

Pride in Portbury

Portbury Parish Newsletter – Winter 2025

It's scary to say (and more on that later!) that we are rapidly approaching Christmas and there is a lot going on in the village between now and then. Hopefully, most of the events that are coming up are covered here but remember to check out the Portbury Village Noticeboard group on Facebook to keep updated with events going on.

Christmas in Portbury

There are plenty of lovely events in the village over Christmas, all of which are open to anyone who wishes to be involved. Look out for the new events like the carol singers at the Priory on 28th November, and traditions like the Community Café, Father Christmas on the green and the Pill Owls visiting the Village Hall on Christmas Eve (see final page of newsletter for more information!)

If you (or an organisation that you are in contact with) are organising an event which is not covered in this newsletter – please add it to the Portbury Village Noticeboard Facebook Group.



Father (and Farmer) Christmas arriving on the Village Green, Christmas Eve

Halloween Scarecrows

Speaking of scary... thanks to Shirley Wilsher for organising and to all of the amazing and creative scarecrow designers who brightened up the village with their works of art at the end of last month. Each year it is a fantastic reminder of the great community we live in, as sugar-filled children run with delight from house to house!

A selection of Portbury's scarecrows from this year:



Parish Council News

This year has seen the Parish Council working on several projects, including maintenance of both play-parks and installation of our Speed Monitoring Sign (more below). The Parish Council has also discussed and fed into the wider debate on changes to the A369, local planning and issues around fly tipping and litter. We have also provided a recycling bin for medicine blister packs (which cannot be recycled in "normal" recycling boxes – this is situated in the Village Hall Reading Room and available for all members of the village community to use.

As ever, any member of the village community is welcome to attend Parish Council meetings – usually held on the Tuesday of the first full week of a month, 8pm at the Village Hall. We have vacancies for councillors too!

Flooding and Heavy Rain

Yet again, we had a deluge in the village recently and it was fantastic to see so many members of the community coming out to help clear drains and sweep water. Please remember to keep yourself safe with hi-visibility clothing and not endangering yourselves in the road. Likewise, please drive carefully in flood water.

Sadly, it seems we are going to face storms like this with increasing regularity so need to ensure that we keep the village prepared for when it happens: please check the drains and gulleys around your property to ensure they are not clogged with soil and leaves. If you are able to clear them yourself, please do. If you require help, please contact the Parish Council or message the Village Facebook page. Keeping these clear helps everyone!

Speed Camera and Traffic in the village

Since February 2025, we've been regularly monitoring traffic speeds and volumes at three points around the village (using the new speed sign): Mill Lane, Caswell Lane and High Street. Here's what the latest data tells us:

Traffic volumes and Speeds:

- Around 9,000 cars pass through the village each day (Mill Lane + Caswell Lane).
- Mill Lane has seen a slight reduction in daily traffic, from 9,603 vehicles (Sept 2023) to 7,598 vehicles (Sept 2025).
- Average speeds ranged between 18 – 22-mph.
- Between 39 – 72% of drivers kept to the 20-mph speed limit.
- Only 1 - 6% of drivers exceed 31-mph, but some reach dangerously high speeds.

What this means

Many drivers are traveling within or close to the speed limit, but a small minority are driving at extremely unsafe speeds. This continues to pose a risk for pedestrians and children commuting to school. All findings will be reported to North Somerset Council as part of ongoing efforts to improve village traffic and road safety. If anyone would like to help collect, analyse, and share traffic data, please contact simonp@portburypc.org.uk.

Portishead Christmas Lights Switch-On

Portishead will be switching on their Christmas Lights on Monday 24th November. Just a warning for owners of animals that this will include **fireworks at 6.45pm**. The High Street and roads around will be closed from 5pm on the day (with diversions in place) and the ceremonies will include the V-Dubs, Fire Service and Coastguard escorting Santa to switch on the lights. Further details at www.portisheadchristmaslights.co.uk.

Portbury Community Café
Saturday 22nd Nov from 10am-12pm



Fresh Tea and Coffee
Bacon Sandwiches
Cakes and Treats—Gift Stalls
Local Craftspeople
All are welcome!
Portbury Village Hall, BS20 7TW



Portbury Community Café – Saturday 22nd November 10-12

After a little break, we are thrilled to say that the Community Café is returning this month. It was one of the most requested features of the village at the recent Open Day held by the Village Hall.

We will be open from 10-12 on Saturday 22nd November.

Tea and Coffee, bacon/sausage sandwiches and cakes/sweet treats will all be available, together with stalls from local craftspeople with some fantastic local gifts and stocking-fillers so you can get some Christmas shopping done early!

Among others, we have hand crafted wooden gifts, wheat pillows, soy wax candles, books on local history and many more!

Also, organisations from the village, including the WI, Village Hall, Parish Council and our newest local business - Port Velo bike workshop – will be there so you can find out more about what is on offer.

It would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible: it is a great way to meet others in the village and find out what's going on!

Portbury Village Hall and Social Club

It has been another great year at the Village Hall. We have hosted private parties (from family events and children's parties – even one with a bouncy castle – up to large scale "significant" birthdays!) and weddings, Quiz nights and the ever-popular Rock n Roll Bingo. There are also groups using the hall regularly, including Martial Arts and Mindfulness workshops.

A great new favourite has been the new Cheese and Wine evenings – we visited the world of Italian wine and cheese recently, where will be next?



Cheese and Wine Evening – Italian – November 2025

The club has hosted two Winter League skittles teams: The Mad Monks and The Try Hards – both competing in the Pill, Portishead and District League. We also host the Portbury Hundreds Darts Team on Thursday nights. All of our teams are always looking for more players, come along on a Thursday or Friday night to see what is going on and join in!

Over the course of the year, the whole Hall has been redecorated and a new bar fitted in the Main Hall – the spaces are all lovely and welcoming so, if you haven't seen us for a while, we recommend dropping in to check us out!

We have invested in a TNT Sports subscription, meaning that we can show **Prem Rugby, Champions League** and **Premiership Football**. We are showing all of the Bristol Bears and England Rugby matches and can show other games on request. We will also be showing the **Men's Six Nations** tournament in February 2026. We have a film licence and are offering Film Nights next year: films cannot be advertised online but will be on posters in the Village Hall and on our Film Club WhatsApp (coming soon) – if you would like to see particular films on our huge new screen, let us know!

On top of all of that, we are still confident that we offer the best value bar in the area: from £3.50 for Gem, Thatcher's, Carlsberg, Guinness... we also have a great range of wines, spirits and non-alcoholic options.

Accompanied children and dogs are welcome – drop in and join us!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for a regular update of events which are coming up.

The hall and clubroom are run by volunteers and we are always looking for people to join the team (full training can be given!)

Hire the Hall, Club room or whole facility for your next event:
www.portburyvh.org.uk or email bookings@portburyvh.org.uk

Events coming soon:

Bar open Fri and Sun from 7.30pm

Sat 22/11 - Community Café 10-12

Sat 13/12 – Movie Night 7.30pm

Wed 24/12 – Santa on the Green –
Bar open from 6.30 – Pill Owls
performance (arrive early!)

Thurs 25/12 – Bar open 12-2pm

Wed 31/12 – NYE Party (£5 ticket)

Live BIG SCREEN rugby:

Sun 23/11 England v Argentina 4pm

Sat 29/11 Bears v Saints 5.30pm

Sat 20/12 Quins v Bears 5pm

Sat 27/12 Bears v Newcastle 3pm

Fri 2/01 Bears v Sale 7.30pm

Sat 24/01 Exeter v Bears 3pm

Men's Six Nations Matches – Feb

Other matches and events available
on request: we have **TNT Sports**.

Membership: the Social Club is funded through membership – although anyone is welcome to come and visit (£1 day fee): prices have remained the same as in previous years: £10 individual, £20 family, £5 Senior.

Forms can be collected (and payment taken) at the bar or you can renew by BACS or Direct Debit to Portbury Village Hall - sort code 54 30 06 account number 34334408.

Membership includes discounts on drinks and hire of the venue and now runs from 1st January to 31st December each year.

You can now renew online using this link: [Village Hall Membership Form 2026](#) or using a paper copy in the Village Hall.



Scan here to join
the events
WhatsApp for
news on films, etc!

Port Velo Cycle Works

Introducing Port Velo Cycle Works to the Portbury Community.

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone in Portbury for the warm welcome since we opened our doors. Port Velo Cycle Works is new to the village, but from day one it's been clear that this is a place with a strong sense of community – something we're proud to be joining.

Our workshop exists to keep people riding safely and confidently, whether that's commuting, exploring the lanes, or heading out on weekend adventures. We'll be running basic bike maintenance workshops for residents, supporting local cycling groups, and helping encourage safe cycling routes for families and new riders. We're also keen to build links with local schools and youth groups to promote cycling as a healthy, accessible and enjoyable part of village life.

Alongside the workshop, we're opening our doors as a small drop-in spot for cyclists, walkers and anyone passing by. We'll be serving coffee and cake – nothing fancy, nothing commercial, just a friendly space for people to stop, chat and feel welcome.

Our aim is simple: to be a useful part of the village, support the local community, and create a place where everyone feels comfortable popping in, even if it's just for a bit of company or a question about their bike.

You'll find us open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm and Saturday, 9am-2pm. Whether you need help with your bike, want to learn a new skill, or just fancy a coffee and a hello, you're always welcome at Port Velo Cycle Works. We look forward to being part of Portbury for many years to come.

You can find us on Instagram @portveloworks and Facebook. Our website is www.portveloworks.co.uk
Contact numbers are 07442 798257 and 01275 244560



The Priory Hotel, Portbury

The Priory will be running a range of fantastic events over the Christmas period:

- * Christmas Launch – from 5.30pm on 28th November: carol singers, light switch on and tasters of our festive menu.
- * Paint a Plate for children from 9.30am on 6th December.
- * Wine, music and chill in the garden from 5pm on 12th December.
- * Coffee and Paws morning from 9.30am 13th December.
- * Breakfast with Santa from 9.30am 20th December.
- * New Years Eve post 7pm 3 course set meal from £37.50, music set up and flowing drinks until late.

We've been feeling the excitement the season brings, and our delicious festive menus are now ready and waiting to be unwrapped, perfected by our wonderful chefs for you and your loved ones, no matter the occasion.

If you're feeling the magic too, browse our menus and [book your table](#) for a taste of things to come.



*Enjoy our lovely roaring
fire on a cold evening!*

St Mary's Primary School

St Mary's Primary School in Portbury is always a hive of activity and we are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Parish news and to have the opportunity to share with you some of our news, recent achievements and upcoming events.

Autumn Services

We are lucky to be able to hold our services over at the beautiful St Mary's Church and last week we were there for both our Remembrance Day Service and our Harvest Festival. The services involved songs, poems and prayers and provided a lovely opportunity for children and their families to come together and reflect and think of others. Food donations were collected at the Harvest Festival for both the local foodbank and our own school kitchen cupboard for families in need.

Nurture Award UK

Building upon our Oct 2024 Outstanding Ofsted report for Behaviour in our school we are pleased to announce that St Mary's CE Primary School was awarded the Nurture UK accreditation in October 2025. This is a great achievement and demonstrates the caring culture within our school that enables our pupils to truly flourish and reach their full potential in a high-quality nurturing environment.



**National Nurturing
School Award
2025**

Events

With Christmas just around the corner the children are already beginning to get in the festive spirit. Christmas cards have already been designed and children will shortly be sewing some Christmas decorations too. We will be welcoming the Explorer Dome team's visit to our school next month with every class taking part in a 'Winter' Experience to explore the importance of light in different faiths and around the world.



Performers from Bristol Old Vic in school

Our Key Stage one children will begin rehearsals for their Christmas performances soon, with many lines and songs to be learnt. The festivities continue with our older children in Key Stage 2 rehearsing for their performance of Carols by Candlelight, this takes place over at St Mary's church and truly brings all of us into the magic of Christmas.

Christmas at St Mary's Church

Christmas Fair 2025 - Saturday 6th December 11AM - 1PM
Crafts, Stalls, Tombola, Raffles, Hot Food and Refreshments

Everyone welcome! And Santa will be there!

Carol Service - Sunday 21st December 4PM

Christingle Service - Wednesday 24th December 6PM

Christmas Eve Holy Communion - Wednesday 24th December
8:30PM

Christmas Day - No service at St Mary's, Service at Ascension Church 10AM

St Mary's Church continues to offer a welcoming space for all villagers who would like to sit, think, pray or just enjoy the beauty of the building and space.

The churchyard is a lovely, quiet space to enjoy nature and the beauty of the area. We are always grateful to our volunteers who help keep the churchyard tidy and peaceful for all to enjoy. If you are able to give a little of your time to help, please let us know!



Are you aged 18 to 26 and living with epilepsy? Or do you care for a young adult who is?

We're running a local social group right here in this area — just for young adults with epilepsy and the people who support them. Whether you're looking to meet new people, share experiences, or just chill with others who "get it," this could be the perfect space for you.

What's the idea? A relaxed, welcoming group where young adults with epilepsy can hang out, take part in activities, and build real connections. There is also space for parents and carers to meet and chat too.

Where? Long Ashton Community Centre, Keedwell Hill. (BS41 9DP)

When? We meet twice a month on a Sunday 11am – 1pm. Next dates:

November 2025 2nd and 16th

December 2025 7th and 21st

January 2026 11th and 25th

This group has been created by volunteers, with help from Epilepsy Action's Independent Group Network. It is self-led, so your input will shape how it grows and what kind of activities you may like to do in future. Do as little or as much as you would like to. Think of it as your group, your way!

Interested? We'd love to meet you! If this sounds like something you or someone you care for might enjoy, just turn up! There is no 'start date' as such and we are a really friendly and relaxed bunch so don't worry if this will be your first time attending!

For updates on meeting dates, please keep your eye on the Epilepsy Action website 'support groups' pages for Bristol (<https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/support-groups/bristol-independent-group>) or contact Corina, Bristol Epilepsy Social Group, for more information and to receive updates by email: newleavesturned@gmail.com

Tea and toast, cake and coffee provided!

PS - It's free to join — and all about connection, community, and fun.

Charity Christmas Cards 2026

There are always charities which are close to each of our hearts. One way to donate is to send Christmas cards which raise funds. Here are some links to charities supported within the village and close to the hearts of members of our community. Feel free to suggest others that you care about as well!



The MNDA do not currently offer Christmas cards but you can donate here:



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please let us know what you would like to see in our next issue – due out in the spring. If you would like to contribute an article or feature, please contact crisc@portburypc.org.uk

A Very Portbury Christmas

Carols on the Green



This is a lovely village tradition of having Father Christmas come to the green on Christmas Eve. This is a time for sharing community spirit with friends and neighbours, with all children living – or spending Christmas – in Portbury to get their first Christmas present from Santa himself!

In the spirit of togetherness and sing-song, we'd like to remind families that presents are supposed to be small, token gifts, keeping in mind of others' financial situations.

Please can all wrapped, clearly marked presents with a FULL NAME on be dropped to either: 10 Priory Road, BS20 7TH or 2 Forge End, BS20 7TY.

The drop off box will be out from the 20th December, with all presents needing to be in by midday on Christmas Eve.

We look forward to seeing you all from 6pm on the Green for carols from 6.15pm (scan the QR code below for the words). If we sing loudly enough, Father Christmas should be there around 6.30pm.



Afterwards, the Village Hall bar is open all evening, with children welcome until 8.30pm (after which, they need to be tucked up in bed!) and then the Pill Owls will arrive around 10.30pm to celebrate the start of Christmas in the most wonderfully traditional manner – arrive early to make sure you get a seat!

QR code for the Carols!

