new to the area. The library is still a drop-off point for Chickerell Foodbank during opening hours.

Regular monthly events: **Coffee Morning: Friday 5th September 10–11.30am.**

Peto Book Club: Monday 8th September 2pm.

Colour and Chat Group: Tuesdays 2nd & 16th September 2–4pm.

Knit and Natter: **Wednesdays 10th & 24th September 10.15-12.15.**

Lego Club – to be announced on our Facebook page.

Although we do not charge for any of these events, we do ask for a donation of £1 for the cost of the tea or coffee.

Free Children's Garden Party and Open Library Day
Saturday 8th September 2-4pm in the Peto Garden and Library
Free books for children
Fresh fruit and vegetables to taste; Smoothies & flavoured water; Ice Cream treat; Crafts and activities
Encouraging children to read and use the library & Educating children to eat and drink healthily
(Life and Soul funding the event and providing the catering)

CHICKERELL PRE-SCHOOLS

DUCKLINGS PRE-SCHOOL: Methodist Church Hall, North Square, Chickerell DT3 4DX
Tel: 01305 766920 Email: ducklings.pre@btinternet.com
Website: ducklingspre-schoolchickerell.co.uk **or visit our Facebook page**

NEWS: A few three-and-four-year-old spaces available for September 2025.

We accept tax-free childcare, as well as the 15-and-30 hours Government funding. If you are interested, please get in touch now for an application form.

We are excited to be back this month, with children enjoying a wide range of fun and engaging activities to support learning through the early years' foundation stage.

We wish all the children who left us in July the best of luck at their new schools.

CHICKADEES: Rashley Road (by Chickerell Primary Academy) Tel: 01305 773103.
Contact Jenny Lamming, pre-school manager. Email: pre-school@chickerell.dorset.sch.uk

CHICKERELL PRIMARY ACADEMY - Rashley Road.

School Office: 01305 783876 – please contact office if you are new to the area and would like to join our school

We hope you have all had a lovely summer.

The children have settled back into school beautifully after the summer break; it has been wonderful to see their smiling faces each morning. They are working hard in their new projects, showing us our six key learning skills. These are: resilience, respect, enthusiasm, confidence, cooperation and independence. They underpin the children's learning and were decided with the school council several years ago; to reflect the core values and characteristics we want our children to show consistently.

Our new **reception children are settling into their classes so well**; we are incredibly proud of them! They are becoming more confident every day, happily exploring our indoor and outdoor areas and making lots of new friends; lovely to see. We are also delighted to welcome their parents into our school family and look forward to working together to ensure their children have a wonderful time and make the best possible progress.

New children have been welcomed into Chickadees, and the pre-school is delighted with how quickly they are settling into their routines while making new friendships.

We hope the Year 6 children that left us in July are settling into their new secondary schools. We wish them all the very best for this exciting new chapter in their lives.

The children, staff and governors hope you are all keeping safe and well.

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MORE LOCAL GROUPS & EVENTS

SOUTHILL GARDENING CLUB September meeting features a talk by Jo Morland of Hedgehog Friendly Portland on how to care for the endangered animal; 7.30pm, **Tuesday 9th September** at Southill Community Centre. Members and non-members welcome; refreshments available. For more information call 01305 788939.

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: The Trading Post in Rylands Lane re-opens after its summer break on **Wednesday 3rd September. Please note new Weds opening time:** 12noon until 3pm. A trial up to December to enable a lunch break. Saturday opening unchanged – 9.30am-12.30pm. Membership is £10. It's the time of year to gather seeds from this year's plants; a reminder we have a seed swap in February so get collecting! For more information email enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or call 01305 602137.

FRIENDS OF WEYMOUTH LIBRARY (F.O.W.L): The Duke of Monmouth, the Battle of Sedgemoor and the Judge Jeffreys trials - talk by Jacqueline and Brian Sutton on **Saturday September 6th**, 10.30am in Weymouth Library**.** Tickets from Weymouth Library (01305 762410); £2 for members and £3 for non-members. Refreshments available after the talk. All welcome.

FRIENDS OF LODMOOR COUNTRY PARK invites nature lovers to join a **free** walk round Lodmoor Country Park with local naturalist, Bob Ford, looking at the trees, birds, flora and fauna coming up to dusk. Meet at the children's play area at **5.30pm on Tuesday 16th September**. For more information call 01305 750557 or lodmoor-friends@hotmail.com or see the friends' Facebook page.

SOUTHILL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB: Meets Mondays 2pm, Wednesdays 2pm and & 7pm at Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane. First three meetings free, then £4 per meeting. For more information see www.southillsmbc.co.uk New members are welcome.

DORSET PHOENIX FOLK DANCE meets Mondays from 7.30pm-9pm at Charlestown Victory Hall, Putton Lane. Ideal for gentle exercise. £3 per session. New members welcome.

A LOOK BACK TO CONTACT MAGAZINE 32 YEARS AGO

SEPTEMBER 1993

- The Editor noted Chickerell Youth Club was in desperate need of help of more helpers; adding last month he had attended a wedding of a young couple from the village who were ex-members of the club.
- A Helping Children Learn group was advertised – it met monthly just off Abbotsbury Road to offer mutual support and tips to parents 'involved in their child's learning, in or out of school (or even pre-school).' A recent meeting offered tips on literacy and numeracy, including reading to you child from babyhood.
- Chickerell Carnival 1993 was a great success with more than £2,500 raised to help build a new village hall (*the Willowbed Hall*): "The standard of floats and fancy dress was fantastic, the arena displays flawless, and the hard work of the committee and their friends and relations was immense."

Nature Notes – what has been seen in and around Chickerell

The hot sunny weather has been ideal for spotting butterflies –sadly still not on the scale seen in the past, when clouds of butterflies could be seen on the wing from flowering shrubs such as buddleia. One will be seen here and there – **one Red Admiral** – **one Large White** – but the exception is the **Jersey Tiger Moth**, seen in Chickerell recently. There were three all seen on the path up to the allotments from Lower Putton Lane, within seconds of each other one sunny day. They were enjoying the sun on the walls of the houses bordering the path. Another was seen in North Square on undergrowth (*as pictured, left*). Dorset based national charity Butterfly Conservation has noted a big increase in these colourful moths.

Not long ago it was only the Channel Islands and the south coast where the moths could be spotted. Now they are being seen in increasing numbers as far inland as Birmingham. Here in Chickerell it is noticeable how more are now seen each summer. Butterfly Conservation says it is an example of how climate change is affecting wildlife.

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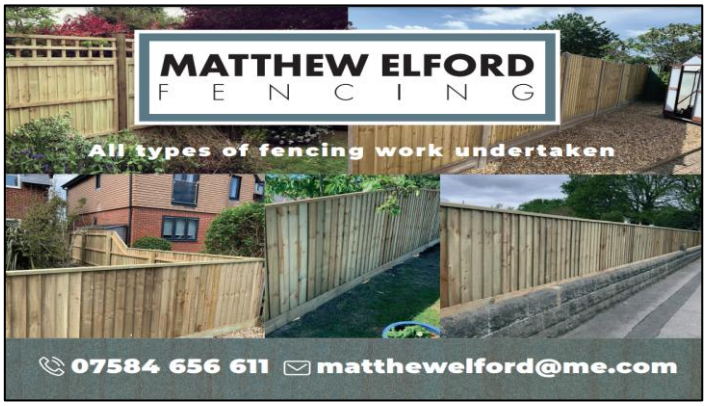

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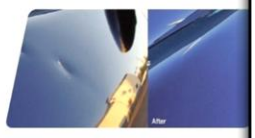

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CHICKERELL TOWN COUNCIL

Council offices adjoin Willowbed Hall, Putton Lane.
Office open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to noon Tel: 01305 767458.
Website www.chickerell-tc.gov.uk Email: townclerk@chickerell-tc.gov.uk

The Town Council has responsibilities for Chickerell's **open spaces**, eg., Willowbed field, Claypits (off Glennie Way) and the land off Meadow Close. It is also responsible for the **hiring out** of the Willowbed Hall and Sports Pavilion (Lower Way); has responsibilities for the **local cemetery** (St Mary's), **bus shelters**, the **play area** on the Willowbed field and **allotments.** Please contact the council if there are any issues with these areas.

Town Council full council meeting 3rd Tuesday of every month, in the Willowbed Hall at 7pm.
Members of public welcome to speak in democratic half hour 7-7.30pm.

Anti-social behaviour: Please report all incidents to the police either online : The website is dorset.police.uk - see the Contact section (where you can report crime online) Or by calling 101, the non-emergency number available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Remember, if a crime is in progress or life in danger call 999.

CCTV is around the Willowbed field & is constantly monitored

WILLOWBED HALL, Putton Lane & THE SPORTS PAVILION, Lower Way: Available for hire. Queries and bookings: Town council number above.

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL COUNCIL DETAILS

REFUSE/RECYCLING, RUBBISH BIN PROBLEMS, FLY TIPPING: Call Dorset Waste Services on 01305 221040 or report online via dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-litter and follow the link.
The main number for Dorset Council is 221000. The main number for Dorset Council which covers this area is 251010.
HIGHWAY ISSUES: Roads, verges and hedges, public footpaths, streetlights, road signage, winter maintenance and bus timetables – if you have any queries regarding any of these contact Dorset Council.
DOG WARDEN: Contact by email: envhealth@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
STREETLIGHTS: If there is a streetlight out, please phone 0800 0684145.
FLOODING: For sandbags, please call 01305 251010 and ask for emergency planning who will advise where sandbags can be purchased.

Water emergencies: Report to Wessex Water – 0345 600 4 600.
Electric Emergencies: 105. Call this number for emergency help.
CITIZENS ADVICE: Details on website www.westdorsetca.org.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT: Dorset Council on 01305 251010. See website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk follow links to planning section and search for Chickerell to view applications.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS received by Dorset Council

P/HOU/2025/04259: 11 Putton Lane – erect single storey extension to rear and apply cladding.
P/FUL/2025/04030: Stable block to the west of School Hill and north of former North Ground Piggery – Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of detached residential dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.
P/HOU/2025/04061: 3 St Helen's Road: Erect extension and convert garage, install steps and landing to rear elevation.
P/FUL/2025/03852: 90 Camp Road: Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and retain annex for family member.

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES: Coun Neil Hudson – Chickerell Library **Saturday 13th September** 10am-noon.

NEWS EXTRA…..NEWS EXTRA……NEWS EXTRA…

WINTER FUEL PAYMENT SCAM ALERT: From Dorset Police's Cyber Crime Protect and Prevent Officer: "We have recently seen a sharp increase in reports relating to winter heating payment scams. The scam involves a text message or email, impersonating the Department for Work and Pensions and includes a link to click and provide personal details, as well as a small payment (usually £1) to receive the Winter Heating Payment. This is fraudulent. If you were born before 22 September 1959 you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills for winter 2025 to 2026. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'. If you're eligible, you'll get a letter in October or November saying how much you will get. Most eligible people will be paid in November or December 2025. The Department for Work and Pensions will **not** contact you via email or text message with a link to a form. Therefore, if you do receive an SMS or email pertaining to the Winter Heating Payment, please do not click the link or provide any personal or financial information."

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THINGS TO DO & SEE IN SEPTEMBER

WEYMOUTH PAVILION (Box office 01305 783225) Website: weymouthpavilion.com

There is a whole host of attractions at Weymouth Pavilion in September including the following:

Tribute acts include Elvis (Ben Portsmouth), Dire Straits, Tina Turner, Dr Hook, Phil Collins & Adele.

Films include: A special 50th anniversary showing of **Jaws** on the big theatre screen at 4pm and 7pm on September 5th and 7pm on September 16th

Savages (PG): This acclaimed animated feature film promises to take a heart-warming walk on the wild side as a group of young people fight to save their forest home – 11am on September 7th.

Eddington (15): Joaquin Phoenix & Emma Stone star in this unusual modern-day western, praised by critics. A conflict between two officers of the law in a New Mexico town (Eddington) hits right in the height of the Covid pandemic. Be prepared – it promises to be a bit bizarre. Showing at 12.30pm & 7.30pm on September 17th.

Downton Abbey – the Grand Finale – Showing at various times between September 19th & October 2nd.

Event Cinema: on September 24th there will be a special **portrait of Andrea Bocelli** on the big screen.

Other attractions include a '**Monster Quiz' for the RNLI on September 13th with all proceeds to Weymouth Lifeboat.** Teams of six maximum must be pre-booked (tickets from the Pavilion). £12.50 per person.

Finally, a big attraction coming up next month is Tim Peake, with 'Astronauts – the Quest to Explore Space' at Weymouth Pavilion on October 2nd. Tickets for this are £39.50 each.

****

BENNETTS WATER GARDENS is open under the **National Gardens Scheme** (open gardens for charity) on **Friday September 5th, from 10am to 4pm**. Adults £10, children £4. (Gardens normally closed Fridays in Sept).

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Sun 21st – DARTMOOR SCENIC TOUR £39

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CHURCHES PAGE FOR SEPTEMBER

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHICKERELL www.stmaryschickerell.co.uk Parish Office: 01305 786043
Sunday Services at 9.30am, with coffee/tea and chat afterwards.

Midweek BCP Communion – Thursday 4th September at 10am with Rev Dan Harland

7th September Family Service: Nigel Uden
21st September Eucharist: Rev Jo Haine
14th: Rev Dan Harland
28th: Rev Geoff Hebbern

THE BENEFICE OF WEYMOUTH ST PAULS WITH FLEET – Service at Fleet 2nd Sunday of the month

Holy Trinity Churches Fleet: Monthly **service 9am** (based on our usual 30-minute Eucharist service) in the New Church, **Sunday 14th September** with Fr Gregory/Fr Tony.
Any general queries: Geoff Taylor, Secretary 01305 782757.
Fund raising/events: 01305 778080 (churchwarden).

CHICKERELL METHODIST CHURCH: DT3 4DX On the corner of North Square & West Street. Home to the Ducklings Pre-school. Services Sundays, 10.30am with coffee served afterwards

7th September Angela Gardner
21st September At Lanehouse (Rev Gwyneth Owen)
14th : David de Gruchy
28th: Pam Woodland – Holy Communion

Coffee morning **Saturday 27th September 10-11.30am** in the chapel, followed by a short time of prayer & then enjoy lunch together in the Turks Head. You are welcome to join us.
(*See more about Methodist Church groups and regular events in the Methodist Church news section each month, including LIFT*).

LANEHOUSE ROCKS METHODIST CHURCH Lynch Lane, Weymouth. Services 10.30am Sundays

7th September J Walker
21st September G Owen – Holy Communion. United Service with Chickerell.
14th : C Smith - Harvest Festival
28th : J Newton.

Light refreshments follow our Sunday services. All are welcome!

CHICKERELL GOSPEL HALL: Corner of Chickerell Road/East Street. Services Sundays 3.30pm

PRAYERHOUSE CHICKERELL, East Street, (by library). Contact David and Caroline White at chickerell@theprayerhouse.co.uk or 01305 759968 www.prayerhousechickerell.

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH Lanehouse Rocks Road. Rector: 01305 784649. Services 11am Sundays
Rector: Rev John MacKenzie

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Facebook: Hopechurchweymouth

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QUAKERS: Call 01305 788452 for more information.

SALVATION ARMY Westham Rd Weymouth. **Worship Sundays 10.30am** Coffee mornings Thursdays 10am.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 396D Chickerell Rd. Sunday worship service 10am. Games night 7pm every Wednesday. Contact volunteer missionaries 07800 614589.

WEYMOUTH SPIRITUALIST CENTRE Moose Lodge, 137 Chickerell Rd. Details on Facebook

THE LIGHT WEYMOUTH CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH Preston Village Hall, Preston Road, Weymouth DT3 6BH. Details on Facebook: The **church normally meets on a Sunday** and for special events; open to all. Facebook page for more details of all services. Thelightspiritualistchurch

A LOOK BACK TO THE PAST – PANTO STARS

Charlestown Pantomimes

Thank you to Charlie Oldridge for his photos reminding us of the Charlestown Pantomimes of the early 1950s, presented by Charlestown Youth Club at The Charlestown Victory Hall.

The shows, written and produced by Betty White with help from Doug Russell, Elsie Crabb and the full committee, were always a sell out; you had to get to the hall early to get a seat, as there was no booking office.

YOUTH CLUB

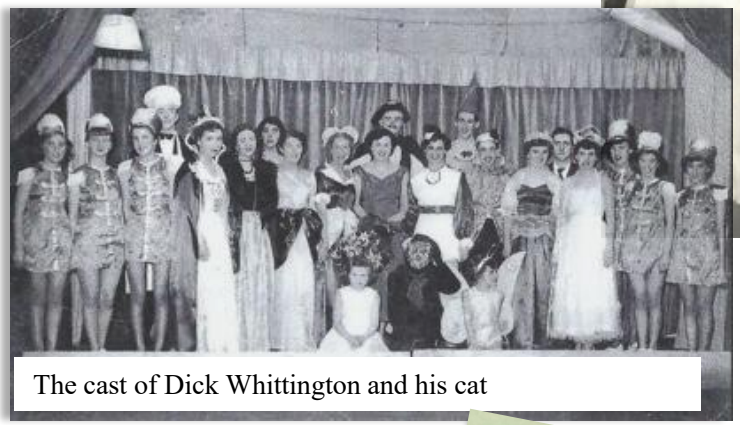
Most of the actors were local young people from the youth club. The committee worked hard to make the scenery and have the show ready for the first night. Productions included Jack and Jill, Aladdin and Dick Whittington. The pantomimes even used to go on tour, to other villages in the area; I remember going to Sydling St Nicholas and Frampton, with the scenery in a lorry and the cast in a Bluebird coach. They also took part in the 1951 Youth Festival with other groups from the area at The Burdon Hotel in Weymouth (*now called The Prince Regent*).

The Jack and Jill production picture (*above)* shows John Dean as Nicadeem with The Queen of Hearts.

Photo (right) shows the Leading Lady (left) along with Betty White (centre) and the 'Principal Boy' Bella Croad (right).

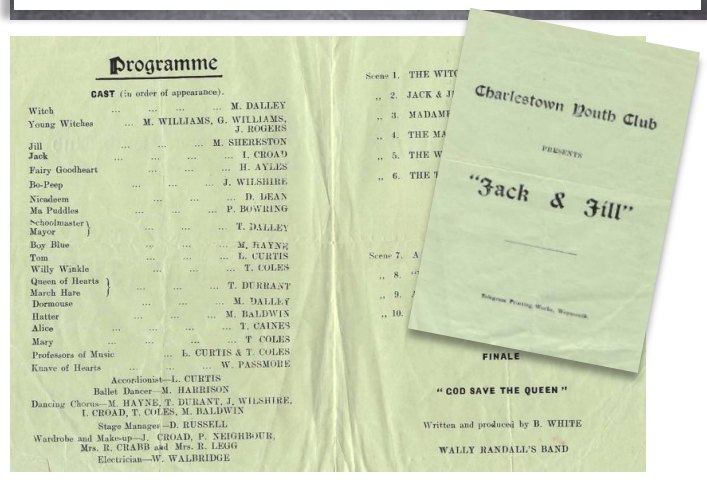
A while ago we received lots of records with more photos of those days which we hope to produce in later editions of Contact. ***Photo above: supplied. Photo immediate right & below: Charlie Oldridge. Other: supplied.***

Betty White was a charming and very clever person, writing the shows in an exercise book. Music was supplied every year by Wally Randall and his band. I had the privilege to have taken part in Jack and Jill as a naughty elf, called Nicadeem. The story was the Queen of Heart's tarts had been poisoned, and being a naughty boy, I stole one, ate it and 'collapsed' on the wooden floor of the stage. The stage rattled so much, people got out of their seats to see if I was ok!



The cast of Dick Whittington and his cat

The outstanding members of the cast were Tony (Dick) Dalley (*who went on to become Abbotsbury Swanherd in later life*) as the Mayor and Peter Bowring as The Dame. **John Dean**



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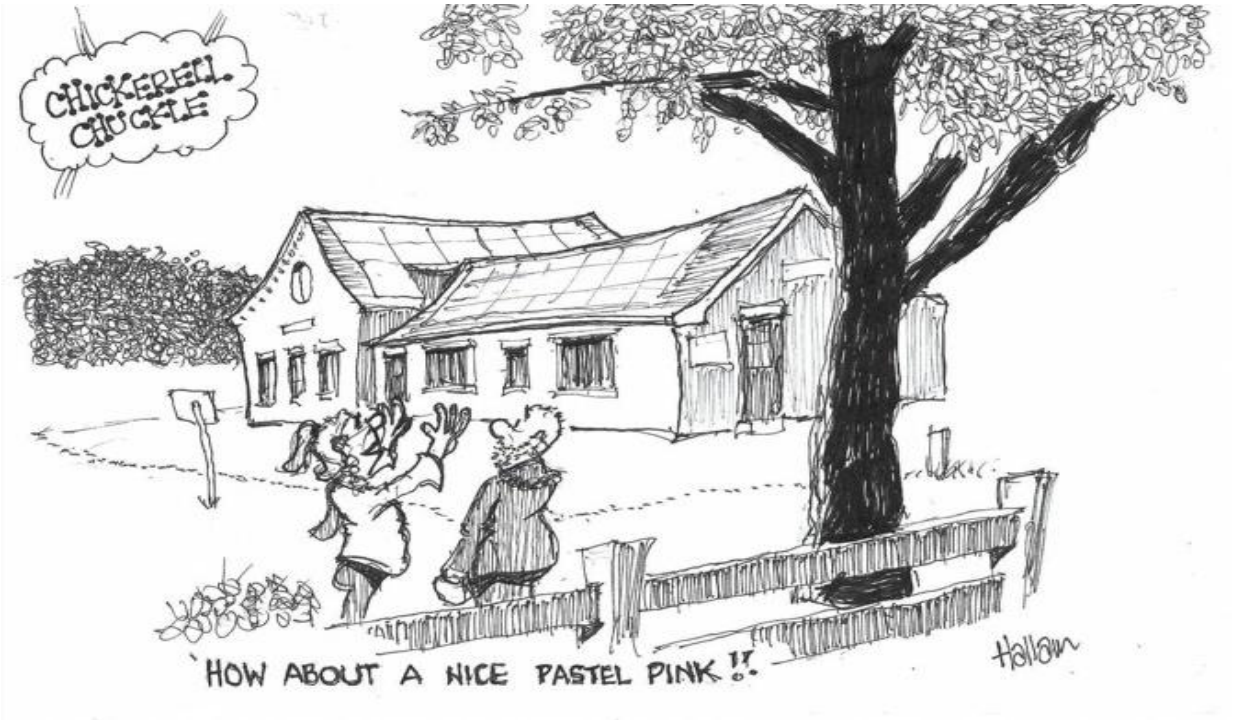
GARDENING NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER by Carrie Dalby

I am writing this in a heatwave! Daylight is shortening and temperatures are expected to drop. It will take a lot of rain for reservoir levels to recover, so we must continue to use water frugally. Traditional September jobs must wait until the soil is thoroughly wet deep down enabling plants to be sturdy enough to withstand pruning. Give them time to recover their vigour. **Don't cut back or prune while the weather is very hot**. Spring bulbs should be planted now for an early colourful display. Amaryllis and Hyacinths planted in pots by 24th September and kept warm, should flower for Christmas.

Clean out cold frames and greenhouses ready for storing tender plants and bringing on seedlings. Remove shading. **Sow seeds** of hardy annuals and perennials, e.g., Sweet Peas. Broad beans sown now will crop in early spring, before the blackfly. It is not too late to sow winter cabbage and lettuce. Lift potatoes before slugs and frosts get to them. While the soil is still warm, new plants can be introduced that will establish before the frosts.

If rain is falling regularly and the ground is damp, now is the time for new lawns or repairs. Sow seed evenly on a well-prepared bed. Turf can also be laid now, as there is time for it to establish before the frosts. Keep new grass watered. Apply an autumn lawn feed high in potassium to improve root growth on established lawns. Remember to leave some areas of your garden for wildlife.



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