

Town Forum report 2026

*The Dove* magazine

*The Dove* covers the Bruton and District Benefice which includes the parishes of Bruton, Bratton Seymour, Brewham, Pitcombe, Shepton Montague, Wyke Champflower and Redlynch. We carry news and information from this area along with local advertisers, and the Diary of Events which also appears on the town website for the benefit of all.

There are ten issues a year, double issues for July/August and December/January. Space is limited but we still try to make sure to have a good coverage of things of interest to the community. In the past months this has included St Peter's Redlynch, the future of the Bruton School for Girls site and notable birthdays and farewells. The contributions from so many local organisations are very much appreciated and thank-you to them. We also welcome short articles from the community although the right to edit is reserved to make sure as much as possible is squeezed in. It is not possible to increase the number of pages due to cost and technical reasons.

Back issues are now available on our website, [thedovebruton.co.uk](http://thedovebruton.co.uk).

I am pleased to note the input from Sexey's School, something I am hoping to build on with other educational establishments within the town. November featured a poem from a Sexey's student and the first photo from the photographic students at Sexey's featured on the May issue. Rosa is understandably proud of her work. *The Dove* would like to build on youth involvement so would welcome any enquiries.

It is worth noting that the cover photographs have all been from local professional and amateur photographers since April 2025. This is a way of showcasing the talent in the community. If you, or someone you know, would like to provide the cover image, please let me know. I would like to thank all of them (Emma Lewis, Kelvyn Smith, Hannah Rochford, Mark Pickthall, Debra Barnes, Colin Dewsbury, Vincent Evans, Matt Rawlingson Plant, Rosie Anderton, Sarah Mills and of course, Rosa) for their generosity in providing *The Dove* with their beautiful work.

One valued feature is the Q&A slot. There have been 173 interviews so far covering people (and bells) from all walks of life. Again, if you would like to be the subject or have a suggestion please get in contact. It is a painless process over a cup of tea or coffee, and the interviewee always gets to check what has been written before we send it off to our designer. I do have a spreadsheet to make sure there is no repetition although sometimes this is in a good cause like notable birthdays.

In The Vegetable Garden and Delicious Things continue as great contributions. Sometimes I am approached about having other columns, something I discuss with the committee, but we are very aware of the lack of space. Our regular contributors from all the societies and businesses must come first.

Dick and Angela Pearce are doing a great job with the distribution and Mike Kelham continues to manage the subscriptions and is vice-chair. Taking out a subscription is a great way to support *The Dove* and means you get the next issue delivered to your door, hopefully before it is on general release. Local delivery is £15 and postal delivery in the UK £25. The

team of local volunteers who do the deliveries are invaluable. They are why the delivery system works.

David Freestone oversees advertising which is our main source of revenue. Ed Tickner continues as treasurer and says '*The Dove* continues in good financial health. Our advert prices represent excellent value in comparison with rates for similar productions elsewhere. Advertising is in good health, always in demand and funds our monthly printing and design bills. We do appreciate the generous input from Sexey's Hospital and the long-standing support of businesses such as Mill on the Brue, and Hauser & Wirth. We are grateful to all our advertisers for their support.'

Thank you to all the members of the committee, not forgetting our eagle-eyed chair, Elisabeth Balfour. We are all volunteers and the commitment of everyone is what makes *The Dove* work. If you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you. For example, Tricia Rawlingson Plant and Harriet Derioz are doing sterling work as interviewers for the Q&A.

To everyone who reads *The Dove* and the wider community, thank you for your support and appreciation.