

# THE BATCH

## October 2020

**The newsletter for Dunkerton, Tunley & Withyditich**

**ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <https://dunkertonwebsite.org.uk>**

Have a look at the new website and "Follow" the site for latest news!

Please send copy to [batchcopy@gmail.com](mailto:batchcopy@gmail.com)

**Hello and welcome to this "trial" issue of The Batch.  
We hope you are well and coping in these difficult  
and strange times.**

The issue is a trial because when we thought about putting one together there was doubt about whether we have enough going on at the moment to make it worthwhile. However, if despite current restrictions events are going to be planned for Christmas then during October and November residents would need to know about anything that is being considered. It would be too late to try to suddenly switch The Batch back on at the end of November. Additionally, it would be a chance to look to 2021 and update everyone on the medium to long term view about the resumption of parish clubs, societies, activities and events. So we have decided to go ahead. *The Batch Committee*

We know that a lot of local news is now being passed around by various online means. That's a welcome and sensible development. Things like:

- The Parish website  
<https://dunkertonwebsite.org.uk/>
- The Parish Council's Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/ParishCouncilNews/>
- Tunley Talks Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1179494665551696/>
- The Dunkerton Coronavirus WhatsApp Group (to join email [maxocrofts@gmail.com](mailto:maxocrofts@gmail.com) or call or text to 07831 370353)
- All Saints Church  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AllSaintsDunkerton/>

But not everyone can, or wants to, rely on online solutions. The Batch probably still has its place.

But does it have a post-COVID future?

More about that inside.



***Ultra fast High speed fibre broadband is now available free in both the Tunley Recreation Centre and Dunkerton Parish Hall courtesy of Truespeed. Enjoy Speeds of 200Mbps with unlimited data. Thank You to Truespeed!!!!!!***





## The Parish Church of Dunkerton & Tunley

There is now a Facebook page for the church <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AllSaintsDunkerton/> and updates will be posted both there and on <https://dunkertonwebsite.org.uk/>.

### CHURCH SERVICES

As some will know, church services have resumed throughout the benefice, though not on the previous pattern. The services for the month of October are as below. This pattern is likely to continue in November, but please read below for Remembrance at Dunkerton.

Date	Dunkerton	Camerton	Timsbury	Priston
Sun 4 Oct	10.00 Holy Communion followed by APCM (see below)	-	11.00 Holy Communion	9.30 Morning Prayer
Sun 11 Oct	-	10.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving	9.30 Holy Communion
Sun 18 Oct	10.00 Holy Communion	-	11.00 Holy Communion	9.30 Morning Prayer
Sun 25 Oct	-	10.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Morning Prayer	9.30 Holy Communion
Sun 1 Nov	9.00 Remembrance special (see below) 10.00 Holy Communion	-	15.00 Annual Memorial Service	9.30 Morning Prayer
every Weds	-	-	9.30 Holy Communion	-

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Delayed by lockdown, the APCM will now take place on **Sunday 4th October** after the service. If possible this will be in the church; if not, it will be conducted by Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the accounts and elect officers for the coming year. The meeting is open to all but on this occasion we need to know numbers so **please let me know if you would like to attend**.

### REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday 1 November (the Sunday before Remembrance Sunday), representatives from the local branch of the Royal British Legion are coming to Dunkerton to dress the three military graves in the churchyard. This will be a short service (one of a number in the area), and is intended to redress the recent trend towards gathering round memorials rather than at the graves themselves. It will be open to anyone who wishes to attend (within current social distancing capacity) and will replace our normal Remembrance Sunday service as, under current social distancing, the church can accommodate so few. **If you wish to attend, please let me know** by email, text or phone so that we be sure we can fit in all those who would like to be there. Masks must be worn.

Should you wish to contact him, Rev. Tony Roake is available on 01761 470249 or [tonyrgr@gmail.com](mailto:tonyrgr@gmail.com). I am also available (details below).

Charlotte de Grey, CHURCHWARDEN:  
[cdegrey@gmail.com](mailto:cdegrey@gmail.com) 07710 403483



Will The Batch survive  
into 2021?

Help is needed to keep it  
going - otherwise it may  
have to fold

More on Page 9



## TUNLEY RECREATION CENTRE

Visit our website

[www.tunleyrec.org.uk](http://www.tunleyrec.org.uk)

Follow us on Facebook

The TRC is proudly sponsored by the King William pub & restaurant at the heart of Tunley village life.

[www.kingwilliaminn.co.uk](http://www.kingwilliaminn.co.uk)

**For more TRC information please contact:-**

**Jane Bale – Secretary**

**07879 824703**

[secretary@tunleyrec.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tunleyrec.org.uk)

**Laura Salter – Hall Bookings**

**07410 452685**

[bookings@tunleyrec.org.uk](mailto:bookings@tunleyrec.org.uk)

**The TRC has reopened with strict Covid 19 precautions in place.**

We are pleased to welcome back our regular organisations and their customers,

please see Regular Events for details of all organisations using the TRC.

The TRC is also open for bookings for parties, receptions, wakes, meetings etc. held under Covid 19 precautions & rules, whereby community centres, at the time of writing, are allowed to accommodate up to 30 people subject to social distancing. Please contact Laura for booking details.

### **Forthcoming Events at the TRC**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November Tunley  
BONFIRE night**

**FREE ENTRY**

**Bonfire lighting time 6:00 PM**

Come along and join your neighbours and friends for Bangers & Burgers plus veggie options all available as takeaways from the side door of the hall to eat outside, from 6 PM. A licensed bar will also be available in the same way. In order to observe Covid 19 precautions, we are sorry but apart from the catering staff no one will be permitted in the hall.

*Please note; this event is subject to change due to current government guidelines*

**Hedge cuttings and general autumn garden remains** – You are welcome to bring your garden cuttings along to the bonfire any time from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October onwards. The gates to the TRC grounds will be open during daylight hours. Please stack your garden refuse on the bonfire, PLEASE NOTHING OTHER THAN GARDEN CUTTINGS.

## **Fiver a Foot of Floor**

The TRC hall has encountered a significant damp problem under the wooden flooring in the hall and we have no choice but to replace the floor. We believe that the current floor is the original for the building, so dates back to the 60's!

We will be using safety vinyl as a replacement similar to that on the floor in the two side wings of the hall, but this time in a contrasting lighter colour.

We've calculated the size and obtained quotes and the cost to replace the floor equates to **£5 per square foot** and we think that '**Fiver a Foot**' has a nice ring to it! Donations will be most welcome.

Everyone that donates, regardless of amount will get their name listed in a 'Role of honour', which we will get produced and hung in the hall. Some of you may have seen something similar that was previously done for the 'Raise the Roof' appeal.

We are in the process of creating an online Just Giving page where donations can be made, but for those that prefer cash or cheque, please give to any of the TRC Trustees, or pop through Martin's letter box at 3 Sarabeth Drive. Please include your name.

Keep an eye on the Tunley Talks and TRC Facebook pages for links to the Just Giving page.

Even if it's only a foot, it will be greatly appreciated!

**Thank you for your support.**

## **REGULAR EVENTS AT THE TRC**

### **Monday Evenings – Dog Obedience Group**

7:30 – 9:30 Contact Ruth or Nick Barrett

07752 150711

### **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Evening – Available For Hire.**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Evening – Women's Institute**

7:15 – 9:15 Contact Jan Binns

[janbinns@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janbinns@tiscali.co.uk)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Evening – Dolls House Club**

7:30 – 9:30 Contact Debbie Scott on the night in the hall.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening Bimonthly Parish**

**Council** 7:30 – 9:30 Contact

Kathryn Manchee

[clerk.dunkerton@googlemail.com](mailto:clerk.dunkerton@googlemail.com)

### **4th Tuesday Evening Bimonthly TRC Friends and Trustees Meeting**

7:30 – 9:30

Contact Jane Bale

[secretary@tunleyrec.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tunleyrec.org.uk)

### **Wednesday Mornings - Tunley Toddlers**

10:00 – 12:00 Contact Mrs M. Manley

01761 415620

### **Wednesday Evenings – Woof-it's Dog Training Club**

7:00 – 9:00

Contact Lorraine 07905 863791

[woof.its24@gmail.com](mailto:woof.its24@gmail.com)

### **Thursday Evenings – Zumba Class**

7:00

– 9:00 Contact Karen Burns

[hhamond589@btinternet.com](mailto:hhamond589@btinternet.com)

### **Friday Evenings – Zumba Class**

7:00

– 9:00 Contact Lesly Gregory

[lesleygregory66@gmail.com](mailto:lesleygregory66@gmail.com)

# DUNKERTON PARISH HALL



## *Bookings Secretary:*

*Please make enquiries about bookings to:*

*Email: [Richardhopkins1@talktalk.net](mailto:Richardhopkins1@talktalk.net)*

*Or Contact tel no: 07775 870051*

During lockdown regular bookings for yoga and dog training stopped but the Parish Hall was made freely available for community use. The WiFi installed by Truespeed enabled school lessons to be downloaded and fitness classes to be run remotely by Alison Gibbs using Zoom. Lockdown also provided a good opportunity to carry out roof repairs. The Hall is available to be used on a Covid-compliant basis. Details of the cleaning protocol for users will be provided by the Bookings Secretary, Richard Hopkins 07775 870051. Alison Gibbs is now holding a range of classes at the Hall each morning, by Zoom on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and with restricted numbers in the Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The classes include Beginner and Intermediate Pilates, including a chair-based class for those less mobile, and Medau Movercise which is open to all. Please contact Alison on 07814 249261 for more details.



## **Dunkerton WhatsApp Group**

Prompted by Dr Tom While, a Dunkerton WhatsApp Group was set up at the beginning of lockdown in order to share Coronavirus information. It grew rapidly to the current 60+ participants and was a great help, especially for those self-isolating.

It has developed into a useful local information exchange. If you would like to join (or to opt out at any time) simply text your name and mobile number to me – Max Crofts 07831 370353.



## **Withyditch Baptist Chapel Centre**



For further info about the current situation Contact: 01761 470507





# DUNKERTON & TUNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Report from Dunkerton & Tunley Parish Council

### Parish Council Meetings

In line with government regulation in response to COVID 19 the parish council did not hold its usual Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting. However, virtual Parish Council Meetings were held in April, June and July 2020. It is planned to return to physical meetings as soon as we are allowed to. While we continue to hold remote meetings via Zoom parishioners are very welcome to “attend” by dialling in. For any help with this please contact the clerk or the chairman.

### Rural Transport News

The West of England Combined Authority's (WECA) Bus Strategy has now been adopted and published. It is available via the Travelwest website. The parish council contributed to the consultation on this. It is a regional document, so we await further news as to how local rural bus services through the parish will be planned and funded once the Government's advice to avoid the use of public transport is withdrawn post COVID. This will not happen anytime soon. In the meantime, the contract for the 179 bus service has been extended from August 2020 to February 2021.

### Finance

The balance of funds as at 30 July is £12,531.75 and without CIL reserves £11,531.75.

### PLANNING

#### Planning Application Decisions by BANES Council

Planning Application 19/04865/FUL Lower Tunley Farm Stoneage Lane Tunley: Erection of new farm building APPROVED.

Planning Application 20/00331/FUL Highacres Bath Road Tunley: Erection of single storey rear extension, first floor extension to existing single storey annexe following demolition of existing conservatory and bootroom. General alterations to existing building (Resubmission) PERMITTED.

Planning Application 20/00468/VAR Swans Way Fosseway Dunkerton: Variation of condition 2 (plans list) of application 19/03937/FUL (Erection of first floor extension and reinstatement of front bay window stone mullions and hipped slate roof.) PERMITTED.

Planning Application 19/05564/FUL Retention of Existing Stables, Tunley Colliery, Blind Lane, Tunley. APPROVED. This now means that any proposed change of use on this site will require planning permission.

Planning Application 20/01160/FUL Tying Cottage Tunley Road Tunley: Erection of a single storey dining room and porch extension and upgrading outbuilding for utility. APPROVED.

Meadow Dene Bath Road Tunley: Provision of loft conversion with rear dormer and replacement of existing conservatory. The parish council supported this application as it complies with BANES planning policies GB3, GB2, CP8 and ST7 if the parking is increased. APPROVED.

The Old Swan Fosseway Dunkerton: Erection of orangery following demolition of existing conservatory. APPROVED.

#### Parish Council Responses to Planning Applications

Parcel 4823, Old Dunkerton Hill, Dunkerton Repairs, reinstatement, alteration and extension of two livestock barns to convert into an agricultural storage area. The parish council

unanimously opposed this application as there is not enough detail in the application on the possible use combined with concerns about vehicle access and the effect on the adjacent listed building. PENDING CONSIDERATION

Westbury Farm Tunley Road Tunley: Change of use from light industrial use class B1(c) to dwelling houses C3. Encompassing part demolition of existing buildings and conversion of retained elements to form 4 No. detached dwellings plus related external works. The parish council voted unanimously to support this application as it conforms to BANES planning policies. PENDING CONSIDERATION.

20/02659/FUL 7 Fairfield, Tunley: Proposed formation of driveway in section of front garden to create two off-street parking spaces. The parish council supported this application.

### **BANES Local Plan Partial Update**

A response to the local plan partial update consultation had been submitted. Two sites for limited residential infilling had been offered to BANES for consideration under their call for possible sites for housing. The parish council believe that this sort of very limited development could help local young families stay in the parish if the housing is affordable and with appropriate development conditions attached. The parish council awaits any response from BANES.

### **National Planning Policy Reform**

The parish council is considering its response to the consultation on the government's proposed planning reforms recently reported in the national press and on TV.

### **A367 Safety**

Concern was expressed by a number of residents on the Dunkerton Coronavirus WhatsApp Group about the safety of the A367 at Dunkerton following another accident.

There have been a couple of accidents recently. However based on the traffic accident statistics received from the police In July nothing has materially changed since BANES' formal 2018 safety review of this road. The most recent accident happened just after the degradation in the effectiveness of BANES preventative measures taken on the northbound carriageway after the A367 Safety Review. This had already been reported to BANES via Fix My Street and has been scheduled for cutting.

Concern was also expressed about safety on the southbound carriageway approaching and opposite the canal layby. Unfortunately, maintenance of a lot of the vegetation there is the responsibility of private landowners or is associated with the unadopted road – these are not the responsibility of BANES to cut. However BANES has action in hand to get the 40mph speed limit "countdown" warning signs cleared of vegetation.

A parishioner recently submitted one of the Police's new online speeding complaint forms about speeds on Dunkerton Hill and the increased risk of accidents. In response to this the police are to deploy data capture boxes. These are small black boxes that capture all speeds 24/7 and will therefore give the police an updated, clear and scientific analysis of whether there is a speeding issue or not at this location. We await the results of this analysis with interest.

The Council is pleased to see that a local resident is testing the water to see whether, in view of the concerns expressed, there is enough local interest to set up a Community Speedwatch Group. The Parish Council will give this its full support if a decision is taken by residents to go ahead with it. More information on this is available via

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/community-speedwatch> (follow the link and scroll

Councillor	Responsibilities	Address	Email address	Tele: No.
<b>David Orme Chairman</b>	<b>Lead Cllr for</b> Placemaking & Flood Prevention <b>D&amp;TPC Rep</b> The Batch & Manders Orchard	Rose Cottage, Dunkerton, BA2 8BH	daveorme56 @gmail.com	01761 438721
<b>Nick Patch Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Lead Cllr for</b> Highways & Parish Maintenance.	The Maples, Stoneage Lane, Tunley BA2 0DS	npatch16@b tinternet.co m	01761 470800
<b>Martin Robinson</b>	<b>Lead Cllr for</b> Finance, Planning and Council Archive. <b>D&amp;TPC Rep</b> Tunley Recreation Centre.	3 Sarabeth Drive, Tunley, BA2 0EA	martinrobins on811@btint ernet.com	01761 471134
<b>Di Prescott</b>	<b>Lead Cllr for</b> Rights of Way and Fly Tipping	15 Sarabeth Drive, Tunley BA2 0EA	diana@sarab eth.co.uk	01761 472763
<b>Adrian Ashley</b>		Lower Tunley Farm, Stoneage Lane, Tunley, BA2 0DS	lowertunleyf arm@btconn ect.com	01761 471797
<b>Nigel Mannings</b>	<b>D&amp;TPC Rep</b> Dunkerton Parish Hall	5 Brooklands Dunkerton, BA2 8BH	n.mannings @sky.com	01761 432902

down to the video) , the Dunkerton Coronavirus WhatsApp Group or from the DTPC Chairman.

### A367 Dunkerton "Old Swan" Bus Shelter

The parish council is commissioning maintenance work on the bus shelter to cut back the overgrown vegetation and clear the surrounds.

### Vehicle Permanently Parked in the Layby in Dunkerton

A vehicle had been parked in the A367 northbound layby for a very long time. In response to a letter of complaint from a resident this was reported to BANES for action. However, it seems that the company that apparently owned the car has decided to move it, and it has gone.

### Date of Next Meeting

Thursday November 12 at 7.30 pm.

### Clerk:

Kathryn MANCHEE, 3, Lark Close, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4PX.

Telephone: 01761 411305

e mail: clerk.dunkerton@googlemail.com

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ParishCouncilNews/>

### District Councillors for Bathavon West Ward

covering the Parishes of Dunkerton, Camerton, Combe Hay, Englishcombe, Newton St Loe, Priston:

Neil Butters 07762 245105

[cllrneilbutters@aol.com](mailto:cllrneilbutters@aol.com) and Matt McCabe 07711 047267 [mattmccabe.1@outlook.com](mailto:mattmccabe.1@outlook.com)



## Tunley Athletic Football Club

### Tunley Athletic Football Club

The Recreation Ground, Tunley, Bath BA2 0EB

### Contacts

Craig Doughty - Chairman 07595 631513

Yvonne Dix - Secretary 07889 310041

Pete Fear & Bryan Moore - Life Members & Tunley Residents



**Team details** - Somerset County Football  
League - Division Three  
Manager – Duncan Fear 07921 176839

Kick Off times in October 3pm & Nov 2.30pm

#### League Fixtures

03 Oct	Home	Banwell
10 Oct	Away	Cutters Friday
17 Oct	Home	Clevedon United
Res		
24 Oct	Home	Bishops Lydeard
Res		
31 Oct	Away	Somerton Town
Res		
07 Nov	Home	Draycott
14 Nov	Away	Banwell
21 Nov	Home	Stockwell Green
Res		
28 Nov	Away	Clevedon United
Res		

#### League Results - In the next issue

The Somerset Football Association suspended all football in Somerset on 16 March due to COVID-19 but the last game we played was a month earlier as games had been cancelled due to the weather. We returned to training & friendly games in July & competitive league games started on 12 September. You will see we have been busy painting the rails around the pitch plus the goal posts & also painted the stand during this down time. So after over seven months of no fixtures we are back!!!

Unfortunately we cancelled the Freda Hookings memorial game on the day which was due to be played on Saturday 22 August against Cam Valley FC (formally Purnells Sports) as people in their area were tested positive with COVID-19 in the days before. We wanted to keep players, supporters & the village of Tunley safe.

For training details please contact Duncan Fear on the above mobile number. If you are interested in joining Tunley Athletic in any capacity please contact anyone above for more information. Please come and support your local village club.



## THE BATCH

### LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

We hope you agree that it was worthwhile putting this issue together after a break of 6 months.

We hope you agree that The Batch should continue to have a place in the Parish.

However, that can't be taken for granted.

Limitations of lockdown and the constraints of the "new normal" affect all on The Batch Committee as much as everyone else.

Sadly, that means that the Batch may not have a future if we do not get anyone to step forward and take on the role of Editor.

We have made this call several times before but with no response. We have over the last year relied (far too much) on Richard Hopkins' selfless agreement to keep The Batch going. That's no longer possible, and we shouldn't expect that it should be.

So – another, and possibly final, call for a new Editor:

Would you like to be at the heart of everything that goes on the Dunkerton, Tunley and Withyditch? Would you enjoy assembling news and views into a readable monthly newsletter in a format that will be easy for contributors and a style that will appeal to readers? If the answer is yes and you have basic IT skills (mainly familiarity with MS Word), we need you! Please read on...

The current format of The Batch format was designed more than a decade ago and needs fresh eyes and skills. Its purpose is to provide a means of communication across the whole parish, principally information about forthcoming events in the parish but,

especially in these straitened times, there is room for broader coverage and a new design.

If you are interested in being at the hub and would like to know more, please contact anyone on The Batch Committee.

*The Batch is compiled by The Batch Management Committee and printed by Richard Hopkins. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily the views of The Batch Management Committee.*

**Final date for copy for the next edition of The Batch is  
Weds 14th October 2020**

**Please submit copy to the Editor c/o  
[batchcopy@gmail.com](mailto:batchcopy@gmail.com) or to Rose  
Cottage, Dunkerton BA2 8BH**

**THE BATCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
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TRC Rep: Jon Boon  
[elboono@gmail.com](mailto:elboono@gmail.com)



**Royal British Legion Poppy  
Appeal November 2020**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Royal British Legion are continually reviewing their plans for

this year's Poppy Appeal. However, sadly it has been confirmed there will be no house to house collections this year and no Poppies or collection boxes available in the various shops or business's around the village. It would not be safe for our volunteers to go round door to door due to social distancing. There will be no collecting boxes in shops due to counting and handling of money at the end of the Poppy Appeal period, however wreaths and crosses will be available to order. As I'm sure you are aware this is one of our biggest fundraising periods, last year the Poppy Appeal raised over £50,000,000 - so we need your help more than ever this year.

**Organisations, business's or anyone can have a wreath if any of your staff, family or relatives died in WW1 -WW2 or any conflicts since. Can I please ask you to contact me ASAP if you would like a wreath, the cost is £18.00 or more if you wish to donate, crosses are also available free, or again if you wish to donate.**

**Contact: Chris Fiddes; [cfiddes@btinternet.com](mailto:cfiddes@btinternet.com) or 01761471691 - Mob: 07923436950**



**Pick-your-own fun for all the family at Pumpkin Picking Patches**

EVERY MEMBER of the family can have plenty of fun in the great outdoors at Pumpkin Picking Patches this October — and there will be lots of the Halloween favourites to go around, with in excess of 200,000 pumpkins planted, incorporating 32 varieties, including Crown Prince, Cinderella Pumpkin, Casparitas, the small Munchkins, the warty Knucklehead and the big white Polar Bear.

This year there are FOUR pumpkin-filled sites, each one offering pick-your-own pumpkins, as well as Halloween crafts — perfect for little people who love to make things, as well as bigger people who enjoy carving pumpkins for the big day itself and who enjoy cooking with these versatile fruits.

The four sites are in Bath (Somerset), Cardiff (South Wales), Fordingbridge (Hampshire) and Sompting (West Sussex). Bath, Cardiff and Fordingbridge will open on 10-11, 17-18 and 24-31 October, from 9.30am until 4pm, while Sompting will open on 17-18 and 24-31 October during the same hours. Every site has its own large car park and parking and entry is free — yes totally FREE!

Niall Smith, the ‘pumpkinologist’ who, along with his Dutch partner Suzanne Hennekens, is the driving force behind Pumpkin Picking Patches, comments: “Everyone who comes to our Pumpkin Picking Patches is guaranteed a great time. There are literally thousands of pumpkins at every site. People collect a wheelbarrow in which they can ‘round up’ their perfect pumpkins — all for an incredibly reasonable price. Our pumpkins, which come in a huge array of sizes, start at just £1. Our Pumpkin Picking Patches are the perfect places to get children away from their gadgets and let them run around in the fresh air. There aren’t many attractions these days that are free to enter, and after some cost-effective pumpkin picking fun, you drive home with your car boot full of these glorious fruits to craft and cook at home!”

At the **Bath Pumpkin Picking Patch**, located at the Globe Roundabout on the A4 near the village of Newton St Loe (postcode: BA2 9BB), visitors will find in excess of 70,000 awesome pumpkins ripe for the picking on a 15-acre site. Additionally, children (and adults, of course) can hunt for Toad, check out the amazing new photo opportunities and the famous pumpkin house. Also why not try making your own witch’s broom — for flying as opposed to brushing! — or craft your own magic wand, or tin can bat. Hot and cold snacks will be on sale.

Everything that Niall and Suzanne do is undertaken with ‘green’ credentials in mind, meaning that wood has been sourced and coppiced locally for the creative art of making magic wands and brooms, they have adopted a no-plastic policy, and they have also cut the energy needed to print their billboards and signs by 40% using UV printing techniques.

The couple came up with the idea of their Pumpkin Picking Patches two years ago. “We have worked in events and catering for over 20 years and before that we did new business developments for companies in the UK and abroad,” explains Niall. “We were invited to a Pumpkin Patch to do coffee and food and we realised what an amazing business venture pumpkins would be. We really saw the potential and dipped our toes in in 2018, but are now fully committed to Pumpkin Picking Patches.”

This year Pumpkin Picking Patch has employed 40 staff to help run its four sites — the most it has ever had, and which it runs alongside its two mazes ([www.pickingpatch.com](http://www.pickingpatch.com)). The sowing of 210,000 pumpkins over 35 acres has been done by the farming owners of the fields with a machine called a drill.

Creative chefs or charities that provide cooked nutritious meals for the homeless or other groups are also being sought, as Niall and Suzanne, conscious that not all gourds will be picked by the end of October, will need them to go to a good home. Anyone interested is urged to get in touch regarding this wonderful cooking ingredient.

And if anyone planning a trip to a Pumpkin Picking Patch is worried about the weather — don’t be. All sites will remain open during wet conditions, but visitors should dress accordingly, in raincoat and wellies (witches and wizards hats optional). In extreme weather, if closure is unavoidable, messages will be posted on the website (<https://pickingpatch.com>) and social media.



# Trade Directory

<b>PRW Group Ltd – Electrical, Fire &amp; Security Systems</b> Installation & Maintenance Contractors Tel: 01761 419909 or visit <a href="http://www.prwgroup.co.uk">www.prwgroup.co.uk</a>	<b>Bryan G Bishop : Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons</b> 01761 412046 <a href="http://www.bryangbishop.co.uk">www.bryangbishop.co.uk</a>	<b>Darren Wilkins Electrical Contractors Ltd,</b> Electrical Contractor 01761 415310 <a href="mailto:info@dwilkinselectrical.co.uk">info@dwilkinselectrical.co.uk</a>
<b>Seasoned firewood for sale</b> Loads or bags available. Phone Rich Tel: 01761 434678 or 07971 670037	<b>D Hurle Plastering Service</b> Competitive rates. Reliable and friendly. No job too small. Free quotes. Tel: 07849 717702	<b><u>Barnstore Bath:</u></b> 24 hour Self Storage with a variety of sizes North Hill Farm, Tunley, Bath BA20EE Email: <a href="mailto:Bath@barn-store.co.uk">Bath@barn-store.co.uk</a> Tel: 01225 962493
<b>Anne Whittock FMAAT</b> Small business accounts, Tax Returns, VAT Returns, Book Keeping and Payroll. Free initial consultation. Evening appointments possible. Tel: 01761 437144 Email <a href="mailto:anne@annewhittock.co.uk">anne@annewhittock.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.annewhittock.co.uk">www.annewhittock.co.uk</a>	<b>SDS Garage Doors/Pre-fab Buildings.</b> Repairs/Installation/Honest Advice Midsomer Norton, BA3 2AD Tel: 01761 419999 01761 419999 <a href="mailto:info@sdsgaragedoors.co.uk">info@sdsgaragedoors.co.uk</a>	<b>Clare Hall Nursing Home</b> is set in beautiful grounds in the village of Ston Easton and specialises in: • Nursing care • Respite/residential care, long and short term For further information or to arrange a visit, please contact: 01761 241626 <a href="mailto:admin@clarehallnursinghome.co.uk">admin@clarehallnursinghome.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.clarehallnursinghome.co.uk">www.clarehallnursinghome.co.uk</a>
<b>CP Plumbing &amp; Heating</b> Local 24hr Emergency Callout Service. Gas, Oil & LPG (Gas Safe and OFTEC Registered.) Services incl maintenance or new installations for plumbing, heating & bathrooms. Free estimates. Call Chris on Tel: 01761 436797 or 07921 129168	<b>Nicholas J Maggs: Funeral Directors, Private Rest Rooms and Chapel of Rest - Highfields House, Bath Road, Oakhill, Near Bath, Somerset BA3 5AF</b> Tel: 01749 840499 or 01761 418921 or 01749 346567	<b>Lye Services – General.</b> Building, groundworks, driveways, fencing, paths, patios and landscaping. Mini digger/driver. Free estimates.  Call Ron on 01761 471027 or 07515 476995 or Ashley on 07598 439487
<b>Gas Boiler Services</b> All Gas work carried out – Nat Gas + LPG. Gas Safe Registered. Landlord Certificates. Electrical work. General Plumbing + Heating. 24 hr callout. Free estimates..... Andy A. G. Services Tel: 01761 471246/ 07968 505646 <a href="mailto:info@agsservices-bristol.co.uk">info@agsservices-bristol.co.uk</a>	<b>Iain Cotton:</b> <b>Fine hand carved lettering and stone carving.</b> Headstones, house signs and gifts. See my work at <a href="http://www.iaincotton.co.uk">www.iaincotton.co.uk</a>  Tel: 01761 472768 or 07791 606562. <a href="mailto:iaincotton@icloud.com">iaincotton@icloud.com</a>	<b>Balance Gym</b> A personal gym based on your lifestyle and fitness in Timsbury.” Big or small, fit or unfit, come and get fitter, stronger and feel better in a quiet and private space.” Contact Sue Jackson <a href="http://www.suebalancefitness.co.uk">www.suebalancefitness.co.uk</a> email <a href="mailto:sue@suebalancefitness.co.uk">sue@suebalancefitness.co.uk</a> Tel: 07776 147920
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