

The Purbeck Gazette

February 2015
Issue no. 181

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Paddington Comes To Wareham. Pg12



Purbeck Wedding Feature. Pg 39-51



Dog Thefts. Pg59



The Cuban Connection. Pg18

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Editor's note...



Welcome to the February edition of your Gazette!

Spring is finally approaching, bulbs are flowering, the days are getting longer and the winter will soon be behind us.

This edition brings you our hugely popular wedding feature, illustrated with fabulous images of recent local weddings, sent in by our readers. If you're planning to get married in Purbeck, have a look through the feature and

get in touch with some of our local providers to see how they can help you on your big day.

If you're single, then thankfully it's Valentine's Day this month! Surely you have a soft spot for someone? If so, take the plunge and send a card - you never know! If you're in a relationship and are considering proposing, then be inventive! We've some stunning surroundings in Purbeck where you could pop the question, or take a look in the food section for restaurants offering Valentine's meals. Good luck!

We have a packed issue this month, full of local news, views and events. Keep wrapped up warm as you head-out to enjoy some of the local events, remember to continue supporting your local shops and keep an eye out for the older generation whilst the cold is still with us.

Have a great February!

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What happens, as we get the news in, online,
FOR YOU.

Public Notices & Information

TIDE TIMES FEB'15

Peveril Ledge, Swanage

	Low	High	Low	High	Low
1	01.31	07.21	13.58	19.43	--
2	02.19	08.07	14.43	20.13	--
3	03.03	08.43	15.25	20.58	-- FM
4	03.44	09.16	16.04	21.33	--
5	04.21	09.48	16.39	22.05	-- ST
6	04.54	10.19	17.10	22.35	--
7	05.23	10.45	17.37	22.58	--
8	06.19	11.30	18.36	23.48	--
9	--	--	06.54	12.03	19.12
10	06.22	11.41	18.32	23.55	--
11	--	--	06.54	12.03	19.12
12	--	01.12	08.27	13.38	20.52
13	--	02.15	09.34	15.03	22.09
14	--	04.04	11.07	16.55	23.48 NP
15	--	05.24	12.27	17.59	--
16	00.56	06.25	13.26	18.54	--
17	01.52	07.17	14.18	19.43	--
18	02.41	08.06	15.05	20.29	-- NM
19	03.28	08.51	15.50	21.13	--
20	04.12	09.35	16.34	21.57	-- SP
21	04.55	10.18	17.16	22.40	--
22	05.38	11.02	17.59	23.25	--
23	06.22	11.47	18.43	--	--
24	--	00.10	07.08	12.35	19.31
25	--	01.00	08.01	13.19	20.31
26	--	01.55	09.11	14.31	21.52
27	--	03.02	10.34	15.45	23.07 NP
28	--	04.26	11.44	17.16	--

ST=Spring Tide NP = Neap Tide NM=New Moon FM=Full Moon

Swanage Town Council Meetings - February 2015

Council
Policy & Planning

Mon 2nd 7pm
Mon 16th 7pm

Please check the Town Council's website www.swanage.gov.uk or call the Town Hall on 01929 423636 for the latest information.

Wareham Town Council Meetings - February 2015

Policy, Resources & Finance
Wareham In Bloom
Planning & Transport

Mon 9th 7pm
Weds 11th 7pm
Mon 16th 7pm

Purbeck DC Meetings - Open to public - February 2015

Standards Committee
Council
Planning Board

Wed 4th 2pm
Tue 24th 7pm
Wed 25th 9.15am

Meetings are subject to change. To double check, see: <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/meetings/purbeck> and see 'dates of council and other meetings'

About The Purbeck Gazette & Purbeck Media Ltd

The Purbeck Gazette prints 20,000 copies every month and delivers throughout the region from Swanage to Dorchester, Lulworth to Bere Regis. The Purbeck Gazette is published by Purbeck Media Ltd. All editing, graphic design and lay-up is completed in-house by Purbeck Media Ltd. The Purbeck Gazette is printed by Blackmore Ltd of Shaftesbury and distributed by Tudor Distribution Ltd of Poole.

The Purbeck Gazette Daily News and Gazette online website is managed and edited on-site by Purbeck Media Ltd.

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Morning on the Frome, by Isabell Millingen

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DEADLINE FOR MARCH IS noon, TUE 10th FEB

Your Letters

The clue is in the heading above - these are our readers' letters. They are NOT articles, they are letters. By you. Our readers. They are not our letters, they are yours - your letters. Simple!

Please send all letters to ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk with 'letter to the editor' in the email subject line. Please do not exceed 350 words. If handwritten, please ensure it is short and legible.

PLEASE DO NOT DUPLICATE LETTERS TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS - WE DO NOT PRINT MULTI-PUBLICATION LETTERS.

MARCH edition deadline: noon February 10th

Viva Veganism

Dear Editor,

After the over-indulgence of Christmas, I'm sure many people will be considering turning over a new leaf and making a New Year's resolution to be healthier.

Might I suggest that those people consider going vegan? The health benefits of a plant-based diet include a lower risk of cardio-vascular disease, diabetes, stroke, and certain types of cancer. Plus vegans tend to be slimmer, so it could be a great way to lose weight. Not only that, but by going vegan you ensure that no farmed animals need suffer for the sake of your food.

So, why not have a kinder, healthier 2015 and go vegan?

For free information, please contact Animal Aid on 01732 364546 or info@animalaid.org.uk

Ben Martin, Animal Aid

A Kafkaesque Situation

Dear Nico,

I am in complete agreement with those who have written in support of Purbeck Shooting School, which has been in existence longer than I can remember. It is inconceivable that the person complaining about noise did not know the school was there. Purbeck District Council certainly did and have for years accepted and supported what is. So why now does the local tax payer have to buy a ticket for this pantomime?

To help put this complaint into perspective it is useful to know that the sound level of speech is between about 50 and 60 dB (according to what you read). I understand that Purbeck District Council have only recently provided what can only be assumed is an arbitrary maximum sound level for noise emanating from the school of 55 dB, presumably as it is perceived in the complainant's garden.

Thus it is pretty obvious that there will be times when the complainant's own voice will exceed the 'permitted' noise from the School, any garden machinery the complainant uses will almost certainly break this arbitrary rule.

As if this were not enough to illustrate the absurd nature of this complaint there is another revelation from an impeccable and utterly reliable source to further highlight what is a ridiculous situation. It seems that on several occasions when the council were in the complainant's garden measuring the noise from the school, the noise level from the local bird population was such that the noise from the school could not be measured.

On the whim of one person apparently, Purbeck District Council attempts to impose in an apparent Kafkaesque and retrospective fashion an arbitrary rule or rules on an important local business and employer. The business and school provides jobs and a sports' resource for potential and actual Olympic and World Champions, young, old, able and disabled. It also raises substantial amounts of money for local charities.

The taxpayers (that's you and me) are paying for this pantomime, the lawyers will benefit and that's their job, bless 'em. In my mind the money would be better spent on other public services on which we all depend. Choose your own.

What's that you say? Can't hear me? Best ask the birds for a bit of whist. Maybe even ask every one to get a hearing test, maybe some folk have an acute aversion to country life and the sounds therein. The solution for them is to get a different life that is preferable, rather than trying to change ours.

Alternatively anyone can have a go, you might enjoy a sport in which a Dorset man is both Olympic and World champion.

Steve Coleman, Langton Matravers, by email

LULWORTH RANGE WALKS & TYNEHAM VILLAGE OPENING TIMES

The Lulworth Range Walks and Tyneham Village are open to the public every weekend with the exception of: **7/8 March 2015**

In addition to the weekends, they are open every day during the following times (all dates are inclusive):

Easter - 3-12 April 2015

Tyneham School & Church exhibitions open 10am -4pm whilst open

From our March edition, we are no longer allowed to publish information on when the Ranges are open. You will have to check online (signal permitting!).

The Less Guns The Better

Dear Editor,

The oddly virulent letters supporting the shooting school disappoint me. These shooters also kill and wound wildlife, not all of them, but it is not discouraged. The less guns the better.

Sadly many people think it is their right to own guns and hunt birds, etc. Surely, I would never encourage my family to shoot - targets or animals.

It is not your right - it is inherently wrong.

Just some of the birds shot in the thousands are Snipe, Golden Plover, Woodcock, many ducks and wild geese.

Maud Singleton (long-retired anti-hunting campaigner), full address supplied.

It's Not A Personal Vendetta

Dear Editor

Purbeck Shooting School - The other side of the story!

There have been a number of letters written to the editor of the Purbeck Gazette supporting the Purbeck Shooting School and criticising the Purbeck District Council for taking enforcement action against the Purbeck Shooting School, and criticising the residents who have complained about the noise.

Much of what has been written is inaccurate and has only considered one side of the issue. This letter sets out the other side of the argument and explains why the residents have complained and why the council took enforcement action against the Purbeck Shooting School.

It is not a personal vendetta by any of the residents as suggested by one of the friends of the Shooting School. Neither the Purbeck District Council nor the local residents want the Purbeck Shooting School to close. Both parties want the Purbeck Shooting School to keep below the noise limit set as part of their Planning Permission.

Some of the local residents have lived here well before the shooting school started to operate, while residents who have moved here more recently, knew the noise from the Shooting School was limited by their planning permission.

The Purbeck Shooting School was granted planning permission in 2003 with certain conditions which were designed to ensure local residents were not harmed by excessive noise. One of these conditions was an average noise limit of 55dB(A). Another condition was the requirement to design a shooting stand layout and implement noise mitigation measures to ensure the noise was kept below the 55dB(A). The 55dB(A) limit was set according to the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Guidance on the Control of Noise for Clay Target Shooting, which is used by most councils for shooting establishments round the UK and adhered to by those establishments. The Purbeck Shooting School could have appealed against these conditions if they believed they were unreasonable, but they did not.

Since 2003 as the business has grown additional shooting stands have been added to the site and the number of people shooting at the same time has increased. This has resulted in the average noise levels increasing and since 2012 has reached levels of 65dB(A) and 70dB(A) and even above on occasions. Due to the way sound is measured, 65dB(A) is twice as loud as the 55dB(A) limit, while 70dB(A) is three times as loud as the 55dB(A) limit!

Is it unreasonable for residents to complain or for the Council to take enforcement action when the Shooting School are exceeding the legal noise limit by two and three times? We think not.

After the Council served the enforcement notice, the Purbeck Shooting School appealed against the notice. Their appeal was rejected by the Inspector in October 2014 and the reasons were well documented and in the public domain. The School are now in the process of challenging the Inspectors decision in the High Courts. In the meantime the residents continue to suffer from the noise which has increased since it appears the stands that had been closed by the Shooting School to reduce the noise, have now been reopened!

It would appear that the Purbeck Shooting School may have a solution to



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Sun 08 2pm	Jez Hellard & The Djukella Orchestra
Sat 14 8pm	Back to the Shack
Sun 15 2pm	West My Friend
Sat 21 8pm	Hightown Crows
Fri 27 8pm	Keith James

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this noise problem. They drew up plans for a new shooting stand layout which according to their own noise consultant would reduce the noise levels to below the 55dB(A) limit for all but one stand. They submitted this plan as part of a new Planning Application in June last year, however before the planning application was considered by the Planning Board, the Shooting School withdrew it. It is believed it was withdrawn as the Council officers had indicated the application would be refused while one of the 40 stands was predicated to exceed the 55dB(A) noise level.

It would appear there are ways for the Purbeck Shooting School to co-exist with residents if they position the shooting stands correctly and introduce other noise mitigation measures. Would this not be a better solution rather than try and overturn an Inspectors decision?

Messrs Cassidy and King, on behalf of affected residents

Loan Scheme Thanks

Dear Editor,

Purbeck Instrument Loan Scheme

On behalf of the committee of the Purbeck Instrument Loan Scheme, I would like to thank all those who have supported PILS in 2014, through generous donations of money, instruments, time and other help. We are very grateful to the Swanage School for providing us with space for instruments which are currently not on loan, and to Rev Tony Delsink for storing our instruments at the Presbytery in the interim after the Middle School closed.

We are also very grateful to all those who helped us with both moves and to the Swanage Jazz Festival for their recent generous donation of £200. We are dependent on donations as our outgoings (mainly instrument servicing, repairs, grants and insurance) exceed our subscription income. PILS currently has 108 members borrowing 112 orchestral instruments out of a total stock of 190 (including string instruments in various sizes). Thanks to the support of local groups and individuals, we are still, after fourteen years, able to provide orchestral instruments for loan at only £20 a year. As long as funds are available, we provide tuition subsidies for those learning less popular instruments and help with the cost of exam fees. We also put on termly concerts and the next one is on Monday March 16th, 6pm at St Mark's School.

We are currently celebrating the success of three of our members: Evie Cooper and Lydia Bennett, who have gained places in the Wessex Youth Orchestra on flute and bassoon, and Amelia Seaman, who has been offered a place as a violinist in the Under-11 National Children's Orchestra. Congratulations to all three!

For further information about PILS, please click on the link on the Purbeck Arts Club website: www.purbeckarts.co.uk.

Jay Buckle, by email

Thanks For Nothing STC

Dear Editor,

It was with some astonishment that I read in Swanage Matters that the Town Council are now saying that anyone wishing to view the geological face at California Quarry must obtain permission from Suttles and the Council.

My consternation rises because as Swanage Town Council owns the road leading to the site they should by law have received one third of the value of the whole quarry site in return for its use, (case law Stokes vs Cambridge – Google it) which would have put – well – six figures

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into the town's coffers. But what the town's people got instead was the 'opportunity' to look at a geological face which to my mind was not the best deal in the world - but hey ho.

Now Infrastrata plan to use this same road and this same site, and the potential profit from that (calculated directly from the planning file so please don't poo-poo this figure) is £55billion.

Taking 50% off as tax to central government and, say, a generous £10million to drill this would still leave a value of £27,490million – of which the town should be receiving a third – something over £9 billion – or if you prefer a little under a million pounds for each of us!

Incredible? Well – it WOULD be but STC in their wisdom have elected to ignore their own mission statements stating they should maximise profits from their assets (the road to Suttles being just one) and have even signed variations to the existing lease agreements to make life easier for Suttles and Infrastrata and, despite still being in the driving seat, are NOW saying that the public also have to get permission from the owner to go on the site – which is a stricter arrangement than any other private land in Dorset – so actually we get NOTHING! Bravo STC!

But two things you should consider. The first is that all wells fail. It may take time, but eventually the steel jacket that separates the water table from the toxic chemicals and hydrocarbons below rusts, the ground water gets poisoned, and that is when the suffering will really start (Google that too if you are sceptical) and when (not if) that happens even your million would seem like poor compensation for the shocking illnesses you and your family will risk getting.

The second is that there is an election this year, and if you keep on voting in a troop of blue-rosetted Councillors it is highly unlikely that you will see any changes for the better.

There will however be a selection of independent candidates running – so maybe you should think about giving them a try?

Andy Kirkwood, Swanage, by email

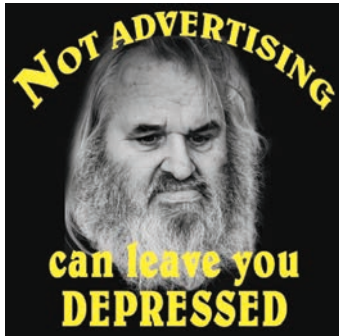
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Postal Worker Wonders!

Dear Nico,

I would like to bring attention to the work of our fantastic postal workers in Swanage during the pre-Christmas rush.

I accidentally posted a card for hand delivery to my mother in amongst a pile of stamped addressed cards. Realising my mistake later that night I stuck a notice on the box asking the post workers to return it to me if possible, and a card to them in the box including my name and address acknowledging that this would be very difficult if not impossible because of the huge numbers of letters in the post at Christmas.

The next day I ran up to the box for the first collection only to find they had started early so I had missed them, so I thought that was that.

Incredibly, it was delivered to my house at 10.30am the same day!

Many thanks to all who work for the Swanage Postal Service, and a Happy New Year to you and your staff!

Regards, Jane Linger, by email

Crossways Generosity



Dear Gazette,

During a recent Christmas Party Lunch where almost one hundred people attended, a donation was made by Crossways Travel of £1132.58 to Gully's Place Charity.

Crossways Travel, Operator of Escorted Day Excursions and Coach Holidays from Swanage, Wareham, Wool and many other villages have a nominated Charity each year and were delighted to present their donation this year to a very valuable cause.

Gully's Place are currently collecting to fund a suite for terminally ill children and their families in Dorchester Hospital and to date have managed to raise almost £60,000. They hope work will start on the suite later in 2015. This will have a tremendous benefit to many families in the local community. Anyone wishing to make a donation to Gully's Place please contact 01202 448449.

Picture from left to right ... Patrick Conway (Driver), Gully's Place representative, Matt Crocker (Crossways Travel Co Owner), Kadi Crocker (Crossways Travel Co Owner), Ron Lewis (Driver)

Thanks you, Crossways Travel, by email.

Rods And Poles Still Legal

Dear Editor,

Gardening allotments – units of measurement

We believe that the following news is of interest to allotment gardeners and parish councillors among your readership.

It has come to our notice that a Mr David Johnson is emailing local councils across Britain, accusing them of "breaking the law" by using traditional measurements such as rods and poles to describe gardening allotments. Over 150 councils have been contacted so far. Mr Johnson does not disclose that he is not a local resident.

These emails commence under the Freedom of Information Act, asking for allotment prices, but then switch context and use deadlines under the FOI Act to force a change to metric units. Some councils have removed rods and poles as a result of these emails.

We want to assure councils and allotment holders that Mr Johnson is wrong. No legislation has been passed to outlaw traditional units for allotments. When drafting metric regulations in the mid- 1990s, the government exempted "transactions by specification", of which allotment contracts are an example.

Rods, poles, perches, yards and lugs have existed for hundreds of years in Britain, and we hope that councils and allotment holders continue to use them for centuries to come.

Yours faithfully, John Gardner, Director British Weights and Measures Association.

Charity Mail Raises £2500

Dear Nico,

Christmas Charity Mail – thank you!

Another Lions Club of Swanage Christmas Charity Mail has successfully come and gone. Through your readership I would like to thank all those volunteers from our community who gave their time to help in the collecting and sorting offices. Also a huge thanks must go to our army of deliverers who tramp the streets in Swanage and surrounding villages ensuring all the Christmas Post arrives at its destination.

The process of sorting and delivery are very time consuming, deciphering addresses, completing or correcting information on envelopes to aid deliverers. Sometimes our little grey cells are stretched to the limit to interpret or solve certain addressing problems, our volunteers do their best!

If anyone accidentally received incorrect post we are only too happy to solve the problem if contacted. The Christmas Charity Mail would not be possible without the 150 volunteers who this year gave their time to help us.

We delivered over 6,660 cards, and raised, along with the proceeds from the Grand Raffle, over £2,500 for our chosen Dorset based charities, Can Care and Harlequin.

A big thank you must go to Margaret Warburton who every year allows us to occupy the Salvation Army Chapel for the sorting of the mail and to Mike Harding at Tawnys for use of his restaurant as the main collection point.

Lastly and most importantly we would like to thank all of you who used and supported the Christmas Charity Mail and helped us raise much needed funds for local charities.

Paddy Rideal (Lions Club of Swanage)

Calling All Keen Singers!

Dear Editor,

Calling All Keen Singers

In a bid to raise the profile and increase membership of a quality local choir I am writing to you today. At the present time Briantspuddle Singers have a new, dynamic, skilled, young male conductor with a positive and supportive approach to teaching singing.

The choir meets Tuesday evening 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm with a short break in the middle for chat and notices. Our rehearsal space is the warm, light, recently redecorated, well-appointed Briantspuddle Village Hall, easily accessible from the local area.

We sing a wide variety of music, secular and sacred with the emphasis on enjoyment. We have three concerts a year in a variety of venues.

We are seeking to attract singers of all ages for all parts. An ability to read music is a definite advantage, together with enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

Many thanks, Theresa Cook, Bovington.

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Puzzles For Memory Cafe



Dear Editor,

Puzzles and games to the value of £250 have been donated to the Wareham Memory Café. The donation is the result of winnings collected by regular teams participating in the Tuesday night Music Quiz at the Duke of Wellington in East Street, Wareham.

Thank you!

Marje Heath, Wareham

In Memory Of Katie

Dear Nico,

Andy and Caroline Senior and Sally and Kevin Brookes would like to thank everybody who attended our party on Saturday 29th November at Swanage Conservative Club.

We raised a massive £520 in aid of The Neuroblastoma Society in memory of Katie. The Neuroblastoma Society is a Charity run by volunteers and is set up to raise funds for research into fighting childhood cancer.

We would like to thank everybody who came along for a wonderful evening and also those who have subsequently made donations.

Caroline and Andy Senior, by email.

Benefits' Phobia

Dear Ed,

I write to you because I recently became a victim of 'Benefits' Phobia'. What is this? I hear you ask. Well it's when Landlords state, when advertising their property for rent, No DSS or Housing Benefit.

I have to find another property to rent as my Landlord wishes to sell the one I am currently renting. A local Estate Agent found me a lovely little cottage and he was happy to recommend me to the Landlord.

As a 65 year old receiving a state pension I am entitled to rent allowance from P.D.C., which I have paid towards all my working life. I am not in receipt of DSS and yet I was not deemed suitable by the owners of the cottage.

Most working people today have to top up their money by claiming either Working Tax Credits or Housing Benefit because wages are so low and rents are too high. This does not automatically make them bad people nor does it make them bad tenants.

The most ridiculous thing about my situation is that had I still been working and not retired (apologies for being 65!), I would have been 'acceptable', but being 'in work' would not have made me a better person than I am now, I would still be me!

So while you Landlords prefer your tenants to be 'in work' please remember that this will not guarantee your rent being paid nor will it guarantee your property being well cared for, and this may come as a

shock to you but some 'undesirables' also have jobs too.

I am livid that I have been classed as some sort of 'low life' just because I receive help with rent now I am of a certain age. Surely this comes under the heading of discrimination?

I am certain that the television programme 'Benefits Britain' has a lot to do with this, so I would like to ask all would-be Landlords - please do not tar us all with the same brush as the majority of us are good, decent people who are just not as fortunate, financially, as you are.

Perhaps in future if the Estate Agent recommends someone, you could possibly meet with them and not make judgements.

Judi Taylor, Swanage

Immigration - Attitudes Ironic

Dear Nico,

With immigration in the news and a general election imminent, I'd like to point out some ironies in local attitudes to immigration. Of course, unlike many places, Purbeck is largely untouched by the effects of incoming immigrants, but that doesn't mean that the issue is not relevant here.

Ironically and puzzlingly, it seems to be an extremely important issue to local people, as seen in increased support for right wing parties and polls that show immigration as a top local concern.

Personally, I have found that even local people who are generally non-political, hold very strong views on immigration and often very extreme and prejudicial views. As I say, this is ironic as there is little actual immigration here.

Of course, part of the explanation lies in the anti-immigration bias of the media, but there seems to be a rather insidious relationship between local 'traditional' and 'patriotic' views towards those from other ethnic backgrounds, even if they were born here!

It often appears that the local 'homely' attitudes about 'old Dorset' and 'old England' have a darker side in terms of negativity and even hostility towards those who are seen as outsiders. Indeed I've been downright shocked by the overt racism that I've encountered in some local people and it shows a far less attractive side to Purbeck's cosy community.

All this is doubly ironic to me as a republican in view of local loyalty to the monarchy, as shown in royalist celebrations of jubilees, weddings etc. Of course, the Royal family are from an immigrant background when we remember their recent German roots. Their real surname of 'Sax-Coburg' (changed to avoid hostility in the First World War) and the fact that the Queen's children are half Greek!

It is hard to imagine the local population being happy with Greco-German rulers in Downing Street, but it seems that we're content to be reigned over by immigrants. Like I say, how ironic!

Yours sincerely, Martin Hobdell, Swanage, by hand.

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Jaw V War

Dear Editor,

Some of us recently were considering the knotty question when, if ever, war may be justified. One emphasis emerged - the need to attempt to have dialogue with any potential enemy before fighting. It may seem, especially in the present world setting, unlikely to succeed, but at least all avenues of contact should be explored.

As Churchill put it 'Jaw jaw is better than War war', and that is as true for our own petty quarrels and divisions.

What then can be attempted when faced with the most extreme enemy? We need to go deeper than a hasty response of armed conflict, although that may have to be the last resort.

We need to analyse the philosophy behind the enemy. What is his ultimate purpose? On what basis is he making his appeal? What feeds the level of support he gets? Are there attitudes and ideas in us which we need to correct? We need to be far readied and better at winning hearts and minds.

Hence it is on an ideological level - the realm of ideas -, that we must make our appeal. A bad idea can only successfully be countered by a better idea. Have we got a better idea, a better cause to live for, (and, I must add, to die for)?

For unless we do, and unless we live a more attractive example of it, we shall see the eclipse of democratic civilisation as we know it.

And who shall say we do not deserve it?

Andrew Salmon, Wareham, by email.

Charity Begins At Home

Dear Nico,

Is it good and right that the blazing (spiritual) light of the Bethlehem star be in no way diminished by talk of money.

"Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's"

However, let us briefly take stock of our national financial situation. Our (financial) state is appalling. In a condition of insolvency - the interest rate of the national debt is £50 billion alone, our daily membership of the European Union is some £55 million.

In this state of insolvency how can Britain possibly give overseas aid to the abject tune of £12 billion - or 7% of the national income. This deed of perpetuity (passed on 12 September) is totally irresponsible and can only exacerbate existing governmental wastage.

David Barsley, Swanage by hand.

Cream Teas For Charity

Dear Editor,

In July 2013, we had the idea to offer a 'cream tea with a view' for charity, enjoyed overlooking the beautiful scenery of Purbeck. The event was so successful in 2013 that there have been requests from all directions that a similar event be held again.

The organisers met recently and it was decided that June 2015 would be an ideal time to repeat the event, so the weekend of June 27th was chosen and plans are already in hand to ensure the occasion will be repeated and will be even bigger and better!

In 2013 an amount in excess of £2500 was raised for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, the chosen beneficiaries of our efforts and this will continue for future events. Everybody involved agree that funds for the Air Ambulance are much needed particularly in the beautiful area where we live, considering the difficulty of vehicle access during the busy summer months and the importance of urgent medical assistance when required.

The 2015 experience will follow along the lines of the last event to include something for everybody. There are plans to include a classic car show, a variety of fairground rides, sideshows for all ages, market stalls, singers

and music, varied refreshments including our famous cream teas and many other attractions too numerous to mention.

The location of the event will be the same as before, in the field next to Kingston Country Courtyard just outside Kingston village, offering magnificent views across Purbeck from this elevated position. Space is not an issue - we can accommodate as many attractions and parking as required, so put this date in the diary now!

If you are interested in attending or participating, please contact our organisers Mr and Mrs Alan Fry by email ann@fryfarm.net or 01929 481663, alternatively, contact Graham Lambert, graham@smgswanage.co.uk 01929 480221. See you all there!

Warning To Dog Walkers

Dear Nico,

A happy new year to you and all your readers.

I believe the festive season in Swanage passed off peacefully and without any incidents. So all in all a great success. Personally I wouldn't know.

At my age I spend most of my time in bed, tucked up with a Barbara Cartland novel and a bucket of sleeping pills on the bedside table. I know that you like letters that have a good moan, and it occurred to me that I do have one.

The subject is 'The hazards of dog-walking'. I was walking my dog recently at six o'clock in the morning along the sea-front which was, at the time, barely illuminated.

Currently there is some maintenance work being carried out next to the Blue Shelter by the Mowlem, and the labourers had left a number of large red plastic fences there so that people wouldn't trip over the tools and replacement stones.

My dog, luckily, scampered neatly over the obstacles, but I happened to trip over them! I fell down and crushed the bottle of white cider in my rucksack, which then burst and soaked down into my brand new Christmas jeans.

The jeans were easily washable, but the cider was irreplaceable.

I hope that this may serve as a responsible warning to all other early morning dog walkers who may encounter these hazards.

Yours sincerely, Simon Cattell, Swanage by hand.

Rotary Club Thanks

Dear Nico,

Re: Swanage Christmas Market and Rotary Sleigh

Through the Gazette we should like to say a great big 'Thank You' to the people of Swanage and Langton Matravers for their amazing generosity in supporting both of the above events.

Our part of the Market raised £2029 and with the Sleigh we collected the great sum of £3268 over the fortnight we toured the streets of Swanage and Langton Matravers.

This adds up to a grand total of £5297 which will all be donated to charity, the vast majority of it local.

However with the Sleigh we did fall down in planning our routes and it seems we missed out several roads, the ones that have come to notice so far include Marsh Way, Cow Lane and Hendrie Close.

If we didn't come to your road and you would like to see us please let me know on wendyanddougq@btinternet.com or through the Gazette and we will try to make a better job of it this year.

The other bit of news is that thanks to the Carnival this year we should have a new trailer and a posh new sleigh for Father Christmas to tour the town.

Again thank you Swanage, you never cease to amaze with your generosity.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Quale, Rotary Club of Swanage and Purbeck

Community Matters

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WARNING Column May Contain Traces Of Nut

David Hollister writes...

One glaring omission to my review of the good things that happened in 2014 – the announcement that Swanage Hospital was safe. With apologies and many congratulations to all those who were involved in saving it, what fantastic news and proof yet again that just occasionally the powers-that-think-they-be will listen to the voice of the people.

Right. No more Mr Nice Guy. Seasonal plaudits over. I hope that you've seen the survey that's been doing the rounds on the subject of Dorset Recycling Centres, and ways for the County Council to save money by closing or part-closing some of them. Those of immediate interest to Gazette readers are Swanage and Wareham. The 'survey' makes many suggestions, from total closure to limited opening hours, and charging people to deposit their rubbish and recycling. You can almost hear their tiny brains working overtime; money money money, but never service service service. I paid over £2000 last year for the privilege of living in my own home, and to be able to use a recycling centre freely and at hours of my choosing is one of the few benefits I derive from my Council tax.

The closure or part-closure of either centre will surely result in a significant increase in 'fly-tipping', something that's mercifully reduced over the past few years – because it's just as easy to tip freely and conveniently at the recycling centres as it is to find a secluded gateway or country lane.

The Dorset Waste Partnership is a joke, and not a very funny one at that. Which idiot dreamed up the idea of four household collections rather than one – that's waste, recycling, food, and garden rubbish, separate lorries, adding to the Council's wages bill and adding to the environmental pollution that recycling is supposed to be helping to reduce.

This is the thin end of the wedge. By increasing expensive 'household collections' the Council are eroding the volume of recycling taken to your recycling centre, which they'll then close or curtail due to 'lack of demand'. So I invite every reader to do your bit in keeping them open. Do as I'm doing. Separate metals, bottles, and cardboard and get off your backside once a fortnight and take them to the recycling centre in person. Take your garden refuse in manageable re-usable bags rather than pay for a roadside service. Don't take 'landfill rubbish' – just recycling.

In Swanage, most people drive right past it fairly regularly anyway; in Wareham, it's a bit further out of your way. But by using your recycling centre in this way, you're helping to increase their statistics – they're credited by weight so take the heavy stuff – and also helping to preserve the amenity for us all, and the jobs of the courteous and helpful guys who work there.

By the time you're reading this, the main road into Swanage will have been blocked for at least two weeks out of a threatened seven by the Gas Board. Over the past year they've been omnipresent down here, with their temporary traffic lights and their unattended holes. Now I know that we have to be sure that the gas mains are in good order, but ye gods, let's get our priorities right! Diverting all traffic – including buses and heavy lorries – down either High Street or Kings Road West, for seven weeks, just isn't on. It's not like the repairs are over a long distance. I've walked

it. The distance from Avenue Garage forecourt to the entrance to the Victoria Avenue Industrial Estate is only 200 yards. Yet they want it closed for seven weeks! What are they digging with? Teaspoons?

It's time that the Gas Board realised that, important though their works may be, they don't have – or shouldn't have – carte blanche to inconvenience thousands of people and put others at risk from increased traffic. In other countries, the people won't put up with it so let me suggest that if they worked three 8-hour shifts, under floodlights, they could get it done in one third of the time. But no, just like so many other public utilities and indeed Councils, they are totally arrogant and care not one iota how many people they inconvenience or how many businesses they damage. Remember what the Water Board did to Holton Heath about two years ago?

Dorset County Council tell us "SGN have publicised this proposal widely across Swanage and held a public "drop-in" session recently which allowed local businesses and the public the opportunity to discuss the detail of the scheme and the traffic management". Well, we are in the centre of Swanage and neither we nor any of our many customers seem to have heard about this secret-squirrel "drop-in" session. Did you? Did you go? If you would like further information about the work being undertaken, or to tell them what you think of them, please contact SGN on 02392 624627.

Disgusted to read that the new 'cycle-track' between Wareham and Sandford cost £550,000. I completely agree that the children coming and going to school need a safe traffic-free route, but let's accept this as a safer and wider pavement rather than anything to do with cyclists. Hopefully the cyclists will continue to refuse to use it, especially at school times. Because I wouldn't want my kid to walk along a pavement shared with cyclists. Some of us in Harmans Cross don't even have the luxury of continuous pavements at all.....

Wasn't it wonderful to see the teddy-bears on the 'sword in the stone' roundabout at Christmas?! Thanks to all the teddy-owners, who cheered up several otherwise boring journeys for me!

And finally. Congratulations to the 100+ residents of Langton Matravers who, despite having previously decided that 82% of you were in favour of affordable housing, turned out in your masses to object to the proposed Spyway Barn development which would have provided 24 new homes for your own homeless families. With any luck, the developer will shelve his plans and you can all sleep soundly knowing that wherever these homeless people end up, it won't be at Spyway Barn. Good news, too, for builders and developers; the PDC have scrapped the 'affordable homes subsidy' for developments of under ten properties. You will no longer have to make payments into the fund set-up to help our less fortunate residents find somewhere to live; you can keep all your profits and you too can live happily ever after.

If you, dear reader, find this column unpalatable from time to time then I would remind you that there are in this magazine seventy-eight pages which have not been written by me, either personally or under an alias.

Nico Johnson (oops, sorry) **David Hollister**

P.I.S.S. At Christmas!



The fine gentlemen of P.I.S.S. (Purbeck Independent Simpleton's Society) enjoyed a fine Christmas celebration in December, gathering together for the presentation of awards (Nick Caddy finally won the coveted Liverpoolian 'Hub-Cap' award for the best poem, below) and for the reading of correspondence from other like-minded gentlemen's clubs across the UK.

A wonderful meal was supplied by the Matron of the King's Arms, Wareham, and respect was paid to club members Roger and Jeremy, who are no longer with us.

Well done chaps!



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Not Just Sundaes Book Bonanza!



Not Just Sundaes are delighted to be part of Purbeck Literary Festival (see page 67) 2015.

We are hosting 2 events in February, along with holding our own Books Bonanza!

On Tuesday 16th February there will be children's workshops called 'Crabs, Frogs and Thingamabobs' with toymaker Ian McKay. The sessions run from 11am until 4pm and last for 20 minutes.

Children over 6 can make paper characters and enjoy a drink and biscuit (adult supervision required).

The adults get their turn on Thursday 26th February when we welcome Juncture 25's facilitator, poet Paul Tobin, who will be leading a poetry workshop in the afternoon.

Why not come along and explore your poetic side? In the evening, following the workshop, there will be supper and a poetry reading, which is also open to those who have not attended the afternoon session.

For prices and information on how to get tickets for either event, please visit www.purbeckliteraryfestival.info.

In addition to these exciting events, for the whole of half term we will be running a Book Bonanza! Bring along your unwanted books (good condition please) and swap them for some 'new to you' stories.

Or simply come and read on our comfy sofas while you enjoy a great coffee!

To find out more information about what is happening in the space, visit us at www.notjustsundaes.com, contact us via our facebook page (Not just sundaes Community Café), or pop in and say hi – we'd love to meet you!

Nous Sommes CHARLIE



Whilst we prepare our February edition, people around the world are struggling to come to terms with the appalling and devastating attack on the offices of Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

As our regular readers will know, the Purbeck Gazette, being a small community based newspaper, rarely reports on major world events, and when we do, we always strive to maintain an entirely neutral viewpoint.

However, in this instance, and as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives, we feel compelled to comment.

The freedom of the press to write, speak or draw without fear or censorship is vital if we wish to live in a democratic and inclusive society.

We therefore join with our publishing brethren around the world in this, our first edition since the tragedy, and are proud to publish a recent cartoon by illustrator, Lucille Clerc.

We would like to thank Lucille Clerc and agent, Nicolas Pitzalis of Lezilus, for giving permission for us to publish Lucille's illustration.

Swanage Food Bank

The Food Bank team would like to wish the people of Swanage a happy and prosperous New Year and to thank whole heartedly everyone who supported us so generously in 2014, either with cash donations or with donations of dried or canned food in the Blue Bin at the front of Budgen's store.

With your help and kindness we have been able to support 250 people in and around Swanage who would otherwise have been without food.

These people have, in one way or another, through no fault of their own, found themselves with nothing. They are a small number of the nearly one million people nationwide who are in a similar situation. Shocking isn't it, that even here in relatively affluent Swanage there are people who would otherwise go hungry?

The Salvation Army has been giving help to the hungry locally for many years. Recently others of us from local churches joined with the Salvation Army in response to the perception of a growing need locally.

We have been particularly overwhelmed by the generosity of certain individuals, one of whom set about raising money for the Food Bank, another who anonymously spent £100 and filled the Budgen's bin single-handedly just before Christmas.

Another young woman arrived with a basket of donations simply because she wanted to, and yet another left a lovely set of lavender toiletries for us to include as a gift with our parcels.

Thank you to everyone - every tin or packet will help a hungry person or child.

Beryl Hopkins, on behalf of The Swanage Food Bank Team

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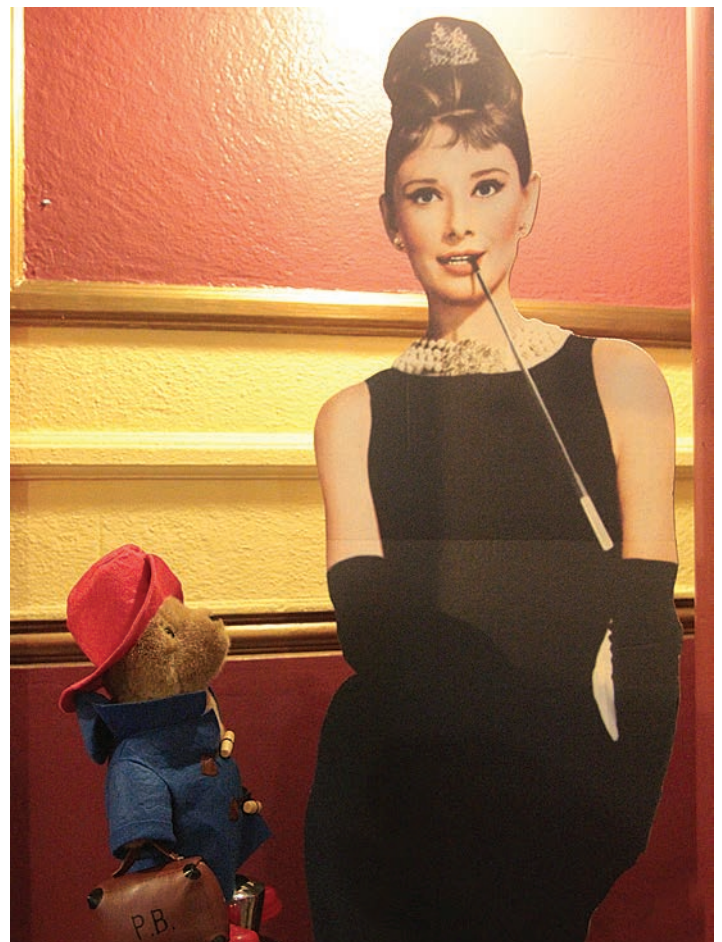


Recently, as part of VisitBritain's marketing campaign to promote Britain as a great destination, Paddington Bear paid a visit to the Rex Cinema in Wareham.

This lovable bear is taking cheeky selfies at locations around the country using the hashtag #PaddingtonsBritain and during his time at The Rex, Paddington caused havoc whilst he slid down the banisters, road tested the stairlift and snuck behind the bar.

This cheeky Peruvian bear arrived at Wareham's charming little cinema in December to greet a group of local children who had made marmalade sandwiches just for him.

Pictures courtesy of VisitBritain.





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Car Share To Cut Costs In 2015

Dorset County Council is encouraging drivers across the county to think more about their journeys this month in a bid to lower fuel costs. This month sees car sharing website Carsharedorset.com celebrate its 10th anniversary and is all about giving car sharing a try. You can cut your fuel bills in half by sharing a lift to and from work. Sharing a lift to and from work not only helps you do your bit for the environment, but can also make the journey into work more sociable and fun.

By sharing an 11-mile journey with just one other person you could be saving yourself £322 per year in fuel. Your savings could increase to a massive £429 a year by sharing with two other people. Dorset also has a free car sharing website to help you find a perfect match for a lift. Carsharedorset.com makes it easy to search for other potential car share partners across the county. There is also a savings calculator which shows how much money you could save.

Individuals and businesses that are keen to save money and reduce their carbon emissions are being encouraged to sign up for free. And you don't even need a car - if you are just looking for a lift, carsharedorset.com is your answer.

Car sharer Paul Beecroft from Bournemouth said: "I'm amazed at how much money I'm saving by sharing a lift as I travel from Bournemouth to Dorchester four times a week. The website was very easy to use and the sign up process was quick and simple. I've made new friends and car sharing really makes the journey to and from work more enjoyable."

County council Cabinet member for environment and the economy, Cllr Peter Finney said: "Running a car has mounting costs, in terms of petrol, maintenance and parking expenses. Car sharing is a fantastic way to save money, reduce congestion on our roads and is a sociable way to travel. "I would encourage everyone simply to register their journey and do a search. No matter where you live, you'll be surprised to find how many other people are going your way."

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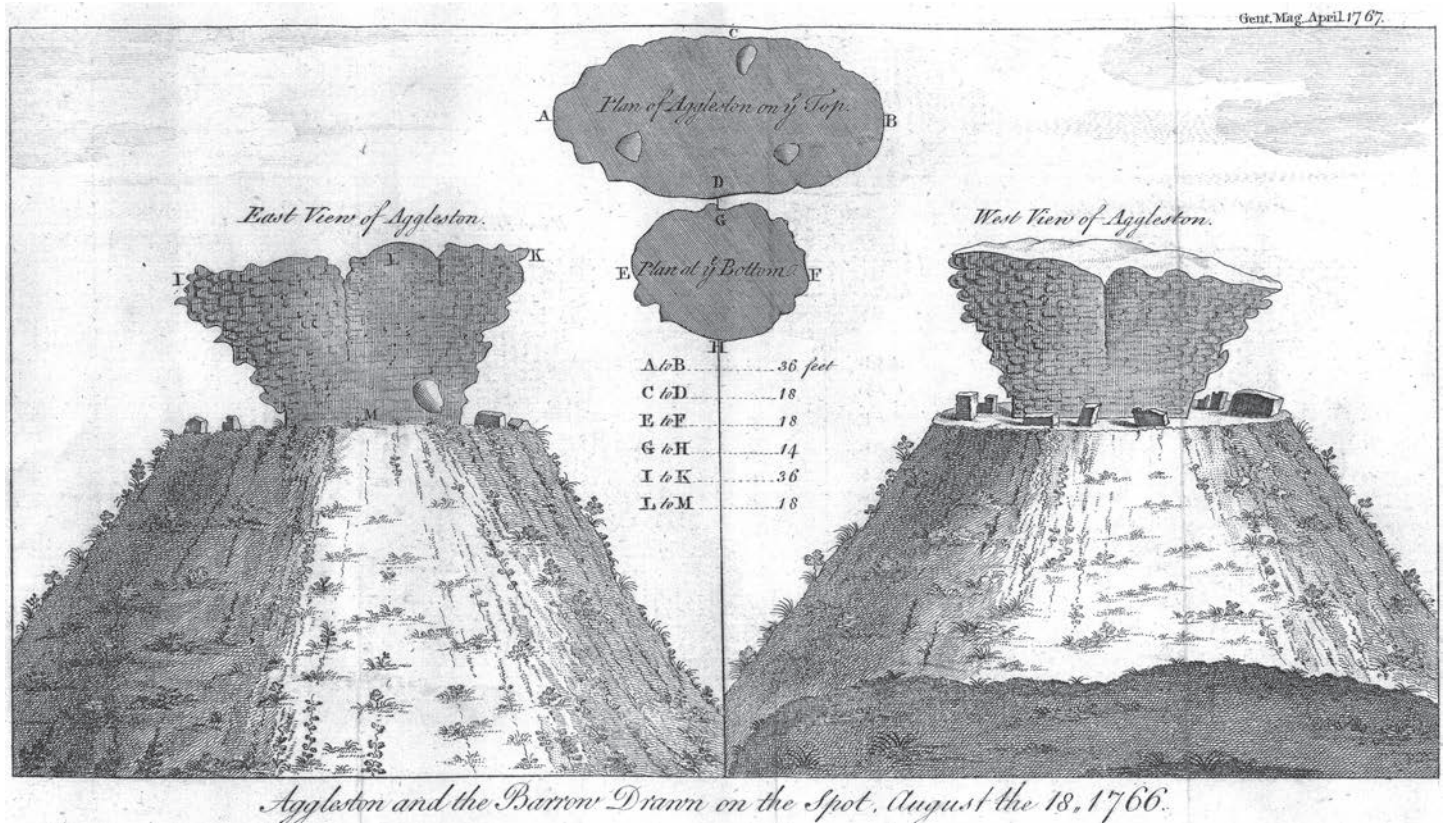
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Agglestone Rock - Then And Now....



Dear Editor,

The Agglestone (article by John Garner in the January edition, no 180, pg 47) has been known about, and has attracted interest, for many years.

The above engraving from an original drawing, appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine for April 1767, and I have, somewhere, a larger drawing from an earlier edition of the magazine.

The accompanying description (printed below) was also, perhaps, the first to be published.

It was submitted by a 'J.H.', probably John Hutchins, a Wareham clergyman, and the county historian.

Yours sincerely, D. Langford.

Readers please note - this is in 'Old English!'

'This prodigious stone, hardly equalled by any in England, and the greatest piece of antiquity in this county, stands in the N.E. extremity of the Isle of Purbeck, in a heath on the east side of Studland Bay, in that parish, on the estate of John Banks of Kingston Hall, about a mile N.W. from Studland and six leagues from the Isle of Wight.

It is surrounded on all sides by several little hills, or rising grounds, which form a theatre, except on the east, where they open and give an agreeable view of part of Poole and Studland Bays, and the Isle of Wight.

The name Aggleston seems to be derived from the Saxon balig, holy and stan, a stone, which is expressive of its ancient superstitious use, for it was, no doubt, a rock-idol or deity in the British age.

The country people call it the Devil's Night-Cap, and have a romantic tradition that the Devil, out of envy, threw it from the Isle of Wight, with a design to have demolished Corfe Castle, but it fell short and dropt here.

It is a red heath, sand or moor-stone, which, although very common all over the heath, does not abound hereabouts, or at least of any bigness.

It stands on an high barrow, or tumulus; its present form is that of a pyramid inverted, or an irregular triangle, one of whose sides is placed uppermost, though it is probable it was originally quadrilateral. On the east front it is convex or gibbous, on the west nearly flat. On the top, a ridge or bulge runs its whole length from N. to S. whence it slopes away to the east 6ft and to the west 5ft.

There is a considerable cleft crosses it in the middle from E. to W. On the surface there are three hollows or cavities, no doubt rock-basons, in which ravens have bred. The surface is overgrown with heath, and turves have been cut there. All the stone is rough, full of cracks, fissures, and inequalities, and parts into horizontal layers, or lamina, especially on the east side, and at the ends.

The dimensions may be seen in the draught. The girt or circumference at bottom is 60 feet, in the middle 80, at or near the top 90. But these measurements, by reason of the inequality of the surface, cannot be very exact. The quarriers compute it contains 407 tuns.

On the top of the barrow lie several stones, one of which contains 16, another 9 tuns. On the sides and bottom, a multitude of others, of various sizes, mostly covered with heath, furze and fern. Some tunns have been broken off and carried to Pool and Studland, for building.

If we consider this, and the detached stones before-mentioned, which were certainly fragments of the great one, separated from it by violence, time, and weather, it must have been a prodigious one indeed, not inferior to the Tolmen at Constantine in Cornwall, the measurements of which, in Dr Borlade, fall short of this, though he makes it contain more tunns.

There is little doubt but that the Ancient Britons had skill to lift great weights, and spared no pains to erect such vast rude monuments, many of which are extant at Stone Henge, Abury in Cornwall, and other parts of the three kingdoms. Yet the enormous bulk of this stone, in its primitive state, may incline one to imagine it to be a natural rock, and that the barrow was formed, by a collection of earth, thrown up around it; or if the barrow be thought too large to be artificial, perhaps the stone might grow there, on a natural hillock, and the earth at the top might be removed, and the stone laid bare, to a depth suitable to the use it was designed for, and then the hillock might be shaped into its present regular form.'



The Agglestone today, pictured above.

SWANAGE CARE NEWS

Agincare

Caring in Your Community

Welcome to Gainsborough Care & Nursing Home seasonal news and forthcoming events

Our Christmas coffee event, serving teas and coffees, home-made Christmas cake and mince pies raised £90 towards our Residents' Amenities Fund.

Christmas is a time of celebration and giving and we certainly enjoyed our Christmas festivities at Gainsborough Care & Nursing Home, starting with the decoration of the Christmas tree. We had a varied programme of events throughout December, some of the highlights included:

- Swanage School Christmas Carols
- Christmas Jumper Day raising money for Save the Children
- Puss in Boots Christmas Panto
- Christmas story by candlelight with mince pies



Pictured above is a scene from the Panto "Puss In Boots" which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Next diary event - Dignity Action Week 2nd February 2015

Dignity Action Week gives everyone the opportunity to contribute to upholding people's rights to dignity. It aims to ensure

people who use care services are treated as individuals and are given choice, control and a sense of purpose in their lives.

We will be holding a "Dignitea" on 2nd February 2015, from 2.00pm for residents and their families to enjoy. This will include live entertainment, tea or coffee and a selection of home-made cakes. Our residents will be invited to create a message and add their own interpretations to our Dignity Tree in respect of their rights to dignity. Their comments will be displayed on our Dignity tree for all to see.

All our homes within the Agincare Group support this important day every year. It's good to remember that small changes can make a difference!!



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Caring in Your Community

Swanage Boxing Day Swim 2014



Boxing Day 2014 was a grim, cold, grey affair, but that didn't put off the hundreds of people who descended on Swanage Seafront mid-morning for the hugely popular Boxing Day Swim.

Hundreds of spectators gathered to cheer the swimmers on (many in fancy dress), and several coaches brought out-of-towners down to enjoy the cheerful spectacle. Around two hundred sponsored swimmers took part, together raising £2100 for charity. The proceeds will be split between Swanage Stroke Club, St Mark's First School and Dorchester Hospital (Forget-Me-Not).

Organiser, Julian Wood (*pictured below left, with his daughter*) is thrilled with the way the event has grown year-on-year, and would like to offer his sincere thanks to all those who assist on the day, taking applicants details, making the tea and coffee and serving up the bacon baps. It's a brilliant example of a community getting together to celebrate, have fun, and raise money for good causes. Next year the official gathering place will be at the 'Blue Shelter' on Swanage Seafront as the Mowlem Trustees have recently stated they will charge the group for utilising the forecourt beneath the Mowlem (for the tea and bacon booty stall) in future years. So, see you all at the Blue Shelter next Boxing Day!

Well done to all of you who took part - it certainly was cold this year! Can you spot yourselves in the pictures?





R.N.L.I. Historic Swanage Lifeboat In Cuba!



Local couple Wendy and Graham Bobbit set off in April 2012 for the trip of a lifetime with the aim of sailing around the world, or at least part of it, over a two-ten year period depending upon where their adventure took them.

After nearly two years on their travels they spent January, February and March of 2014 exploring Cuba, where in the marina in the city of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba they met a German couple and exchanged stories of their sailing adventures. They were interested to know that the German couple's yacht was a former RNLI lifeboat now called Ambler and were even more surprised to learn the former RNLI lifeboat came from their home port of Swanage. The "Thomas Markby", had served there over eighty years ago.

The Thomas Markby arrived on service in Swanage in 1927 and was the station's first motor lifeboat. To prepare for its arrival extensive alterations were made to the boathouse and a deep-water slipway was built for the new lifeboat. The lifeboat cost £6,559. Eighty eight years later the boathouse is being replaced to accommodate our future Shannon class lifeboat.



The Thomas Markby remained on service at Swanage until 1947 when it was replaced by a new lifeboat. Around three years later the former RNLI lifeboat was converted to a cruising yacht as it remains today. The German couple purchased the boat some twenty five years ago in the Channel Isles and have been sailing her around the world ever since.

Wendy and Graham were invited aboard the old lifeboat to see how the boat had been converted into a cruising boat and to find out first-hand what it was like to sail the Thomas Markby. Whilst aboard they were shown documents and old letters from the previous owners giving details of its conversion and also letters from the RNLI giving more history of the boat and its time in service.

They also were shown letters and Christmas cards sent to the them while in the South Pacific islands many years ago from Mr L Hardy who was coxswain on the Thomas Markby during its time in Swanage and as Wendy and Graham know current members of the Hardy family, this was another great coincidence.

The trip aboard the Ambler proved another fantastic experience to add to the blog on which Wendy and Graham are recording their exciting adventure.

Pictures: Top and below left, the Ambler in Swanage whilst a lifeboat.

Below - the Ambler as it is today, and Wendy aboard, right.

Pictures of Ambler can be found on Wendy and Graham's blog : <http://www.bobbit.eu/wordpress/?m=201404>



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Swanage Rotary Christmas Breakfast



Swanage Rotary once again held their Christmas Breakfast in the Methodist Church Hall, Swanage.

A two-course breakfast was offered on Christmas Day to anyone spending Christmas alone - for whatever reason. Around fifty people of all ages attended, and enjoyed tea, coffee, cornflakes and a full fried breakfast before everyone joined together in singing a few old Christmas favourites.

Members of Swanage Rotary Club organise and run the event, laying-up the hall, serving, cooking, washing-up and clearing away.

George Willey (pictured, right) put in his usual appearance as Father Christmas, giving everyone small gifts donated by Chococo and the Co-Op.

It was a highly enjoyable morning, so thank you to all who came.

If you are likely to spend Christmas Day alone next year, why not join us?



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Out Of The Blue

Dorset Police



2015 is well and truly upon us now and whilst thoughts are turning to Valentine's Day or booking summer holidays; it is good to quickly look back at some details from late last year.

In December 2014 - 739 incidents were created for Purbeck with officers attending 383 on an immediate deployment basis and others being attended in slower time.

Christmas and New Year went very well for Purbeck with few issues. Following is a flavour of the incidents dealt with New Year's Eve day through to 0900 New Year's Day.

12 traffic related incidents, 3 crime related plus various domestic incidents, 4 ASB incidents, 6 non-crime incidents.

In December Dorset Police focussed resources on Swanage for a spate of burglaries experienced in the North of town; currently two people from out of area are assisting us with our enquiries. Residents are reminded to call 999 if they See Anything Suspicious (SAS) and to keep up their home / garden / garage security. See Facebook for details of the action we took.

Bere Regis: Due to a prompt call from a member of the public Dorset Police officers caught three men poaching on farm land. Their vehicles have been seized and due to thorough enquiries they are still assisting us with investigations relating to poaching and criminal damage. Poaching is a nasty crime that stretches well beyond rabbits and pheasants. This investigation reinforces our constant message of 'SAS' call 999.

Police resources across the county worked excellently together in early January when a prolific offender for theft from vehicles was caught. First identified in the Purbeck area; good team work ensured the vehicle was stopped in North Dorset with some stolen property on board. An offender has been charged with theft and is due to appear in court. We know this male and his friends visit us regularly in the summer months.

Purbeck officers have held some bicycle marking events recently in Wareham and Swanage, which have been well attended. These will continue throughout the forthcoming year so please watch social media and advertising for the next one near you!

Cycling: Due to concerns raised by residents – Dorset Police along with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner organised a meeting in January. The meeting, chaired by Inspector Gaffney and with attendees including residents, cycle-ride event organisers, local authorities and others aims to improve communication and understanding between those involved. We will update as to how this is going next time.

Purbeck Police are on Twitter (@purbeckpolice) and Facebook (Purbeck Police) – so look us up and follow our daily progress and news reports.

You can also receive relevant news for your particular area for free by signing up to Dorset Alert – register by going to www.DorsetAlert/register As always – if a crime is happening or you See Anything Suspicious please call 999. If you have experienced a crime which has already happened please call 101.

If you have information you wish to tell us about please call 101 or Crime

WORKING
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for a safer community

PACT

Partners And Communities Together

Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Traffic related: Fail to Stop Traffic accident in Wool- Offending vehicle found and matter resolved

Several reports of bad driving- Bere Regis, Upton Bypass and two on the Bakers Arms- Vehicles either found and driver spoken to or vehicle not found by police. Broken down vehicle at Bloxworth blocking the road- Owner helped to move vehicle.

Slight Injury traffic collision Lytchett Matravers- Dealt with

Traffic collision Organford- one arrested and currently on bail pending further enquiries.

Traffic collision Bere Road - One arrested and bail pending further enquiries. Drink driver - Bere Regis- Arrested and charged with driving with excess alcohol Drink Driver - Holten Heath- under the limit once at station released no further action (learnt a very big lesson!)

Drunk Cyclist, Lytchett Matravers- Helped home safely.

Crime

Various domestic incidents- details of which cannot be released but no serious injuries.

Criminal damage to crops by a vehicle in Morden (no details) Enquiries on going. Minor assault- Upton- One arrested and now on bail. Minor assault- Swanage- Still trying to contact victim as drunk when initially reported.

ASB incidents

Spitting on a vehicle- Swanage- Safer neighbourhood team dealing Dispute between neighbours- Swanage- Not happening at time of reporting. Safer Neighbourhood Team dealing. Nine year old shouted at by large group of youths- Swanage- Safer Neighbourhood Team dealt. Disturbance- Swanage- Group of drunk teenagers returned home at the annoyance of parent.

Non Crime

Drunk male reported as being vulnerable as unable to stand- Swanage- Spent nearly an hour trying to find out his address and return him home safe and well. Tank Shell found at Kimmeridge- MOD dealing

Concern for welfare- Swanage- Checked and all OK

Concern for the welfare of a vulnerable female- Upton- Found and left with appropriate people to look after her.

Sudden Death not suspicious- Swanage- Attended on behalf of coroner to record and report details.

Assist ambulance as busy- Swanage- attended and dealt with patient handing over to ambulance on their arrival.

Flood Help And Advice

Dorset residents who have suffered from flooding in their homes are getting help. Dorset County Council is installing flood barriers, doors and pumps to homes that have reported internal flooding to criteria set by the Environment Agency. This flooding, which can be from either ground water or surface water, is to the habitable parts of the properties.

A total of 100 properties will be fitted with devices that will improve flood resilience and help householders return to normality quickly after being flooded. This scheme is funded by Flood Defence Grant in Aid which is administered by the Environment Agency.

Clr Peter Finney, Cabinet member of environment and economy said: "We are delighted to be co-ordinating this initiative and are confident that when installed we will significantly improve the resilience for households in the most at risk areas."

More help is at hand for those who have been affected by flooding from the National Flood Forum. The national charity helps people prevent or

reduce the impact of flooding. The National Flood Forum can be contacted on 01299 403055 or visit www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

To ensure your property is considered for future schemes visit www.dorsetforyou.com/flooding/report

Picture: Corfe flooded, by Ian Brown.



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If you have a property to let or are looking to rent a property, don't hesitate to call us on 01929 426200 or drop into our office in Commercial Road, Swanage. We are sure that one of our experienced team will be able to assist you.

Our standards are second to none, giving 'A personal service to Landlords and Tenants', meaning that many of our Landlords and Tenants have become our clients by personal recommendation.

Make a wise start to 2015 by contacting the Purbeck Letting Specialist, WPM Lettings.



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Swanage Disabled Club

Swanage Disabled Club would very much like to thank the Ladies Section of the Freemasons, who recently held a Ladies Night. The proceeds of their raffle of over £300 was donated to Swanage Disabled Club, mainly thanks to Carol Smith who chose us and who regularly supports the club one way or another.

Thank you all very much. We are always looking for new members, sadly we have lost quite a few long standing members this last year, so we have some seats to re-fill.

Please don't feel that you must be 'obviously' disabled, we all become 'less mobile, harder of hearing, eyesight not so sharp' as we become older, and even loneliness comes to us sometimes.

Why not start 2015 with a new resolution to join a very happy group of people on Monday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm? We can even arrange transport for you, from your home and returning afterwards. Just a couple of hours away, a chat, a cuppa, can do wonders for the soul.

For further information please call Daphne Saville 01929 425241 as soon as possible.

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Christmas Lights For Charity

A former Army Signaller who receives support from the national charity for veterans with severe sight loss once again raised money for charity with his impressive Christmas lights display in Swanage.

Steve Claxton, 79, of Hoburne Road, collected money for Blind Veterans UK as a thank you for the life changing support the charity have provided through his battle against sight loss.

Steve said that joining the charity, which provides practical, emotional and financial support to blind veterans, was quite simply the 'best thing I've ever done', since losing his sight after an operation went wrong twenty-three years ago.

2014 was the eleventh year Steve and his wife Brenda put on a special Christmas lights display at their family home in Swanage, hoping to raise as much as possible for Blind Veterans UK as well as local charity, Cancare.

Steve receives help putting up the lights from neighbours Keith Ashcroft of Cutabove Flooring Ltd, who helps with the electrics, and Keith Bragg, owner of the local pet shop and a part time fireman, who helps with the roof displays.

Steve joined the Royal Corps of Signals in September 1953 and served at Catterick and Colchester. He was discharged in September 1956 as a Signaller, having attained good educational qualifications. It was not until years later that he had the operation which tragically left him with just 5% vision in his left eye and 10% vision in his right eye. As the charity for ex-Service men and women with sight loss, which supports veterans regardless of when they served or how they lost their sight, Blind Veterans UK has been there for Steve to help him live independently.

Steve said: "I cannot speak highly enough of Blind Veterans UK. Through their support, I have enjoyed some excellent respite breaks at its centres and learnt some great new skills. I have done an IT course which has helped me enormously with being able to use a computer."

The final amount raised for 2014 is yet to be announced - if you missed



Steve's display and wish to donate, please send your donations to the Purbeck Gazette, 17b Commercial Rd, Swanage, and we'll make sure they get to Steve.

Blind Veterans UK's No One Alone campaign aims to reach out to the estimated 68,000 plus ex-Service personnel who could be benefiting from its services but either do not know about the charity or realise they are eligible for its support.

If you are or know of a veteran with vision impairment, request free support by calling 0800 389 7979 or find out more at www.nononealone.org.uk

Wareham Town Council Update

Julie, our Gazette correspondent, details the goings on in recent council meetings.....



News from Wareham Town Council Meeting December 2014.

Before the meeting, Council held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Mrs Frances Hardman, an Honoured Townswoman of the town, who had recently died.

County Councillor B. Ezzard reported that:

The County Council decided that when the Government's Care Act legislation starts in April 2015, a Local Authority Trading Company will run Community Care for the Elderly and Vulnerable. At an Extraordinary General Meeting, the County Council elected Councillor R. Gould as Leader replacing Councillor S. Flower who stood down pending a court case.

District Councillor E. Osmond reported that:

The river wall retaining the picnic area opposite Abbots Quay had been repaired. Purbeck District Council (PDC) and the County Council are jointly funding rewiring and new windows and doors at Purbeck Sports Centre. PDC gives a grant to the Citizens' Advice Bureau which in its turn reduces the work load of PDC.

A presentation was given by the Head teacher of Purbeck School, Mrs L. Symonds:

The school building is lighter and brighter and has a media room. A musical

was performed in the summer. The GCSE results are the best ever. The school house system has promoted links between different year groups, competition, co-operation and leadership. The 1,014 students are being encouraged to realise that trying new things is valuable even if the outcome appears unsuccessful; only giving up is failure.

The Rector of Lady St Mary Church introduced himself:

Rev. Canon Simon Everett spoke of the warm welcome he had received and his satisfaction at being in place in time for Remembrance Sunday and the Court Leet. He had been working in rural areas since he trained for the Church after ten years in the Merchant Navy. He emphasized that the parish church is there for everyone and expressed an interest in Fairtrade status and Dementia Awareness.

Wareham Town Council proceeded:

It received the draft budget for the financial year 2015/2016 and the internal auditor's report. New procedures were being introduced to cover electronic payments.

PDC had submitted a review of polling places which was passed without comment by the Town Council.

A resident's suggestion to use the Christmas lights' wires for bunting at other times of the year was considered. Councillor Adkins proposed that much discussion could be saved by using the expertise of the Carnival and Christmas Lights Committees.

The Mayor was congratulated on the Christmas Reception and the Administration Officer was thanked for her contribution to its success.

The public was then asked to leave so the Council could discuss a supplementary agenda item.

The next meeting of the Wareham Town Council was on 27th January.

OUR FEATURES NEXT MONTH:

'GARDENING IN PURBECK' and 'MOTHER'S DAY'

Call JOY to book your space on 01929 424293

Dorset's Best Village Competition

Categories include Environment, "Best Village Shop" & People's Project

The search has begun for Dorset's Best Village with the launch of the 2015 competition this week. The competition has been organised by Dorset Community Action (DCA) for the past twenty eight years. Entry packs are being sent to the county's villages inviting them to enter either through the parish council, village hall committee or other active community group.

Magna Housing has been the major sponsor for the competition since 2010 and has renewed its support this year. Additional sponsorship comes from Dorset County Council, the four District Councils, The Dorset Echo, Dorset Magazine, Blackmore Vale Magazine, along with local food producers Clipper Tea, Fudges Biscuits, Honeybuns, Craig's Dairies and Helen Furness Catering.

DCA's Competition Organiser Rita Burden says: "Last year fifty three villages entered one or more categories of "Best Village", so our aim this year is to encourage communities which have never taken part in this rewarding competition, to enter for the first time.

Any organisation can enter its village – the village hall committee, school, youth club, scout or guide group or other active community group, besides the parish council. Even Dorset's smallest hamlets can enter.

David Aldwinckle, Magna Housing Association director, said: "We are proud to be sponsoring the Best Village awards again this year. The awards promote community spirit and give recognition to the hard work of people living in villages who make them great places in which to live."

Besides the main "Best Village" competition, there are further entry sections: -

"The People's Project" - the village judged to have entered the best project involving local active people;

"Environmental Champions" - the village judged to be doing the best 'Green' initiative.



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Last year a new section category of "Best Village Shop" was introduced. The sponsors, Dorset branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is supporting this category for a second year. Communities are asked to nominate the village shop which serves them best.

"We want to judge villages that demonstrate that they work together, taking a pride in local surroundings, amenities and promoting a strong community spirit" Rita Burden added.

The deadline for entries is 5.00pm on Monday 6th April 2015. DCA is encouraging groups to save paper and postage by entering the competition online if possible.

Entry packs can be downloaded from www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk or by telephoning DCA on 01305-216407 to be sent a copy by email or on paper.

1 In 9 Missed Rent/Mortgage In January

Thousands of rent or mortgage payers across the South West faced a not-so-happy new year, as new research reveals one in nine were worried they would be unable to make payments in January.

Research from Shelter and YouGov paints a bleak picture for many this winter, with 65% of rent or mortgage payers in the South West revealing they are already struggling to keep up with their housing costs.

Shelter is warning that ignoring money worries rather than seeking advice could lead to people's home being put at risk. Worryingly, over a quarter (27%) of people in the region said they would feel too ashamed to ask for help if struggling with housing payments. The charity has seen a surge in the number of people visiting its website for advice on rent and mortgage arrears, and is urging anyone having difficulty meeting their housing costs to get help as early as possible.

Mother-of-two Katharine works unpredictable shifts and lives in constant fear she won't be able to meet her rent payments each month.

Katharine said: "I work every hour I can to support my family but each month I wonder if I'm going to be able to make my rent, and I'm expecting things to be especially bad at Christmas, even though we cut back on spending as much as we could. I've borrowed money from family and even had to stop paying bills to keep the roof over my children's heads. It's horrible to start another year not knowing if I can afford to keep my home."

Shelter's helpline adviser Nadeem Khan said: "Every day at Shelter we hear from people who are feeling overwhelmed by mounting rent or mortgage bills, as the increasing pressure of sky high housing costs continues to take its toll. Many have spent a long time thinking they have nowhere to turn and are often close to breaking point by the time they come to us. If you're in this situation, it's so important to remember you're not alone and that help is available."

"I spoke to a lady recently who was sick with worry for months because she couldn't meet her mortgage payments and felt too ashamed to ask for help. When finally a court notice landed on her doorstep she came to us and we were able to help the family keep their home.

"We all understand how tempting it is to bury your head in the sand, but

advice from Shelter is only a click or a phone call away – so get advice early to prevent things from spiralling out of control."

For free and independent advice from Shelter visit shelter.org.uk or call the helpline on 0808 800 4444

Shelter's top 5 tips to avoid eviction or repossession:

1 Get expert advice – know your options

If you are struggling to pay your rent, talk to an expert adviser who can take you through your options and advise the next best steps for you. Visit www.shelter.org.uk/advice or call Shelter's free helpline on 0808 800 4444.

2 Make the mortgage or rent your priority

Paying your mortgage or rent should always be your number one priority. If you have other debts such as credit cards and phone bills you can take action to deal with these separately.

3 Respond to letters and phone calls

It's natural to want to keep your head down and hope it'll sort itself out but it's important to read everything your mortgage lender, landlord or letting agent sends to you. Keep records of every letter and phone call.

4 Have a rainy day plan

It can take just one thing, like losing your job or falling ill, to put your home at risk. Avoid payday loans, as sky-high interest rates could make things much worse very quickly. There are usually much safer and cheaper alternatives.

5 Turn up for court hearings

If the worst comes to the worst, make sure you attend the possession hearing so that you can put your case to the judge. If you don't have legal representation you can be assigned a court duty solicitor on the day – Shelter is one organisation that provides that service across the country. Get advice from an organisation like Shelter as soon as you get the hearing date to give yourself the best possible chance.

Have YOUR Say On Plans For Purbeck's Future

An important public consultation is taking place in Purbeck this February and March. The consultation is part of a partial review of the Purbeck District Local Plan Part 1. The Local Plan currently sets out the vision and policies for the whole of the district for the period 2006 – 2027 and is used to guide new development and determine planning applications. The partial review is a requirement of an independent planning inspector.

The Council needs people's thoughts on a range of issues, including:

Locations for new homes.

Locations for new shopping and employment space; and

How growth can be balanced with protecting Purbeck's natural environment

Councillor Peter Wharf, speaking as Chairman of the Council's Partial Review Advisory Group, which was set up to review the Plan, said: "With continued pressure on the district to meet future growth, we need to ensure the Purbeck Local Plan remains up-to-date.

"When the planning inspector appraised the Plan, he agreed it only on the understanding that the Council would review it to see whether more development was possible in the future. We have to strike a balance between protecting and enhancing the beautiful area of Purbeck and providing the housing that would meet demand, so this consultation gives everyone the opportunity to have their say on future development in the district."

Councillor Wharf continued: "Please take the time to respond to the consultation. Without an approved plan, developers would have few restraints or guidelines to adhere to and we could lose much of our ability

to manage development in Purbeck."

The District Council was originally planning to consult on the Swanage Local Plan at the same time as the Partial Review. However, the Council has decided to further explore the issues highlighted by some members of the Swanage Local Plan Steering Group, made up of the District Council, Swanage Town Council, Swanage Town and Community Partnership and community representatives. The District Council will be considering the next steps at its meeting in February

The consultation starts on Thursday 29 January and will run until 5pm on Friday 13 March 2015. Households in Purbeck will receive a publicity flyer detailing events taking place around the district. The full consultation material (including the questionnaire) will be available online at www.dorsetforyou.com/purbeck-partial-review from 29 January 2015.

Paper copies of the consultation documents can be obtained by telephoning the Council on 01929 556561. Printing and postage costs of approximately £10 will apply for the consultation document. Paper copies will also be available to view at libraries around the district.

Consultation events, where members of the public can talk to Council officers about the partial review of the Purbeck Local Plan will be taking place around Purbeck:

Wednesday, 11 February: 2.00pm - 8.00pm at Upton Community Centre

Thursday, 12 February: 2.00pm - 8.00pm at the D'Urberville Hall, Wool

Monday, 16 February: 2.00pm - 8.00pm at the Mowlem, Swanage

Wednesday, 18 February: 2.00pm - 8.00pm at the Scout Hut, Bere Regis

Friday, 20 February: 2.00pm - 8.00pm at Wareham Town Hall

Thursday, 26 February: 2.00pm - 8.00pm at Lytchett Matravers Library

Rex Movie Marathon For Charity!

I'm William Scharnhorst and I'm a projectionist at the Rex cinema in Wareham.

I've been there now for over five years.

The Rex is run by the Purbeck Film Charitable Trust. Over the years the Rex has seen many improvements like adding the fire escape, installing the stair lift and the Bar, whilst also trying to keep the character of the Cinema.

After the installation of our new digital projector and a new all singing all dancing sound system the next logical step was to have the seats redone.

In summer 2013 I had the idea to have a sponsored 48 hour movie marathon to raise funds towards the refurbishment of the seating in the Rex. This was such a success (I raised just under £1000.00) that I decided to do it again. But this time longer.

So on Friday 9th January at 12pm, I sat down to start watching 28 films for 55 hours.

All funds were raised via sponsorship and if people donated £35.00 or more they could choose a film for me to watch and also be invited to watch it with me.

Out of the 28 films I watched, 11 were sponsored.

I managed to stay awake for the whole duration and was supported by friends who sat with me for three or four films during the small hours.

The first film on Friday lunch time was Wallace and Gromit: The Wrong Trousers and for that I was accompanied by my 8 month old son Jack. It was his first time in a cinema and he seemed to enjoy it but then fell asleep after only 15 minutes, whilst I had another 3285 minutes ahead of me.

The first night was no struggle at all as I'd picked fast paced films for the late hours to keep me awake. Sunday morning however was a completely different story - at about half past six I hit the runner's equivalent of the wall but unlike professional sportspeople I could rely on chemical stimulants so I had a double espresso and a can of Red Bull!

I kept nearly nodding off through Skyfall between seven and twenty past nine, but then my wife brought me a bacon sandwich and it all seemed a bit easier from then on as the end was palpable. The last six hours and three films were easy going again.



If people want to try this at home it is important to have the right diet. Oh and people to check on you on the second day of staying awake! (At one point on Sunday morning I was convinced someone had hung up their washing in the auditorium).

One of the things you should avoid is alcohol, as you'll just fall asleep at three in the morning after four pints! The same goes for stodgy foods or big portions that make you want to go to bed.

I had a lot of fruit and fizzy pop and I think I ate my body weight in haribo.

Out of all the films I watched my favourite was The Hunt for Red October and my least favourite was Hawk the Slayer. That film is so bad it goes beyond that stage of being so bad it's funny.

There is still time to donate to this causes - please contact The Rex on 01929 552778 or therex@xlninternet.co.uk

Swanage Lions Presentation



On Friday 9th January Swanage Lions Club presented the cups for their Fun Swim held last October. The recipients were Swanage Primary School, Ranger Productions (Two trophies), the Health Centre, Bere Regis Brownies, Millmer family.

We also presented Sue Whitton with the Ken Alexander cup for her community work in Swanage.

A cheque for £2000 was presented to Martin Ring of The Dorset Deaf Children's Society, another cheque for £2000 was presented to Pamela Bell of "Gully's Place" at Poole Hospital.

Our biggest donation of the evening was a cheque for £4500 presented to Swanage Hospital, this was given to Mandy Leigh who is Senior Sister, Swanage & Wareham Hospital. Mandy informed us that this money will be earmarked to go towards setting up a chemotherapy treatment department at Swanage Hospital.

This will enable treatment to be carried out locally without the need to travel to Dorchester or Poole.

Swanage Lions Club presented in total £8500 to local charities. The people in photo left to right are: Peter Seale Swanage Lions, Sue Whitton, Tim Mersey Swanage Lions President, Mandy Leigh Swanage Hospital, Mary Buck Swanage Lions & Swanage Hospital, Trevor Ottewill Swanage Lions.

Race For Life 2015

The Fight is on to save lives as Race for Life 2015 launches in Dorchester

Dorchester women are being urged to get the New Year off to a great start by signing up now to Cancer Research UK's Race for Life 2015. Every hour, more than three people are diagnosed with cancer in the South West.

And that's why Cancer Research UK is calling on women in Dorchester to fight back against this devastating disease by entering Race for Life 5k event at Kingston Maurward College on Sunday, May 31.

As well as raising funds for life-saving research, taking part in Race for Life is an easy way to be more active – perfect for those setting themselves a fitness goal as their New Year's resolution.

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is an inspiring women-only series of 5k events which raise millions of pounds every year to help beat cancer sooner by funding life-saving research.

Last year, 1803 women took part in Race for Life in Dorchester and raised a fantastic £86,796. This year, organisers need 1800 women and girls to stride out to help raise even more money than 2014.

Money raised through Race for Life allows Cancer Research UK's doctors, nurses and scientists to advance research which is helping to save the lives of men, women and children across Dorset.

Cancer survival rates have doubled since the 1970s and Cancer Research UK's work has been at the heart of that progress. But more funds and more supporters are needed to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

To enter Race for Life today go to raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.

An Audience With!

Matt Black
Piano Man

Kingston Country Courtyard
27th February 2015
Curry Buffet included
£22.50

Limited to 60 places!

Swanage Pier
The Gateway to England's First Natural World Heritage Site

**VOLUNTEERS
URGENTLY REQUIRED**

On the gate, in the shop, with maintenance, giving talks, fundraising or office admin.

If you can spare a few hours a day, or a week, then please come and see us and have a chat about how you can get involved, or please call us on: 01929 425866

The Swanage Pier trust Registered Charity No. 290397

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THE SWANAGE ARMY LINK

I thought that I would spend a moment or two to explain a bit about the Community Covenant Scheme, which was set up by the Government back in June 2009. The Covenants, which were introduced as a result of campaigning by the Royal British Legion to get the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant written into British law, have real potential to make a difference on the ground in local communities.

Soon after they were introduced I was approached by the Mayor of Swanage, Mr Bill Trite, and asked if there was scope for a local application. At the time I was not sure how we might help support the Covenant scheme, but I thought that I would give it a go!

In essence the local population and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to work together to establish a community covenant, so as to encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces community in their areas. Across the country there have been a number of real wins, with both the civilians and the military benefiting. Community covenants may look quite different from one location to another. This is a scheme where one size does not fit all, and the nature of the support offered will be determined by local need and circumstance.

Whilst Swanage might be many miles away from a military camp, we have forged a very close relationship with the Royal Corps of Signals who are based at Blandford Camp. I therefore wondered if a Ministry of Defence grant could be used to assist us to raise the profile of our special relationship.

At the outset I assumed that I would have to 'register' Swanage within the scheme, but Rebecca Forrester at Dorset County Council came to the rescue and guided me through the forms.

Whilst the application process took a while, last summer I was very pleased to hear that the application had been successful.

I very much hope that over the coming months we can put together a photo display showing some of the antics of yearly of military visits to Swanage Railway!

Soldiers who visit the Railway to engage in voluntary work use a 50' long Scenery Van as a messing and sleeping area. The plan is to fill it with hundreds of photos, especially those which show the links between the town and the visiting troops, and this will then be on display at Swanage Station during the summer.

In the last edition of the Gazette I asked if anyone would consider becoming an Armed Forces Ambassador. I am now looking for around 24 volunteers from Swanage who would like to assist the Swanage Army Link a couple of times a year with the aim of raising general awareness of the Armed Forces. This is not a national initiative, but one in Swanage!

I am afraid that there is no pay, but I would hope that we can encourage some smiley energetic folk to come forward to help out, and above all, it should be should be fun. Typically I would ask that you support events that may happen on days such as Armed Forces Day or Remembrance Sunday.

I will ensure that all volunteers are fully briefed as appropriate, and your duties will simply be to engage in a positive way with local people and our lovely grockles; usually in and around Swanage.

If you think that you have got what it takes, please send a line or two to frank.roberts1@virgin.net and let me know why this is! With a number of willing recruits already, we are now well underway to forming a small team of Swanage Armed Forces Ambassadors.

Thank you. Frank.

The People's Commemoration Of D-Day 2015

Sat 6th June 2pm - 4pm

Plans are underway for the second 'people's commemoration of D-Day' after the wonderful service which took place at Fort Henry in Studland in 2014, organised by Dinah, Megan and Michael Johnson.

The community will be gathering at Leeson House, as we have been very kindly given permission to utilise the building for the afternoon. Leeson House was instrumental in the war as a centre for intelligence, with Radar also being developed in the area, and as such is a truly wonderful place in which to hold the commemoration in 2015.

A few have questioned the need to continue to mark the occasion, and have asked if this is now simply promoting war. This is not the case - the event is being organised for several reasons, the first (and most important) is to continue the 'living link' between the veterans, who were actually there, and the younger generations. Only by accepting the realities of war can the future hold any possibility of a lasting peace between nations.

The second reason is to continue to pay our respects to the soliders who died for us in such awful conditions. They still deserve our acknowledgement, whatever your personal opinion of WWII is.

The 2015 Leeson Commemoration will see our WWII veterans joining us at the house, enabling the community to meet them, ask questions and

hear about their experiences. There will also be a selection of military vehicles on-site, along with a re-entactment group. Exhibitions on Radar and Cordite will be there, as well as local historical information on Purbeck in the war years. We are working towards having one of the town bands there too. We'll update you on this when a decision has been made.

Serving/ex-serving military personnel are very, very welcome, as are any ex-Landgirls. Our local scout groups and school children will also be joining us for a war-time sing-a-long, and a short commemoration service will be held at 3pm, with our standard bearers in attendance, and the Last Post will be played. You are all very, very welcome - so do pop the date in your diary now for Saturday June 6th, and invite friends and family to join you.

We are still looking for help ushering people in/out, we need cake makers (WI ladies - where are you?! Do you still bake?!) and people to serve tea/coffee. If you have any ideas - get in touch at ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk



Were you lucky enough to find one of the '100 years' painted commemoration poppy-stones which were on Swanage beach in January (as below)?

A rather wonderful local family gathered 100 commemorative stones, and placed them from Ocean Bay to the Sailing Club Beach in memory of the fallen soldiers from WWI. What a wonderful community we are all lucky enough to belong to!



THE TANK MUSEUM PRESENTS

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM - SATURDAY 14TH - SUNDAY 22ND



Talks • Tours • Trails
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Tracked Vehicle Rides*

*Extra charges apply see website for details. Registered Charity no: 110266

tankmuseum.org | Bovington | BH20 6JG | Tel. 01929 405096

THE TANK MUSEUM



PURBECK'S RAILWAY

Following a very successful 2014 Swanage Railway is looking forward to and planning its activities and events for 2015. The new year promises to be another exciting and busy one with programmes to attract both enthusiasts and families alike.

The Railway will be operating as normal through the half term holiday from February 14th to 22nd and then also on February 28th and 1st March.

In February and March we offer the opportunity to savour the thrill of driving and firing a steam locomotive with a short freight train under the close supervision of a qualified Swanage Railway crew.

The driving experience lasts for around 60 mins and will be available on 21st, 22nd, 28th February and 1st 7th and 14th March.

On February 14th there is the opportunity to enjoy a romantic evening with the Valentine's Belle.

Passengers can dine in style travelling behind an historic steam engine through the rolling Purbeck countryside. Bookings are now being taken.

Due to the popularity of the Valentine's Belle advance bookings is essential. See our website www.swanagerailway.co.uk for more details.

Purbeck Circle

On Friday 13th February 2015 Simon Foote will present his audio visual show entitled "Steam in the Hills".

The Circle meets in Harmans Cross Village Hall, Haycrafts Lane, Harmans Cross at 7:30pm. Tea/coffee/biscuits as usual.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

For other information regarding the show and/or the PRC please contact the PRC General Secretary, e-mail:- gensec@purbeckrailwaycircle.org.uk

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SWANAGE RAILWAY

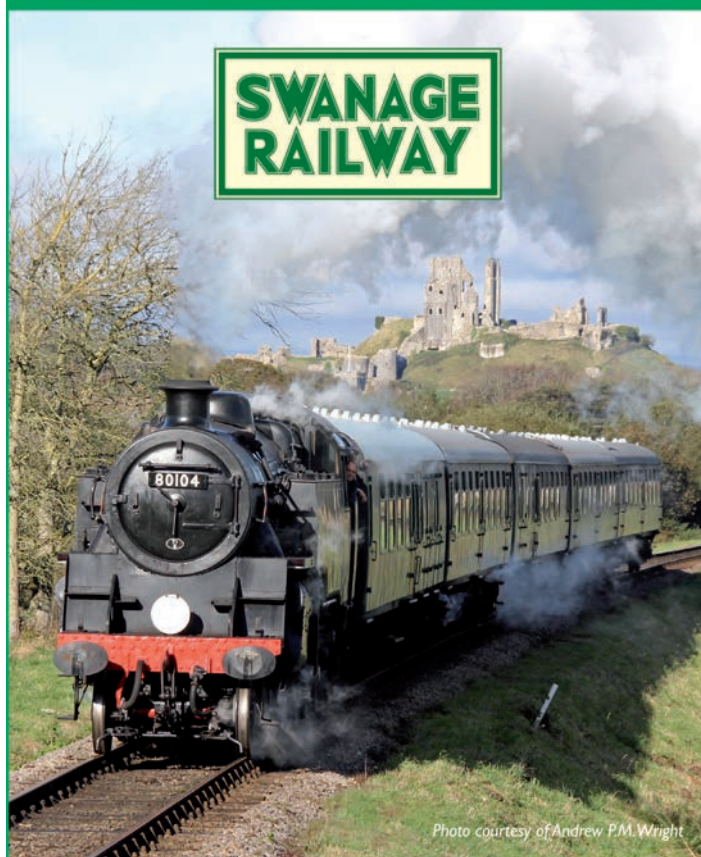


Photo courtesy of Andrew P.M. Wright

www.swanagerailway.co.uk
01929 425800

My War-time Memories.

By Brian Guy



On the Island. A deadly place.

Now well into the into the Island, and quite near Arnhem, I continued until the roads became very dangerous, now and then shell fire straddled the road. Searching about, I found an Engineering factory, I think the name of the place was Schmit Engineering workshops, or something like that, (not very good at Dutch and not sure).

I do remember it had a very nice concrete hard standing, just right for our heavy vehicles, half tracks and carriers, just the job. Marking the location on my map with some explanatory notes to make it easier to find, I set off back, quite pleased

with my efforts. Arriving back at the company harbour area, only to find that they were loading up ready for another move, this time in a South Easterly direction, all my efforts near Arnhem forgotten, orders had changed.

The Third British Infantry's task now was to protect the eastern flank and advance where possible. Off we went, heading for Overloon and Venraij towards a battle that caused the highest casualties that "Monties Ironsides" had suffered in a seven day period. The Americans, having taken a beating from the enemy at Overloon, departed to the south, never to be seen again. While there, at night, we had the galling experience of watching the V2 rockets being fired at Britain. Looking towards the enemy lines they would appear in the distance and I was always surprised to see how shallow the trajectory seemed to be.

The Cost of Overloon and Venraij. Hand to hand stuff.

Slowly the Germans had to give ground before our infantry, this was an old fashioned infantry battle, where the enemy had to be winkled out of the woods, buildings and prepared positions. Between the 12th and the 18th of October, Third British Infantry Divisions casualties were three times that of the Americans. But, by the 18th Overloon and Venraij lay safely in our hands. "Brutal and Murderous" are the words that spring to mind when trying to describe the battle, I remember all those brave men who fought and died there with great admiration. Heroes all.

It seems to me that some battles are of such severity that a special medal should be struck and awarded to those who took part. The taking of Overloon and Venraij in my opinion, would be the foremost for an award. According to the Dutch war museum that was originally dedicated to the Third Div: the cost to those engaged in this battle was 2500 British dead, and a total of 3500 casualties leading up to the battles and after, that is the information given me by the Overloon war museum.

The Dutch people tend the graves with great care and every year on the anniversary of the freeing of Overloon and Venraij the school children gather and lay flowers on every individual British grave. The people of Holland have never forgotten the sacrifice of all those young lives. The information officer at Venraij wrote and told me that there are 700 British dead who found their last resting place at Venraij and are interred in the war graves cemetery there, where the others are buried I do not know. There is a huge German cemetery that contains 33,000 graves, equal to the population of Venraij. Later, I was also told that there is a British cemetery at Overloon.

While waiting to set off on another operation near Venraij, I ran into trouble with one of our own officers, the place had just been liberated and some of the local population began dragging out the women they considered collaborators, they had shaved their heads and put them to work clearing water-filled ditches, nearly up to their waists in water. That was bad enough, but the man in charge was ill treating them. This young man, brought up in the country side of Dorset, where we were always taught that women were to be treated with respect, was definitely not used to seeing young girls mistreated. This young fellow watched for a while then took exception to the way the girls were handled. I decided to take a hand and told the man in charge "lay off the girls!" in such a manner that did not need translation.

Angered by his attitude, I was going to clout him with my rifle butt, a stupid thing to do! Things got uglier and uglier - I got so angry, that this

man was in much graver danger than he knew. Then one of our officers came hurrying over, "Leave it Sapper, it's none of our business." He then ordered me leave, but did say "we cannot interfere, its none of our business, though, we can get in the way sometimes."

I do not, nor ever have, blamed the young girls for going out with the young Germans, there were some fine looking young men amongst them, if you stop to think, they had been there when the young girls had left school. In their formative years, they had never known anything other than a German presence.

Night fighting patrols. Try to get there first.

Night fighting patrols out on the wet lands of Holland, amongst the deserted villages, now became a regular practice, there were lots of these villages out in the vicinity of the Maas, all deserted, we never saw a soul. It was best to get there before the enemy, if you could. Sitting in the open windows waiting for the appearance of the enemy, Bren gun cocked, ready.

Fresh food was becoming quite a problem, or lack of it! We were still living on soup, biscuits, and canned foods. I remember that we were all beginning to feel very tired, far too quickly. We heard that some units had been issued with real bread, but so far none had come our way and it was four or five months since we landed. One day, (glory be) we were issued with a half pint of beer. I shall never forget it, it was Tennants beer. There was a lot of discontent at that time, we felt that our rations were being fiddled and pinched by those in the rear echelons, precious little reached us.

As the winter began to draw in we were issued with a navy rum ration every night, I liked mine with my tea, still being drunk out of my one single billy can. Out on patrol in this "No mans land", all the locals had long departed, leaving everything as it was, and all their animals to fend for themselves. There were many chickens, all of them skinny and white long legged things; they could run a fit young Sapper off of his feet. "Shades of the road runner".

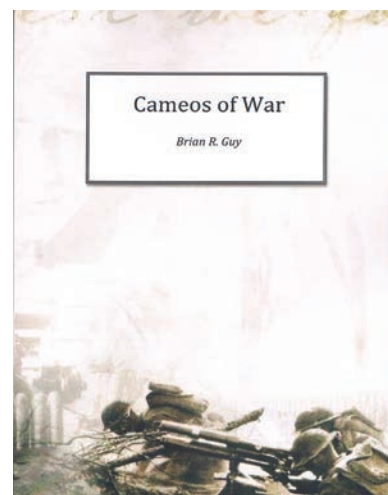
My old friend Spud and myself spent a great deal of energy chasing these very elusive hens, even in the confined space of a chicken run they managed to avoid us. More than once I threw myself headlong at these hens, only to come up empty handed, accompanied by loud squawks as they flew by at 90 miles per hour. Spud. Bless him, had a very nasty habit of chasing a pig into the most inaccessible corner before dispatching it with a rifle bullet, we then had the job of carrying it back to the half track, dead weight, and lift the damn thing aboard.

Shortly after, to be greeted with some very unpleasant remarks from our cooks. So it continued, night patrols, some times with casualties, some times all you ever saw was a German patrol dog, one minute the dog was there, the next, as you turned your head he would vanish. Miserable, cold and featureless, not my favourite place or time. Holland in Winter? No thanks.

In the next March issue I would like to post a piece entitled 'Shell Shock, Battle Fatigue'. Now the same thing is PTSD (Post traumatic stress disorder), some folk may find this just a little harrowing.

With respect. At times total strangers have passed me in the street and wished me 'Good morning Brian'. Others have stopped me with: 'Are you the one that writes the war memories?', or: 'Are you Brian Guy?'. It seems that folk do find this collection of war time memoirs interesting, and for that I am delighted. Thank You.

The second printing of my book, 'Cameos of War' is now available, either from myself, or from the Purbeck Gazette office, priced at £11 per copy. Profits to go to Julia's House, for little children that need lots of love and care, and to BLESMA.





Swanage Fire Station Update

Welcome to this month's look at what has been happening at Swanage Fire station.

Operationally we had a quiet Christmas and New Year period as we only answered three emergency calls between the 24th December and the 2nd January which is great to know that you all had a safe Christmas holiday. Over the entire month of December we attended:

- Two Chimney Fires
- Three special service calls, one of which was to a horse that had got its front legs over the stable door in an attempt to get out. Upon our arrival the horse tried again to get its back legs over the door and thankfully freed itself without injury.
- One suspected gas leak in a property in Swanage
- Seven false alarms at different properties around the town
- One stand by move to cover Wareham whilst they were attending an incident
- And finally a Barn fire that happened on the 16th December and required the attendance of nine fire appliances over a two day period until the area could be left in the hands of the local farmer.

My safety message for this month is road safety as we unfortunately attend far too many road collisions at this time of the year, many of which could be avoided if a few simple rules were followed by all road users:

- Always check before you travel and drive to the conditions.
- Before travelling, check your local and national weather forecast and keep up to date with the latest warnings.
- Check that you know where to find traffic and travel information. Live updates are provided by the Highways Agency for motorways and trunk roads in England.
- If your area is at risk of flooding, remember that you should not drive or walk through flood water. Six inches of fast-flowing water can

knock over an adult and two feet of water can move a car.

- If heavy winds are forecast, consider taking alternative transport if you normally cycle. Winds can easily blow you off your bike and cause serious injuries.

Check that you have an emergency kit available in your car. This should include:

- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Warm clothes and blankets - for you and all passengers
- Torch and spare batteries - or a wind-up torch
- Food and a flask with a hot drink
- Any medication you need to take regularly
- Boots
- First aid kit
- Jump leads
- A shovel
- Road atlas

Sunglasses (the glare from winter sun can be dazzling)

Is your vehicle ready for winter? Check that your vehicle is ready for winter using the POWDERY checklist as a good reminder:

Petrol (or diesel). Have you got enough? Do you know where to fill up? Oil - check levels once a month

Water - check radiator, screenwash and anti-freeze levels regularly

Damage - check wipers, lights etc. for signs of wear and tear or damage

Electrics - check lights, indicators and controls are working properly

Rubber tyres - are they well inflated, legal, with good tread and free from damage?

Yourself - are you fit to drive? Have you slept well? Are you taking any medication(s) that could make it unsafe for you to drive? Further advice on driving in adverse weather conditions is available in the highway code or for more detailed information visit the highways agency winter pages.

That's all for this month, drive carefully and stay safe. Don't forget to test your smoke detectors weekly! *Phil Burridge, Station Commander, Swanage Fire Station*

Information for parents and carers...

Dorset County Council
Family Information Service



Dorset's Family Information Service provides free information for families and carers of children aged 0-19yrs, including:

- Nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, after school clubs
 - Help with the costs of childcare
 - Support groups
 - Activities for children and young people
- ...and much, much more!

Contact: Family Information Service

† 01305 221066 e familyinfo@dorsetcc.gov.uk

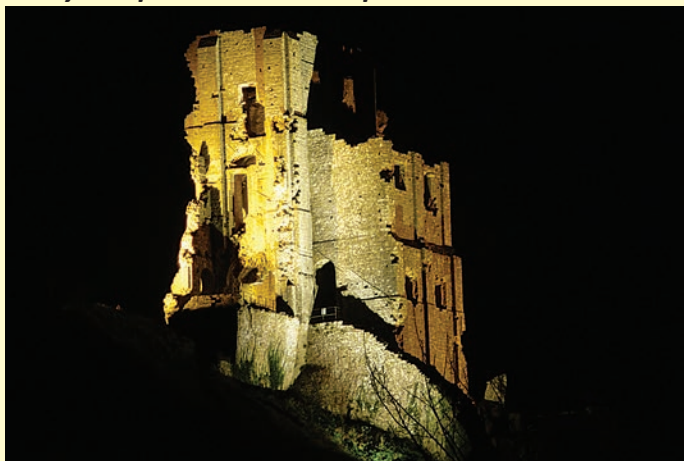
www.dorsetforyou.com/fis



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Send us your pictures to ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk

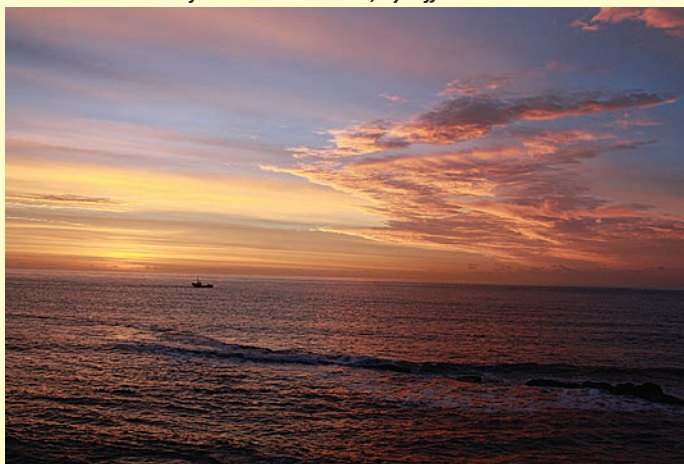
Original files **ONLY** please, as they come straight off the camera with **NO** alterations. Some mobile phones may not produce useable pictures due to low resolution. Remember to include your name in the email!



Corfe Castle illuminated, by Jeff Watkin



Mahonia leaves with frost, by Christine Bridson-Jones



Morning catch, by Carlotta Barrow



Tyneham Church, by Isabell Millingen



Rainbow over Burgate, by Carlotta Barrow



Sunrise at Durdle Door, by Isabell Millingen



Frosty Swanage beach, by Howard Oliver



Limpet study, by Ashley Carter

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HAVE YOUR SAY

Purbeck District Council needs to review the Purbeck Local Plan, which it uses to determine planning applications. This is a requirement of an independent planning inspector.

The review will consider future growth in the district, so the Council wants to know your thoughts on how it can plan for this.



Thriving communities in balance
with the natural environment

Consultation on future development in Purbeck

Some of the issues the Council needs to consider are:

- Locations for **NEW HOMES** •
- Locations for **NEW SHOPPING SPACE AND EMPLOYMENT** •
- How can we enable growth whilst continuing to protect the **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?** •

**Come and talk with planning officers
at the following DROP-IN events:**

Wednesday	11 Feb	2.00pm - 8.00pm	Upton Community Centre
Thursday	12 Feb	2.00pm - 8.00pm	The D'Urberville Hall, Wool
Monday	16 Feb	2.00pm - 8.00pm	The Mowlem, Swanage
Wednesday	18 Feb	2.00pm - 8.00pm	Scout Hut, Bere Regis
Friday	20 Feb	2.00pm - 8.00pm	Wareham Town Hall
Thursday	26 Feb	2.00pm - 8.00pm	Lytchett Matravers Library

View all the consultation material, including a questionnaire, at www.dorsetforyou.com/purbeck-partial-review or contact
Purbeck District Council, Westport House, Worgret Road,
Wareham BH20 4PP Telephone 01929 556561

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Wareham Area Senior Forum

“ Wareham Area Seniors' Forum ”

Making Purbeck Healthcare Fit for the Future

Latest information about healthcare for Purbeck residents & Wareham and Swanage Community Hospital Matron, Donna Kiss

Wareham Parish Hall (on Wareham Quay)
10am to 12 noon Monday 9th February
Coffee/Tea on arrival, Soup & Roll

For information, or for transport to attend, call Sue on 07825 264353.
Age 50+ All welcome

A successful AGM took place on 8th December at the Parish Hall Wareham with over forty people attending. Light refreshments were prepared and served by the committee, with entertainment from Maddie Stephens, Wareham's answer to Pam Ayres and carol music played by Lady St Mary's Senior Moment Handbell Ringers.

Mrs Anne Laugharne thanked the officers and committee for their enthusiasm and commitment and all committee members were re-elected with three new committee members elected – Ann Williams, Allan Hathway and David Parry Jones. On 15th January thirty Wareham Senior Forum Members – new and old – visited the Priest House Museum in Wimborne with transport and refreshments funded by Age UK. An excellent time was enjoyed by all and it is hoped that a similar activity will take place next year with the support of Age UK.

We hope to see as many people as possible on Monday 9th February to hear the latest news about 'Purbeck Healthcare Fit for the Future' and Donna Kiss, the new Matron for Wareham Community Hospital, is hoping to be able to take ten minutes from her busy schedule to meet our members and give new updates about our Purbeck Community Hospitals. The Forum committee members are providing a variety of soups and roll, all for a small donation of £2 per person.

WESTOVER NISSAN

Supporting 'Purbeck Good Neighbours'

So that they can help others

Purbeck Good Neighbours Newsround.

If you need some help with a small task at home, are over 50 and living in the Purbeck area, our Good Neighbours are ready to take your call. We now have over 130 volunteers in the area so there will be someone who lives close by who will be able to give you a call back and arrange to lend you a hand.

All we ask is a small donation, a minimum of £2, to help with our expenses. We have completed 228 tasks so far. We have helped quite a lot of people with re-hanging curtains when the plastic hooks have become brittle and broken.

We are ready for your call at any time on our central number - 01929 42436.

We are very pleased that Swanage & Purbeck Rotary has adopted us as their community charity for the year. If you feel like giving a donation you could throw some loose change into the Rotary Wishing Well that is on the seafront by the Tourist Centre.

This will go towards our printing and telephone costs which are the largest expenses for us. This is because all our advertising is sponsored by the Purbeck Gazette and Westover Motors, who are the most community minded organizations and can see the good our Purbeck Good Neighbour volunteers are doing.

For more information: - contact our Central number: 01929 424363 or email: purbeckgoodneighbours@yahoo.co.uk

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Swanage Area Senior Forum

**SWANAGE AREA
SENIOR FORUM**

*Passionate about our
community*

The National Trust

A National trust speaker will join us to speak on the Trust's aims and ambitions in Purbeck

WED 11 MARCH - 7PM

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Ave, Swanage
Parking available & refreshments from 6.30pm

JOIN US - TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

The March meeting of The Swanage Area Senior Forum on March 11th will feature a speaker from The National Trust who own many thousands of acres of land in Purbeck.

The speaker will cover such topics as the 'Trust' aims and ambitions in Purbeck, relationships with other conservation organisations in the area, heath land restoration, wildlife in or around on National Trust lands plus ideas for Corfe Castle and Studland etc.

This is a large subject about a large organisation that is part and parcel of our community, a very interesting meeting can be anticipated.

Also The Swanage Area Senior forum committee at its January meeting agreed to consider financial support to any local organisation that assists disadvantaged seniors and needs help in covering transport costs.

Any such organisations, clubs, associations or charities that would like to discuss this offer further, please telephone 426127.

We have already agreed to support the 'Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Community initiative' that has been recently set up in Swanage.



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My Next New Year's Present - Please!

by David Hollister

It's been several years since we ventured into Wales to enjoy the beautiful scenery and a weekend with our good friends with food, fun and fireworks. Last time I wrote about Wales in this magazine I was roundly chastised for suggesting that the cost of having bilingual road signs and markings far outweighed any benefit to the one man and his sheepdog in the Principality who couldn't understand English. Far cheaper, perhaps, to find him and teach him how to read English.

But this year – for a change – it didn't rain, the sun was out, and the fabulous views from the Severn Bridge actually made up for the above-inflation increase in the bridge toll; almost twice the price of the Sandbanks Ferry! The journey was further improved by the fact that the Mazda 3 kindly lent to us for the weekend by Magna Motors of Canford Cliffs was the perfect car for the journey. Mind you, the Mazda 3 is probably the perfect car for any journey. A well-appointed 5-door hatchback, its 2.0 SkyActiv power unit gave us plenty of 'grunt' whilst delivering over 42 mpg; that's the same as we get from our 1.3 Mazda 2!

At only 119 CO₂s, and a BIK Tax of only 16%, this would make an ideal company car. But the generously-proportioned interior space and comfort make it an ideal family car, too.

The display of electronic 'bells and whistles' is astonishing; I am struggling to think of one 'gismo' that this car doesn't have. The 7" colour touch-screen is positioned high on the dashboard, close to your line of sight, and not only offers a sat-nav but also blue-tooth phone and entertainment system. I did find the sat-nav a little difficult to master (is this becoming a common factor in these test cars.... could it be me and not the car?) but once I'd got the hang of it, it gave clear precise instructions and navigated around the traffic. The BOSE sound system really comes into its own because there's little wind or engine noise to challenge it. The engine is, indeed, so quiet that occasionally I found myself forgetting to change from 4th – 5th – 6th; thankfully, there's a useful digital reminder!

The centre instrument is – unusually – a rev counter with a digital speedometer incorporated in it. The speed is also usefully displayed on a superb pop-up 'active driving display' which actually shows your speed – and some sat-nav directions as well – on a head-up display right in the driver's eye-line. This is a real aid to safety. Brilliant. There's also a trip computer with all sorts of information at your fingertips. The touch-screen doesn't operate while the car is moving; instead, most of the on-screen equipment is operated by a handy 'joystick knob' situated on the central panel just where your hand falls when you take it off the wheel. No fumbling around!

At one point just beyond Cardiff, it took us 'off-piste' and gave us the pleasure of the last fifteen miles of our journey down beautifully sunny but scarily narrow lanes, through deep puddles and deeper fords, a real eye-opener because I thought I knew how to get to Tim's; after all, we've been there many times before! But the '3' was sure-footed and gave us no nasty moments, even on the mud!

Home comforts were improved by a dual air-con system (hot for her, cool for me), cruise control, rear vehicle monitoring, a lane departure warning system, automatic wipers and the latest generation of automatic lights which not only switch on when the car thinks it's too dark, but proceeds to switch between main and dipped beams when the car sees oncoming traffic or the tail light of the car in front; the Adaptive Front Lighting system adjusts the angle of the Bi-Xenon headlights when cornering, to allow more of the road ahead to be lit. Now that's something I've never seen before!

The entry system is keyless, the engine shuts down automatically when you come to a stop, using the Mazda i-stop smart system. The re-start, triggered by the clutch pedal, takes 0.35 of a second! Cruise control is



easy and instant. There are front and rear parking sensors (essential!), an optional Lane Departure Warning System, automatically dipping mirror, and even a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System to tell you when a tyre is underinflated. Regrettably the 'spare wheel' is still a squirty kit, but at least Mazda now recognise that these kits are a total waste of time, as they offer a spare wheel as an 'optional extra'!

But this car isn't just about electronics, gadgets and gismos. It's a real pleasure to drive, totally effortless without losing the relationship between driver and road. The sport-style seats are so comfortable that Tina's back gave not one twinge of protest – not even one! And that's really unusual these days. The test car came with the smart optional leather interior kit, not just comfortable but really smart, too.

This car has so much to recommend it that really you need to get hold of a brochure or – even better – phone Barney Steel at Magna (01202 701 222) and arrange a test drive. My advice to anyone buying or even test-driving one is – sit down with the manual for an hour before you go anywhere, and learn just what this incredible car can do for you.

Claimed mpg 55.4. Achieved 42.5. That's 77%. Maybe if I'd changed up properly every time, and driven a little slower, I'd have done better.

Would I buy one? Most definitely, when the '2' comes up for renewal or when I eventually accept the fact that the MX5 is more difficult than it used to be to climb out of.....or indeed, when we adapt our lives to one car instead of two.

It's a fraction over £20,195 on-the-road, but at Magna there's usually a deal to be done so I'd be looking at slightly sub-£20k. And that's not a lot of money for a helluva lot of car. Yes please. (I think he liked it! – Ed)

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 60.1 (4.7). Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) - 80.7 (3.5). Combined 48.7 (5.8) - 72.4 (3.9). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 135 - 104.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only, subject to vehicle availability for vehicles registered between 01.01.15 and 31.03.15 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% APR finance available on all Mazda3 models over 24, 30, 36 or 42 months. **You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.** Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Model shown: Mazda3 120ps Sport Nav, OTR from £20,195. Model shown features optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£660). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. *Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified.

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Offer valid until 31 March 2015 at participating dealers only and subject to vehicle availability. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply, please visit www.nissan-offers.co.uk/termsandconditions or your local dealer for full details. *NISSAN DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION OF £1,500 IS ONLY AVAILABLE WHEN TAKEN ON 4.9% APR PCP NISSAN FINANCE PRODUCT. Model shown is Pulsar Acenta at £189 per month with additional metallic paint at \$500. Monthly payment based on DEPOSIT OF £5,743.71 FOLLOWED BY 36 PAYMENTS OF £189 AND OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT OF £5,450. Offer based on 10,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile. Offers not available in conjunction with any schemes or other offers. Vehicle price includes first registration fee and 12 months' road fund licence. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of finance providers including RCI Financial Services Ltd. We may receive a commission from the finance provider for the introduction. For terms and conditions relating to Nissan technologies visit www.nissan.co.uk/technologyT&Cs. Always drive carefully and attentively. *Free servicing for 3 years must be by a franchised Nissan dealer at specified intervals. Mileage limits from 37,500 apply - please see www.nissan-offers.co.uk/termsandconditions for servicing intervals. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing, in accordance with 2004/3/ EC and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. (Optional equipment, maintenance, driving behaviour, road and weather conditions may affect the official results.) Information correct at time of going to print. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

PURBECK WEDDINGS



Local couple Kirsten Churchill and Paul Jennings married at St Mary's Parish Church, Swanage on 17th May 2014. Photo taken by Trev Rich Photography - see advert on page 47 for full contact details.

A wedding is one of the most joyous occasions in anyone's life - pledging your life to another is a huge milestone, and something to celebrate with friends and family.

From selecting the venue, through to the guests deciding on the perfect outfit for the day, there's a lot of organisation to undertake, whatever the size of wedding you're planning.

In Purbeck we have a wealth of local businesses who can assist you in every way, from choosing a local venue to making a bespoke wedding dress.

In the following pages we have gathered together local wedding service providers so you can start planning your big day now. However individual and unique you wish your wedding to be, there's someone in Purbeck who can make your dream a reality!

We also feature a selection of fabulous images from recent Purbeck weddings, shared with us by the bride and groom. Thanks so much to those who sent images in - we hope you all enjoy looking at them as much as we have! Congratulations to all.



*Chelsi Sutherland-Leveson-Gower and Alex Baines
married on 4th October 2014 at St James's Church,
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Blue Bay Events



On Saturday 9th August 2014, Blue Bay Events Ltd had the absolute pleasure of managing a very special wedding day for a very special couple, Owen and Karla. After meeting with the couple in January 2014, I realised very quickly that this was to be no ordinary wedding. The couple had some fabulous ideas, and it was my responsibility to enable that these came true!

Their first wish was to get married as close to the beach as possible. Although we are blessed with some fantastic beaches in the Isle of Purbeck, due to the wedding ceremony law, that all ceremonies must be held under a permanent licensed structure, the list of possible spaces is restricted. However, The Grand Hotel in Swanage was to offer the perfect option. In their fabulous sea view gardens, they have constructed a beautiful wooden structure, which has now been officially licensed for legal wedding ceremonies. With direct access to the beach, for the couple to enjoy some magical wedding shots, this proved to be the perfect spot!

Their second wish was to hold a Tipi Wedding Reception. Again, we are blessed in this area for stunning landscapes, however we are restricted on the perfect land for this type of event. This is where Purbeck Valley Farm steps in to the light! The Barnes Family could not be more accommodating at their site. With B&B accommodation, toilets, showers, land and a new licensed ceremony space for 2015; this venue really does offer the perfect blank canvas for any style of outdoor reception.

Once the perfect locations had been sourced, the rest of the planning took place over the following 8 months without a hitch. The one element that no one can plan for is the weather. With two outdoor sites, we had every resource in place for bad weather and it was just a case of waiting until the day. However, on waking to clear skies and beautiful sunshine, the day could not have been more perfect!

Not only was this a special day for the couple, but for both venues too, as for both sites, this was to be a first! For The Grand Hotel, this was the first outdoor ceremony to take place, and at Purbeck Valley Farm, this was the first wedding reception to be held on site. And the day was truly wonderful and I feel truly honoured to have been involved!

Since their wedding, Owen and Karla have been very busy, and have launched their own company specialising in Tipi Weddings, Coastal Tents. The couple will be relocating to the area in Spring 2015, and we, Blue Bay Events Ltd, look forward to working with them and recommending their gorgeous tipi's and tents.

Blue Bay Events Ltd is a Wedding Planning and Events Management company based in the beautiful Isle of Purbeck. We specialise in providing independent wedding planning services to our clients and recommending truly unique venues, to find each couple their dream wedding setting. Our aim is to offer you a completely personal service where attention to detail is paramount, to ensure we are able to help you create an original and memorable event of the highest quality.

For more details on booking Purbeck Valley Farm, The Grand Hotel, Coastal Tents or speaking to us about the other services we offer, please contact Polly on 01929 509900 or email events@bluebayevents.co.uk
For all information visit our website www.bluebayevents.co.uk

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Beautiful wedding cake made by Sue Fane and Grandma Doris Fane for the wedding of Chelsi Sutherland-Leveson-Gower and Alex Baines

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Chelsi Sutherland-Leveson-Gower poses in a 'photostar booth' with guests Victor, Rossi, Beatrice, Kran and Rowena.

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Chelsi Sutherland-Leveson-Gower married Alex Baines.

Pictured are: Bridesmaids with Bride; Beatrice Bourne, Rowena Hunt, Kerry Brook-Watson, Mo Seabourne. Alex with his mother, Sue Fane, and Chelsi with her parents, Krithia Watson and Michael Watson.

Ushers with groom: Sam Turner, Ryan Baines, Lewis Baines. Entertainment by Best Man, Sam Turner.

Pictures by Claire Richards



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UNWIND

Food

The Gourmet Peddler



Flu-Slayer Soup

I once had a proper job: TV adverts for car insurance, big green heart, “boom diddy” sound track... That was me. A life of suits, ties, meetings and more meetings. It didn't suit me, got in the way of surfing and everyone knows the only good suit is a wetsuit. So I left the safety of regular pay, pensions and healthcare behind and cycled home to Swanage singing along to Alice Cooper's “School's out”.

On my very first day in the free world I ended up next to TV chef James Wong at the World Stinging Nettle Eating Championships. Back then he had a BBC TV show somewhat misleadingly called “Grow Your Own Drugs” but on this day he was presenting for “Country File”. The BBC bought me a few beers and a somewhat relaxed Charlie ended up on TV. James noticed I had a cold and told me about this recipe of his. I would describe this as a “bomber” of a recipe. If you wind back the heat it's a pleasure to eat, but it can also be described as a kamikaze soup, declaring all out total war on your cold. Drink this soup bomb and see who survives; you or the flu!

Soup Ingredients:

A couple of chicken breasts

Onions

Mushrooms (any sort, but fancy ones like shiitake are nice, however you will probably need to go to the mainland for these)

Chicken stock

2 red chillies

A whole garlic

Ginger about the size of your small finger.

Goji berries, small hand full (health food shop)

Note: or use less chilli, less ginger, but same amount of garlic for an easier to live with soup.

And for the dumplings (because everything is better with dumplings):

Seaweed (Chinese supermarket or off the rocks if you know what you are doing)

Suet 50g

Self Raising flour 100g

Sweet chilli sauce

Soy sauce

What to do.

Chop up the chicken and fry in a saucepan.

Then add the onions until they are soft.

Add mushrooms, chilli, garlic, ginger and stock.

Cook on a very low simmer for at least 2 hours, the chicken should start to break up.

I have found that after 2 hours the incredibly intense ingredients start to fuse together, and the heat seems to decrease. Keep an eye on the thickness, and add more water if needed.

The goji berries, which are supposed to be a wonderful super food that cures all known illnesses go in for the last 30 minutes.

Whilst the soup is cooking we can prepare the dumplings.

Mix all the ingredients together

Add a little water and roll into conker sized balls.

I steam these for 20 minutes over the soup.

So did this mystical cure all potion rescue me from my cold? Well something did, but it may have been all the iron in the bushels of stinging nettles I ate that day. Here's a last minute idea, try substituting the seaweed with stinging nettles. Probably best to steam the nettles over the soup first and pick them from a nice clean remote location, not next to a busy road.

Good luck.

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With Valentine's Day approaching, some of our readers may be wondering...

Do aphrodisiacs really work?

Below is a small selection of foods which are reputed to have aphrodisiac properties.

You might want to try some of them this month!

Oysters - One of the most notorious aphrodisiacs, oysters are high in zinc and have a reputation for being great for love and fertility.

Chilli Peppers - This invigorating spice has an exotic reputation and a bright red colour, which could be why it's considered an aphrodisiac and a symbol of love. But there's scientific backing, too. Chili peppers stimulate endorphins (the brain's feel good chemicals), speed up heart rate and make you sweat, which all mimic how you feel when you're aroused.

Chocolate - Chocolate is sensual, from its taste to its aroma, but dark chocolate has also been shown to cause a spike in dopamine which induces feelings of pleasure.

Honey - Honey is made through pollination and is a symbol of procreation. Birds and bees ring a bell? In fact, the word 'honeymoon' got its name from mead, an alcoholic beverage made from honey given to the happy new bride and groom.

Figs - Used by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the fig paradoxically symbolizes both sexuality (the ripe fruit with seeds representing fertility) and modesty (the fig leaf). They are full of potassium and are an antioxidant powerhouse.

Strawberries - Feed them to each other for a healthy, vitamin C-packed dessert that helps keep blood flowing to all regions of the body.

Chai Tea - Skip the coffee after dinner and reach for a cup of chai tea. The typical spices in this brew - ginger, cloves and cinnamon, will get the blood flowing, but the caffeine effect is less so you'll still be able to drift off to sleep after your meal.

Whipped Cream - Sadly there's no evidence that whipped cream will boost libido - but it might help to put you in the mood!

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Desserts

Sharing Platter for Two
Strawberries with Dipping Chocolate
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Purbeck Products celebrates this by bringing farmers, producers and craftspeople together at the farmers markets that are held on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Commercial Road in Swanage and at other venues throughout the year.

There are lots of tasty treats on offer including fresh fish, meat, bread, jams and chutneys, cakes, pies, dairy products and fudge, as well as local crafts, cards and gifts.

Not only is visiting Purbeck Products market a pleasant shopping experience, but you also

actually get to meet the farmers who rear the animals, the baker who bakes the cakes and bread, the gardener that grows the vegetables and the skilled craftspeople who create their own wares.

It's good to know where our produce has come from and to support local, small scale farmers where the animal has had the best quality of life possible. The benefits of this can be a higher quality, fresher, better tasting meat.

Buying locally can also have other positive outcomes such as reducing food miles, supporting the local economy, and therefore encouraging local employment. Buying from a local farmer, smallholder or Purbeck craftsman does not necessarily mean this is more expensive. Prices are very competitive.

So come along to our next market to meet the producers and be tempted by our tasty treats and see the local crafts on offer.

For more information you can visit our website at www.purbeckproducts.co.uk

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Economic Review Of The 4th Quarter of 2014

During the last three months of 2014 the FTSE 100 index fell by 0.9% and was down by 2.7% over the year. The FTSE ended 2014 at 6566.09 during what proved to be a fairly volatile December, with the index closing between 6182.72 and 6742.84 during the month.

Our analysts generally commented on the global situation as follows:

'Overall in 2014 the world economy disappointed and there remain significant risks to global growth but it is hoped that lower oil prices could give a boost to consumption and lift global output by as much as 0.5% in 2015. With inflation surprising on the downside, the Bank of England could remain reluctant to hike interest rates and central banks in Europe and Japan are likely to keep monetary policy very accommodative for some time, in order to combat deflationary forces. Clearly, there are global imbalances but the background should remain supportive of risk assets and we reiterate our overweight position on global equities.'

With specific reference to the UK, selections from our analysts' comments are as follows:

'In the UK after a rapid cyclical recovery, the economy is losing some momentum as it faces stagnation in the Eurozone (about 45% of UK exports). Nevertheless, the domestic outlook suggests that the UK will grow at a reasonable rate of 2.5% in 2015.'

'This could eliminate any excess capacity in the economy but with lower inflation expectations, markets have accordingly pushed back the expected date of a first 0.25% interest rate hike to the beginning of 2016. The FTSE 100 Index is on a 2015 PE ratio of 12.9 based on 3% earnings growth. Within a diversified global portfolio, we have moved to an underweight position on UK equities.'

'The UK economy has benefited from having its own central bank and currency but the Autumn Statement confirmed that there is still a long way to go until the country's budget deficit and debt problems are resolved. In addition, it appears that the economy is losing momentum and there is the spectre of deflation in the Eurozone plus there is the uncertain UK political outlook. We have moved to an underweight position on UK equities within a diversified global portfolio.'

The Halifax House Prices Index showed that house prices over the last three months of 2014 rose by 0.3% and were up by 7.8% in 2014. Martin Ellis, their housing economist said:

'The deterioration in housing affordability as a result of rising house prices, earnings growth that been consistently below consumer price inflation until very recently and speculation of an interest rate rise, have combined to temper housing demand since the summer.'

'The weakening in housing demand has led to a reduction in both price growth and sales in recent months. We expect a further moderation in house price growth over the coming year with prices nationally predicted to increase in a range of 3% to 5% in 2015. Housing demand, however, should continue to be supported by a growing economy, rising employment levels, still low mortgage rates and the first gain in 'real' earnings for several years'.

Kate Spurling lives in Swanage and is an investment manager with Charles Stanley, Dorchester office – (01305) 251155 – kate.spurling@charlesstanley.co.uk

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Shared Parental Leave

Where a child is due to be born (or adopted) on or after 5 April 2015, its parents will be entitled to share the 52 weeks of maternity leave and 39 weeks of maternity pay or maternity allowance which is currently available only to the mother. This ability to share parental leave and pay will not apply in Northern Ireland until the Northern Ireland Assembly passes the relevant regulations.

As an employer you need to be ready to deal with claims from employees to share leave and pay, and to report details of shared statutory parental pay in your RTI reports.

The parents generally have to give 8-weeks' notice of a period of shared parental leave, which can be taken at any time within the child's first year (or first year after adoption). The leave and pay must be taken in blocks of full weeks, but can start on any day of the week.

The parents need to self-certify that they both meet the following conditions for shared parental leave:

- they must be employed or self-employed in Great Britain for 26 weeks in the 66 week period that ends with the week before the birth (adoption) week; and
- they must have average earnings of £30 or more each in at least 13 of those 26 weeks.

To qualify for shared parental pay the parent must also have earned an average salary of at least the lower earnings limit (£112 for 2015/16), for the 8 weeks prior to the 15th week before the expected birth date. That pay threshold must be met by both parents if the statutory pay is to be shared.

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From PCs To Tablets...



FirstService TechShop opened its doors in Daisy May's Arcade at the beginning of December, owned and operated by Stephen Lott and Marcelle Keenan.

In the mid 1990s Stephen completed his Masters in Computer Sciences and has worked in the computer service industry ever since.

Stephen says "I have watched technology change from room-sized computers that could only be afforded by the biggest companies, to today's technology of the Laptop, Smartphone and Tablet."

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Trading Standards



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Retailers are aware that they shouldn't sell age restricted goods to people younger than allowed, but how do we check that they aren't selling them anyway? Well, we use young people as trading standards volunteers to come out with us and attempt to buy these goods.

All shops should be aware of their responsibilities and to reinforce their knowledge we provide training materials for owners to train their staff to make sure that everyone who sells goods are aware of the law. This means that when we do a test, if there is a sale to our young person, there is no excuse.

We want to make sure retail staff are given a fair test so we use young people several years younger than 18. With the age restriction for most items being 18, the majority of shops operate a policy whereby they state they will ask anyone for identification if someone does not look at least 21, so there is little risk of our test misleading the staff.

We rely on information from the public about shops selling to people younger than the law allows. This helps us to target our checks. We also work with Dorset Police and district council licensing teams.

So if you have any concerns about any premises supplying young people with these age restricted products then please let us know by phoning the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.

Super-Fast Broadband For Martinstown

Residents of one of Dorset's oldest villages were today celebrating a leap into the future – and a major milestone for the multi million pound Superfast Dorset project.

Superfast Dorset's 100th fibre broadband cabinet to 'go live' is in Martinstown, an historic community mentioned in the Domesday Book, which has a church dating from the 12th century. The new cabinet, located on the B3159, has made the high-speed technology available to more than 300 Martinstown homes and businesses.

The £31.75 million Superfast Dorset programme has so far rolled out its fibre network to include locations such as Bridport, Charmouth, Puddletown, Broadmayne, Upwey and business parks at Ferndown, Verwood and Gore Cross, Bradpole.

The programme is led by the county council, working in partnership with BT and the Government body BDUK and with financial contributions and support from West Dorset, East Dorset, North Dorset and Purbeck District Councils and Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Weymouth Borough Councils.

Dorset County Councillor for Linden Lea Division, Andy Canning said: "Superfast broadband is an excellent New Year present for the residents and businesses of Martinstown. It's great news that so many of our villages are now as quickly connected to the internet as our urban areas. We are lucky to have an excellent quality of life without having to sacrifice our internet speeds!"

Dorset County Council signed a multi-million pound contract with BT in July 2013 to provide fibre broadband access to more than 80,000 premises. This, together with the commercial roll-out of fibre broadband by the private sector, will make superfast fibre broadband available to 95 per cent of premises in the county by the end of 2016.

The new network is available on an open, wholesale basis to all internet service providers, thereby ensuring competitive pricing and products for local households and businesses.

Announcements of other communities to benefit from faster, more reliable broadband are coming phase by phase throughout the three year life of the project. Further information on the Superfast Dorset project and coverage is available at www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast.

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Natural Matters

Dog Thefts - Be Alert!

Users of social media will probably already be well aware of the growing national problem surrounding the theft of dogs. Sites like Doglost.co.uk have thousands of members, and report daily on missing dogs, including those stolen from family homes, kennels and farms.

So, what's going on? It seems that where once jewellery and cash was the optimum choice for thieves, the realisation that good money will also be paid for dogs is gaining ground with unscrupulous folk. Many of the thefts reported on dogslost are from secure gardens, cars and homes. In rare cases, the stolen dog is eventually found, often having been sold on several times, and is eventually identified by a vet using a microchip scanning device.

Recently, the tale of Morris ('Get Me Home' on Facebook) has gained much publicity. Morris was stolen from his family home, and after spending several days locked in the back of a van, was sold on. The family immediately reported the theft to the local vets, the dog warden, dogslost.co.uk, created posters and searched high and low for Morris.

Eventually, Morris's new owner saw the search publicity, and immediately contacted the family, offering to return Morris for the £1,200 he had recently paid for him. It transpired that he had purchased Morris from two Eastern European men who informed him that Morris was heading to Poland to become a breeder - siring puppies that would then be illegally transported back to the UK where they would be sold for huge profits.

Morris is just one of thousands of dogs stolen in the UK, and is a special case as he was eventually returned home to his family. Most stolen dogs are never seen again by their owners. Many are dumped far away when they found to be too old/neutered/unpopular with buyers. They can then be hit by traffic, or picked-up by the Dog Warden and taken to the pound, where, dependent on that particular council's system, many of them have only seven days to be claimed before they are 'destroyed' - an apparently acceptable term for 'killed'. Some pound dogs are picked up by a local rescue centres - where they are then rehomed as soon as possible, never to see their original owners again. If you look online, you'll find evidence of people still desperately searching for missing pets years after they've been taken, with a tiny percentage being reunited, usually due to sheer luck and a registered microchip. Many suffering owners contact thepetdetectives.com, who offer a detective service to help recover lost pets, having had some success.

If you own a dog, it is imperative that you microchip it and keep the details up-to-date - this will soon be compulsory. It is also imperative that you sign one of the online petitions (such as Harvey's Law - <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/62490>, and <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/68410>), requesting that it become obligatory to scan for a microchip when a dog is found. At the present, there is no obligation to scan whatsoever, meaning many chipped dogs are still put to sleep, or rehomed. Those killed on the roads are not often scanned by Highways, leaving owners none the wiser.

If you own a dog, current advice is to NEVER, EVER leave them unattended at a lamp post (whilst in a shop), or in the car, garden or anywhere. Keep downstairs windows shut and locked when leaving a dog alone at home. ALWAYS keep them in sight whilst out walking, and keep an eye out for suspiciously-acting people in local walking spots, as these are also becoming targets for dog thieves. Better safe than sorry!



Purbeck Heathland Protection

In early 2015, people can comment on how heathland is protected in Purbeck.

Residents will be able to comment in the consultation which is being co-ordinated by the Borough of Poole, in partnership with Bournemouth, Christchurch, East and Purbeck councils.

The consultation will close on 18 February 2015.

People will be able to comment on a document which sets out the Council's approach to avoiding and reducing harm, particularly through residential development, to the internationally important heathlands in the District.

Councillor Mrs G A Marsh MBE, Environment Spokesperson for Purbeck District Council, said: "The District of Purbeck supports one of the most special and heavily protected environments in the country.

"Almost a quarter of the District is of international importance for nature conservation, including more protected Dorset heathlands than any other District.

"Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is one of the District Council's corporate priorities so we would like everyone who has an interest in the heathland to give us their comments."

Copies of the Heathland Supplementary Planning document and details of how to respond can be found at: <https://consultationtracker.dorsetforyou.com> from Wednesday 7 January 2015.

Hard copies will be made available in local libraries, town council offices and the Council office in Worget Road, Wareham.

All responses should be made to planning@poole.gov.uk with 'Heathland SPD' in the subject box, or by post to:

Planning and Regeneration Services, Borough of Poole, Civic Centre, Poole, BH15 2RU.

The Consultation starts just before the District Council plans to undertake a partial review of the Purbeck Local Plan Part I. This will give the Council further opportunity to review its approach to heathland mitigation in the future.



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Gazette Gardening

with Simon Goldsack



Let's Get Growing

Growing your own plants from seed is one of the most rewarding of gardening activities and can produce a lot of plants for a very small outlay. February is a great time to choose both your vegetable and ornamental seeds ready to get sowing.

Hardy annuals (like those in the picture) are plants that can be sown directly into their flowering position where they will germinate, grow and flower this summer.

Many other plants are best started off inside where they can develop without fear of frost and be ready for planting out in May and June into their flowering position. The greenhouse is ideal but many people have great success on a windowsill. Just make sure that there is good light and that the position is not prone to wild temperature swings.

The most common problem encountered is rotting off of seedlings (known as damping off) so for success:

Use clean seed trays and pots as well as sterilised seed compost (such as John Innes Seed Compost). Dirty pots and compost can harbour the fungal spores that cause damping off.

Gently firm the compost flat and level before sowing so that water will drain evenly across the surface and not pick up the seeds and wash them



down into one small area of the compost.

Don't sow seeds too densely. Seedlings that emerge tight to their neighbour compete for water, nutrients and especially light. This leads to the seedlings becoming tall and straggly. Also disease is more likely to get in when the seedlings are touching each other.

Keep the compost moist but not dripping wet. When the seedlings are big enough to handle they can be potted on into a good multi-purpose or John Innes Number 2 compost.

For more help with growing seeds contact me or one of the excellent gardening team at Holme 01929 554716.



FREE RSPB Courses

The RSPB in Dorset is offering people a chance to take up a brand new hobby this year. Birdwatching is one of the most popular outdoor activities in the UK but lots of people are put off by the seemingly endless little brown birds that appear to be tricky to identify. That's why the RSPB are running several free courses across Dorset to help keen beginners to get started.

Luke Phillips from RSPB Arne Nature Reserve said; 'We've run courses in previous years and they've proved very popular. We start with the real basics so people attending really don't need to know anything before

we start. It's aimed at complete beginners. All you need is a love for the outdoors and the willingness to learn about some of Britain's favourite wildlife.' Dan Bartlett from RSPB Radipole Lake in Weymouth added, 'We'll start with everyone's favourite garden bird species and work our way up to more unusual species which occur on our Dorset nature reserves. By the end you'll hopefully know the difference between your dunnocks and house sparrows as well as having made lots of new friends and having a wonderful new hobby.'

Courses are being held in Weymouth. A course is being run in Weymouth, on three consecutive Thursdays, starting 5th February. Although the courses are free, they are popular and so booking is essential. To book for the Weymouth courses call 01305 778313. For more information on Big Garden Birdwatch visit: www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

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Global Warbling

by John Garner



In a new government 'initiative', (let's be honest the words initiative and government hardly go hand in hand so we're already firmly within the realms of fantasy aren't we?) power on the roads has finally been completely succeeded to those on bikes. New laws passed today state that motor vehicles must, where possible, use the designated Carpaths that have been randomly set up at very little expense specifically for the purpose.

Where the Carpaths simply run out because of a lack of money, or declining interest, or merely as a result of an impending election and a realisation from the originator that a token effort such as this won't get him re-elected and the driver can't stay on the wholly inadequate tracks, he or she will be liable to a

hefty fine. Where the tracks become too narrow to be safely negotiated without straying into the line of cyclists, the drivers will also be liable to heavy fines or even bans if they are deemed to be driving without due care and attention or driving in a way that may possibly cause danger to a cyclist. The bike is boss.

This law stops just short of the intended goal of all modern democracies of limiting further the use of motorised vehicles on any of the countries highways and byways. Some Southern American countries, for example, banned cars completely in 2050 as have many other of the European low-countries. The low-countries now being Austria and Switzerland now that sea levels are so high.

In America, the Portland effect has meant that the only cities allowing any motorised vehicles at all are all in Texas, but as it became a country all of its own ten years ago it doesn't really count. Incidentally Texas is responsible for the use of over 20% of what remains of the oil stocks of the world and as such is public enemy number one. But they don't care because they have 50% of what's left.

Closer to home, the Jurassic coast, whilst retaining its historical status as a very important archaeological site, was long ago found to have much more use as an almost bottomless pit of organic fuel and therefore, whilst the rocky seaside facade has been preserved for the benefit of eco-tourists, just beneath this veneer, thousands of oil company employees are stripping the interior of all of its usable deposits.

Oil companies have given up on new fuel sources and concentrated their efforts on mangling every last gram of gas from the existing rocks and sediment. Things are going well and whilst fuel prices are fairly low, the abundance of new technology designed to wring the land dry is very cheaply powered by the very substance they are designed to extract. This

is a very cost effective way of sucking the land dry.

As mentioned earlier, sea levels have risen substantially and so millions of tonnes of waste rock and sediment have been dropped into the sea a mile out, forming a sort of artificial Chesil beach effect and holding the advancing seas at bay and thus protecting the Kimmeridge façade. Campaigners are worried that this is not the most beautiful of views and therefore have redoubled their efforts in bringing pressure to bear on geologists to scoop some more of the earth's core out and drop it into the sea further out to form some more 'natural' islands.

They have also suggested using some of the drilling residue to create more hills so that ramblers and climbers can get a clear view of the largest wind farm on the planet. Since the wind farm was designated an Area of Outstanding Unnatural Beauty, the clamour for a decent viewing point has gathered an increasing momentum.

The advancing water levels have completely surrounded Corfe Castle and made Purbeck an actual Island rather than a pretend one. The Corfe experience is now a very different one, as it is only accessible by bridge or by punt across the extended moat. Whilst this sounds like quite a romantic idea, in reality it causes any number of problems for the residents of the quasi-isle.

Corfe's relatively recent new Island status has been embraced as a very positive thing. Many real islands sell the island side of things pretty wholeheartedly. The Isle of Man have their TT races, the Isle of Wight its festivals, both music and garlic. So what for the Isle of Purbeck? Well. Beardland could work, but really only during the folk festivals season.

Nudiland's a possibility, but that area of Studland is a couple of metres below sea level now and historically the main attraction for most of that district was that those who liked to wear a stitch were generally safely hidden in the dunes. Nudiland on top of a hill strikes me as an ill-conceived plan. The marketing men have been engaged.

Let's hope they make their mind up shortly as a delay could mean that a decision isn't forthcoming before the island disappears altogether. The marketing people have offered the prize of a wind turbine of your own for your garden to the person that comes up with the best marketing slogan for the new Island of Purbeck.

Get your fracking thinking caps on people.

Swanage Garden Society

Weds 18 February

DORSET HEATH ON YOUR DOORSTEP

By Mr. Perkins

Herston Hall, Swanage at 7.30pm

All welcome!

DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



If you haven't been up recently there are a few days left of the 'Exploring the Wonders of World Heritage' exhibition – finishing 5th February. Following that from the 11th February will be:

'Books...but not as we know them!': Purbeck Literary Festival Exhibition

As part of the second Purbeck Literary Festival, from the 11th-24th February, the Fine Foundation Gallery at Durlston Castle will be hosting an exhibition of the art of the folded, sculpted and hand-made book. The exhibition will be open daily between 11am and 4pm.

Inspired by and run in conjunction with this year's Purbeck Literary Festival, artists were invited by exhibition organiser, Karen Delahay, to submit works that had a connection to books, including handmade books, how they are made, unusual materials used, artworks inspired by books or the use of books in artworks.

The exhibition will include a wide variety of works and styles by local and invited artists, including Frances Hatch, Robin Mackenzie, Katy Shepherd, Karen Delahay, Judy Tate, Alison Ciantar, Sarah Wootton, Julie Winsor, Nichola Bendall, Liz Somerville, Jane Colqhoun.

A number of workshops and demonstrations will be held during the exhibition.

Breaking News! – We are delighted to be hosting an evening of music and humour with the wonderful 'Ball & Socket' on

Wednesday 25th February – see the festival website below for details.

For more information about other Literary Festival events, visit www.purbeckliteraryfestival.info

Half-term Fun for Families

There are lots of things for families to do at Durlston this half-term.

Between 11.30am and 3pm on Wednesday 18th February, kids can 'Go Wild at Durlston' with a variety of free activities on offer at the Learning Centre.

On Sunday 19th February at 2pm, discover the amazing lives of the Durlston Dolphins, with games and activities (booking required) or why not try out one of our amazing Explorer's Bags and take a walk through the treetops, or make wild music (available every day throughout the holidays).

For more events, for adults and children, visit www.durlston.co.uk

Winter Work on the Park: across the National Nature Reserve we are doing more scrub cutting, which will improve the habitats for the wildlife and maintain the short limestone turf for which this area is internationally renowned. Contractors, Rangers and Volunteers will be out, so if you would like to help give us call or come along to our Wednesday morning work parties 10am – 1pm meeting at the Learning Centre (boots, gloves and cake provided).

Margaret Green Animal Rescue

Doonie is looking for love

In February, the month of love, do you have room in your heart for a very special new family member?

Meet the beautiful Doonie, a four year old lady who arrived at the Margaret Green Animal Rescue Sanctuary at Church Knowle after she wasn't happy living with young children.

She is very loving and affectionate but is looking for a very special home. Doonie can be a little bit of a naughty tortie so she will need a home with an understanding family.

She may be able to live with a dog.

Please contact the centre directly to find out more about Doonie by calling 01929 480474. Alternatively visit www.margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk.

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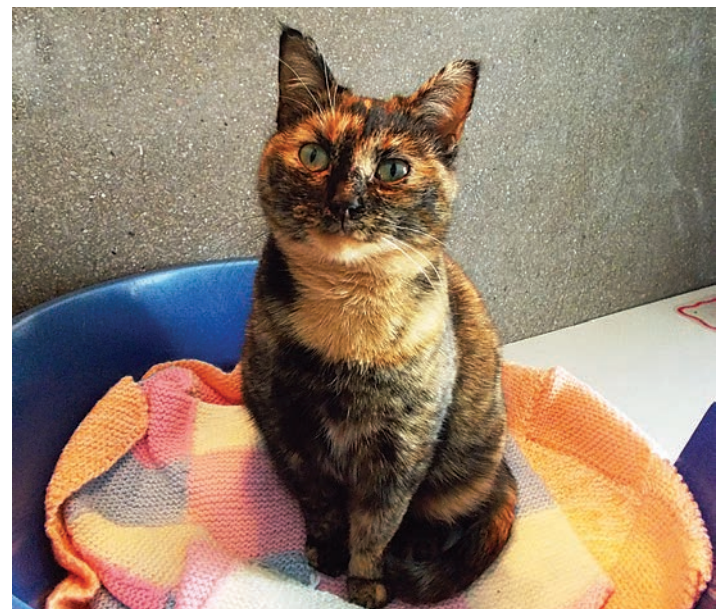
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Seal Stories



In light of the fact Swanage locals have been getting to know new off-shore resident, named locally as 'Ron-Seal', Reader Diane Wend sent in the below article, detailing her experiences with Sammy Seal, who once visited our shores.... The picture above shows Ron taking a break on Andrew Linstead's kayak, taken by his son, Andrew Linstead

Zoologists warn against fraternizing too closely with wild animals, but fifty three years ago this last spring, a seal swam into Chapman's Pool near Swanage and stayed for a whole summer, charming everyone who visited the area. I was nineteen years old and I think of the experience of making the seal's acquaintance as one of the most memorable of my life. He was an Atlantic Grey Seal, larger than the Common Seal which frequents the East Coast of Britain. He was approximately sixteen months old and within four years this 'bull' seal would grow to three metres long and weigh half a ton.

It took half of that spring of 1961 for the young seal to learn to trust people and, fortunately, visitors to this remote and secluded area were generally respectful of him.

Trust between two animals – even domestic pets- has to be earned. The same applies in the relationships between animals and humans, but maybe in a much more complex series of events (or non-events...)

Having heard of the seal's approachability and having seen others close to it, the seal and I soon became 'friends'. It had a great sense of fun and mischief, and looked one in the eyes for confirmation as a pet dog does.

His breath smelt of fish when he put his muzzle up to my face, his 'polythene' whiskers curled up at the tips having dried in the sun. He was covered in fine fur and although this was scarcely visible when he had just hauled out of the sea, on drying it became like the pelt of a child's cuddly toy.

I found it surprising to observe that he could close his nostrils – presumably to prevent himself taking in water, and also that he could wag his stumpy little tail (though why this latter talent, I know not!).

He had beautiful, black, shiny nails, long and elegant, of equal length, slightly curved at the end of the flippers, really more like human hands in their flexibility and expressiveness. He seemed to be made of elastic: from a squat, rotund shape he could streamline himself, seemingly adding another half metre to his length. Taking a tape measure, he measured forty-two inches round his chest.

Moving on land, one could say he looked ominous. He pulled himself on his front elbows (just above the flipper or forelimb), humped his back while pushing with hind parts to make a 'bounce' forward.

The seal came to be called Sammy, perhaps not an appropriate name for such a charismatic, ebullient creature ('charismatic' is derived from a Greek word meaning graceful and close to God and a seal swimming underwater matches this description for me).

He spent his time hunting for sea food in neighbouring waters, lounging on the beach and looking for someone to join him in a game, and it seemed any game would do, as with most young mammals! This was probably typical pre-hunting play, however most young animals enjoy relating to one another with exuberance and physicality. Many children were his playmates

and the seal became aware of their comparative fragility; other than a few minor scratches caused by his pointed nails, he was careful of them.

He was our size and swimming in the water with him was tantalizing, as the water, being seldom clear. It seemed he loved to surprise us. He would delight in his superb agility, swimming for sheer joy and would catapult himself from nowhere into the swimmer's face, blowing fishy breath. Another game he loved while in the water was chasing someone who was running along the beach. If they turned to run back (even though the seal was swimming underwater most of the time), he took pride in catching up with them. However, being comparatively vulnerable when on the beach, he had mixed feelings about dogs and was defensive when they were nervous of him, which, after all, is typical of many animal relationships.

A man did at one stage report some injury from the seal's teeth, but also said that it was not to blame as a dog had intervened in their romping. There were no other reported incidents of this sort, which seems amazing as a seal's teeth are large!

Seals 'weep', I suppose like cats and dogs, but different in that tears are shed. Perhaps this is one of the reasons for the mythology related to this species – mermaids for example, and sometimes of an evening as 'trippers' left, he would obsessively chase his most recent playmates as they left the beach, half barking half howling till tears fell down his face.

A wild animal in captivity can't choose who it relates to (of whatever species) and it is now well known that mammals need at least that fundamental freedom. They will mourn and often lose well-being in a typical enclosed environment; thus the creation of the new-style animal parks in the UK.

Animals, whether domesticated or wild, don't 'pretend' and indulge their needs without a conscience, except in relation to the response that they receive from other animals (or a human). It seemed Sammy's unabashed behaviour expressed a need for affection, and it was his appealing, artless (and indeed artful) playfulness that fulfilled this and delighted us.

No, our seal wasn't always 'cuddly' looking and although memories are often sentimentalized, he inspired a genuine tenderness from young and old, though admittedly, he became rather demanding, sometimes like a spoilt child.

Sammy chose to stay at Chapman's Pool as he had 'friends'. When winter set in he left and wasn't seen again. In my mind's eye I can imagine the gradually sinking sun, the rising sea, the sun's warm reflection on the water, scattering as it opens to the sea's edge. A seal bounces down to the water's edge, rolling against an oncoming wave, momentarily a streak of light down his back, and out into the water to his freedom where the sun meets another land. I only hope that Sammy met with his kind.

A book was written on Sammy's visit to Purbeck. It was called 'A Seal Summer' written by Nina Warner Hooke, and published in 1964. Some drawings and a sculpture were inspired by this event.

Arts & Entertainment

Swanage Blues Festival



Thousands of music lovers come to Swanage every March and October for the Blues Festivals. There's superb music, drinking, eating, dancing, fun and laughter from Thursday evening till early Monday morning. This March the dates are 5th to 8th when you can enjoy 75 performances by 36 bands in 18 indoor venues.

Regular fans say they love the friendly atmosphere and the wide range of electric and acoustic music available in the pubs, restaurants and hotel bars. Aspiring performers can take part in the many open mic and jam sessions. Some of the regular paid Artists started off by appearing at these jam sessions.

"Over the years, it's been fantastic to see how things have grown organically," said organiser Steve Darrington. "What a pleasure it is to put on events that bring happiness to so many music fans, life to the town after the quiet winter months, and extra trade for local businesses too."

These are Big Town Blues Parties, and to keep the party spirit flowing, fans are happy to support the events by purchasing £10 Weekend Wristbands. Says organiser Steve Darrington: "It keeps things cool and saves having doormen – it's an honour thing and wonderful that people are so honest."

Steve also produces the local 'Live Music and more' monthly guides, available free from venues, retailers and Swanage tourist information centre or downloaded from Swanage Blues website.

For Deals, Special Offers and more information about Swanage Blues Festivals, join the monthly mailing list at www.swanage-blues.org

Photo: Jon Wasey.

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Purbeck Strings Concert

Purbeck Strings Festival 14th and 15th of March 2015. Concerts in St. Mary's Church Swanage.

This year's Festival is a tenth anniversary celebration for Purbeck Strings.

The Stanford Quartet give a romantic candlelight concert on Saturday night with beautiful quartets by Mozart, Schubert, Tchaikowsky and Ravel on their programme. The concert is at 7.30 in St. Mary's Church Swanage. The audience can enjoy a complementary glass of wine at the interval.

Ian Pillow the Festival's conductor and composer will give a talk about the process of composing 'Songs and Dances of Spring' on Saturday morning in the Mowlem community room, Swanage

'Songs and Dances of Spring' was written especially for Purbeck Strings in 2006 for the first annual festival. The songs are settings of seven spring poems by John Clare.

The scoring is for mezzo soprano, string quartet and string orchestra with special parts for less experienced players who are encouraged to play bird calls during the dawn chorus section.

The soloist Anna Huntley is a talented competition winning singer who has performed roles for the English National Opera, Welsh National Opera as well as giving many acclaimed concert performances and radio 3 recitals.

The Sunday afternoon concert opens with two of the finest works written for strings; Mozart's youthful Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and the evocative

Purbeck Strings

10th Anniversary Festival March 14-15

Concerts at St Mary Church, Swanage

Stanford Quartet - Concert by Candlelight
 Saturday 14th March 7.30pm - Tickets £12.50
 Mozart: Quartet, Tchaikowsky: *Cantabile*
 Schubert: *Quartettsatz*, Ravel: string quartet

Festival Strings Concert – Conductor: Ian Pillow
 Sunday 15th March at 3.30pm - £10. Child/student free
 Pillow: *Songs and Dances of Spring*: soloist – Anna Huntley
 Mozart: *Eine kleine*, Elgar: *Serenade*, Arensky: *Chanson Triste*

Tickets from St. Mary's Parish office Swanage 01929 421117.
 Reservations: 07964 22 60 65: email purbeckstrings@hotmail.co.uk

Elgar *Serenade*.

Bonnie Schwarz is a talented young cellist who is a Purbeck Strings Fine Instrument Award winner, she will be a featured young musician when she plays *Chanson Triste* by Anton Arensky. The concert is at 3.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Swanage.

Tickets will be on sale from St. Mary's Parish Office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Reservations can be requested by email – purbeckstring@hotmail.co.uk phoning 07974 226065.

Calling Young Creatives!

Do YOU Have What It Takes?!

JAIO and The Purbeck Gazette are calling all young creatives to make their voices heard about the issues that really matter to them – now's the chance to have your say by entering 'The Voice Upstairs' competition.

Written entries will be judged by the Purbeck Gazette, whilst artistic entries will be judged by JAIO, with prizes being awarded for the winner in both the written word and creative arts categories.

All entries for this competition will be exhibited in The Mowlem Theatre's Community Room during the May Half term as part of Purbeck Arts Week Festival 2015.

For entrants aged 17-18 there is also an opportunity to become a part of JAIO and take an active part in stewarding the event, allowing you to highlight your work and raise the public awareness of the matters involved, as well as exhibit in future events.

Entrants may choose up to three pieces from the following:

Written Word: Either a Short Story (1000 words) Prose /Journalistic Report (500 words) or Poetry (250 words) All entries are to be typed on A4 and delivered or emailed to The Purbeck Gazette – ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk

Creative Arts: Either Drawing, Painting, Hand drawn Illustration or Photography.

All entries to be presented on A4 paper and delivered to The Purbeck Gazette or emailed to JAIO at jaio07@fastmail.fm in jpeg form.

Please include your name, age and contact details with each entry. Closing date for entries – Monday 4th May .

PAW PURBECK ART WEEKS festival YOUNG CREATIVES COMPETITION

"THE VOICE UPSTAIRS"

in

ART and WRITING



Have your say on what matters to you.
Written and Artistic Entries judged by the
Purbeck Gazette and JAIO Art.
Open to entrants aged 7-18 years.
Fantastic Prize for the winner in each category.
Closing date: Monday 4th May 2015

Purbeck Valley Folk Festival

Same great festival, fabulous new location!

Prepare to be tempted to the Purbeck Valley Folk Festival on 27-30 August, as Squeeze's Chris Difford is announced as the latest headline act. Chris has penned such Squeeze classics as Up The Junction, Labelled With Love, Tempted and Cool For Cats.

The popular family-friendly music event is located on the A351 (Valley Road) between Corfe Castle and Swanage. Full weekend tickets are available with 20% discount for local residents within the BH19 and BH20 postcode.

That means that the current super-early bird price of £80 is reduced to £64 for locals, for a full weekend of great music. The Purbeck Valley Folk Festival is brought to you by Paul and Catherine Burke, curators of the award-winning Purbeck Folk Festival.

"We are delighted Chris Difford is playing Purbeck Valley Folk Festival. We just kept hearing his name mentioned in reverential terms by some of the best young songwriters who played at our folk club," says Catherine Burke.

A double Ivor Novello award-winning lyricist, Chris Difford has 13 Squeeze albums, three critically acclaimed solo albums, countless top 20 hits, 52 American tours, 50 UK tours and a variety of global tours under his belt.

Ahead of his Sunday evening headline appearance at the Purbeck Valley Folk festival, Chris will be taking part in Saturday's Songwriting Circle. This is an intimate opportunity to hear the stories behind the songs from the man himself.

Tickets are selling fast for this year's festival with the first acts now being announced. Other headline acts revealed so far include Kathryn Tickell, Megson, Martha Tilston & the Scientists, Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin and the ever-popular Moulettes.

For more information please visit www.purbeckfolk.co.uk



Martha Tilston

PURBECK VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL
27-30th Aug 2015
NEW NAME - NEW FARM - SAME GREAT FESTIVAL



Loads for kids

SQUEEZE'S CHRIS DIFFORD
Double Ivor Novello Award-winning lyricist
BBC Folk Awards Musician of the Year 2013

KATHRYN TICKELL & the Side
BBC Folk Awards Best Duo 2014
3x Spiral Earth Award winners

MEGSON

PHILLIP HENRY & HANNAH MARTIN
with their new band

MARTHA TILSTON & the Scientists

MOULETTES

STEVE TILSTON

+ more headliners to be announced soon...

KESTON COBBLER'S CLUB - KADIA RANAGRI - FEARNE - GLENN ROSS CATHERINE BURKE BAND - DJAMBO WAREHAM WHALERS - AIMEE MCKENZIE QUINNS QUINNEY + loads more

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Great atmosphere

Kathryn Tickell

www.purbeckvalleyfolkfestival.co.uk
Purbeck Valley Farm - Corfe Castle, Dorset

The Bishop Reviews

Literary expert and our in-house Book Reviewer, David Bishop, writes....

Killer Blues by Michael Hambling

Murder at Swanage Blues Festival...! This is the third book in the DCI Sophie Allen series, the first two being Dark Pathway and The Two Daughters which I have reviewed in earlier issues.

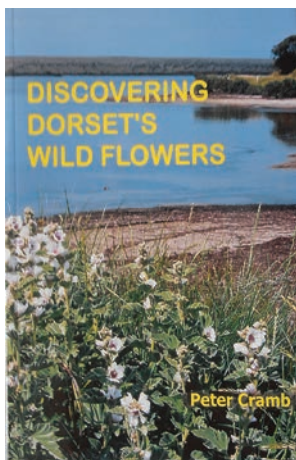
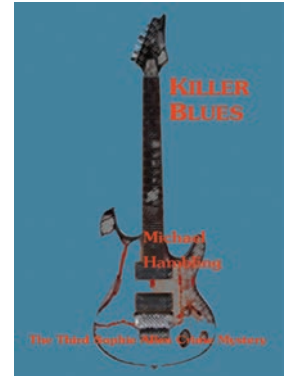
This book is a delight, Hambling has settled comfortably into his groove and is writing with confidence, the main characters are gaining flesh and the plot is, as ever, really well constructed.

Spice is added in dollops of racy goings-on in hotels and B&Bs as a group of 'swingers' hit town intent on a good time to go with the good music, and we have a transgender police officer thrown in for good measure.

I may have missed something, but I never quite worked out which loo she used. Of course, the fun ends in a bit more than pain and tears and, in classic whodunit style, the identity of the murderer is revealed in the closing chapters.

The fourth novel, The Butterfly Bush, will be published next year and don't forget, you heard it here first!

Available in Kindle form at Amazon, or go to www.michaelhambling.co.uk for availability details and costs.



Discovering Dorset's Wild Flowers by Peter Cramb

Do not be put off by the rather unfortunate 1970s appearance of this book, it is completely up-to-date and well put together.

Cramb, who works at the Dorset County Museum, clearly knows his stuff and this will be a useful item on the shelf of aspiring botanists and nature-lovers throughout the county. Not only on the shelf either, it being a useful size and weight for a pocket of coat or rucksack.

The opening pages deal with early work from the 16th century onwards carried out by pioneering botanists from Turner to Mansel-Pleydell. Flowers described include the Tree Mallow, the Spider Orchid, the Slender Centaury and the Marsh Gentians and Helleborines.

Descriptions are meticulous, giving notes on identification and history along with locations, and accompanied either by one of the author's photographs or by one of his wife's delightful sketches.

Published in 2013 by the authors themselves, Cramb's earlier books include Wild Flowers of the Dorset Coast Path (2003), Wild Flower Walks in Dorset (2006) and a shorter walks version in 2009.

This book is available for £5.95 in bookshops and Tourist Information Centres throughout the county. ISBN9780953774647.

The Jurassic Coast - a Mighty Tale by Tim Britton

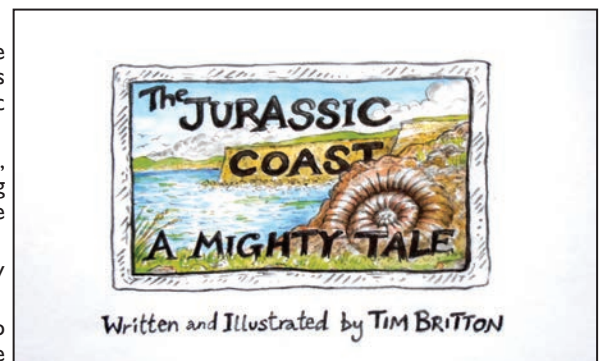
Wow! A completely new approach to the Jurassic coast which explains all those millions of years in... well, about fifty pages of great drawings and humorous captions. The book is a spin-off from a cartoon commissioned by the Jurassic Coast Trust and uses the same drawings.

The cartoon can be viewed on jurassiccoast.org and is best described as Pythonesque, and if you don't know what I mean by that.... just go back to bed and nurse will be along soon. Tim Britton is part of a totally off-the-wall outfit called Forkbeard who describe themselves on their website as 'architects of humour and invention'.

Former Python Terry Gilliam says "Anything that comes out of Tim Britton's surprisingly intelligent and utterly ridiculous mind is worth gawping at." So there you have it.

Buy the book and leave it lying around and you will be cool; your friends will pick it up and love it, so will your kids, and they will all take something away. I found out that the coast is five million grannies old, and I bet they don't tell you that up at Durlston Castle!

Published just last year by the Jurassic Coast trust from their Lulworth Estate offices. Available all over at £5.99 and I should mention all proceeds go to the Trust. ISBN9780993110702



The Dorset Yearbook 2015

Published every year since 1904 by The Society of Dorset Men this periodical is crammed with fascinating features and personal recollections of life in Dorset spanning the century.

Nick Carter tells of his MoD career which culminated in his appointment as Policy Advisor to UK forces in Afghanistan, interspersed with snippets of life in Kabul in difficult circumstances. Peter Tubbs tells us about Albert Newman who, as a bread delivery man in Bournemouth during WW2, survived a machine-gun attack by enemy aircraft by rolling under his van.

I have some earlier copies of this periodical on my shelf and note that the style and presentation - strictly monochrome - has changed little over the intervening years but I'm sure that Society members, who qualify for a free copy, are delighted nevertheless.

Under the helm of a new editor, Trevor Vacher-Dean, for the second year running the magazine is now available to non-members at a price of £6 from bookshops and Tourist Information Offices throughout the county, and from our very own New and Secondhand Books in Station Road.

The Bishop Reviews

Do you want your book reviewed? If so, drop it into the Gazette office!

Please note that a review is just that - it is not a free advert! if David feels the book is awful, the review will state that!

Purbeck's 2nd Literary Festival

The Second Purbeck Literary Festival will take place between 16th February and 1st March 2015. Designed to appeal to both readers and writers there are over twenty events across Purbeck.

During half term, children's events include a free storytelling event launching the Festival at Corfe Castle and toy-making and story-telling sessions in Wareham and a story telling workshop at Wareham Library. Local schools are joining in too with a visit from best-selling children's author, Geraldine McCaughrean.

There's plenty for the grown-ups too, from best-selling author Carole Matthews joining readers for tea at the Grand Hotel in Swanage to a gay lit panel in Langton Matravers.

Short story writer Della Galton, whose workshop was a huge success last year, returns for a day on 'twist in the tale' stories, and there is a short story slam at Bere Regis. Entries are pouring in for the short story competition linked to the Festival.

Natasha Solomons set her book 'The Novel in the Viola' in Tyneham and helped put Purbeck on the map, when it was chosen as a Richard and Judy read. She's coming to talk about her work over afternoon tea.

Poetry is well-represented with events at Not Just Sundaes in Wareham, l'Artishe gallery in Swanage and Worth Matravers Tea Rooms.

Whilst this gives a flavour of some of the events, if you'd like more information please go to www.purbeckliteraryfestival.info or call



2nd Purbeck
Literary
Festival

16 Feb - 1 Mar 2015

www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info

Tickets from Swanage Tourist Information Centre and
Discover Purbeck Information Centre

into the Tourist Information Centre in Swanage or Wareham for the full programme, details of all events, tickets, accommodation and more.

This corner of Dorset will be alive with creative endeavour of interest to everyone with a passion for words. Be part of it!

Singing Day with Ken Burton

Are you enthusiastic about singing? Would you like to join the members of the Dorset Guild of Singers for a "Singing Day" with renowned gospel and community conductor Ken Burton?

The Guild are delighted to announce that Ken will be leading this exciting and inspiring event at the Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester on 28th February 2015.

Ken regularly conducts two London choirs, leads community and gospel workshops and has had several of his own choral works published. As well as appearing as a judge on "Choir of the Year" with Gareth Malone, he has worked extensively on other television programmes including Songs of Praise, Choir of the Year, The X Factor, and many more.

More details about Ken Burton can be found on his website: www.kenburton.com

If we have whetted your appetite and you would like to join us for the day, the cost is only £20 for adults and students and accompanied children will be welcome at a greatly reduced price.

For more information and to book your place please call Liz 01929 481419 or Beth 01929 477142.

The Dorset Guild of Singers is a registered charity (No. 26416) consisting of three core choirs: Purbeck Arts Choir in Swanage, Wareham Choral and Briantspuddle Singers.

We join together with other Dorset choirs for our biennial concert, enabling us to sing larger choral works, and hold occasional workshops and singing days which are open to all.

All three Guild choirs welcome new members.

Poetopia

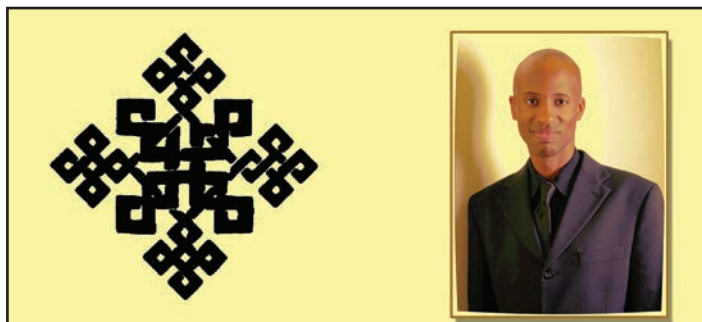
Help Teens Discover a New World of Poetry!

Poetopia is Young Writers' brand new, exciting poetry competition for young writers aged 11-18 years.

Young Writers is inviting 11-18 year-olds and their schools to discover Poetopia. Poetopia has been inspired by current popular teen utopian/dystopian novels and Young Writers have created a poetry world like no other ... "Choose. Comply. Create."

Take part in Poetopia's fun faction activity and see which poetic faction you are most suited to. Poetopia offers 6 factions to choose from and each has a different theme to inspire pupils with their poetry.

From current affairs to standing up for something you believe in, Poetopia is a fresh way of encouraging and motivating young adults to enjoy writing



SINGING DAY WITH KEN BURTON

The Dorset Guild of Singers welcomes you to an exciting and exhilarating singing day with the renowned gospel and community choir leader Ken Burton, seen recently on Gareth Malone's "Sing While You Work" television show.

Come along to the Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester on Saturday 28th February for a unique singing experience!

Tickets are only £20 for adults (music provided) with discounted prices for students and accompanied children.

Full details and tickets available from Liz 01929 481419 or Beth 01929 477142

poetry. Each poem submitted to Poetopia will be read by Young Writers' editorial team and considered for a regional anthology.

Published poets will then be in with the chance of being chosen as the best poet in their faction!

Thanks to HarperCollins Children's Books there are five box sets of Divergent series to give away plus a £40 book token. There are cash prizes for schools too! You can view all Young Writers' previous prize winners at www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions-winners.

Poetopia is now open, you can find out further information at Young Writers' website: www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/poetopia.php.

Health & Beauty

Karen Richards At Swanage Therapy Centre

IBS, constipation, bloating, painful periods, fibroids, menopause symptoms, fertility problems, lower back pain. These are just some of the conditions where Abdominal-sacral massage can help.

Karen Richards is pleased to be able to offer this relatively new massage technique at Swanage Therapy Centre and is offering 10% off your next treatment for existing or new clients.

The treatment consists of deep abdominal and sacral techniques, which address common complaints of the reproductive and digestive systems. It works by bringing the organs within the abdominal area back into alignment, releasing pressure and strengthening surrounding muscles and ligaments.

The uterine massage will aid the uterus in getting rid of blood clots, help restore the correct position of the uterus, reduce pain and ease trapped nerves.

In addition, the deep colon massage helps to loosen hardened debris and encourage a natural movement. Please note that a consultation form will need to be completed prior to your first treatment.

Other treatments available from Karen are relaxation massage that is a beneficial way of relaxing the muscles, improving circulation and recharging the body's immune system.

Remedial massage concentrates on areas where there are problems such as nodules and muscular aches and pains. Hot Stone massage using warm basalt stones to relax the body and improve circulation and stimulate the lymphatic system.

Aromatherapy massage uses essential oils blended to a client's personal needs to help produce a physical, spiritual, emotional and mental sense of well being.

Reflexology is a form of foot massage based on the principal that there are reflex points in the feet that correspond to each organ and structure of the body and can help relieve the pain or discomfort of a range of disorders, reduce muscle tension and relieve anxiety and stress.

Indian Head massage stimulates the body's natural healing process and helps create the mental and physical conditions necessary to foster good health.

If you would like to benefit from the Abdominal-Sacral massage offer or have any of the other treatments offered by Karen, please contact Swanage Therapy Centre on 01929 426506 or call in for an appointment.

Swanage Therapy Centre

10% OFF your next
treatment for
Abdominal-Sacral Massage

We look forward to seeing you!

T: 01929 426506

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Kate Smith is available at:

Ruby Tuesdays Tilly Mews, Swanage

Call Kate for details on 07505 313179

Matron's Round - Our Local Hospitals' Monthly Column



Hello again from Swanage and Wareham Hospitals!

Preventing Falls and Improving your Balance and Strength.

This month I thought that I would give you some information about preventing falls, improving your balance and strength, plus tell you about a Purbeck wide service:

Taking the right actions as soon as you are aware of any decline in your balance or mobility is key to preventing falls.

Making time for regular gentle exercise and keeping your muscles strong and supple is vital; even if you do not manage to walk very

far, there are many movements around the home that can help your body to stay as fit as possible.

Keeping your feet comfortable and in good condition helps people to walk more evenly. Wearing sensible, well-fitting footwear also reduces falls rather than wearing open-toe sandals or loose, badly worn shoes or sloppy slippers.

We also recommend regular eye tests as some falls result from deteriorating eyesight and not noticing uneven surfaces or misjudging objects. It is also essential if you have repeat prescriptions to have a regular medication review.

Another aspect of Falls Prevention is making your home environment as safe as possible. There are many points to consider, but here are some essential ones: -

Reduce trip hazards, such as cables, clutter and rugs, so that the floor is clear.

Ensure good lighting in your home, especially near steps.

Ensure that you have any useful aids to improve your balance, for

example, if you struggle with steps, consider having a rail fitted nearby to give you more support.

If you have weak or painful joints, seeking medical advice can help as you may need a walking aid to help with independence. It is important to be given professional advice for aids such as four wheeled rollators, to be sure that you have the safest equipment available.

In the Purbeck area, we have an NHS Falls Prevention Team consisting of Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Rehab Nurse and Rehab Assistants. I would like to draw your attention to an initiative designed to help people with balance and mobility – the Better Balance Group.

A group is run by a Physiotherapist, in both Swanage and Wareham, for a block of twelve weeks to help people regain leg strength, increase stamina and improve spontaneous balance skills.

To access these groups you may contact the Purbeck Integrated Community Rehabilitation Team (PICRT) on 01929 557580 to discuss further.

For your information, MIU will open at 8am and close at the earlier time of 8pm in the short term. This is due to unforeseen circumstances and we will keep you informed of developments.

Until next time, take care, Matron Donna.



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Call us on 01929 421329.

We're here for YOU, so use our services!

Purbeck GPs Switch To Electronic Prescriptions

GPs in Purbeck are making the switch to the NHS Electronic Prescription Service – making it easier and quicker for local patients to get their medication.

Two GP practices in Swanage have gone live with the timesaving electronic service and can now digitally send prescriptions direct to pharmacies, without the need for the traditional paper slip. It is designed to speed up the process and gives patients access to new services.

One of the new options is the NHS Repeat Prescription Service from Pharmacy2U, which allows people to order by phone, online or using a mobile app, and then have their medication delivered for free to their home or workplace.

Pharmacist, Dr Julian Harrison, Director at Pharmacy2U, said: "The move to e-prescriptions makes the process quicker and easier and is giving patients a lot more choice – such as a pharmacy closer to where they work or an online and mail-order service like ours.

"Our NHS repeat prescription service can be a useful option for those who don't find a traditional high street pharmacy a convenient choice. It's popular with people who work long hours, the elderly and housebound, and busy commuters who want to save time."

Virginia Claridge M.Inst. ChP, D.Ch.M



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The NHS Electronic Prescription Service will eventually be rolled out throughout England. Despite this, research conducted by YouGov on behalf of Pharmacy2U revealed that nearly three quarters of people in the South West (73 per cent) were not aware that paper prescriptions are being replaced.

To use electronic prescriptions, patients can speak to their chosen pharmacy to set their 'nomination', which is where their prescription will be digitally sent.

Find out which Purbeck GPs are live with electronic prescriptions, here: <http://www.escriptfinder.co.uk/>

Sport

2015 Starts With A Splash!



Members of Swanage Sea Rowing Club took to the water on 1st January - counteracting the excesses of the festive season with a healthy dose of fresh air, sea spray and vigorous exercise!

The event was the first of the club's Carpenter's Cup series – fun inter-club challenges which take place throughout the year. Teams raced around a marked course, filling the bay with the sound of friendly banter, grunting, cheering – and the occasional clashing of oars!

The races were followed by bacon butties and mulled cider in the boathouse.

"The beauty of these races is that any of our members can take part," says club chairman, Martin Steeden. "The teams are mixed, with racing crew members alongside casual rowers. And we have people of all ages, from juniors to retired folk."

Martin is keen to emphasize that the club is for the whole community, whatever age or ability. "As well as rowing, we have regular social events such as quiz nights, barbecues, dances and drinks evenings. It's a great way

to meet other people and make friends."

Ready for racing

While some members only row casually, the club's racing crews are now preparing for the rowing season, training on the water as well as on rowing machines in the boathouse. The first event is the 3 Rivers Race in Plymouth in March. Then in May, there's the World Pilot Gig Championships on the Isles of Scilly, the Weymouth Regatta, and a rowing weekend in Cork, Ireland.

"We are always looking for people to train for the racing crews," adds Martin. "It's a great way to build all-round fitness and strength, with the opportunity to compete nationally or internationally."

Calling young rowers!

The club is especially keen to encourage youngsters, so is running a four-week junior rowing course in March (10-16 year olds). Taking place on Monday evenings, it involves technique training on the rowing machines, general fitness, boat knowledge, and safety at sea. For details please call Brian Norman on 07780 84136 or email briannorman@f2s.com



Shotgun Triggers Day Of Celebration!

In the morning twilight, 76 golfers swung into action after both barrels of a shotgun signalled the start of the last major golf competition of 2014 at The Dorset Golf and Country Club.

Later that afternoon, golfers, joined by guests, enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch and enthusiastically sang a rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Paul Schmieder the Club Captain, presented trophies and prizes to those who had been successful in selected competitions

throughout the year.

Club Champion Mick Burgess also presented awards to members of the Junior team who had distinguished themselves, earlier in the year, by getting through to the last four of a national knockout competition run by The Royal British Legion.

Pictured: DGCC Trophy winners at Christmas celebrations

Keep Fit With Joe's Gym!



How are those New Year's fitness resolutions going? Are you seeing too little result for your effort and are struggling to keep motivated? At Joe's Gym we're here to help you realise your goals and keep you on track. Our team of friendly, motivational staff will provide you with a free induction and ideas of different training methods to suit individual needs.

We use the following method to help our members achieve their goals. Whether you are a novice or you are a top athlete it is really important to set yourself goals to help keep you motivated. At the gym we use the SMART method.

Specific - Well defined goals. Write them down and commit to them. For example, "I will complete a 10k run", rather than, "I'll start running".

Measurable - for example "I will lose 2 stone" rather than "I will lose weight"

Achievable - although it is good to challenge yourself it you must make sure that you can actually do the task. So, wanting to be a take part in a triathlon when you can't swim is probably setting yourself up for a failure.

Realistic - for example. It is recommended that you lose 2lbs per week on any weight loss programme. Setting yourself a goal of losing 2 stone in 3 weeks is not realistic.

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www.joesgymswanage.co.uk

Time - set a time for you to reach your goal rather than being vague but make sure that timeframe is realistic.

Our Dropit21, three-week weight-loss and exercise programme is an excellent way to kick-start your health and fitness regimen. You will lose body fat, increase tone, increase your metabolic rate and kick those bad eating habits. Our two groups have achieved amazing results. We have an average weight loss of 10lbs in 21 days with a range of between 6 and 14lbs! The programme gives you knowledge to use for a lifetime.

Joe's gym is committed to the fitness of the local community. The GPs, health practitioners and Swanage Hospital continue to refer people to the gym for prescription exercise. If you suffer from obesity, anxiety/depression, diabetes, asthma, joint or lower back pain, you may be eligible for reduced gym membership. Ask your GP for more information.

Swanage Bowlers Get Dramatic!



Swanage Bowlers continue to enjoy their winter activities on and off the green. The picture shows the cast of the hilarious pantomime Dick Whittington staged recently at the outdoor pavilion.

The starring parts were played with much enthusiasm and not inconsiderable theatrical skill by Judy Smooker (Fairy Snow), Val Northam

(Fairy Liquid), Graham Smooker (Robinson Crusoe), Max King (King Chalky), Sue King (Queen Magnolia or Queen Off-White), Terry Buck (Bertha, Mrs Scrawny), Ken Morgan (Mr Scrawny), Manita Morgan (Snow White), Mary Buck (Charlotte), Maddie Love (The Cat) and Jean Thomas as Dick Whittington.

Clive Bryceson narrated and prompted. Pre-pantomime fare was a fish and chip supper and a great time was had by both cast and audience. Since then, there has been a Chinese Evening when members were treated to a Chinese Cookery Demonstration and then sampled what had been cooked.

There are two more social events to round off the winter season. The first takes place on 14th February when we will be having a go at curling and then we have a Dog-Racing Evening on 14th March.

On the indoor bowling green at the Swanage Bay View Holiday complex, club competitions are now under way and the club leagues continue with reasonable numbers. There have been some tightly contested inter-club matches.

The ladies were well placed at the halfway stage of the season lying in 4th position in the Ladies Indoor Bowls League table only 7 points behind the leaders Dolphin B and with a game in hand.

The men have played some hugely enjoyable matches against East Cliff Casuals and Knyveton Gardens with generally positive results.

The indoor season still has three months to go, so if you fancy having a go, phone Jean on 426795 or David on 450405.

Swanage Cricket Club

Swanage Cricket Club are pleased to announce that this year's AGM will be held at their Days Park pavilion on Friday the 27th of February from 19:30. The club are delighted to announce the continued, much appreciated support of Principal sponsors - Land & Wave for 2015, as well as Gee Whites Restaurant, Golden Bengal, Harrow House, Masala Indian Restaurant, PJC Accountancy Services, PTN Systems and Suttles Quarries.

The club will continue to provide cricket for the flourishing Youth section between the ages of 7 and 15 during the season with fully qualified coaches (keep an eye on the website for any winter Coaching).

The club will again enter two teams into the Saturday leagues - the 1stXI can look forward to their third season in the Premier Division and the 2ndXI will play in Division 3 following another promotion. The club will also provide a variety of fixtures on Sundays during the season for both the experienced club members as well as the youngsters.

Anyone interested in playing for, or sponsoring the club in anyway please follow the links on the club's website:- www.swanagecricketclub.co.uk

Kind regards, Mike Nash (Press & Media Officer)

Swanage Football Club



D & P Lovell have sponsored every one of our Youth players by providing them with a training jacket.(see photo). The first Saturday after Christmas all 150 of our players from 11 youth teams congregated at Day's Park to collect their jackets and with the Club's photographer Trudy Lay on hand we got some really great pictures.

This is such a generous offer from Allen, Tanya & Chris from D & P for which we are extremely grateful. This isn't the first time they've helped out at the Club, in the past they've paid all of our pitch fees; a charge we incur from the Council to play our football at King George's, plus supplying a full kit to our U11 team last season.

Our 500 Club has started (for all those readers that didn't see last month's article!) and is going from strength to strength. We will be looking to make the first draw once we have 100 members. At only £5:00 per month, this is a brilliant way to help out all aspects of your local football Club and a chance to win 1 of 3 cash prizes. To enter, either download a form off of our website www.swanagefc.com or call in at the Club, or ask a member of the Club.

We do plan to have a stall in the town on a Saturday in the near future, where we will be selling 500 Club tickets. Both our Senior sides have been training hard since the Christmas break, but unfortunately have not had any matches, as the inclement weather has taken its toll once again on the pitches.

We are currently on the look-out for a treasurer. This position is a very responsible and important role on our committee. If you have an accountancy background or are good with numbers please come and join

us. Our Club Groundsman John Peacock recently received a visit from regional advisor Rob Donnelly from 'The Institute of Groundsmanship'. Rob gave plenty of advice and tips on how to keep the pitch up to scratch.

This visit was also an FA directive because, as it stands, the Football Association has no record of the nation's pitches, so they are, through the IOG, attaining a database of the state of the country's football pitches. Mini kickers football for 5-8 year olds is thriving and in the very near future we are hoping to form a new team in the U7 age group, although it will be too late to enter a league for this season 2014/15.

They will be training together and having friendlies, getting them ready for next season when they will enter the mini soccer league. The benefit to joining a team at this age, other than the obvious one of being trained by a fully qualified FA coach, is that your child will mix with other children not just from his or her class but with children from other local schools also. So it's a great way of making new friends!

Our Chairman, Youth Managers and First Team players took part in this year's Boxing Day swim, which is now becoming a very popular event in the Swanage calendar.

Last year we benefitted from being one of the charities and a lot of our members who swam last year for the first time have now got the bug and will be taking part year on year (so they say!).

To keep yourself up to date with all goings on as they happen follow us on Twitter @swanagefc or @swanagefcyouth or on our award winning website. www.swanagefc.com.

Come On You Swans! **John Peacock**

The Purbeck Gazette - Proudly Supporting The Swans

Swanage Tennis Club



On a cold and showery afternoon in December, Swanage Ladies ventured to St Leonard's. The weather threatened throughout the matches and the teams experienced a mixture of showers, bright sunshine and frequent rainbows. The meet was to be a tough one for the visitors having to play on an unfamiliar surface of wet astro - which can make the balls heavy and low.

St Leonard's team consisted of two pairs who were equally competent and proved to be a challenge for the Swanage Ladies.

Swanage's first pair of Jo Kiddell and Deborah Miller had a close first match, being taken to a tie-break after winning the first set comfortably 6:2 but losing the second, 4:6. The Swanage pair won the tie-break then marched home in their second match to gain a 6:2, 6:3 win.

Meanwhile, Sam Christmas and Meg Mutter, Swanage's second pair were engaged in two very close matches. The wet surface proved to be an issue as Sam Christmas spent a good deal of time sliding and slipping at the back of the court. Despite this, the pair were able to cling onto vital points and gained victory in both of their matches, winning their second match in a set tie-break. This sealed a 4:0 win to Swanage and has placed them at the top of their division after two games.

The weather was also an issue for the Men's team who hosted Shaftesbury at home on the 3rd January. Wind and rain made every point a battle and the sun failed to shine on Swanage's fortunes. Swanage's first pairing of Mike Angell and Graham Ward won their first but lost their second. Jeff Veale and Jamie McDonald fought hard but lost both of their matches. Shaftesbury won 3:1 rubbers.

Spotlight Event Diary

Diary Entries are FREE if your event is FREE. If you charge, then it's £5 plus VAT per entry, per month. DEADLINE for MAR is noon, Tue 10th Feb

KEY: * = Start time not known or n/a; Ffi = for further information; Sw = Swanage; Wm = Wareham; VH = Village Hall, Telephone code 01929 unless otherwise stated.

February 2015



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| <p>Sun 1st
* 'Wonders of World Heritage' Exhibition At Durlston Castle.
14:00 Roseanna Ball Live Music at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229</p> <p>Mon 2nd
* 'Wonders of World Heritage' Exhibition At Durlston Castle.
14:00 Gainsborough Care "Dignitea" At Gainsborough Care & Nursing Home. Residents and their families can enjoy refreshments and live entertainment.</p> <p>Tue 3rd
* 'Wonders of World Heritage' Exhibition At Durlston Castle.
10:00 Specialist Valuation Days At Wareham Town Hall. Experts of Lockdales Auctioneers will be present, free valuations, no obligation, no appointment necessary. Ffi: 01473 627110, www.lockdales.com
19:30 Wareham Camera Club Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham - "Susan Brown On Tour" Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822.</p> <p>Wed 4th
* 'Wonders of World Heritage' Exhibition At Durlston Castle.
09:45 Swanage Walking Group Meet at Corfe Castle NT Car Park for a walk along the chalk ridge to Stonehill Down Nature Reserve. Return via East Creech and Norden Farm. Ffi 01929 422795.
10:00 Specialist Valuation Days At The Best Western Hotel Rembrandt, 12-18 Dorchester rd, Weymouth. Experts of Lockdales Auctioneers will be present, free valuations, no obligation, no appointment necessary. Ffi: 01473 627110, www.lockdales.com
20:00 Blue Suede Sporrán Club Live Music at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229</p> <p>Thu 5th
* 'Wonders of World Heritage' Exhibition At Durlston Castle.
* RSPB Beginners Birdwatching Course Courses being run in Weymouth. Booking essential. Ffi: 01305 778313.</p> <p>Fri 6th
19:30 Swanage Photographic Society Meets in the Rectory Classroom, Church Hill at 7.30pm. For: 'Birding in Spain' Marshes, Mountains, and Migration. With Neil Gartmore. Visitors welcome. ffi Colin Brixton - 423841</p> <p>Sat 7th
10:00 Swanage Walking Group Meet at Stroud Bridge car park for a level heathland and forest walk via Lower Hyde Heath, Bere Heath, Oak Hill and Woolsbarrow. Ffi 01929 422554.
20:00 Cardboard Fox Live Music at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229</p> <p>Sun 8th
14:00 Jez Hellard & The Djukella Orchestra Live Music at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229</p> | <p>Mon 9th
10:00 Wareham Area Senior Forum At Wareham Parish Hall, on Wareham Quay. 'Making Purbeck Healthcare fit for the future'. Ffi; or transport call Sue on 07825 264353.</p> <p>Tue 10th
19:30 Wareham Camera Club Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham - "SAPA Competition v Wimborne" Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822.</p> <p>Wed 11th
10:00 Swanage Walking Group Meet at Arne Visitor centre for a figure of 8 walk covering the Shipstal Point Trail and the Coombe Heath Trail. Ffi 01929 480224.
14:00 Stoborough WI Meeting At Stoborough Village Hall, 2 - 4 pm. Talk on 'The History of Crime Writing' by Bob Sharpe. Competition 'Inspectors and Authors'.
14:00 Consultation on Future Development in Purbeck Drop-in event at Upton Community Centre. View all material, including a questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou/purbeck-partial-review.
19:30 Purbeck Open Lecture At the Black Bear, South Street, Wareham. Mark Litman speaks on Normality, Art and Ecstasy, Quietude in an increasingly changing world. All welcome.
19:30 Studland WI Meeting At Studland Village Hall. David Jones talk on Agatha Christie. Competition: An Old Book. Subscriptions due.</p> <p>Thu 12th
* RSPB Beginners Birdwatching Course Courses being run in Weymouth. Booking essential. Ffi: 01305 778313.
10:15 Workshop and Coffee Morning Swanage Painting Club invites everyone to a at the Catholic Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage, 10.15 to 12.00 noon. Chat to members at work, and have a go at Watercolour, Acrylic and Pastel. Make a card to take away, all materials provided. There will also be an exhibition of member's work. Admission FREE.
14:00 Consultation on Future Development in Purbeck Drop-in event at The D'Urberville Hall, Wool. View all material, including a questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou/purbeck-partial-review.</p> <p>Fri 13th
19:30 Purbeck Railway Circle Meets at Harman's Cross Village Hall for an audio-visual presentation entitled "Steam in the Hills" by Simon Foote. Doors open 7pm. No admission charge; donations welcome. Ffi 554765. EVERYONE WELCOME</p> <p>Sat 14th
* Camouflage Event At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
09:00 Purbeck Produce Farmers Market At Commercial rd, Swanage. Local produce from local producers. Ffi: www.purbeckproducts.co.uk
09:30 Freebay Tabletop Sale At The United Reformed Church, Swanage. Free table, free entry. Refreshments. To book a table call Elizabeth on 01929 422406.</p> |
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- 09:45 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet at NT CP Knoll Beach (bus from Swanage) for return walk to Swanage via Beach Road, Old Harry and coast path. Ffi 07871 100714.
- 10:00 **Wareham in Bloom Table Top Sale** At Wareham Town Hall. GRAND DRAW, Plants Bric a Brac and other stalls. TEA AND COFFEE
- 10:00 **Art & Craft Market** At Burngate Stone Carving Centre. Textiles & Ceramics, Books & Bric-a-brac, Stalls, Vintage, Refreshments.
- 20:00 **Back to the Shack Live Music** at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Sun 15th
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
- 10:00 **Art & Craft Market** At Burngate Stone Carving Centre. Textiles & Ceramics, Books & Bric-a-brac, Stalls, Vintage, Refreshments.
- 14:00 **West My Friend Live Music** at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Mon 16th
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- 11:00 **'Crabs, Frogs & Thingamabobs'** At Not Just Sundaes Community Cafe. Kids workshops, lasting 20 minutes with toymaker, Ian McKay.
- 14:00 **Consultation on Future Development in Purbeck** Drop-in event at The Mowlem, Swanage. View all material, including a questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou/purbeck-partial-review.
- Tue 17th
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- * **Children's Stone Carving** At Burngate Stone Carving Centre. Booking essential. Ffi: 01929 439405.
- 19:30 **Wareham Camera Club** Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham - Stephen Banks – "An Introduction to Landscape Astrophotography" Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822.
- Wed 18th
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- * **Intro to Messy Art** At Burngate Stone Carving Centre. Booking essential. Ffi: 01929 439405
- 10:15 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet at Sandbanks CP for a walk via seafront and through several of the Chines to Bournemouth Pier, returning to Sandbanks or Swanage by bus. Ffi 01929 480224.
- 11:30 **Go Wild at Durlston** Kids event at Durlston Country Park Learning Centre.
- 14:00 **Consultation on Future Development in Purbeck** Drop-in event at The Scout Hut, Bere Regis. View all material, including a questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou/purbeck-partial-review.
- 14:30 **Studland History Group** Meets in the Village Hall for a talk by Elli McDonald, "Living With A Changing Coastline". Postponed from last month. All welcome. Ffi 01929 439245.
- 19:30 **Swanage Garden Society** At Herston Hall, Swanage. 'Dorset Heath on your Doorstep', by Mr. Perkins. All welcome.
- Thu 19th
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- * **RSPB Beginners Birdwatching Course** Courses being run in Weymouth. Booking essential. Ffi: 01305 778313.
- * **Family Have-a-go Stone Carving** At Burngate Stone Carving Centre. Booking essential. Ffi: 01929 439405
- 14:00 **Durlston Dolphin Event** At Durlston Country Park, booking required.
- 14:30 **The Purbeck Assoc of the National Trust Illustrated Talk.** 'Traditional Woodland Crafts' - Terry Heard will talk about coppicing and woodland products and give a practical demonstration ; at Carey Hall, Wm. Till 4.00pm. All welcome. £3.00 incl refreshments Ffi 01929 427300.
- 19:30 **Illustrated Talk** In the Village Hall Langton Matravers. David Leadbetter will give an illustrated talk on 'Prehistoric Times in Purbeck'. All welcome. Members £2.50, non members £3.50.
- Fri 20th
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- 14:00 **Consultation on Future Development in Purbeck** Drop-in event at Wareham Town Hall. View all material, including a questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou/purbeck-partial-review.
- 19:30 **Swanage Photographic Society** Meets in the Rectory Classroom, Church Hill at 7.30pm. For: Anders 3 - 'Open' and Browne 3 - 'Markets' Competitions. Judge: Brian Winkle Visitors welcome. ffi Colin Brixton – 423841
- Sat 21st
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org

- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- 10:00 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet on Ferry road at entrance to Greenlands Farm track. Circular walk via Greenland Farm and Ower Quay. Ffi 01929 425165.
- 19:00 **'Oasish'** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage. Tickets £10.
- 20:00 **Hightown Crows Live Music** at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Sun 22nd
- * **Camouflage Event** At The Tank Museum, Bovington. Tanks, tours, trails, activities, tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096. www.tankmuseum.org
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- 10:30 **Lulworth Wedding Fair** At Lulworth Castle & Courtyard. Admission £4 (under 16's free). GFree parking. Ffi: 0845 4501054.
- Mon 23rd
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- Tue 24th
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- 19:30 **Wareham Camera Club** Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham - "League Competition No 4". Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822.
- 19:30 **Dorset Industrial Archaeology Society** Meetings are held in The Dorset Room, Colliton House, Colliton Park, Dorchester (opposite County Hall). "Prison Treadmills" is the subject of Tony Yoward's lecture to the Society. Non-members welcome (small donation suggested). Further details from 01305 785968 or 871863.
- Wed 25th
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- * **Ball & Socket Music and humour** at Durlston Castle. Ffi: www.durlston.co.uk
- 10:00 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet outside Knoll House Hotel for walk over Studland Heath via Black Down and Fisherman's Barrow, across Dean Hill, then return to Swanage via Ballard Down and Whitecliff Farm. Ffi 01929 424462.
- Thu 26th
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- * **Poetry Workshop** At Not Just Sundaes Community Cafe, Wareham. Workshop for adults.
- 10:00 **Purbeck U3A Meeting Points** Harman's Cross Village Hall. Open to members and non members. "My Life in China" - David Grierson, will talk about his experiences living and teaching in China.
- 14:00 **Consultation on Future Development in Purbeck** Drop-in event at Lychett Matravers Library. View all material, including a questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou/purbeck-partial-review.
- Fri 27th
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- 20:00 **Keith James Live Music** at The Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Sat 28th
- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
- * **Singing Day with Ken Burton** At Thomas Hardy School. Tickets £20 with discounts for students and accompanied children. Ffi: 01929 481419 or 01929 477142
- 10:00 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet at Worth Matravers CP for a walk to Winspit, Seacombe and Dancing Ledge. Return via Spyway Barn and Priest's Way. Ffi 01929 421039.

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

- 09.00 **U3A Table Tennis Group** meet at Harmans Cross VH.
- 09.30 **Under 2.5 years old group.** Till 11am. at Parish Hall, Wm.
- 09.45 **Toddler Club** URC, Sw. Till 11.15
- 10.00 **Table Tennis Club** Sw FC All ages/abilities £2.50 Till noon. 480093
- 10.30 **Extend Exercise Class** to improve strength, balance & flexibility. At Furzebrook VH. Donations welcome. Ffi: 471490
- 13.00 **Play and Learn** at Wareham's Children's Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Till 2.45pm
- 13.00 **Under 1s and Tums** at Chapel Lane, Swanage. Till 3pm
- 14.00 **Pins and Needles** at Harmans Cross VH.
- 14.00 **Swanage Disabled Club** meet until 4pm. Meeting place alternates between Catholic Hall & Queensmead Hall, Sw. Transport available. Call Mrs Daphne Saville on 01929 425241 ffi.
- 16.45 **Soccer Skills** Sw FC First Sch chldn £1 Till 5.45. 425175
- 18.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Snr Club Session. 426312
- 19.00 **Wareham Choral Society** meet URC Meeting House, Chch St, Wm. Till 9. New singers always welcome. 554229/553460
- 19.00 **Swanage Youth Club.** School year 10 and upwards. Till 9.30pm
- 19.00 **Whist.** Come & join us at the Reading Room, Church Hill, Swanage. Ffi, call 07984 968733
- 19.00 **Purbeck Chess Club.** Mortons House Hotel, Corfe Castle. Ffi, call Brian Beard 425988
- 19.30 **Purbeck Quire** rehearse at Wm Methodist Church. New/visiting singers (no

- audition necessary). String & wind players also welcome. Ffi: 423505 or 480737.
- 19.30 **Wareham Art Club Workshop** at Wareham Parish Hall. Ffi: 553718.
- 19.30 **Badminton & Table Tennis Club**, Adults, Swanage Methodist Church Hall. Small friendly club. All levels welcome. Til 10pm. 07917 473390
- 19.30 **Wm Folk Dance Club** Stoboro' VH. All welcome. 553519/422730
- 19.30 **Swanage Badminton Club** at the Swanage School, till 9.30pm. Ffi: 07986 653219
- 20.00 **DARTS** at the RBL Club, Sw.
- 20.00 **Herston Hall Management C'ttee Bingo**
- EVERY TUESDAY**
- 09.00 **First Steps Toddler's Group**. Swanage Methodist Church till 10.15am. Ffi: Tom Bullock on 421767, office hours, or tom@swanagemethodist.org.uk
- 09.30 **Well Baby Clinic** at Chapel Lane, Swanage. Till 11.30am.
- 09.30 **Kiddies Corner Mother & Toddler Group** (term time only) No fee - donations welcome. Purbeck Gateway Church. 551415
- 09.30 **Wareham Art Club Workshop** at Wareham Parish Hall. Ffi: 553718.
- 10.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Club Session. Till 11. 426312
- 10.00 **Sandford Toddlers** at Sandford Community Hall, till 11.30am.
- 10.00 **Short Tennis** at Sw FC All ages & abilities £1.50 Till noon. 425175
- 10.30 **Swanage Walking for Health Group starter walks** (15-30mins). Start from the Mowlem Shelter on Swanage Seafront. Get back into the swing of things gently! Ffi: 481000
- 12.00 **Nature Tots (0-4yrs)** at Bovington Memorial Hall Garden. Until 2pm
- 14.00 **Swanage Walking for Health Group**. Walks of 60-90mins, various locations. Walks are very social, for a range of abilities. Walks start from car parks at Studland, Corfe, Arne, Durlston, Langton, Acton, Worth and Kingston. Ffi: 481000.
- 14.00 **Harman's Cross Village Hall Art Group** Till 5
- 14.00 **Wareham Short Mat Bowls**. Furzebrook VH. Roll-up session, all standards welcome. Ffi 401799
- 17.00 **Sw Tennis Club Junior Session** till 6pm. 426312
- 18.00 **Sw Youth Centre Girls' Night (Yr 8+)** Till 10
- 18.15 **Sw Bridge Club** Mowlem Comm'ty Room. 423497
- 18.15 **Sw Cricket Club** Practice till 8.30pm
- 18.15 **Sw Bridge Club** Mowlem Community Room. 423497
- 19.00 **The Mayday Singers** rehearse at The Old Malthouse, Langton. New members very welcome, contact Paul Baird 07802431012
- 19.30 **Swanage Group of Alcoholics Anonymous** meets at Swanage Day Centre, High Street, Swanage. If you want help to stop drinking, you are welcome. Or call 01202 296000 for more details.
- 19.30 **Sw & Langton Folk Dance Club** Langton VH. Ffi: 421913
- 19.30 **Belvedere Singers** rehearsal at their NEW venue, St Mark's CE VA Primary School, High St, Sw. Parking on-site. All singers welcome! 423729
- 20.00 **Sw Regatta & Carnival Assoc Bingo** Herston Leisure, Herston Yards Farm, Sw.
- 20.00 **Carey Hall, Wm Bingo**
- 20.00 **LEAGUE POOL** at the RBL Club, Sw.
- EVERY WEDNESDAY**
- 09.00 **St Mark's Toddlers Group**, St Mark's Church, Swanage. Herston, Sw Till 11am
- 09.45 **Corfe Wool Workshop** Corfe VH, East St. Members £1.50; non-members £2.50. Till 12.00. 427067
- 10.00 **Short tennis for adults at Swanage Football Club**. All welcome. Equipment supplied. Till noon.
- 10.00 **Breast Feeding Group** at Wareham's Children Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Offering peer support and breastfeeding counsellor advice. Till 12 noon. Ffi: 552864
- 10.30 **Play and Learn** at Kids of Wool (BH20 6DY) until 12 noon.
- 11.00 **Volunteer Centre Drop-In** at Swanage Library till 1pm. Find our about volunteering to support community groups & charities
- 13.15 **EBC TOTS** meet Emmanuel Baptist Ch, Victoria Ave, Sw. Til 2.45. £1 per child.
- 14.00 **Herston Senior Citizens** meet Herston Hall, Jubilee Rd, Sw. All welcome
- 14.00 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation**. Till 3pm. With Penny at the Mowlem Community Room, Sw. Ffi 07969925502
- 16.15 **Swanage Football Club U-7s Training** til 5.15pm. £1. Ffi: 426346
- 17.15 **Swanage Football Club U-9s Training** til 6.15pm. £1. Ffi: 426346
- 18.00 **Swanage Youth Club**. School years 7&8. Till 8.30pm
- 18.45 **Sw Hockey Club Training** Wm Sports Centre. Till 8. 424442
- 19.00 **Wm Bridge Club** at the Library, South St. 552257
- 19.00 **Wareham Short Mat Bowls Club** Roll-up evening Furzebrook VH. 401799
- 19.30 **Swanage Musical Theatre** meet Swanage Bay View Complex Rehearsal Room. All welcome. Ffi: 426161
- 19.45 **Badminton Group** meet at the Purbeck Sports Centre until 9.15pm for games of mixed doubles. Ffi, please call Kate on 01929 421806 or email katespurling@btinternet.com
- 20.00 **Sw Youth Centre Club Night (Yr 9+)** Till 10
- 20.00 **Sw Royal British Legion BINGO**. High St, Sw
- 20.15 **Dorset Buttons Morris Practice**. URC Hall, Wm. 423234/421130
- 20.30 **Wm Swimming Club Adults**. All standards + stroke improvement. Till 10
- 22.00 **Sw Youth Centre Club Night (16+)** Till 11.59
- EVERY THURSDAY**
- 08.30 **Wm Home Producers Veg, cakes, plants, flowers, handicrafts**. URC. New producers/helpers welcome. Till 11. 553798
- 09.00 **Swanage Painting Club**. Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Rd, Sw. Friendly group. New members including beginners welcome. Till 1pm. Ffi: Jane on 01929 427078
- 09.30 **Play and Learn** at Chapel Lane, Swanage, till 11am.
- 09.30 **Well Baby Clinic** at Streche Road, Wareham, until 12 noon.
- 09.30 **Sensory Play for under ones**, at Bovington Centre until 10.30am
- 10.00 **Wm Parent & Toddler Group** During term Parish Hall, Quay Till 11.45. 556806
- 10.00 **Wool Country Market** D'Urbeville Hall. Cakes, preserves, plants, crafts, vegetables. Coffee & biscuits available.
- 10.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Club Session. Till 11am. 426312
- 10.00 **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits at Queensmead Hall**, Sw. Till 11am. Adm 50p
- 10.00 **Volunteer Centre Drop-In** at Wareham Library till 12pm. Find our about volunteering to support community groups & charities.
- 10.30 **Harman's Cross Village Hall Chinese Art Group**
- 10.30 **Mid-Week Market Morning Service** URC, Church St, Wm. Prayer requests to Revd. Simon Franklin 556976
- 11.00 **Sensory Play** for 1-4yrs old at Bovington Centre, until 12 noon.
- 13.00 **Studland Toddler Group** at Studland Village Hall until 2.30pm.
- 13.30 **Under 1 year olds** at Wareham's Children's Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Anti-natal mums welcome. Till 3pm. Ffi: 552864.
- 13.30 **Toddler Group**. All Saints' Church, Sw. 423937. Till 3pm (Term times)
- 14.00 **Life drawing classes** at Harmans Cross Village Hall from 2pm till 4pm. For further information, ring 427621.
- 14.15 **Sw Over-60s Meet** in the Rectory Classroom, Swanage, Sw. All Welcome.
- 17.45 **Swanage Youth Club**. Learning Difficulties and disability (age 11-25) night. Till 7.30pm
- 18.00 **Five High Singers**, United Reformed Church Hall, Swanage. 11 - 18 years. Till 7pm
- 18.15 **Sw Cricket Club** Practice till 9pm
- 18.30 **Swanage Sea Rowing Club Circuit Training** at Swanage Middle School. Ffi: 07776 201455
- 19.00 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation**. Till 8pm. With Penny at Furzebrook VH, Wm. Ffi 07969925502
- 19.00 **Purbeck Gateway Club** meets at Wareham Youth Centre until 9pm. Purbeck Gateway is a club for adults with learning difficulties. We meet during term time and have fun! All welcome. Ffi: Lew on 552173. Email: Lewisbell1@aol.com
- 19.15 **Wm Town Band** Brass & Woodwind players welcome. 551478/01202 242147
- 19.30 **Short Mat Bowls** in the Durbeville Hall, Wool. All standards welcome, till 9.30pm. Ffi: 552682
- 19.30 **IoP Arts Club Choir** meets till 9.30pm at Swanage First School (NOT Dec 14, 21, 28, Jan 4, Feb 22, Apr 5, 12) till May 10
- 19.30 **Swanage Youth Club Youth Action** (year 7 - sixth form). Till 9.30pm
- 20.00 **Herston Hall OAP Committee Bingo** Sw
- EVERY FRIDAY**
- 09.30 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation**. Till 10.30pm. With Penny at Furzebrook VH, Wm. Ffi 07969925502
- 09.30 **Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group**. Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage. Term time only. Until 11.30am. Ffi: Alex on 07904 412067.
- 10.00 **Swanage Library Rhyme Time**, until 11.30am.
- 10.00 **Table Tennis Club** Sw FC All ages/abilities £2.50 Till noon. 480093
- 11.00 **Toddler Time For Under 5s And Carers**. Wareham Library. Stories, songs and crafts. Every Friday, including school holidays. Ffi: 01929 556146
- 14.00 **Pottery Classes** held in Corfe Castle. 2 - 5pm. Call Rachel 01929 480455 to book. £10pw
- 14.30 **Short Mat Bowls** at Durbeville Hall, Wool. Till 4.30pm. All standards welcome. Ffi: 552682.
- 18.00 **Purbeck War-Game & Model Club**. Royal British Legion, Sw. 426096.
- 18.00 **Sw Youth Centre Club** 12-13 (Yr 7-9) Till 8
- 18.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Senior Club Session. 426312
- 18.15 **Sw Bridge Club** Mowlem Community Room. 423497
- 19.00 **Sw Youth Centre Seniors Club Night (Yr 9+)** Till 9.30pm.
- 19.00 **Swanage Scouts** meet during term time at the URC Church Hall, Sw. Open to boys & girls aged 10-14 years. Ffi: swanagescouts4th@hotmail.co.uk
- 19.30 **Short tennis for adults at Swanage Football Club**. All welcome. Equipment supplied. Till 9.30pm. £3.
- 20.00 **BINGO & TEXAS** Hold'em Poker at R.B.L. Club, Swanage.
- 20.00 **Sw Youth Centre Live Bands** (as advertised) Till 10pm.
- 22.00 **Sw Youth Centre Late Session (Yr 9+)** till 11.59pm (members free)
- EVERY SATURDAY**
- 09.00 **Sw CC U11 - U15 Practice** till 10.30
- 09.30 **Sw CC U9 & U10 Practice & Kwik Cricket** till 10.30
- 10.00 **Tea, coffee and home-made cakes** in the Parish Hall on Wareham Quay during the Community Market. Til 2pm. Bric-a-Brac stall weekly. Christian bookstall .most weeks. All welcome for a warm-up and a friendly chat.
- 20.00 **Herston OAP Committee Bingo** at Herston Hall, Sw
- EVERY SUNDAY**
- 09.45 **Skyscrapers Children's Group** at Swanage Methodist Church Hall. Including a cooked breakfast, games and fun bible stories, ages 0-11. Ffi: Tom Bullock on 421767, office hours, or tom@swanagemethodist.org.uk
- 10.00 **Arts and Crafts Market** at the Mowlem in Swanage. A wide range of local art for sale, including pottery, glass, cards, fabric and much more! To book your table, or for more information, call Tony on 01929 421321.
- 10.30 **Stoborough Emmanuel Baptist Church** meet at Stoborough First School, Stoborough. All very welcome.
- 13.00 **Sw Royal British Legion BINGO**. High St, Sw.



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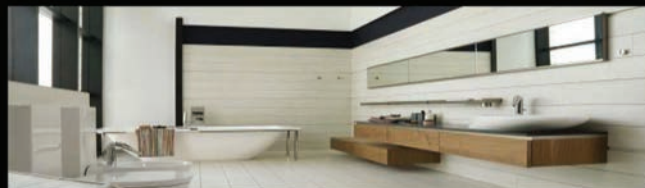
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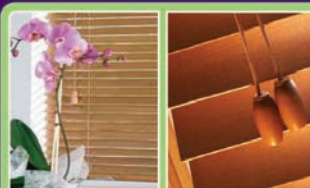
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