

The Purbeck Gazette

March 2015
Issue no. 182

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The Last Launch. Pg18



Oarsome Encounters. Pg 61



Mother's Day. Pg38-43



Purbeck Gardening. Pg49-52

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2015
SUNDAY
15th
MARCH

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Editor's note...



Welcome to the March edition of your Gazette! Spring has sprung, bulbs are up everywhere, and the cold and chills of winter are hopefully behind us for another year.

March sees the season kick-off with the amazing Swanage Blues Festival, with a staggering amount of gigs throughout the area, accessible for a voluntary £10 weekend wristband (not an obligatory purchase, but who wouldn't be happy to pay a tenner for a whole weekend of top-notch gigs?!). No doubt hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, cafes and pubs will be delighted to see an influx of visitors down for the weekend after a long, quiet winter. I returned in early February from catching-up with renowned Purbeck author, Ilay Cooper, in Rajasthan - Ilay's second home. Ilay wrote the first guide books mapping the beautiful, historic murals of the Shekhawati region in Rajasthan, and recently published the acclaimed 'Rajasthan: Exploring Painted Shekhawati' (which we reviewed a couple of months ago). We'll bring you details of my visit with Ilay in next month's edition.

In the meantime, I'd like to make our Sales Manager, Joy Lamb, 'Employee of the Month' for covering the office single-handed whilst I was away, taking on the equivalent of three full-time jobs! Thanks Joy, and also a huge thanks to Paul for dealing with all the graphic design. You're both fabulous, and it's the staff who make a business what it is! Thank you.

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Public Notices & Information

TIDE TIMES MAR'15

Peveril Ledge, Swanage

	Low	High	Low	High	Low
1	00.15	06.06	12.45	18.34	--
2	01.13	07.09	13.37	19.25	--
3	02.01	07.52	14.21	20.04	--
4	02.43	08.26	15.02	20.38	--
5	03.22	08.56	17.39	21.10	-- NM
6	03.57	09.24	16.13	21.30	--
7	04.29	09.52	16.43	22.06	-- ST
8	04.57	10.17	17.11	22.28	--
9	05.24	10.37	17.39	22.50	--
10	05.52	11.02	18.08	23.19	--
11	06.25	11.34	18.44	23.55	--
12	--	--	07.05	12.15	19.26
13	--	00.40	07.53	13.06	20.19
14	--	01.39	08.55	14.19	21.32
15	--	03.30	10.33	16.28	23.31 NP
16	--	05.06	12.10	17.39	--
17	00.42	06.10	13.09	18.36	--
18	01.36	07.04	13.59	19.27	--
19	02.24	07.53	14.46	20.13	--
20	03.09	08.37	15.30	20.57	-- SP
21	03.53	09.20	16.14	21.41	--
22	04.35	10.01	16.55	22.22	-- ST
23	05.17	10.43	17.37	23.05	--
24	05.59	11.26	18.20	23.49	--
25	--	--	06.43	12.12	19.05
26	--	00.36	07.32	13.03	20.01
27	--	01.29	08.37	14.01	21.21
28	GMT	02.31	10.00	15.08	22.37
29	BST	04.47	12.10	17.29	-- NP
30	00.44	06.32	13.13	18.58	--
31	01.45	07.42	14.07	19.54	--

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

Swanage Town Council Meetings - March 2015

Tourism	Mon 2nd	10am
Council	Mon 2nd	7pm
Policy & Planning	Mon 16th	7pm
General Operations	Wed 18th	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 - March 2015

Council	Tues 3rd	7pm
Amenities	Wed 11th	7pm
Museum	Tues 17th	7.30pm
Policy, Resources & Finance	Mon 23rd	7pm
Planning & Transport	Mon 23rd	7pm

Purbeck DC Meetings - Open to public - March 2015

Overview & Scrutiny Group	Tues 3rd	9.15am
Licensing Board	Thur 5th	9.15am
Council	Tues 10th	7pm
Policy Group	Wed 18th	7pm
Audit & Governance Panel	Tues 24th	5.30pm
Planning Board	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

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VOLUNTEERS: A massive thanks to our volunteers, whose help is invaluable each month with proof reading. They are the very professional: Gerry Norris and David Holman. Thank you both so very much!

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Ron-Seal pops up to say hello to Swanage Sea Rowing Club

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DEADLINE FOR APRIL IS noon, TUE 10th MAR

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.

APRIL edition deadline: noon March 10th

Challenge To Complainants

Dear Editor,

Boots and the Big Issue

As many of you may know the Big Issue Man has been selling his magazine outside Boots Chemist in Swanage for many years with the support of many people in the town.

Before Christmas he broke the two bones in his lower right leg and was therefore unable to sell the magazine. His wife has had to take over from him so that they can earn some money to live on.

All of a sudden she has been asked to move away from her pitch as a small minority of people have complained to the Manager at Boots.

I understand that the Manager is very concerned about having to move the lady on. She now has to stand outside in the wind and rain. I have always found the people of Swanage to be very generous and caring so may be it is not local people who have complained.

This is no way to treat someone who is struggling to make a living. Talk about kicking someone when they are down.

I challenge anyone who has complained to Boots to take over from the lady and sell the Big Issue on her behalf. I suspect that there will be no takers.

Yours sincerely, Bernard Bettles, by email.

Customer Complaints

Dear Gazette,

We have been delighted over the past decade to be able to support the Big Issue by offering a pitch outside Boots in Swanage, and furthermore, allowing the vendors to utilise our covered entrance to the store in bad weather.

We have maintained a good relationship with the Big Issue vendors who have used the pitch over the years. However, due to a rising number of complaints from Boots customers, we have recently had to request that the Big Issue pitch be moved elsewhere in Swanage.

As Swanage is such a close, caring community, we hope that another local business contacts the Big Issue office and offers an alternative permanent pitch in town, hopefully with some shelter from the elements, in the very near future.

We continue to support the Big Issue, and wish the vendors the very best of luck in the future.

Manager Faye Rhead and staff, Boots, Swanage.

Office Hours Only Please!

Dear Editor,

On Sunday 18th January 2015, a lovely stray dog arrived at our house. It was missing a collar etc and although it was happy and friendly we could not identify it.

I called 101 to find out if it had been reported missing, it had not, therefore I rang Purbeck Council out of hours service. A very pleasant operator from a joint central control centre informed me she would try to get in touch with PDC. However about an hour later she rang me back stating she was very sorry but PDC did not have an out of hours dog call out service. I said that the dog wasn't my responsibility and I would have to set the dog free and just hope it would be ok and not get run over! The operator seemed to sympathise with me and was clearly not happy with the answer she had given me.

Years ago when stray dogs were the responsibility of the police they came out and put it in a local police station kennel, but when councils

assumed this responsibility it appears that they have stopped this service altogether. When they assumed responsibility I wonder if they received further funding to supply this service?

During this time my wife put it on a lead and went walking looking for an owner, she didn't find the owner but found a neighbour of the owner by chance and they took the dog to keep it until the owner returned home.

So, a happy ending for this dog after going out for a stroll on its own.

Therefore can we send out a message to all the dogs in the PDC area:

Dear dog, if you wish to go out for a stroll on your own and escape from your garden please ensure you do this between Monday and Friday and between the hours of 10am and 4pm otherwise the council can't help you! Oh, perhaps it's 10am to 3pm on Fridays! And don't dare to wander off on a bank holiday!

Martin, Swanage, by email.

Exploring Embroidery

Dear Editor,

In Celebration of Embroidery

I am a member of a small group of ladies who meet once a month to enjoy the delights of embroidery. It seems a shame that more people, of either sex, do not engage in this form of creativity. In an effort to raise our profile and encourage more people to take up the skill, we wondered if you might be able to help us.

Sitting beside the ample figure of my grandmother, safe and warm, was my first recollection of embroidery. I loved the colours of the threads, the shapes made, the texture of the piece of work tightly fixed in the embroidery frame and above all the feeling of achievement at completing the pretty pattern. Time passed and years later an opportunity arose to indulge this long dormant need to sew, when I discovered West Country Embroiderers (WCE) first at Church Knowle and latterly at the Wareham branch.

The Wareham branch of West Country Embroiderers came into being as a direct result of an exhibition of embroidery held at Brewers Quay, Weymouth in 1993. There was such a good response to this exhibition, but as the Purbeck group was full, it was suggested by the then County co-ordinator that a new group be formed. The first meeting of this new group of West Country Embroiderers was in 1994 and was held in Bere Regis. This friendly group now meets in Carey Hall, Wareham, a bright hall, with easy access and ample parking.

West Country Embroiderers has opened for me another world of colour, inspiration, creativity, and even dips into history and travel, all to be had in one short day once a month. I most certainly would like to share with others this opportunity of exploring embroidery in so many different ways. The WCE, with its visiting and in-house tutors, plus helpful tips from other members, provides a way into the world of embroidery. See where it leads you. Just visit, or try a one day workshop. You will be warmly welcomed.

For this year's exciting programme contact:

Gill Heritage 01929 554070 e-mail: trevandgill@heritage1.eclipse.co.uk

Jill Blackman 01929 555323 e-mail: jillblackman644@btinternet.com

Whoops!

Dear Editor,

I always read David's page with interest even if I do not always agree with what he says. "May contain traces of nut".

With regard to the work being carried out by SGN in Victoria Avenue and in particular "SGN have publicised this proposal widely across Swanage and held a public drop in session", which few people seem to have heard about, then I may be able to shed some light on the matter.

Just before work was due to start I was indeed informed of the proposal. One morning my letter box was jammed with a large wad of leaflets publicising the event and inviting people to the drop in session.

The only problem is that I live in Victoria Road and not Victoria Avenue! Whoops!

Tony, Victoria Road, Swanage, via email.

David Ill-Informed?

Dear Gazette,

David Hollister is ill-informed about Langton residents' opposition to the planning application at Spyway Orchard (not Spyway Barn as he called it) that was turned down by PDC's Planning Committee in December.

The Planning Committee unanimously rejected the application on three grounds:

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LIVE ACTS FOR MARCH

FRI 6th 8pm Sean Taylor
SAT 7th 8pm Two Man Ting
FRI 13th 8pm Jim Aldridge and Sid Goldsmith
SAT 14th 8pm Woody Pines
SUN 15th Woody Pines + Hut People + Kelly Oliver
FRI 20th 8pm Josh Harty
SAT 21st 8pm Kelley McRea
SUN 22nd 2pm Kelley McRea
SAT 28th 8pm Curst Sons
SUN 29th 2pm David Celia

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The inclusion of eight open market houses on the site when District Valuer Services assessed that just two would deliver the developer his profit;

That it would be 'materially harmful' to the AONB;

That both the Environment Agency and the District Engineer had serious concerns about flooding, given known flooding problems in nearby roads, The Hyde and Durnford Drove.

The decision document can be viewed at <https://planningsearch.purbeck-dc.gov.uk/PlanAppDisp.aspx?recno=42146> and it's worth reading to understand the situation fully.

We live on an extraordinary peninsula with a chalk ridge (north) and a limestone shelf (south, where Langton sits) so where, what and how we build is very important, as so many people rely on the beauty of the area for their jobs. David Hollister's build-them-anywhere-doesn't-matter-where approach overlooks the law of unintended consequences. In this case it would see people's homes flooded, erosion of the AONB, road safety compromised, and people's jobs lost.

Langton residents are serious about providing affordable housing. Langton's affordable housing working group was set up to keep all residents informed about national and local planning policy and to explore sensitive and sustainable ways of providing affordable housing. Now, a community land trust is being set up so that the community can build its own affordable housing.

The working group will continue to investigate other options so that affordable homes can be provided in a phased way, tailored to meet the actual need for them. In line with central government policy, the group feels it is important to do this in smaller sites integrated around the village rather than in a single large development on its border.

Raglan Homes built just such a small development of eight rental homes in Langton last year at Nine Barrow View.

Please watch the news page of www.ah-langtonmatravers.org for all updates including news of the new Community Land Trust.

Yours sincerely, George Crabb, on behalf of Langton Matravers' Affordable Housing Community Working Group

Government Ruling To Blame

Dear Editor,

On obtaining a copy of The Purbeck Gazette I invariably turn first to David Hollister's 'Community Matters'. I must point out a serious error in the penultimate paragraph of the February column regarding the Spyway Barn development at Langton Matravers, namely Purbeck District Council has not scrapped the "affordable homes subsidy" as claimed by David.

A Government ruling which came into force on the 28 November 2014 now prevents councils from obtaining contributions towards affordable housing on sites of ten or less homes.

The Government claims this is to remove a burden on small builders, but with housing developments in Purbeck often being small scale this directive will remove a significant number of much needed affordable homes from future development sites.

This directive is very bad news for the delivery of affordable housing in Purbeck and yet another example of Government dictating to local councils.

David Budd, Town & District Councillor Wareham

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Hug-A-Robin!

Dear Gazette,

National Hugging Day Walk.

Wednesday 21 January began as a cold day with heavy rain and a strong south easterly wind. This did not stop a dozen members of the Swanage Walking Group from meeting at the Durnford Drove car park at Langton Matravers for a circular walk along the coast, returning along the Priest's Way.

Although the rain had stopped the ground was very wet and slippery as we passed Spyway Barn and made our way down to Dancing Ledge. Here we told the others how a pool had been blasted out there so the pupils at the nearby school could have their early morning swim even when the sea was rough.

Nearby was Headbury Quarry where there was a cannon which was probably from the Halsewell that sank on 4 January 1786. I told the others that I had seen six puffins there on a National Trust walk. The leader said that he had spent hours waiting for puffins there and then he takes someone who is not interested and he sees six at once.

Along the muddy path I got further back from the rest. Someone asked if they should wait but others said that I knew what I was doing and I could catch up when they stopped. Near the caves at Seacombe I caught up with the others as they were half way through their lunch.

We crossed some fields to join the Priest's Way at Eastington Farm. The Priest's Way was built at a gradient of less than one in eight to enable the priest to ride his mule from Worth Matravers to Swanage.

The path has recently been renovated with improved drainage so it was easy walking back to the Durnford Drove turning.

As it was National Hugging Day I did not allow the day to pass without a couple of hugs.

Yours sincerely, Robin Brasher, Swanage

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Council Shortsighted

Dear Nico,

The resurfacing of Shore Road, Swanage, which was long overdue, has now been completed with a nice smooth surface.

It is just a pity that the council did not resolve the issue of flooding in various places after heavy rain. This is rather shortsighted of them, as surely a lot of lying water will only deteriorate the surface and create the same problem as before.

It would not have taken much planning to sort this out, but I suppose, as usual, money is involved, so let's do a quick fix and waste more later.

Geoff Allen, Swanage

A Landlord's Response

Dear Ed,

Benefits' Phobia

As a Landlord I have some sympathy with Judi Taylor's predicament expressed in her letter published in the February issue of the Gazette. However, the blame for 'discrimination' against certain types of tenant cannot always be laid at the Landlord's feet.

All Landlords are required to insure their properties and, sadly, many of the restrictions on the status of tenants are imposed by the insurance companies. In addition to this, many Landlords have buy-to-let mortgages. Similar restrictions are often imposed by the mortgage providers.

I sincerely hope that Judi has by now found a suitable property to rent.

Tim Silk, by email

Keep On Recycling!

Dear Nico,

Keep on recycling!

I heartily agree with David Hollister's views on flytipping but do not knock the recycling scheme of "4 bins". It DOES save money for the council and it makes the householder aware of the wastage of packaging.

So keep on recycling folks! It benefits your pocket and your conscience!

Hilary Goodinge (prospective District councillor for Wareham)

A Pain In The Butt

Dear Editor,

As regards Maud Singleton's letter; she is obviously one of these conservationists who are a pain in the butt. I don't know about shooting thousands of woodcock. Most shoots in Dorset are lucky to kill a dozen in a season. I do not know anybody in my area who has ever shot a golden plover. You would be very lucky to even see one.

Very few snipe are shot in this country, probably because we can't hit the little b*****s. Oh and by the way, Canada geese are now classed as vermin and are an agricultural pest (that should please Maud).

So I must advise Maud to understand fully what she is taking about before putting pen to paper.

Don Goodwin, Corfe Castle (Wild fowler and conservationist)

In Praise Of Shooting

Dear Gazette,

As a supporter of the Purbeck Shooting School, I was interested to read Maud Singleton's letter in the February edition deploring the activities

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of those who enjoy shooting. I don't know the statistics, but I would suggest that most people who use the School do so for the purposes of competition, shooting at clay targets. They enjoy a sport that requires a great deal of skill and judgement, in much the same way as people enjoy a round of golf, and are not interested in shooting live quarry. I can't see a lot wrong with that.

There are others, and I am one of them, who practise at clays but also enjoy game shooting in the season. I can understand people who don't like killing. Strangely enough, neither do I; nor do most of my fellow shooters, although I will admit to a certain satisfaction in seeing a bird cleanly killed with a well-aimed shot. I spoke to a gamekeeper recently who said, "I love my birds!" - I know exactly how he feels. I thoroughly enjoy a day in the open air in the company of people who share a passion for the countryside and the wildlife it contains, but at the end of the day I recognise that if I choose to be a carnivore then something has to die.

The archetypal English countryside, with its pattern of fields and hedgerows, woods and copses, was formed to a large extent by the enthusiasm for hunting and shooting in the 18th and 19th centuries. Shooters are great conservationists. Woods that provide roosts for pheasants also provide nesting sites for owls and woodpeckers. Hedges and field margins that give cover and food for partridges also cater for blackbirds, thrushes and other birds as well as insects and small mammals, and food put out for game birds allows many other species to survive a harsh winter. Ponds dug to attract duck are used by coot and moorhens, as well as providing a habitat for amphibians and dragonflies. It's easy to confirm this. Just take a walk in the spring on any of the footpaths that run through a shooting estate and compare the number of different birds that you see with those seen on an intensively farmed area where no shooting takes place.

If there was no shooting there would be few, if any, pheasants and partridges. That the native English partridge has survived at all is down to the efforts of a few dedicated landowners who have reintroduced these lovely birds at great expense and can now shoot a few in sustainable numbers. Shoots usually keep a tally of the number of birds shot each season. This varies, but a good average would be between 40 and 50 percent of the birds raised. What happens to the rest? Some will survive long enough to breed in the wild, some will be killed by cars on the roads, but as the rest grow old and weak they will be taken by foxes, badgers, stoats, weasels, cats and birds of prey. One thing is certain - none of them will lie down after a peaceful old age and quietly go to sleep.

If Maud Singleton is a vegan I have the highest respect for her principles, although I do not share them. I choose to eat meat, and I eat what I shoot. As a meat eater I feel an obligation to participate in some small way in the messy process that puts it on my plate. I have no time for the self-righteous hypocrites who wear leather shoes, drink milk, eat eggs or buy a supermarket chicken and then adopt a high moral tone because someone else has done the dirty work for them.

If they want to address serious animal abuse I suggest they look closely at those abattoirs where animals are ritually slaughtered without stunning to satisfy some bizarre religious doctrine.

Yours, Mike Etherington

If You Can't Stand The Heat..

Dear Editor,

I don't shoot clays myself, but I think the Purbeck Shooting School is doing a fine job.

They teach people to shoot correctly and safely and encourage competitive competition up to Olympic standards, in which England has done very well over the years.

What a perfect place for a shooting school, you wouldn't know whether the noise was created by the Army's tanks and machine guns or the school's shotguns.

I live ten miles from the army ranges. When they start firing what they call heavy canister shells our dog disappears under the table.

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The local residents who are complaining about the noise from shotguns don't seem bothered about the Army's games.

I think my solution for these people would be 'If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen'.

Shelled Shocked (Corfe Castle)

Name and address supplied, withheld on request.

Ode To Swanage

Swanage is a place I love
 Sent to me from God above
 Helpful friends full of hope
 Giving me the strength to cope
 I'm loving every minute I spend here
 Meeting people loyal and dear
 I do not want to leave this place
 It certainly is 'Amazing Grace'
 Thanks to Swanage I'm finding my way
 Living to fight another day.
 Marie Neilson

Wonderful Local Hospitals

Dear Editor,

Not A Lot of People Know This!

The people living in the Purbeck area are very fortunate to have access to both Swanage and Wareham hospitals. Not only do these hospitals take wonderful care of their inpatients, but they also provide outpatient services, second to none. Swanage provides surgical services while Wareham provides medical services, complementing each other.

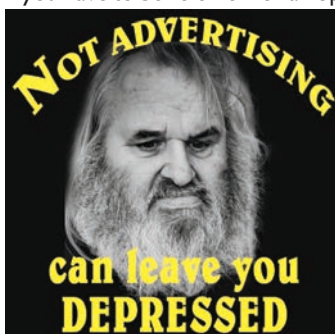
Transport to the acute hospitals in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorchester can be a real headache for many people. Consultants offer outpatient appointments in both hospitals and in Swanage, surgical procedures and a Minor Injury Unit are very much appreciated.

What a lot of people don't know is the range of clinics and services on offer in Wareham.

Would you believe they number THIRTY?

Paediatric ENT, Child Mental Health, Paediatric + Adult Speech and Language Therapy, Chronic Fatigue Occupational Health + Clinic, Community Mental Health, Coagulation, Continence Nurse, Dietetics, Elderly Psychology, Contraception and Sexual Health, Clinical Psychology, Occupational Health, Nurse Prescribing Clinic, Paediatric Clinic, Physiotherapy, Vascular Clinic, Children's Eating Disorders, Hand Therapy, Memory Service, Adult Audiology, Muscular Skeletal, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Dermatology, Balance Class + Falls Clinic, Steps to Wellbeing, Aortic Aneurism Screening and Stroke Review Clinic.

If you have to be referred for an opinion from a Consultant, remember to



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ask whether an appointment is available in either Swanage or Wareham Hospitals.

The Government wants to provide care nearer the home rather in acute hospitals – let's make sure we appreciate and use OUR Community Hospitals.

Best wishes, Sheila Lancefield, (on behalf of the Friends of Wareham Hospital)

Electronic Prescriptions

Dear Purbeck Gazette

I read with interest the article "Purbeck GPs Switch to Electronic Prescriptions" from the internet pharmacy "Pharmacy2U" and I would like to take this opportunity to expand on the information further.

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) is a reliable, secure and confidential NHS Service that gives patients the chance to change how their GP sends their prescription to the place they choose. All our local chemists - Coop, Boots and Day Lewis offer this service in Swanage.

EPS will save patient's time as they won't have to queue to collect their repeat prescriptions from the surgery. Instead, their GP will send it electronically direct to the pharmacy.

You need to choose a place for your GP to electronically send your prescription to. This is called nomination and any of our local chemists will be happy to talk to you about how to nominate them for EPS. Alternatively, you can pick up a nomination form from the practice.

As a Practice we are encouraging patients to sign up for this efficient and convenient service, so why not pop into your local chemist to find out more?

Natasha Ritchie, Practice Manager, Swanage Medical Practice

A Huge Thanks To All

Dear Nico,

Thank you to all of you who supported our Panto 'Cinderella' this year and also our front of house raffle in aid of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

We raised £367.50 on the raffle and have sent them a donation of £500.00. Without your support we could not have done this.

We would also like to thank all those who supported the Children in Need concert. We have sent a cheque to Children in Need for £1000 from the concert.

Many thanks to you all.

Swanage Drama Company.

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How To Beat The System

Hi Nico

May I recount a story - I went into the surgery for an appointment to see my own Doctor on the 26/01/2015. The earliest appointment was at 16.30 on the 09/03/2015, some six weeks hence.

I declined because I was elsewhere on that date. I was updating my prescriptions and on the web page there was an opportunity to make an appointment, so I clicked out of interest and surprise, surprise!

I was given an appointment for the 02/02/2015 at 09-30! Only a week's wait! I logged in at the surgery, first time I have been able to get it to work! I was then called to see my Doctor - result!

I am not going to pass any comment, but I would observe that anyone without access to the internet is working at a disadvantage, can this be right? I now know how to use the system.

Regards, Peter, via email

Swanage Museum Thanks

Dear Nico,

'Following the fire at one of the barns at Belle Vue Farm, the Swanage Museum charity has had to move its reserve collection of artefacts from the farm to a storage unit at the Victoria Avenue Industrial Estate.

We would like to sincerely thank Ian Killick of Belle Vue Farm for all the help he has given us over the years, and also Dave Kerley for his assistance with the new storage unit and the loan of his pick-up truck which was essential in moving the artefacts from the farm.

The move went very smoothly thanks to our team of museum volunteers, despite having to take the long way round due to the Victoria Avenue railway bridge being closed because of work on the new gas main'.

The Swanage Museum Committee.

Beer, Cider And Good Fun!

Dear Editor,

Easter Beerex at Wareham for the 22nd Time

Wareham Town's forthcoming traditional Beer Festival will be held on Easter Friday/Saturday 3rd and 4th of April in The Masonic Hall, Wareham (behind the Post Office in North Street, Wareham).

Opening times will be 11am to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm each day and the excellent value entry fee is just £5 to include a souvenir glass. Beer and local real cider prices will be £1.50 per half pint.

Wareham Round Table held the first event over 20 years ago in the Town Hall and when Table sadly ceased in 2012, the Members of 41 Club (the Ex Round Tablers Club of Wareham) picked up the mantle and have run the event since 2013. Over the past two years, we have had a wonderful time, sampling some 60 beers and 20 ciders over the Easter period.

Over £9,000 was raised for local worthy causes with our prime beneficiary in 2013 being Mosaic, a local charity supporting children who have lost a close relative such as a Mum or Dad. Then in 2014 The Rex Cinema received a generous donation and many other local groups have benefitted too.

This year our chosen organisations represent "The Youth of Wareham" where at least 50% of funds raised will be donated. We plan to assist mini rugby and football, cubs, scouts and guides to name just a few. If you are involved with such association, please let us know so your club can be considered for a donation of funds raised by Beerex.

The real ales and ciders are from all over the Country and have a theme linked to the Rugby World Cup being staged by England RFU later this year. Many will be brewed with a rugby named theme and we have got a

few that resonate with the game. We hope all will enjoy the good range to choose from with diverse tastes and mixture of strengths. What is one man's meat is another man's poison!

The Beerex Committee work very hard, giving up their own valuable time to make things happen. Many of the volunteers were members of the Round Table and some helped stage the first Beerex event twenty two years ago.

Tickets are available on the internet, from Bullock and Lees, North Street, Wareham 01929 552632 and Wareham Tourist Information Office. .

Web details here: www.beerex.org.uk

Please do come along and enjoy the Beer, cider, fun and good Fellowship and help raise some funds for local good causes at the same time.

Martin Cypher, Wareham Ex-Round Tablers - 41 Club.

Wareham Lions' Party



Dear Editor,

On Saturday 17 January 2015 Wareham Lions held their annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party at the Purbeck School. Almost 200 people from Wareham, and surrounding towns and villages, were fed and watered by the Lions and their ladies, and entertained by Nick Sellars and the Land Girls.

The attached photograph (taken by David Peters, Wareham Lions) shows everyone singing along to Land of Hope and Glory.

The event is funded by our "Penny in a Bucket" collection which we held on Friday 19 December 2014 in the pubs, clubs and hostelrys in Wareham and the surrounding area.

This year, thanks to everyone's amazing generosity nearly £1200 was raised. The surplus, after paying for the party, will be put to good use operating and maintaining our ambulance.

Once again a huge thank you from Wareham Lions, we are very grateful for your very generous support.

Yours sincerely, Peter Broomfield Wareham Lions

Special Needs?

Dear Nico,

Special needs?

Do you have, or know anyone who has, children with special needs? The 'Allsorts Special Needs' group (www.allsortsspecialneeds.co.uk) was set up some years ago, but for the last few years there has been no one willing to take over the management and liaison of the group. It was very useful for many parents and carers, especially in the early years after diagnosis of problems, and it seems a shame to lose such a valuable resource.

If anyone is interested in taking this on, please get in touch with me, otherwise the group will cease to exist.

Purbeck Gazette Young Creatives Competition

Send your entries to; ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk before **Monday 4th May** for your chance to win a cash prize. Open to entrants from 7-18 years.

Written Word: Either a Short Story (1000 words) Prose /Journalistic Report (500 words) or Poetry (250 words) typed
OR Creative Arts: Either Drawing, Painting, Handdrawn Illustration or Photography.

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Please contact me at mail@mikehadley.net or call me on 07796934808. Mike Hadley, via email

Washpond Lane Awash

Dear Nico,

Washpond Lane – That's a good one – it's probably going to continue like that for quite a while.

(Rain, rain, go away, come again another day)

Fortunately the pedestrians can 'float' on pallet 'rafts' for £1000 a head. But good old 'wellies' are fun for children and adults alike.

From David Barsley, Swanage.

Dysfunctional Need Function!

Dear Gazette,

Many thanks for printing my letter recently regarding hazardous dog-walking along the seafront.

It has prompted me to write again, as today is the 12th of February, and whilst walking my dog every morning I couldn't help noticing that every Bar/Pub/Bistro in town is advertising their special 'Valentine's Day Dinners'. These are usually a steal at £25 for two, plus a few wilted roses, followed by a heart-shaped sticky toffee pudding. Fair enough.

But if there is one thing even more depressing than the festive season, it has to be Valentine's Day.

I must admit, as a single middle-aged drunk, it's not that I resent the fact that most other people are in functioning, loving, mature relationships; it's just that I dearly wish that all of the catering establishments who try to attract them could perhaps think outside of the box. Why not set up some kind of alternative approach, i.e. try to attract all the lonely, self-obsessed, dysfunctional, boring people like me.

They could put on special evenings where we could get together over a 'Trampagne' (One part cider, one part Absolut Vodka) put the world to rights, and possibly meet up at a later date. We could all then go home and not feel so bad about ourselves.

I'm convinced there is a market out there somewhere, either in Swanage or even nationally, for this idea.

I would happily put myself forward as an advisor/business consultant to any local hostellers/eateries that may be interested.

I look forward to any positive responses.

Yours sincerely, Simon Cattell, Swanage.

Did YOU Know My Father?

Dear Nico,

You may be able to help me with my quest to find any details about my deceased father.

My father told me when I was a child that he worked at the Swanage Radar Station during the war.

He was moved to Malvern in Worcestershire. After the war the site was called TRE, which then changed names to RRE. I was an apprentice at RRE, my mother and sister also worked there.

I have tried going through the MOD but got nowhere.

Prior to going to Swanage he was in the RAF.



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The Swanage Pier trust Registered Charity No. 290397

I would like to find out any details of when he was seconded from the RAF, through Swanage up to RRE.

His name was James Lyle Buck born 1920 in Newcastle upon Tyne

Regards, Mike Buck, SQA Engineer

Did you know James Lyle Buck whilst he was based at Swanage Radar Station?

If so, contact the Gazette at ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk with the details and we'll pass them on to Mike!

Crafts For Cancer Sufferers

Dear Editor,

I'm writing on behalf of my sister-in-law, Sinead Feeney. I imagine you get so many requests from people wanting to talk about their stories so I'm hoping you might be interested in hearing about hers.

After her 'appearance' on the Julian Clegg show on BBC Radio Solent as a Julian's person recently, I'm hoping her story can reach as wide an audience as possible.

Sinead Feeney and her family live in Wool in Dorset. She and her husband Paul (both radiographers in the Dorset area) set up a non-profit making charity called the 'Purbeck Workshop' in a small, industrial unit in Wool to enable people suffering with cancer and their families to come together to do some 'craft therapy', free of charge. Volunteers from all over the county - and some further afield - come to the workshop to teach all manner of different crafts.

The idea is that through doing some kind of craft - knitting, watercolour painting, woodworking, photography, flower-arranging etc, people can momentarily escape their fears of cancer. The reason why she and Paul set up the workshop is because they had nothing in their area where they could go, to talk with, and be with other young families going through the same thing; you see, Paul was diagnosed with Lynch Syndrome just over two years ago. They have a young son, Nicholas, then two and Sinead was pregnant at the time with Eva (now 22 months).

Lynch Syndrome is an inherited genetic condition that predisposes people to aggressive forms of cancer; generally the younger you are the more virulent it becomes and survival rates are lower. You may remember Steven Sutton's cancer was caused by this same hereditary condition.

Paul was only 33 when he was diagnosed and had various forms of chemotherapy treatment throughout 2013 to treat bowel cancer and it was seemingly successful - the tumour had shrunk significantly and seemed to be arrested. Unfortunately, due to the genetic condition, in February 2014 the cancer breached the abdominal cavity and spread.

Aged just 35, Paul sadly passed away on 23 November 2014, one week before the Workshop was due to open on 30 November. Sinead went ahead with the opening ceremony days before Paul's funeral later that week and with the help of her friends and family, continues to lay on craft and other events (Coffee mornings, walks and days trips) for those touched by cancer.

Everyone would be really grateful if you could highlight this special thing that Sinead, Paul and her friends have created. All of the groups and activities are provided free of charge and are all available to anyone affected by cancer:- patients, carers and family members alike.

The workshop has a website, Twitter feed and a Facebook presence - all below.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

With kind regards, Richard Moss. Website: www.purbeckworkshop.org

Community Matters

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Go Out & Do It To Them - Before They Do It To You!

David Hollister writes...

Councils and Councillors from the Parish right up to the County, take a huge amount of criticism. This is on many occasions justified, but often born of ignorance as to exactly who does what and what powers the various layers of ‘local authority’ actually have.

One way to find out what your local Parish Council is doing is to read Facebook or to listen to pub gossip. By far the best way is either to attend the monthly council meetings and see for yourself, or to study the minutes of Council meetings online. These are not hard to find using Google.

When I served on Swanage Town Council – many years ago now – I gained the impression that a Parish Council was a body of people who can do nothing, who gather once a month to decide that nothing can be done. Let me explain. For example, Planning. A Parish Council has the right – and some say the duty – to examine and comment on planning applications in or affecting their Parish. The fact that the Planning Application is determined by the District Council, in many cases by the salaried officers rather than the members, and very often contrary to the Parish Council’s expressed wishes, is one of the many reasons I packed it in. If you are going to stand for Council, expect to see your views and planning ‘decisions’ over-ruled by Councils further up the food chain.

But also expect to be governed by volumes of Government legislation which now affects every move a Parish Council makes. Back in 1979, neither I nor my newly-elected colleagues EVER read any of this stuff; we just made decisions; the qualified Town Clerk would raise an eyebrow if we were going ‘beyond the pale’ and we’d modify the odd decision accordingly. If you are standing for Parish Council in May, then for heavens’ sake read it up first; talk to other Councillors and spend time with the Parish or Town Clerk; listen and learn. Nowadays you can be penalised for getting it wrong. Yes, you can. Look it up.

The ‘knowledge’ is necessary simply in view of the relatively huge sums of money involved. Google the annual accounts for your Parish. Read them and then tell me that you really understand them. And the implications of the decisions you want to make. Then factor in ‘sod’s law’ – nowhere more demonstrably applied than Swanage in 2014 when the seafront rescue scheme was hit by contractors delays, weather, hidden explosives, buried bones, old gas mains, and a structural survey which was apparently largely inaccurate inasmuch as the contractors discovered that the land they were working on was mostly building rubble 150 years old, rather than virgin clay. So we all bitched about the inconvenience and delays – me included – and most conveniently forgot that a few Town Councillors were faced with last-minute decisions involving many hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money. Fancy that level of stress, do you?

I have always asserted that there is no room for ‘party politics’ in local government. Yet candidates will come round sporting ribbons of many colours and my advice to you as a voter is to say ‘take your ribbon off, then come in and tell me what YOU represent’. Often, the party selection program will weed out the ‘nutters’ and the single-issue candidates, and that’s a good thing. Who actually knows what an ‘independent’ actually stands for? Or how effective the anti-windfarm candidate will be in deciding the charge-rates for

the town car parks. Will the ‘anti-fracking’ candidate actually be competent to understand the many implications of the Parish precept?

It must also be frustrating to have learned what to do, to have door-knocked and leaflet-dropped, been duly elected and then realise that apart from often irrational and ill-researched criticism on Facebook – which is, after all, so much easier than actually criticising your Councillor face to face – no-one actually gives a monkeys. This is proven by the lamentable ‘general public’ attendance figures for the monthly Council meetings. Let’s see who’s interested enough to turn out in the evenings for a few hours?

Average public attendance at monthly meetings, taken from published minutes, for 2014 was as follows (parish population in brackets): Swanage 17 (9500); Wareham 1 (5500), Worth Matravers 5 (500) and Langton Matravers – clearly the most community-minded of the lot – 23 (1050). Unfortunately the published minutes from Wool (5500), although reporting public comment, do not make it clear how many members of the general public were in attendance. Apart from Langton Matravers, where public attendance was 2.2% of the population, all the others are under 1%. Well done Langton!

The ‘summons’ to attend a Council meeting as a Councillor is not a casual invitation. It is a legal summons to attend and to do the job you were elected to do. ‘Football on TV’ or ‘the grandchildren are coming’ won’t wash. You have a legal obligation to be there provided you’re not seriously ill or dead. Councillor attendances at monthly meetings in 2014 were – Swanage 80%, Wareham 81%, Worth Matravers 84%, and Langton (must be something in the water!) a remarkable 89%. Ask yourself – there are 12 meetings a year, PLUS meetings of sub-committees and other groups – which may well necessitate your attending between 35 and 45 meetings a year. This is not a part-time job, not a hobby, it’s a vocation and a four-year contract with the voters to represent them to the very best of your ability, on all issues relating to your town or parish. Still up for it, are you?

But despite my cynicism, the job’s still well worth doing and can be very rewarding in all ways except financially; it can take up hours of your ‘spare’ time, but you can actually make a difference to your town or parish, something you can hand down to your children and children’s children. Most of what we did in 1979 – 83 is long forgotten. Some of it was woefully inadequate. But a few things we did were worthwhile and have lasted to this very day as permanent memorials to that Council. And regrettably, I think I’m the ‘last man standing’.

So don’t whinge; go to some meetings, and then stand up and be counted. If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything. And if you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll end up somewhere else.

Edmund Burke said “the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”. He also said “those who would carry on great public schemes must be proof against the most fatiguing delays, the most mortifying disappointments, the most shocking insults and worst of all, the presumptuous judgement of the ignorant upon their designs”.

But my favourite quote – and final word of advice – is taken from ‘Hill Street Blues’ – “Go out and do it to them before they do it to you”. Happy Easter.



SWANAGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 9th March 2015

Your Meeting

Your Views

Your Chance to have a say in matters affecting Swanage

In addition to your local Town, District and County Councillors, representatives from local organisations have been invited to make short presentations to the Meeting.

7.00 p.m. Community Room, Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.

Agenda items may be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, 27th February 2015 in person at the Town Hall, by telephone 423636, or email admin@swanage.gov.uk

Please come along and have your say.

DCC Cabinet Reshuffle

Dorset County Council Leader Robert Gould has reshuffled his Cabinet to more clearly focus on local people's priorities.

Cllr Gould has reshaped the portfolios of leading councillors, taking into account what people told us is important during the Ask Dorset consultation roadshows last summer. The Cabinet is responsible for strategic leadership on the council's main policies and recommending decisions to the full council of 45 councillors.

The new portfolios and the councillors who will carry out those duties are:

Communities, health and wellbeing: Rebecca Knox

Economy and growth: Colin Jamieson

Environment: Peter Finney

Children and young people: Toni Coombs

Adult and community services: Jill Haynes

Corporate development: Robin Cook

Cllr Gould, who became Leader in December 2014, will also have responsibility for budget and financial matters. He said: "We face major financial challenges for some time to come and the Cabinet needs to work closely as a team to steer the council through this. Local people told us, through the Ask Dorset roadshows last year, what their priorities are and we need to respond to those actively and positively."

"The new portfolios for community, health and wellbeing and economy and growth clearly reflect important areas of focus for us - they both make a vital contribution to improving life for people in Dorset. By reorganising the responsibilities I am giving new momentum to our plans to transform the council and the way it works for the benefit of everyone in Dorset."

Cllr Gould has also pledged to work with all county councillors to make closer links with communities across the county and represent local views.

Robin Cook is the only councillor who is new to the Cabinet. Cllr Cook represents the Minster Ward in East Dorset and was elected in 2009.

He sits on several committees and is chairman of the Environment Overview Committee and the Children and Adult Services Appeals Committee.

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Out Of The Blue

Dorset Police



We start this edition with a big thank you to all of the public, especially to the residents of Corfe Castle, for their co-operation, patience and understanding surrounding the police investigation into the tragic events concerning the death of Samantha Henderson.

We received an amazing response from the public via our Facebook page, with nearly 97,000 viewing

our initial appeal for assistance to help find Samantha as well nearly 1,700 'shares' even as far north as Lancashire. This level of support is greatly appreciated.

As we are approaching the end of the spring term and Easter and therefore a probable rise in visitor numbers, we would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone to remove your valuables from your vehicles and please do not leave anything behind.

A great deal of vehicle related crime is opportunistic – we routinely check beauty spots and remote car parks and we still see that people are leaving valuables such as sat navs and phones on display. If we are looking, then it's likely so are the thieves!

As the lighter evenings and warmer days are (hopefully) arriving soon, Purbeck is a beautiful place to go for a walk. However, please avoid the cliff edges, they can be extremely unstable and dangerous. As the cliffs dry there is a greater likelihood of rock falls and landslides.

There is always the element of risk when walking near or on the cliffs and

**WORKING
TOGETHER**
for a safer community

PACT

Partners And Communities Together

although this should not put you off visiting the area, use your common sense – pay attention to warning signs, keep dogs under control and make sure your children stay close-by.

In January 2015 – 717 incidents were created for Purbeck with officers attending 362 incidents on an urgent basis and others being attended in slower time. As you can imagine lots of these involved road traffic collisions due to the icy roads. Fingers crossed we can now put the chilly weather behind us and start looking forward to the summer!

To contact Dorset Police please call our police enquiry centre by dialling 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency when there is a risk of harm or a crime is in progress.

Alternatively, call the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111 (mobile phone tariffs may apply). Remember if you See Anything Suspicious (SAS) call 999.

For the latest information on what your local police are doing follow our social media, Twitter - @PurbeckPolice and Facebook – facebook.com/Purbeck-Police, we really value your support and comments.

Purbeck Safer Neighbourhood Team

Action To Tackle Dorset Waste Partnership Budget Issues



The significant overspend in the Dorset Waste Partnership's budget has been described as "unacceptable" by local councillors following a rigorous review of finances.

The seven Dorset councils that make up the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) are taking urgent action after

investigations showed unexpected increases in this year's budget overspend.

Late last year, the DWP's newly installed finance team reported an increase in the 2014/15 overspend to £2.3m. In response, the team carried out an urgent and rigorous investigation of all areas of the DWP budget.

This detailed work found an additional £492,000 of previously unbudgeted costs – including a further £300,000 on hire vehicles – taking this year's overspend to £2.76m.

The costs making up the total overspend include:

- Hire vehicles (£1.3m)
- Operational staffing costs, including agency fees (£556,000)
- Disposal costs for the increased total amount of household waste (£441,000)
- Falling prices for recyclable materials, reducing income (£284,000)
- Vehicle parts and maintenance (£115,000)
- Two external reviews into the DWP (£52,000)
- Other minor variances (£13,000)

An urgent financial improvement plan is now in place, including additional financial expertise to monitor budgets more closely and tighter controls on the hire of vehicles. The way budget management systems are used at

all levels is also being investigated.

Following the first two tranches of the service roll-out, the DWP reviewed the collection vehicles it needed. Hire vehicles were used to collect bins in Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland while options were considered. New vehicles for later tranches have now been bought and will be in use from May 2015.

Recommendations from two independent reviews of the DWP, by South West Audit Partnership and Local Partnerships (jointly owned by the Treasury and the Local Government Association), will be considered by the DWP Joint Committee at its next meeting.

A third, wider-ranging external review, requested by the Chief Executives of Dorset councils, is still being finalised.

Cllr Anthony Alford, Chairman of the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, said: "The unexpected increase in the DWP overspend is unacceptable to partner councils, who joined together to deliver better services for local people at a reduced cost. Stringent measures are now in place to prevent future inaccuracy and restore partners' confidence.

"Councillors will carefully consider the recommendations from the independent reviews to agree the necessary actions and future direction.

"Dorset councils remain committed to working together to provide the best possible waste services for the best possible value during these very challenging times."

The DWP was formed in 2011 by seven Dorset councils with the aims of:

- Recycling 60% by 2015/16 – in the first three areas following roll-out the rate is over 60% (currently, with one more tranche to roll out, the overall rate is 59%)
- Reduce waste sent to landfill – this has halved from 40% before the roll-out to less than 20% currently
- Achieve customer satisfaction of 80% – a survey of 5,000 residents in 2014 showed satisfaction at 89%
- Reducing climate change impact – the DWP is in the top 10% of local authorities in the Local Authority Carbon Recycling Index, a measure of environmental performance of councils' waste and recycling services
- Saving at least £1.3m a year – this was achieved in 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 but will not be in the current year



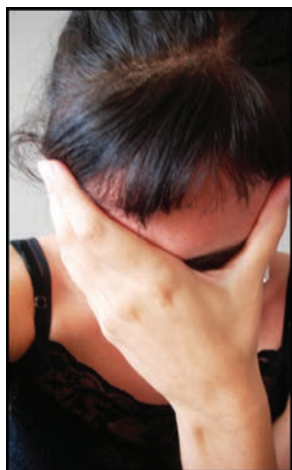
Swanage Regatta & Carnival 2015 Charity & Good Cause Nominations

If you represent a Charity or Good Cause that you would like to nominate as a beneficiary from the proceeds of this year's Carnival Week, please apply in writing to the Carnival Secretary before 1st April 2015 with a brief description of your charity/good cause and a summary of how any donation would be used. In return we ask that representatives and/or supporters from the selected charities help during Carnival Week with bucket collections at major events such as the Procession and Firework displays.

Applications to:

Andy Wright
Honorary Secretary - Swanage Regatta and Carnival
25 Durberville Drive, Swanage, BH19 1QN

In Debt? Don't Feel Ashamed, Get Help!



Christians Against Poverty, local debt centre in BH19, says "We see a rise in calls now because most people can't face tackling their finances before Christmas." In the first week of 2015, CAP received 479 calls for debt help.

Recent research shows that people often struggle for years with personal debt following income changes caused by jobs lost or after a relationship breakdown. "Four in ten people believe that no one can help them with their debts. We are here to help however complicated or dire it seems, we see 'impossible' situations of people's debts cleared."

Christine visits you at home spending time learning what has happened, showing you a way forward out of debt. All your outstanding bills and letters from creditors

are sent to CAP's head office in Bradford. CAP negotiates with each creditor on your behalf and draws up a budget to begin to repay what is owed.

"Anyone having sleepless nights, unable to afford the basics or worried about meeting their rent or mortgage should call CAP on 0800 328 0006 or visit capuk.org." All our services are free regardless of age, gender, faith or background.

Visit one of our monthly Drop In Sessions between 10am -12.30pm at Swanage Library on the 6th March, EDP in Swanage on the 8th and Swanage Children's Centre on the 26th. Future dates will be advertised at the venues

Sign up for the CAP Money Course, our money education programme on the 7th March for 3 weeks.

Contact Christine North, CAP's Debt Centre Manager, on 07443 600 829



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CAP MONEY COURSE Emmanuel Baptist Church

Sat 7th, Sat 14th & Sat 21st March 2015

10am arrival with free coffee and pastries. Course runs from 10.30-12.30.

A completely free, short course (just 3 sessions) that makes managing your money simple.

If you are in the least bit worried about anything to do with money, why not come along and be pointed in the right direction by our friendly, welcoming team. We will be very pleased to see you.

To sign up for the course, please contact Tim Silk on 01929 423931 or email Tim at: silk@sandhot.fsnet.co.uk

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Literary Fest'15 - Primary School WINNER!

Purbeck Literary Festival 2015

Winners of Swanage Lions Literary Competition for Primary School Children

Swanage Lions were delighted to support the Swanage Literary Festival by promoting a new, annual literary competition for local primary school children.

The overall winner for 2015 is 'My Purbeck Playground', written by Eva Longland, age 10, from Swanage Primary School.

The judges said: "Treating Purbeck as your playground is creative and very original. A wonderful picture of the seasons seen through your eyes. A very imaginative and lyrical piece of work. Quite outstanding."

Eva has won a splendid prize for her school in the form of two workshops by the award winning author, Geraldine McCaughrean, as well as a book token and a signed book by Geraldine for herself.

The judges were so impressed with the standard of entry that they awarded first, second and third prizes to both schools who entered and a number of highly commended awards.

Swanage Primary School - 1st Eva Longland, 2nd Daisie Moyler and 3rd Sam Ward.

St Mark's Primary School - 1st Maisy-May Brock, 2nd Willow Thomas, and 3rd Megan Churchill.

Swanage Lions would like to thank the children and their schools for taking part in this, most enjoyable, competition and look forward to an even bigger and better event next year, in support of the Swanage Literary Festival.

Pictured: overall winner, Eva Longland, being presented with her prize by Lion David Dean. Eva's story is published, below.



My Purbeck Playground

By Eva Longland aged 10, from Swanage Primary School.



Warm tendrils of yellow-green grass tickling my legs, which are sticking 'Post it' notes to my brain. The humming bees send their hypnotic sound to my ears. All of this is telling me it's spring. I am in my spring playground. It's not lined with thick black treacle like tarmac or dotted with wood or metal structures. It has a carpet of grass, as you've probably guessed and there are rocks jutting out like shark fins in an ocean. I am with my friends on 'Tyneham mountain' (the natural hill between the two beaches at Tyneham) speeding down the long flat tails of grass.

The wind whistling in my ears as loud as a fog horn. My sweaty hands grip the sides of the ripped dog-eared picnic blanket that we are using as a homemade sledge. My stomach clenches tighter. I am sat on the blanket as I speed near the edge of the small mountain. Sprinting up the hill after my exhilarating journey. I want to relive that magical moment.

My summer playground. Home to the plates piled high with chips ready

to be dunked into dollops of rich red ketchup. Home to sun-filled days lounging around in Swanage bay after sea swimming. Home to lobsters, crabs, and the local fishermen.

Remembering the day when a local food hero (Mick from Gee Whites) was greeted by tourists asking "Where are the lobsters from mate?"

All the restaurant owner did was point out to the bay and say nothing more. I watched in wonder, stunned as to why they were so surprised. I regularly observe the hardworking fishermen hauling the lobsterpots up from the depths of the sea to an orchestra of hungry seagulls.

My dog has to be the best surfer on the beach (okay, I am biased). As she looks back

ready to catch 'the big one', a sudden leap of excitement pounds in my chest. A glint in her eye is the only signal I need to get the camera.

Autumn means a new playground and leaf surfing is the perfect celebration for me. It was quite by accident that I learnt this new sport. I was playing in the woods at Durlston, gathering leaves in a pile. As I heaved an old plank of wood that I had noticed earlier to the top of a little hill, I decided to balance on it, and before I knew it I found I was surfing on the leaves!

Winter is here. One of my favourite things to do is snow tobogganing. Although I have only seen snow in Purbeck two times in my life it still it seems a tradition. As my sledge bumps precariously several times at Corfe common cutting through the snow, my heart leaps into the air!

Although I regularly visit cities, nothing beats coming home to Purbeck. Tyneham, Durlston, Swanage Bay and Corfe Common are just a few of my favourite Purbeck playgrounds.

Swanage Lions Present Cheque For £1300



Tim Mersey, Lions Club of Swanage President was pleased to present cheques to the value of £1300 each to two local charities.

The first cheque was presented to Sue Corben and Jill Norman of Cancare, the second was presented to Rosalind Firmstone of Harlequin Care. Harlequin Care provide holistic care to carers in the local area.

This money was raised from the Lions Charity Christmas mail last December. Thanks to the local community's use of this mail we are once again able to help local charities.

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LOCAL BUSINESS ACHIEVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Steve Wheller receiving the
award on behalf of
Carpets Select

*Carpets Select is a local company
which employs skilled, local labour,
and is a member of the Guild of
Master Craftsmen.*

Membership was granted by the Guilds' Council of Management in recognition of both the company's commitment to working with skill and integrity and its agreement to abide by the Guild's publicly declared aims and objectives.

Carpets Select Director, Steve Wheller, says 'We are honoured to have received such high recognition from the Guild. We strive hard to deliver a personal, quality

service and all at Carpets Select pride themselves on their workmanship.' He went on to say 'It goes to show, that in these days of impersonal superstores, you can't beat personal, friendly, high quality service and workmanship from people who really care about their work.'

With their home selection service, Carpets Select can make choosing your floor covering a stress free experience. So, if you're in need of carpet, vinyl or laminate flooring, call Steve or John at Carpets Select 01929 460005 or email carpetsselect@tiscali.co.uk and they will be happy to help you.

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My War-time Memories.

By Brian Guy



The Worst and Most Savage Wound of All.

Once again let me depart from the war in Holland to write about the terrible wounds of war. For this shows the savagery and futility of war. It also strips away the flag waving and patriotic feelings that are aroused in times of conflict. It reveals one absolute certainty. War is a dirty disgusting business. There are times when it is absolutely necessary to go to war.

The fight against the Nazis, that regime that spread its medieval empire of evil across the European continent, is surely a cause that was worth fighting for. Freedom, and a

civilised way of life are essential causes. But no one ever should glorify war. Necessary at times? Yes. But it isn't something to praise or glorify.

So the subject is Shell Shock! In my opinion? Far better to lose a leg, for in my mind the worst that can befall a service man under fire, is what was called Shell Shock. Later, battle exhaustion, combat stress, but now post-traumatic stress disorder.

Why the worst and most savage? Several reasons. One that the service man; no matter what bravery he had shown in the past, knows he succumbed and faltered under fire. There is nothing that can erase that from the sufferer's memory. It is a deep and terrible wound. A wound that violence of battle subjects some of its warriors to. For that knowledge will remain with you all of your days. If you are fortunate enough to remember that is. It also has to be said that there still persists a general and vague feeling of shame about this deadly injury. Where in fact, they were some of the bravest of the brave.

Let me refer to it as; Shell Shock, as that seems to describe the depth of the injury, far better than the anonymous description of PTSD. The effects of Shell Shock. There is only one way to describe it, and that is bizarre. Sometimes extremely so; in the manifestations of this wounding. With that in mind, let me describe several instances of the effect of S.S. Here, I will not mention the name of anyone that suffered this injury. For it often the bravest of the brave that suffer, having seen the worst that war can inflict on human beings. The first instance of a close friend afflicted by SS, occurred in the autumn. It was at Petite Brogel. During the Market Garden drive north. We had prepared to make an assault crossing of the Escaut canal on a night operation as soon as the canvas folding boat equipment arrived, at one in the morning. This was surely going to be deadly, and that is just what it turned out to be.

My mate H and me were crouched in a ditch below the steep angle of the concrete canal side. The wall of the canal was about twelve feet high and very steep. We were going to have to get our canvas assault craft up that steep concrete slope, into the water, and ferry the Infantry across. Not nice! While waiting for the assault craft to arrive, we were mortared and bombed. Odd that the bombing should be so accurate in the darkness. Absolute mayhem under this barrage of incoming fire. It was then that a trusted and brave fellow succumbed. He sat there shaking and crying, in a shocking state. I tried to comfort him by saying I would look after him. But it was useless, he was too far gone. I left him there in the ditch, and even after seventy years, I still have a vague feeling of guilt that I left a mate in desperate need.

After that action H was sent to a recovery unit behind the line. Later he rejoined the company, but all to no avail, for his whole character had changed. Indeed, he gave the impression of a man that had suffered a stroke, his whole demeanour had changed. My best mate was now a complete stranger. The men in the unit did their best to ensure that they would look after him, and find some excuse to leave him in harbour when action was imminent. What contributed to this injury? In this instance, H had landed on D Day, had taken part in many actions, including what was described in the English press as: The bloodiest Square mile in Normandy, where close quarters, hand-to-hand fighting took place, where the enemy tanks broke through and overran our infantry dugouts. Murderous.

For years I sought my old friend. But no, I never found him. That brings

me on to the bizarre effects of Shell Shock. Some sit and cry, some jump about all over the place. Highly agitated. Some do things like trying to jump on the jeeps carrying the wounded away.

Some, or all of them, react by trying to cower and hide when the shelling starts. That is a pitiful sight. They at times act like they are suffering a bout of insanity. The most bizarre that I witnessed took place on the Goodwood offensive in Normandy. We had harboured in an orchard in the Sannerville/Bannerville area. That was the operation of the armoured left hook round Caen. While harboured in the orchard we were subjected to days on end of severe mortar, Nebelwerfer (Moaning Minnie fire) and shell fire, accompanied by small arms fire that caused the effect of green rain as the orchard tree leaves were torn to shreds by the incoming fire.

In the midst of all this mayhem, my late mate Jock Mathers and myself, were ordered to unload a three ton Bedford that carried a large load of explosives in wooden boxes. We put them in fox holes, had they gone off it would devastate a large area (and us).

My late mate Jock, and myself got away with it, despite the fire on the orchard. We had a direct hit on us by a Moaning Minnie, but it just split on exploding, with a large burst of flame, but no shrapnel. This onslaught continued for days, while all around, the dense green of the surroundings never once revealed where the fire was coming from. One officer ordered us to fire back at them. We would, if we knew where they were. While stood up the officer had part of his hand removed by shell shrapnel, and sensibly took cover like the rest of us.

Then to make matters worse, the enemy started to shell us with airbursts, they are shells that burst over your head and from which there is no cover. That for one man was the turning point. With red hot shrapnel now raining down on us, he had reached the end of his tether, all of a sudden he jumped up screaming, and ran crazily around the orchard intent in stabbing his imagined enemy, (no name no rank), brandishing his Commando knife, with the idea of killing those he thought were responsible.

Yelling and running around the orchard like a madman. In the midst of this absolute carnage of incoming fire. A few brave souls tackled the man with a rugby tackle, and tied him up, I do not know what happened to him, as we were not there when he disappeared.

These are instances of Shell Shock, the bizarre variety of the reactions by those afflicted, are the most odd thing about that deadly battle wound. Sadly I am given to understand that this is a wound that never leaves the afflicted. Shell Shock, battle exhaustion, post traumatic shock disorder. Because of the odd behaviour of Shell Shock, others may have seen a completely different view of the effect.

This is plight of the victims that I experienced.

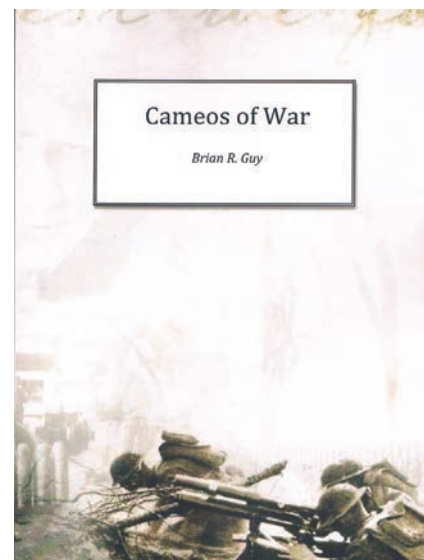
Thankfully, in a strange way, my battle wounds are of the body, and not of the mind. The youngest of the Normandy Veterans is now 90, and increasingly frail. Their legacy to all of us, is the gift of freedom.

For that is a wondrous thing. To speak one's mind openly, to go where you want, do what you want. All the things that make up this beautiful land of ours, and its society.

The cost of Freedom is broken bodies, and broken minds.

Next. The deserted town.

Brian's book, 'Cameos of War', is re-available. Please do pop into the Gazette office on a Tuesday or a Thursday to purchase a copy for £11. All profits to BLEMSA.



SWANAGE CARE NEWS

Agincare

Caring in Your Community

Dignity in Care at Gainsborough Care & Nursing Home

At the beginning of February we held our very own 'Digni-Tea' in support of Dignity in Care. The Pastimers musical entertainers played throughout the afternoon, much to the enjoyment of our Residents and their families. The entertainment was followed by a buffet and a celebratory cake.



The first Dignity Action Day took place on 25th February 2010 and proved to be a great success. The idea really caught the imagination of the staff, inspiring them to demonstrate what being treated with dignity really means to the more vulnerable members of our society.

This year Staff and Residents at Gainsborough Care and Nursing Home have been busy making leaves and adding a meaningful dignity word to go on our dignity tree.

This day was an opportunity for us to deliver a message and remind everybody of the importance of delivering dignified care.

Treat people as individuals. Listen, support, be compassionate. Give people a sense of purpose and allow more choice of daily routines, show respect and offer encouragement.

RECRUITMENT - A WARM WELCOME . We are continuing to successfully recruit new staff and we are pleased to welcome our new members to the team. We now have a further two Registered Nurses, three Care Workers and one volunteer.

If you are interested in joining our friendly expanding team, come in for an informal chat. You can also email your CV to gainsboroughmgr@agincare.com.

VOLUNTEERS - Do you have an hour or two to spare any day? We are always looking for volunteers to assist at meal times or with our afternoon activities or even just to come in to read or have a conversation with our Residents.



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Caring in Your Community



Dorset man donates £250,000 to Swanage RNLI

The volunteer lifeboat crew at Swanage RNLI are celebrating after receiving a massive donation of £250,000 towards the cost of their new lifeboat station. The donation was made by Mr Gronow Davis who owns the 7,500 acre Rushmore Estate. Mr Davis specified the donation to go towards the cost of the crew's new training room, kit and training. Since becoming a supporter of the RNLI in 2011 Mr Gronow Davis has become committed to supporting the work of the charity. Earlier in 2014 Mr Gronow Davis ran an annual golf day in aid of the Swanage Lifeboat Station Appeal, raising a staggering £25,000 and proving to be just the start of Mr Gronow Davis' support for Swanage RNLI.

Following a recent visit to current station to meet the volunteer crew and to see all weather lifeboat in action. Mr Gronow Davis pledged to donate £250,000 to fund the cost of building a fully equipped training room, the crew's comprehensive training and all their essential kit to keep them safe and warm at sea.

Mr Gronow Davis owns the 7,500 acre Rushmore Estate which incorporates The Larmer Tree Gardens, Rushmore Golf Club and Tollard Park Equestrian Centre. Rushmore is contained within the Cranborne Chase an ancient deer forest where King John came to hunt.

Much of the present day character of the Estate was shaped by Lt. General Pitt Rivers who inherited the Estate in 1880. He created a deer park and ornamental parkland where today the Rushmore Park Golf Course is located, and carried out a wide variety of landscape planting including what are now spectacular beech avenues and belts. He went on to create the Larmer Tree Pleasure Gardens for the entertainment and enlightenment of the local people.

The preservation and restoration of the Estates heritage is largely due to the enthusiasm of the General's great-grandson Michael Pitt Rivers who was owner of Rushmore from the 1950's until 1999. During this time there has been steady renovation of estate farms and domestic dwellings and a programme of restoration to re-vitalise the landscape and re-create the species rich grassland formerly associated with the Park. The Larmer Tree Gardens were restored and re-opened to the public; the golf course was designed and built. Mr Gronow Davies is endeavouring to continue his work.

The Swanage lifeboat crew and fundraisers are honoured to receive such a significant donation. Swanage RNLI Lifeboat Station Appeal Chairperson Peter Foster said:

'After working closing with Mr Gronow Davis to organise the RNLI Golf Day back in July 2014 I became aware of his tremendous support for the charity. This additional donation he made is a remarkable show of his support and it is fitting that his donation will fund the crew room that will

be the heart of the future lifeboat station.'

The new lifeboat station, which is currently under construction, will house the new Shannon class lifeboat due in Swanage in 2016.

Picture by volunteer crew member Andy Lyons of the last launch.

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Wareham's Volunteer Of The Year 2014



At a Reception to mark the achievements of Wareham's voluntary organisations, the Mayor of Wareham, Councillor Mrs Carol Turner, presented Wareham Town Council's 'Volunteer of the Year' award to Mr Stephen Welsh of Northmoor Way, Wareham (pictured, left). The Mayor testified to Mr Welsh's passion and professionalism and personal modesty whilst carrying out his voluntary duties willingly and happily, even though

he has had to cope with personal adversity.

Listing Mr Welsh's activities over many years, the Mayor mentioned the following voluntary activities: Acting as Parade Marshall in Wareham for the Town Council's annual Civic Service Parade and for the Royal British Legion in the town's annual remembrance Sunday Parade. This he does with great skill, immaculate military bearing and pride and his role in organising a large number of people and getting them into shape for the parades is much needed and appreciated.

Membership of the Royal British Legion Committee (Wareham Branch) for many years and he is also a Trustee of the building. Coaching the 'minis' junior players at Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club on Sunday mornings throughout the season. Together with his wife Caren, who is a Beaver leader, he has also been involved with Scouts and Beavers in Wareham, since their marriage.

He is a regular visitor to Stoborough First School where he is involved in listening to the children read, accompanying them on their school trips and helping to supervise them with the staff. Membership of the Wareham Court Leet for many years and he carries out the essential role of 'Ale Taster'. Wareham has benefited enormously from Mr Welsh's voluntary work. With his commitment to duty, his expertise and professionalism he supports many vital functions. He has had to overcome personal adversity, which he has achieved without seeking any praise or recognition.

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A raffle will be held with a chance to win prizes including the use of a beach hut for a week out of season and a full valet with a voucher for a free MOT at any Westover location.

Bookings are now being taken for the 2015 summer season. For enquiries please contact Swanage Tourist Information Centre.



Swanage Tourist Information Centre
The White House
Shore Road, Swanage
Tel: 01929 422885
Email: mail@swanage.gov.uk
Website: www.swanage.gov.uk

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:

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 - Support groups
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† 01305 221066 e familyinfo@dorsetcc.gov.uk



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Wareham Town Council Update

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



News from Wareham Town Council Meeting January 2015

County Councillor B. Ezzard reported that:

The cost of the Wareham-Bakers Arms Cycleway was £550,000 funded largely by Central Government. The County Council meeting considered the details of the Local Authority Trading Company which will run Community Care

for the Elderly and Vulnerable from April 2015. The Government's Local Government Finance Statement confirmed that Dorset County Council will have to make savings of £45 million in the next three years. Work laying a more powerful cable in Bere Road is in progress. Wareham Middle School buildings may be used as offices for Social or Children's services.

District Councillor K. Critchley reported that:

In response to the Dorset Waste Consultation, the Purbeck District Council (PDC) thought that partial closure of Household Recycling Centres, which deal with 30% of waste for 11% of Dorset Waste Partnership's (DWP) expenditure, would result in inadequate savings. PDC's share of DWP's budget is £1.3 million. PDC has still to decide between increasing Council Tax by 1.94% and accepting the Central Government's freeze grant of 1%.

Bunting:

The Mayor and the Town Clerk had consulted with local organisations and found no interest in hanging bunting across North and South Streets due to lack of volunteers, health and safety considerations and prohibitive cost including insurance. In addition, all the wires had been removed when the Christmas lights were taken down and there were no permanent wires as had been thought at the last meeting.

Mayor's Christmas Reception:

Councillor Budd regretted that, although not a volunteer, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate had been invited by a councillor as a guest, which he considered to be an abuse of the mayoralty.

Planning and Transport Committee Report:

The Mayor was due to open the Bloor Homes site, now named Westgate, in Worgret Road on 10th February. Town Council suggestions for street names had been used. Bloor Homes will present a stone feature for that entrance to the town. The Committee resolved to refer to the County Council Planning Officer the use of Carey Road by vehicles ignoring the 7.5 ton limit and those reversing in Carey Road rather than turning in Westminster Road.

Amenities Committee Report:

The Town Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency about trees and silt in the river near its Purbeck View Park property and clearance work was scheduled for January or February 2015. The Committee decided to keep charges for the Corn Exchange, Council Chamber and Recreation Ground the same.

Mayor-Elect:

The Mayor announced who was next eligible to become Mayor, according to their length of service as a councillor, in preparation for the next meeting which would nominate Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Mayor's chain of office:

The Council considered whether to get a second, less valuable, lighter chain for security reasons.

Railway Station footbridge:

On the north side, the ramp can go ahead as planned. Redrawing and reacceptance will be necessary for the south side ramp.

Next meeting of the Wareham Town Council

Tuesday 3rd March. Venue: Town Hall, Wareham, public is welcome to attend.



nineteen emergency calls between 2nd January and 1st February these included:

Swanage Fire Station Update

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

Operationally we had a quite a busy January, we answered

- Seven Chimney Fires
- One special service call,
- Eight false alarms at different properties around the town
- One stand by move to cover Wareham whilst they were attending an incident
- And finally on the 23rd January we were alerted to stand by at Wareham as they were attending a fire at the Black Bear Pub in South Street in Wareham. However, en route the incident commander asked for six appliances to attend.

At this time our appliance was redirected to attend this incident. On arrival

two members of the crew were required to wear breathing apparatus and the rest were used to fight the fire from the rear of the property. Whilst all this was happening fire control received another call to another chimney fire in Steeple.

As fire appliances are moved around the county to maintain fire cover during a large incident, an appliance from Dorchester was sent to Steeple. On their arrival at this address there was a severe chimney fire and they requested a second appliance to attend. Our second appliance was sent to assist the Dorchester crew in extinguishing the fire. After about three hours both crews returned to station and made the appliances ready for the next shout.

As you can see, we have attended eight chimney fires in our area during the last month so my safety message is again enjoy your open fire but please take note of the following:

Top tips

- Don't overload your fire place
- Make sure embers are under control and put out properly before you go out or to bed
- Use a British Standard fire guard to prevent sparks escaping
- Never store firewood next to or close to a fire place or stove due to the risk of accidental ignition due to radiated heat
- Make sure you have your chimney swept at least once a year, ideally before you light your first log or coal fire.
- Have the structural integrity of your chimney breast inspected, by a competent engineer, particularly in the roof space. This inspection is extremely important if you have a thatched roof, as it will ensure that the chimney structure is sound and that sparks, fumes or fire cannot escape through cracks or broken brickwork.

Stay safe and don't forget to test your smoke alarm.

Phil Burrige, Station Commander



When Did You Last Play Scrabble?



At Not Just Sundaes in Wareham, we have realised that many people like to exercise their brains with a good game of word play, but this isn't always possible if you live alone, don't have someone willing to play or don't like playing on the computer! So from now on, Wednesday morning Scrabble will be available (along with the jigsaws).

We have the boards, so all we need now is you! Come along at 10.30am and try for a triple word score whilst enjoying some of our great coffee. It will be very relaxed and non-competitive – players of every level will be welcome.

Our weekly calendar is filling up and we hope that we have something to interest you. Of course we have plenty of space to welcome everyone, be it just for a cuppa and a quiet sit for a while, or a light lunch in a hurry (our homemade soup is very popular!).

Tuesday - Early opening with Happy Hour from 9am-10am (various offers)

Wednesday - Scrabble and Jigsaws 10.30am

Thursday - First Dorset Credit Union 10am-noon, Late opening until 5pm

Friday - Not Just Knitting 10am until noon, After school sundae specials from 3pm, Youth Cafe drop-in (Y10 and above) from 8pm

Saturday - Weekend treats from 10am – 2pm (early close)

To find out more information about these and other events that are happening in the space, take a look at our website (www.notjustsundaes.com), our Facebook page (Not just sundaes Community Café), or pop in and see us in South Street, Wareham (opposite the library).

Wareham-Hemsbach Update



About sixty people attended the Wareham-Hemsbach Society's annual dinner at the Dorset Golf Club on 31 January. We had a lovely three course meal and Karl Latimer provided the music. The men wore smart suits and the women wore beautiful dresses. Everybody was very friendly and we had lots of hugs.

Robin Brasher, Publicity Officer of the Wareham-Hemsbach Society

Drax Demands Cash

Richard Drax, MP for South Dorset, has recently called for more resources for the Dorset Police. In a speech to Parliament during a motion to approve the Police Grant Settlement, which amounts to £66.82 million for Dorset in 2015-2016, he warned that, "if year on year savings of six per cent are implemented, as predicted, Dorset could see the number of Police officers drop by 500, which is what it takes to police Bournemouth."

Dorset Police had been at the "bottom of the funding ladder for years," despite paying a disproportionately large amount of council tax towards the Police, Drax said.

YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU!

The Swanage Museum and shop situated at the Square in Lower High Street will be opening for the 2015 season on April 3rd just in time for the Easter holidays and will then continue to open every day until November.

The museum is run totally by volunteers, some working on researching information for townsfolk and visitors alike, others help with the creation and maintenance of displays and archives, while others assist in the shop. As one of our volunteer shop staff said recently: "I love working in the shop for a few hours a week. Not only do I feel useful, but I have learned so much about Swanage and the surrounding villages, and the history; it's like taking a step back in time. It's so good to be able to answer some questions people ask, simply from the knowledge I have gained by working in the shop. It's lovely interacting with the customers of all ages and the time simply flies by. I can't wait till we open again at Easter."

If you would like to help in our shop and join our band of volunteers, if you enjoy meeting the public and offering a friendly face to our many visitors, while at the same time you can be learning a lot more about the history of our lovely town, this can be the voluntary job for you. Just be prepared to help for about 3 hours on any suitable day, you will be made most welcome by our existing team. You will be given all the necessary training that you require. We are just a few short of our full complement of volunteers required to open every day.

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If you think you can help or seek further information, then please telephone Mel Norris on 426127

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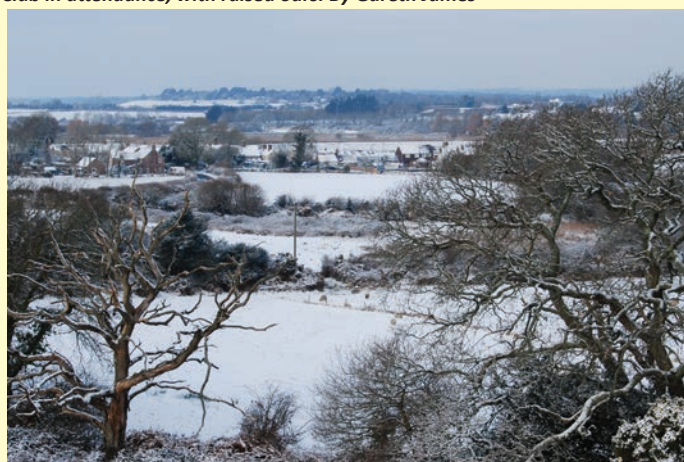
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The last launch, with members of Swanage Sea Rowing Club in attendance, with raised oars. By Gareth James



Anyone for a picnic?! By Christine Bridson-Jones



Stoborough snow, by Ben Buxton



Winter Robin, by Howard Oliver



Winter Surfer, by Tim Crabb



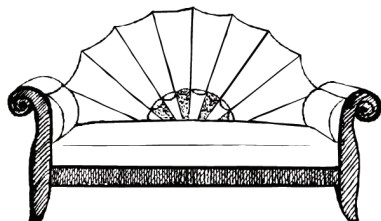
The boathouse takes shape, by Christopher Burke



Boat in sunburst, by Michael Cooper

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Make Housing A Priority, Say Voters

Almost two fifths of voters (38%) would back a party that made housing one of its top three priorities, a Survation poll commissioned by Generation Rent reveals.

The poll finds that the housing crisis is now affecting a majority of Britons, with 57% saying they, or someone they know, is struggling to buy or rent a suitable home.

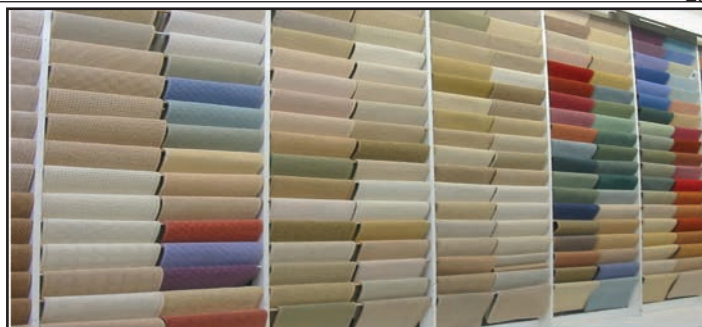
Half (50%) of private renters are struggling to buy, while 43% say they are struggling to rent a suitable home, indicating that their current situation is difficult to live with.

A third of home owners (35%) say they know someone who is struggling to buy, which shows that many of those with the security of their own home are aware that there is a problem.

Asked how they would respond if a party made housing one of its top three priorities for the next Parliament, 38% of respondents said they would be more likely to vote for them compared with 12% who would be less likely to vote for the party. Housing is a swing issue for the General Election, with 44% of undecided voters more likely to vote for a party that made housing a priority. Among private renters, 59% would be more likely to vote for a party that makes housing a priority.

When respondents were asked which party had the best policies to help people struggling to buy a home, Labour came out on top with 21% to the Conservatives' 18%, but 47% said they didn't know. Half (50%) said they didn't know which party had the best policies to help people struggling to rent a home; the same proportion of private renters couldn't identify the best party either.

Respondents were asked if they agreed that the government's housing



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policy had helped private renters and was on track to solve the housing crisis. Just over a fifth (22%) agreed, compared to 37% who disagreed. Unsurprisingly, Conservative voters were more likely to agree (37%) and Labour voters more likely to disagree (46%), but Liberal Democrat voters were less likely to agree that the coalition had been good for renters – 30% agreed compared to 51% who disagreed.

Alex Hilton, Director of Generation Rent, said:

"From the private tenant struggling to make the monthly rent, to the home owner whose children can't buy their first home, the housing crisis is looming over Britain and it's not going away under this government. Voters want a party that will make housing a priority, but when half of them don't even know who is offering the best deal it's clear that politicians are not taking it seriously enough."

Purbeck School Raises Funds For R.N.L.I.



On the 30th January, over one hundred pupils from The Purbeck School participated in a great SOS Day (a fund raiser for the RNLI), by racing against their teachers over a challenging obstacle course.

The four teams from each side all contributed a £1 to enter, with spectators paying 50p to watch. The activities were conducted by the Head of House team who competed strongly. This exciting competition followed assembly presentations given by Alan Stephenson, an RNLI Volunteer Educationalist, which had stimulated the school to 'deliver' this event.

To shouts of high-pitched encouragement, students and teaching staff squirmed under a bench based canopy, vaulted a bench horse, tripped

over multiple floor steps, ran along a long bench and finally struggled under a clinging floor mat - to arrive at the final challenge - throwing a ball into a net ball net.

Prizes given illustrated the range of ages involved:

Year 7 Winners: Luke Hobbs and Lillie Rose of Swift

Year 8 Winners: Trinity Holland and Max Lloyd of Skylark

Year 9 Winners: Will Clifford and Rose DeChazal of Skylark

Year 10 Winners: Dylan Ross and George Slack of Swift

Year 11 Winners: Hamish Williams and Stacey Lydia of Swift

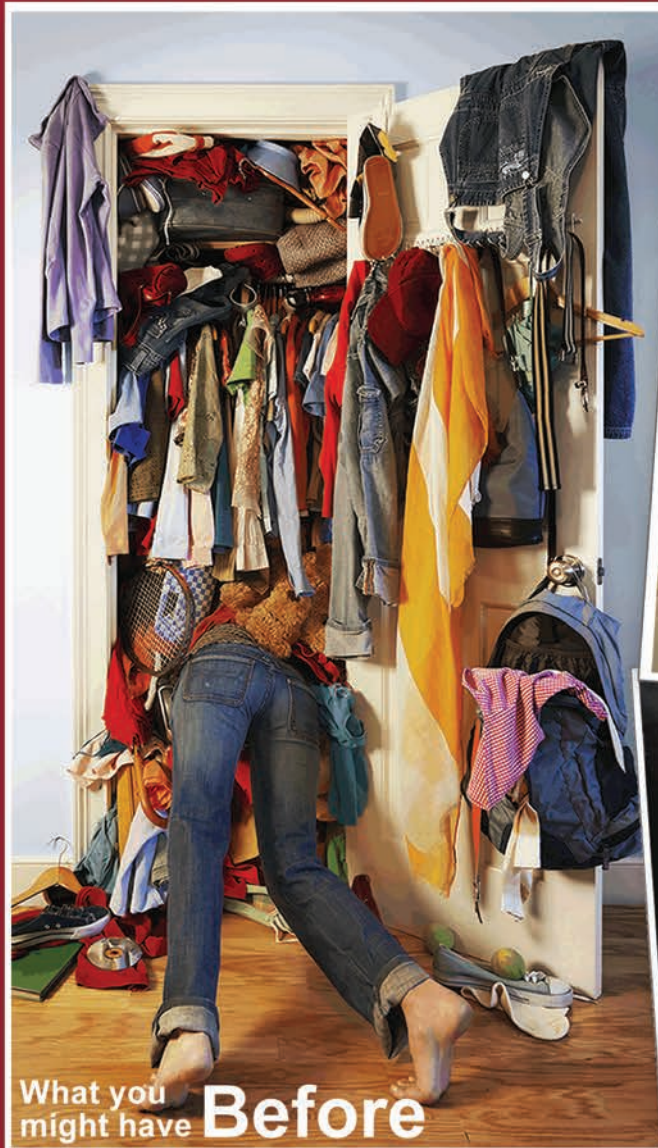
Staff Winner: Mr Potter-White

According to Guy Swallow, Assistant Headteacher: "Of the 1200 students asked who their nominated charity should be - over 90% voted for the RNLI - with Help The Heroes representing another favourite."

The final total donation - there are more events planned - will be presented to the Swanage Lifeboat Station in June, making a significant and very welcome contribution to the new Boathouse. To which, no doubt, the Purbeck School will be very welcome when they visit - in 2016.

Photo: The Competitive Teams

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Swanage and Purbeck Rotary Developments in 2014

Membership increased significantly in 2014. We received an award from the Rotary District Organisation for the most new members recruited during the year.

This has encouraged us to take on even more projects in the community and to find more people to join us to provide that service.

To ensure that new members are made to feel welcome and supported, we have introduced 'buddies' and informal supper parties – 'fireside chats' – for new members, ensuring that new members are rapidly becoming involved in organising and leading our activities.

We have arranged a variety of Speaker and Fellowship events for recruitment of new members, Friends, Business Partners and the retention and interest of existing members.

Speakers have included representatives from Dorset Wildlife Trust, Sand Dam building, Tyneham and the Ranges and Purple Teardrop. Fellowship and Fun is the backbone of Swanage & Purbeck Rotary. We have enjoyed a number of visits to various local places of interest, including Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Wessex Water Treatment Works (by the pier) and a visit to the RNLI headquarters and training facility in Poole.

We are indebted to the support of our Business Partners and Friends who play a valuable role in the life of our organisation. We welcome their active interest in the Club and attendance at events and meetings when possible. 2014 saw a growth in the number of Business Partners; their support enables us to better promote the things that we do and help raise more funds for our charitable work.

The public donations that we receive are spent, without deductions, on our Club projects; the cost of fundraising and administering our charitable fund is met by the members giving of their time with the support of our Partners.

To find out more about becoming a member or Business Partner or Friend, visit our website www.Swanagerotary.org, facebook or email johnthraives@btinternet.com.

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THE TANK MUSEUM

THE SWANAGE ARMY LINK

This month I thought that I would recognise the fantastic efforts of hundreds of people who, in the lead to its opening in 2012, supported Heroes Haven Lodge in Swanage.

Rifleman Jack Otter was the third triple amputee to survive his injuries in Afghanistan and during Jack's treatment in April 2010 a member of Swanage Carnival committee received an upsetting e-mail from his mother.

Further contact and research revealed that there was no suitable holiday accommodation for such heroes and their families in the Purbeck area. "Well, let's do something about it then" These now famous words were said the following evening, and so a small group of individuals formed a team.

The Charity was set up exclusively to provide bespoke holiday accommodation for disabled serving and ex-military personnel. It was also recognised that the families of such personnel also need some respite from the stresses and strains of caring in the everyday environment.

After a great deal of hard work and many sleepless nights wondering if anyone would turn up for 'the gig' (anything from a garden veggie sale to a rock concert), hair pulling and chivvying of all those known (and unknown) to us, a fantastic sum of £250,000 was raised.

Whilst the whole facility has been designed with multiple disabilities in mind, particular care was taken in the planning of the garden for those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Plants and flowers were chosen for their therapeutic properties, and avoiding bright reds and oranges.

Wide footpaths are provided for wheelchair users, and non-slip surfaces for those not so steady on their feet. Rails

on the walls provide stability for those practising on their 'stubbies' or unstable after a few too many in the nearby bar! A selection of different colours and lighting has been provided with the visually impaired in mind.

The Lodge itself was opened by Rifleman Jack Otter on 27th April 2012. Local MP Richard Drax attended the ceremony, as did a number of service personnel and local contributors.

Now, although the Haven is up and running, the Trustees still need the support of our local community, whether that be by way of spreading the word, raising funds or helping with the upkeep of the wonderful facility located just up Washpond Lane from Herston Halt.

There are many local people such as Mary and Chick who can let you know what is to be done, or if you have a moment please take a look at our website: <http://www.heroes-haven.org.uk>

In closing can I especially mention the special efforts of four fine people, namely Lynne Connor, Mandy McDonald, Linda Welsh and Steve Churchill.

I know that many, many others have also given the Haven fantastic support, but the sheer drive and selfless commitment shown by these Trustees ensured that the vision was delivered and opened by Jack some three years ago.

In terms of the national Community Covenant initiative which I covered last month's 'ditty', this is a true example of our local community supporting the British Armed Forces.

Thank you. Frank.

Rail Minister Rides Swanage Railway



Rail Minister Rides First Train after Commissioning of New Signalling Scheme for Main Line Connection.

Rail Minister Claire Perry MP has made history after riding on the first train to be run under a newly commissioned £3.2 million signalling system that will enable a trial passenger train service between Wareham, Corfe Castle and Swanage.

Hosted by the volunteer-led Swanage Railway, the special trip in a two-coach South West Trains Class 158 diesel unit saw the Rail Minister, Purbeck Community Rail Partnership members, stakeholders and guests travel from Wareham to Corfe Castle and return on Thursday, 5 February, 2015.

Taking Network Rail and the Swanage Railway four years to design, install and test, the new signalling system between Wareham and Corfe Castle is based on long-proven technology used for controlling trains on single lines and interfaces with a Network Rail state of the art signalling control centre. The new system sees Network Rail's signalling control centre at Basingstoke linked to the award-winning Victorian-style signal box at Corfe Castle station.

After Network Rail closed old mechanical signal boxes at Poole, Hamworthy, Wareham and Wool and re-signalled the line with modern technology last year, signallers at Basingstoke now control main line

trains between Poole and Wool – including Worgret Junction which is close to the start of the Swanage Railway. The new Corfe Castle to Wareham signalling system improves the ease and speed of signalling trains between Wareham, Norden Park & Ride, and Corfe Castle.

Using the 'electric key-token' system introduced to the country's railways more than one hundred years ago, the new system has been modernised so that a signal box on the main line at Worgret Junction is not required. The new Corfe Castle to Wareham signalling system comprises a four-mile single line 'electric key-token' section that crosses from a heritage railway and on to Network Rail from Worgret Junction – where the single line from Corfe Castle ends – trains run for one mile on the 'third rail' electrified main line into Wareham station.

Last September, Dorset County Council awarded the Swanage Railway a 99-year lease of the three-mile former Network Rail line from south of Worgret Junction to the then start of the Swanage Railway east of Furzebrook. The Swanage Railway is currently in the process of upgrading that line for passenger trains between Wareham and Corfe Castle – replacing 1,700 wooden sleepers, clearing embankments of overgrown trees and undergrowth as well as repairing bridges and six miles of lineside fences and drains.

In February, 2013, the Swanage Railway was awarded a £1.47 million grant by the Government's Coastal Communities Fund – followed by a further £390,000 'top-up' award in August, 2014 – to introduce a trial passenger train service between Wareham, Corfe Castle and Swanage. That trial train service is set to start during the first half of 2016 and run on 140 selected days over two years. It was in 2010 that Dorset county and Purbeck district councils pledged to invest £3.2 million, over three years, to pay for a new signalling system to enable passenger trains between Wareham and Corfe Castle – £2.85 million going to Network Rail and £350,000 to the Swanage Railway for the work. That investment has come from a transport improvement fund into which property developers pay – the money being collected by Purbeck District Council and spent by Dorset County Council as the transport authority.

The Purbeck Community Rail Partnership is an alliance of Purbeck District Council, Dorset County Council, the Swanage Railway, South West Trains, Network Rail, the Perenco oil company and the Borough of Poole council.

Photograph of the Rail Minister's visit by Andrew P M Wright.



PURBECK'S RAILWAY

Swanage Railway is now back in operation following the winter shutdown and looking forward to another busy exciting season. 2014 was a record breaking year with over 216,000 passengers carried and the Railway hopes that this year they can continue to build on the 2014 success.

The Railway will be operating every weekend during March and from 21st March it will be running a full daily service until the end of October. A full 2015 timetable is available on www.swanagerailway.co.uk or from the station booking office.

The weekend of 21st/22nd of March sees the Railway's annual "Members Weekend." This is designed to show behind-the-scenes activities and encourage new volunteers to join our successful team. The public are invited to come along and ask about membership as well as explore how they could use their talents and skills to best effect to assist the Railway.

The same weekend sees the award winning Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum at Norden re-open after winter renovation/restoration. During March and April the Museum will open at weekends increasing to Tuesday's and Wednesday's between May and September. Admission to the Museum is free although donations would be welcomed to ensure it continues to develop.

The Purbeck Circle

On Friday 13th March 2015 Keith Carter will present his slide show entitled "The Manx Experience"

The Circle meets in Harmans Cross Village Hall, Haycrafts Lane, Harmans Cross at 7 for 7:30pm

Everybody is welcome

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



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237 Tasks completed to end of January 2015.

151 Volunteers – 70 Female and 61 Male

34 Lightbulbs & Batteries replaced, TV re-tuning and meter reading tasks completed.

10 Prescription and shopping trips.

23 Trips to the local tip with various sorts of rubbish.

25 Tasks moving furniture

20 Tasks involving curtains, blinds and curtain rails being replaced or mattresses turned.

18 Small repair jobs

9 Helping with paperwork and filing

8 Helping to sort cupboards and wardrobes and taking unwanted stuff to charity shops.

5 One-off gardening jobs for those recovering from illness or from hospital

7 Dog walking for owners who are not fit enough to do it themselves.

9 Local clubs provided with volunteers for special occasions or for on-going help.

30 People referred onto Wayfinders or outside agencies for further assistance.

23 People referred to local tradesmen when the job or task is far too large for our volunteers.

All the best – looking forward to spring – Jean, Sue & Mo.

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Swanage Area Senior Forum

SWANAGE AREA SENIOR FORUM

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JOIN US - TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

Meet The Staff Who Manage Our Wonderful Heritage.

The National Trust manages thousands of acres of land, and historic properties across our area, and at the Forum's next public meeting on Wednesday 11 March at the Emmanuel Centre, Laurie Clark, The Purbeck Area General Manager, will enlighten us on the National Trust's ambitions for our area. Some work can currently be seen unfolding in Corfe Castle village, the Purbeck heathlands, Studland and other locations as we write.

Also, we have a Ranger from Durlston Country Park coming along to

update us on the exciting projects they have in the pipeline for this summer. The Park also want your input too. For example, as we all know DCC is having to make major budget cuts, and public transport is a serious concern. Durlston Country Park need to know how important the local summer bus service to the Park is for all of us, and staff from the Park will be on hand at our meeting to pick your brains, and answer any questions you may have.

Throw into the mix a lovely cuppa and cake and an informative, enjoyable evening is on the cards. See you there – whatever your age!



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Big Brother Is Watching You!

by David Hollister

As regular readers will know, I have a pathological aversion to motorways. Seems like this is proving itself well-justified, as the government has authorised a sneaky new bunch of speed cameras: The Highways Agency Digital Enforcement Camera System 3.

It covers all the lanes of a motorway carriageway from one single camera. If the vehicle's breaking the speed limit the camera takes two photographs of the registration number. Much more sophisticated than the hated 'average speed cameras'. And cunningly painted grey not yellow. Let's call this 'stealth'. They're on the M25, and are set to be installed on the M1, M3 and M6 very soon.

The motoring organisations criticise this system and say that this move is specifically designed to raise income through fines and not about road safety. They also claim that there's no 'grey area' and that the old assumption that you have some 'leeway' is incorrect. We believe that it's 'zero tolerance' and that 71 mph will cost you £100 and three points, even though the Association of Chief Police Officers recommend that drivers aren't charged unless they exceed 79mph in a 70 mph zone.

If you have a sat-nav or GPS device, I expect you'll have noticed that the speeds differ by sometimes 4 – 5 mph between the GPS and your speedo. Vehicle manufacturers advise that speedometers require "calibration to maintain perfect accuracy and combat general wear and tear and changing wheel sizes", and the manufacturers also own up to 'erring on the side of caution' by setting the speedometer to read higher than the actual speed. Thus GPS speed calculations are more accurate than a vehicle's speedometer since they not affected by physical inaccuracies.

Whilst the 'orange anorak' brigade will rush to point out that 'the law is the law' and bang on about road safety, I would submit that having to keep one eye permanently on the speedo, another on the road ahead, and another watching for stealth cameras, is probably more dangerous than the odd 5 mph one way or t'other.

Generally most manufacturers claim a 0.1MPH tolerance with speed readings (!), however will go as far to say a 0.5MPH inaccuracy is "possible", to make allowances for any satellite signal variations beyond their control. Yet in every car I have ever owned, or tested for the Gazette, the speedo is faster than the GPS by at least 3 mph. So the manufacturers' claims seem to be as spurious and misleading as those about fuel consumption.....

Saw an interesting program this week about claimed and achieved mpg figures, and the manufacturers at last admit that although their published claims are almost impossible to achieve, they're all based on the same calculations so at least we can make a comparison between makes and models! But if when we tell our advertisers that we produce 20,000 copies of the Gazette, and then only produce 19,500, we can be 'had' under the Trades Descriptions Act. Why, I wonder, are motor manufacturers apparently exempt from telling the truth, either about speedometers or achievable mpg?

And at last, government spokesmen are beginning to admit that the 'dash for diesel', which was intended to reduce CO2 emissions, has actually contributed even more harmful and carcinogenic pollutants into the atmosphere. I don't want to say 'I told you so' but please go back to my column in the July 2014 edition! Nasty, smelly, dirty, inefficient, and expensive - and that's just the politicians who trumpeted its virtues!

Bought a top of the range TomTom Satnav, on offer with £100 off. Plugged it into computer, registered it, operated it fine for four months then decided it was time to install the 'critical update' that they sent by email. Ha Ha! Tried to install it on both office computers and my laptop. All failed. Had to get Pete from Whizzbits in to sort out the problems it caused with my computer. Speaking as someone who is non-technical, and just an end-user, I want to plug something in, press 'update', go for a coffee and come back to find it's updated itself quickly and efficiently without destroying my computer! That's a TomTom Go 5000. You have been warned.



I hate washing my car. It's usually cold, takes up valuable time, I get wet and dirty and I'm not very good at it as often the car looks worse than before I started. So I was overjoyed to find that the 'Hand Car Wash' at Holton Heath does in 30 minutes what would take me all day - and does it better!

That's a full wash and dry outside, full interior valet, cleaning windows inside and out, leaving my car in showroom condition. Their team appears to consist of about ten efficient young men, working flat out all the time. Cost - £5 for a basic wash and dry, or £15 for the 'full monty'. And they're open at weekends too. They've done both my cars twice in the past three months and I can't speak highly enough of them. There's even a warm waiting room where you can sit and watch them at work. Highly recommended.

And finally. It was suggested in a recent 'Facebook' post that it seems that I don't use public transport. I must congratulate my critic for his perception. I don't. An adult return to Swanage on Swanage Railway is £6. There are usually two of us. A seven-mile journey by car costs me less than £1 in petrol. The Railway Station is too far from home to walk with shopping bags. Or in my case, even without shopping bags.

The number 44 bus goes through Harman's Cross twice each way, Mondays to Fridays; the number 40 and X43 services don't come anywhere near us. My car goes to Swanage - or anywhere else - at times of my own choosing. It's also cleaner and greener than a bus. And yes, I do understand and appreciate that I'm fortunate to have cars, a licence, and the resources to own and use them.

Wait a minute ...the bus would be free as I qualify for a bus pass! That's actually a real positive. And I'm told that the buses are cleaner and more pleasant than they were last time I used them in 1959 when I was a schoolboy, and lots of things have changed since then. OK, let's be positive. Buses are good!

I'm going into Swanage on Saturday morning at 10am and have to be back by 12 noon. Send one round

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£239.00	£15,995.00	£1,595.00	£1,500.00	£12,900.00	£5,667.82	£15,866.82	4.9%	

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£222.22	£15,320.00	£1,535.00	£1,250.00	£12,535.00	£6,516.97	£16,051.97	6.9%	

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Keeping Your Financial Affairs In Order

None of us knows when our time is up or if we will be in the position in the future that we will not be able to look after our own financial affairs. There are, therefore, a few things I would suggest to keep your financial affairs in order:

Store financial records in a logical and simple fashion and review them at least six-monthly. How long you will need to keep your records varies according to your circumstances and can be checked with HM Revenue & Customs.

Make a Will with a professional – DIY packs may be cheap but unless you know what you are doing, you may not actually end up doing what you intended – we don't quibble about paying several thousand pounds in fees to estate agents when we move house, yet many people seem reluctant to pay a couple of hundred pounds to create a Will (costs will obviously vary depending on the complexity of the Will) – not much for peace of mind!

Make sure you understand how your finances work – if you and your partner have separate financial roles, make sure that you understand what is going on so that if you are left alone, you don't have the worry of not knowing what monies you have or how and when the electricity bills are paid etc.,

Get rid of invalid paperwork which is not of use e.g., prospectuses from rights issues etc., once they have happened and invalid share certificates. Keep any share certificates separately, so that they don't get muddled up in lots of other paperwork.

If you have a portfolio of investments, think about having a professional to help you manage your investments and consider holding your investments in nominees. It is particularly important to consider holding overseas stocks in nominees as they can be both complicated and costly to release when someone has passed away.

Consider using tax efficient savings to help you achieve your investment goals and also consider how you and your partner split your assets. Again, a professional will be able to advise you on these matters.

This may all sound pretty depressing but the idea is that by spending a minimal amount of time keeping on top of your finances and understanding what is going on, you make things easier for others when you die or are unable to look after your own financial affairs. You may also find better ways of dealing with your existing investments.

Kate Spurling is an investment manager in the Dorchester office of Charles Stanley (01305) 217404 kate.spurling@charles-stanley.co.uk Charles Stanley & Co Limited is authorised by the FCA and is a member of the London Stock Exchange



Employee Sickness

It is such a pain when a key employee is off sick. You are required to pay that person statutory sick pay (SSP) once he or she has been absent from work for four days. To add insult to injury you can't reclaim any of the SSP paid since 6 April 2014. Payments of SSP made for periods before 6 April 2014 can be reclaimed from HMRC where the SSP exceeds 13% of the class 1 NI paid to HMRC for the month.

If your employee has been absent from work because of sickness for 28 days or more, or is expected to be absent for that time, you can pay for treatments designed to help the individual get back to work. The treatment can include a range of interventions such as talking therapies for stress conditions or physiotherapy for physical injuries. From 1 January 2015 the first £500 of such treatment costs per employee is tax and NI free for the employee, and tax deductible for your business.

However, to qualify as tax-free the medical treatment must be recommended in writing as part of an occupational health assessment undertaken by a healthcare professional. One way to get such an assessment for your employee is to apply through the website: fitforwork.org. That website also offers other advice for employers and employees about sickness absence.

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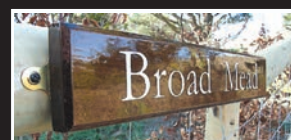
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Most of us would find adverts for free trials of some new slimming treatment, miracle anti-ageing face cream, or health cure tempting. But best advice is always be wary, you rarely get something for nothing.

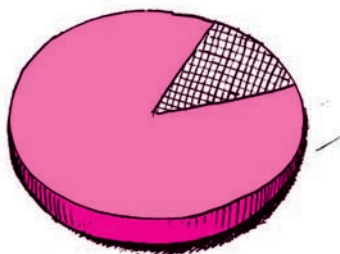
You might be online and a pop up advert appears, you select the 'free trial' option, but you are required to give your bank details to pay for postage and packing. Weeks or maybe even months later though you discover that a much larger amount has been taken from your account, maybe even hundreds of pounds a month.

The Citizens Advice Consumer Service has seen a large increase in the number of complaints about these so-called free trials. So what should you do? You should always read the small print. If you had, you might have seen that you had in fact signed up for a monthly subscription for the goods once the free trial ended, or you might have found that the free trial led automatically to a monthly subscription if you didn't cancel it.

So always check the small print very carefully on any 'free trial' offer to make sure you know exactly what you are actually signing up for. If you can't see the terms and conditions or there aren't any, don't give the company your bank details.

You should also bear in mind that when you buy these types of products online, you have no way of knowing what they actually contain or how they might affect you and it is unlikely that the products have been tested, or proven to work. Don't be fooled by fake testimonials from apparently satisfied customers. Also, although the businesses selling them often appear to be in the UK, in fact they are often based overseas making it much more difficult to contact them or to obtain a refund if you are unhappy with the goods.

For further information and advice call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506 or visit www.adviceguide.org.uk

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Young Britons In Dark About Electoral Roll

One in three 18 to 24-year-olds are not registered to vote, with many unaware of the impact on everything from mortgages and identity protection to passport applications

Political detachment among Britain's young people could not only see millions missing out on having their say in the general election this year, but also hamper their financial wellbeing, leave them vulnerable to identity fraud and even hinder them getting passports.

New research from global information services company, Experian, reveals one in three young Britons (aged 18-24) are not registered on the Electoral Roll, a situation that could have implications well beyond the ballot box. Among those who are on the Electoral Roll, a fifth admit that they were registered by someone else, such as a family member or their university. This comes as analysis of the latest voter registration numbers revealed a 47 per cent fall in the number of young people registering on the Electoral Roll.

And electoral indifference appears not to be limited to the nation's youngsters. One in three people (31%) claim that they do not vote and this is their main reason for not registering on the Electoral Roll.

This latest research from Experian reveals that many Britons are in the dark about exactly how much not registering to vote can affect them. Banks, financial institutions, government bodies and other organisations use the Electoral Roll as a crucial tool to help verify people's identities, and whether someone is registered can be a key consideration for lenders

when deciding whether to grant credit.

In addition, many online services, such as retail websites also use the Electoral Roll to help check people's name and address. Yet:

- 53% do not know that not being registered at their current address could negatively impact their credit rating;
- 59% are unaware that it could help protect them from fraud and identity theft;
- 62% do not know that it could hinder their access to online services;
- A quarter (24%) do not see why they should register.

Commenting on the research, Julie Doleman, managing director, Experian Consumer UK&I, said: "While not being registered on the Electoral Roll has the obvious impact of taking away your access to the ballot box, it could also affect your ability to get access to credit you can afford."

"This is because the Electoral Roll is often a factor in credit scores and a way for lenders to verify your identity. So even if you have an excellent history of managing credit, not being registered on the Electoral Roll could, in some cases, lead to you being declined credit."

"Registering is extremely simple and we encourage everyone to take five minutes to do this to make sure they're not missing out."

You can register online any time at gov.uk/register-to-vote, or though the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland website."

County Council Agrees 1.99% Rise In Tax

Dorset County Council will increase its share of the council tax by just under two per cent next year to help protect vital services to the county's communities.

Without an increase the council would need to find further savings on top of the £15m already needed in 2015-6. A drop in the main grant the council receives from central government, as well as reductions in other specific grants, means that the council will need to continue to find significant savings in coming years. This is on top of savings amounting to £60m which have already been taken out in recent years.

The council's Forward Together Transformation programme has identified savings of £14.7m for 2015-6 and the shortfall of £532,000 will be funded from the collection fund surplus.

Council Leader Robert Gould said: "There continue to be tough choices to be made as we strive to deliver the services that our residents tell us they value with ever reducing funding. The budget I have set out is challenging

but we are ambitious and optimistic for the future. The drive for efficiency must continue. It is also important that we work closely with all of our public service partners in Dorset to make public funds go further."

One example of working with partners is the local authority trading company being set up in the summer by Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole to deliver a range of adult social care services.

Cllr Gould outlined plans for capital spending, which include £2m towards road repairs, the top priority for local people in the Ask Dorset consultation last year.

The council also heard in December that its transport funding allocation is £2m better than expected and there is also additional funding, via the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership, of £19.8m for improvements to the A338 Bournemouth Spur Road and £16m for schemes around Bournemouth Airport.

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Mother's Day

Being a Mum isn't always easy and for most mothers there are probably times when they wonder if the family appreciate all they do.

So, whether you call it Mothering Sunday or just Mother's Day – Sunday 15th March is a perfect time to show your Mother just how much you care.

If you're looking for ideas for this year, then the following pages are brimmed full of suggestions. We have gift ideas to choose from, including delicious chocolates, beautiful clothing, and hair and beauty treatments.

We are also lucky that here in Purbeck we have a great selection of restaurants, hotels and cafes offering delicious meals designed especially for Mothering Sunday.

A look at the array of scrumptious menus on offer in this feature is bound to make your mouth water – and will certainly delight your Mum – so make that booking without delay!

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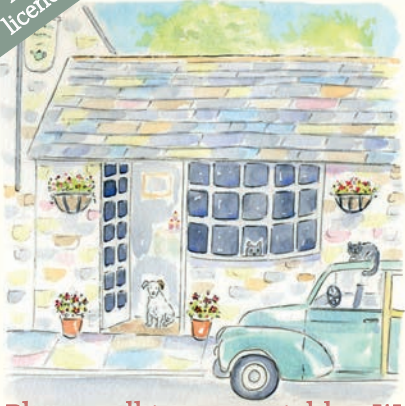
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Sunday Lunch or a Vintage Afternoon Tea

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*A mother holds her children's hands for a while,
their hearts forever.....*



CLAVELL'S



Mothers Day Lunch Menu Sunday 15th March

Includes a gift for all Mums

Starters

Homemade Tomato and Basil Soup
Basket of Orange Cantaloupe and Gala Melon
Smoked Salmon and Prawn Mousse with Melba Toast
Layered Terrine of Chicken, Asparagus and Wild Mushroom

Main Courses

Roast Topside of Kimmeridge Farm Beef
Poached Salmon in a Mushroom and White Wine Sauce
Chicken Breast in Café de Paris Sauce
(All served with roast potatoes, yorkshire puddings, cauliflower cheese, carrots, broccoli and red cabbage)
Baked butternut squash and oven roasted vegetables

Desserts

A selection from the desserts board

2 courses £18.95 3 courses £23.50
(main course for small children £7.95)

Mothers Day Special High Tea

Pot of loose leaved tea or coffee, scones with clotted cream & jam, assorted finger sandwiches and a selection of dainty homemade cakes
(Glass of champagne £5 extra)

£12.95 per head

Booking Essential

Tel 01929 480701 www.clavellscafe.co.uk
Kimmeridge (Nr Wareham)

Perfect For Mum



Celebrate Mother's Day with us at Clavells this year. We are offering a delicious lunch - 2 courses or 3 courses for a set price, with a gift for all mums. If you are unable to make lunch perhaps you would like to bring Mum for our special Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea Treat. This is bookable from 4pm onwards and includes scones with local clotted cream and jam, assorted finger sandwiches and a selection of homemade cakes & tartlets together with a pot of loose leaved tea or coffee. A glass of Champagne is also available as an extra for any Mums who prefer more than a cup of tea!

We are now open from Tuesday to Sunday and back doing Fish & Chips on a Thursday evening and open for dinners on Saturday evenings. At the end of April we will be launching the new summer menu.

When you visit Kimmeridge at this time of year you will see the January born lambs outside in the fields and as spring goes on the fresh lambs born in March will be joining them. All of our cattle are housed inside as are the dairy cows but it won't be long before they can graze outside again once the drier and warmer weather arrives. We are all looking forward to seeing some sun!

In the meantime please call, in a warm welcome and a friendly smile is assured at Clavells.



Mothering Sunday

Sunday 15th March 2015

Roasted Vegetable Soup

Wholemeal Croutons

Beetroot Terrine with Goats Cheese Crostini

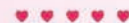
Served on a Radish Salad & Onion Marmalade

Crayfish, Fennel, Orange & Mizuna Salad

Horseradish Yoghurt Dressing

Smoked Chicken Boudin

Spiced Mango Compote with Spinach & Spring Onion Salad



Roast British Beef

Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, & Rich Red Wine Jus

Honey Roast Gammon

Served with Minted New Potatoes & Spiced Bramley

Apple Sauce

Chicken Supreme

With Basil Mousse, Duck fat Potato Fondants, White Wine & Tarragon Cream Sauce

Pearl Barley, Red Lentil and Oat Loaf

With Roasted Potatoes & a Rich Tuscan Tomato Sauce

Pan Fried Bream Fillet

Crème Fraiche & Spinach Potatoes, Herb Oil & Caper
Beurre Noisette

All Main Courses Served with a Selection
of Market Vegetables



Double Chocolate Brownie

With Cardamon & Vanilla Panacotta

Strawberry & Bailey's Cheesecake

Dark Chocolate Snap & Forest Berry Coulis

Banoffee Pavlova

Bananas, Forest Berries, Chantilly Cream and Meringue

Purbeck Ice Cream & Sorbets

Fresh Honeycomb

Selection of Three Local Cheeses

Grapes, Real Ale, Tomato Chutney & Biscuits

2x Course @ £14.95

3x Course @ £16.95

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Tel: 01929 423353

Email: gm@grandhotelswanage.co.uk
www.grandhotelswanage.co.uk

**Celebrate Mother's Day
in the Orchard Café
On Sunday 15th March**



Starter

Holme made crab cakes on a bed of Dorset mixed leaves
Mushroom and barley broth with rustic seeded soda bread
Goat cheese and roasted red pepper bruschetta

Main Course

Locally reared bronze turkey with roast potatoes, parsnips, carrots and seasonal greens

Herb crusted salmon served with baby potatoes and green beans

Vegetable Cannelloni in a rich tomato sauce, topped with a parmesan crumb

Dessert

Zesty lemon and lime cheesecake with citrus sauce
Raspberry blush meringues with berries and cream
Rich chocolate roulade served with local clotted cream

Coffee and shortbread star to finish	2 courses	£17.50
	3 courses	£21.00

Holme Cream Tea

Holme made scone , strawberry jam, local clotted cream
and a pot of Dorset Clipper tea

£4.50 per person

Celebration Tea

A traditional English tea, to include delicious finger sandwiches, selection of Holme made dainty cakes, scone, jam, clotted cream and a pot of Dorset Clipper tea. All served on a pretty floral dressed table

£11.50 per person

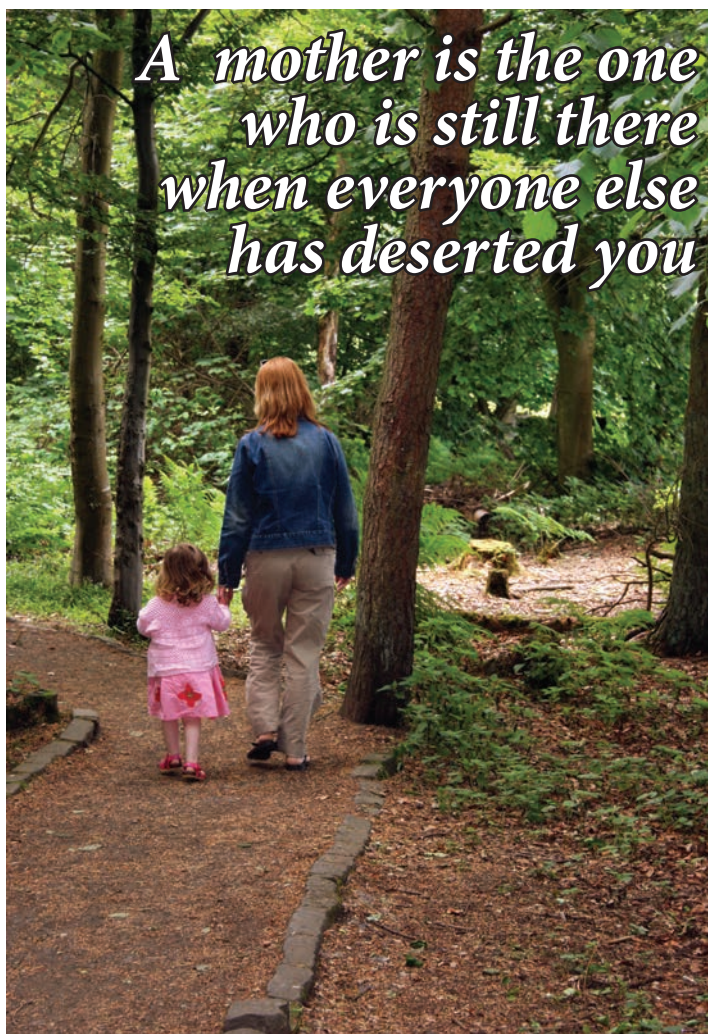
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*A mother is the one
who is still there
when everyone else
has deserted you*



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Mothers Day!

**Sittings between
12 & 2 for the set menu**

15th March

2-4pm High Tea - £10 per head.
Selection of homemade sandwiches,
Scone, Clotted Cream, Strawberry Jam,
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Pot of Tea or Coffee to accompany.
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Mothering Sunday

15th March 2015

Starters

Wild Mushroom Soup with Croutons & Tarragon

Italian Cured Ham with Spiced Poached Pear, Chicory, Blue Cheese & Walnuts

Seared Lyme Bay Scallops with Cornflower Puree & a Toasted Hazelnut Salad

Mains

Roast Rib of Beef served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Red Wine Gravy

Roast Loin of Pork with Crackling, Spiced Apple Puree, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Red Wine Gravy

Pan Fried Fillet of South Coast Sea Bass with Potato Puree, Spinach and a Tomato and Cornish Mussel Ragout

Saffron, Watercress & Garden Pea Risotto served with Parmesan & Mascarpone

Desserts

Strawberry & Buttermilk Pannacotta with Toasted Almonds and Purbeck 'Vanilla Bean' Ice Cream

White Chocolate Tart with Purbeck 'Mixed Berries & Clotted Cream' Ice Cream

Apple Crumble & Custard

Selection of Local Cheeses with Walnuts, Celery, Watercress & Tomato Chutney

2 courses £19.95 • 3 courses £22.95

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Food

The Gourmet Peddler



Baja Octafish Tacos

I should declare that I'm writing this with a beer beside me at Heathrow, waiting for a flight to Arizona, then driving on to Baja, Mexico, with the friendly facilitators of anarchy from www.drunkcyclist.com.

This is a recipe that I first came across in a great travel book called "The Hungry Cyclist", where this guy quits his marketing job in London and cycles from New York to Rio in Brazil via Canada and Central America. Hold on one minute; quits proper job, bums around on bikes, eats and writes about food. Call that a career path you layabout dirt bag freeloader! However it does feel curiously familiar!

I can't recall the exact recipe, or find the book, so this is what his recipe has morphed into over the years in my kitchen as a frequent family favourite. It's a light, hot, fresh and very vibrant dish. It's not only dead easy to do, it's also probably healthy too (but what do I know?).

What's more, four days from now I should be at the end of a dirt road, in a small fishing village with great point-break surf, eating these fish tacos, served by a man with a big moustache, a sombrero and maybe an AK47. Well that's what I expect to find (but again, what do I know?).

You will need:

Oil and a wok or frying pan
A frying pan, no oil.
Tortilla wraps (pre-made from the supermarket)
Some white fish, I used bass, and threw some squid in for good measure.
Plain flour
Cayenne pepper
Smoked paprika
Salt
Pepper

Salad filling:

Finely shredded Red cabbage.
Mayo- just a small dollop.
Honey - just a small amount.
Diced red chilli (fine tune the quantity to taste)
Loads of coriander plant, roughly chopped, stalks and everything, but no mud or roots.
Sliced avocado.
Juice of half a lime (save half for garnish, so cut lengthways)

The Bikemonger Cooks....



Here's what you do:

Mix a little flour, then a good slug of cayenne, paprika, salt, and pepper in a bowl. Go big on spices and low on flour.

Cut the fish into long strips. Cut the squid into rings (or cheat and buy squid rings, or ask your lovely local fishmonger to show you how to prepare squid).

Gently flap the fish and squid rings in the flour mix. The moisture from the fish will soak up the mix and form a light batter around the fish.

Then mix up all the salad ingredients by hand, go light on the Mayo.

Now fry the fish in the wok, hot oil, skin side down at first. If you are feeling fancy you can twist the strips so you get a spiral fish effect.

The fish then comes out onto some kitchen roll to drain.

Put the squid into the oil, it only needs a few moments, so don't overcook it. Drain on kitchen roll.

Meanwhile get a frying pan hot, and dry cook the tortilla wraps. I bloody hate wraps served uncooked. Some folk don't read the instructions. They need to be heated for a moment in a dry pan and flipped. You will see the dough rise. If you don't do this please step away from the kitchen now and get a job in a sandwich packing factory. Phew! I feel better now that's off my chest.

Now simply throw it all into the wrap, offering up a wedge of lime as garnish. Random thoughts: This also works well with chicken or beef. The salad components are easily switched: sweet red peppers, onions... It's all good. Next month? Let's see what I find on the road.

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 next to Eddie's bizarre warehouse of creepy mannequins!

Purbeck Products



Here we are again, from Phil (pictured below) and Pauline Samways, with the start of this year's Purbeck Products Farmers' Markets in February. We are looking forward to meeting our loyal customers again and also hoping to meet some new ones.

Last year was a good year with the Purbeck Products Markets well supported and it was a very good summer season where we supplied the local caravan and camping sites. We also supply numerous local hotels, pubs, restaurants and shops all year round with our pork, sausages, bacon, burgers etc., which are all produced on our farm, less than two miles from the town.

It doesn't come much more local than that!

We also supply pork and bacon pigs to Curtis butchers in Wareham.

All the pigs are born and reared by us on our farm in loose-housed straw yards in their small family groups, which they remain in until finished. In this way there is less stress on the animal.

The breed of pigs are Large White, which is a traditional British breed with a little bit more fat cover than other modern breeds, which we find adds to the flavour.



We are also National Trust tenant farmers, with cattle out grazing along the Purbeck coast on mainly conservation land, where we are working with the National Trust to protect the natural flora and fauna.

We are passionate about what we produce; that is local, good quality, high welfare meat at affordable prices and are pleased to be able to sell locally at the Purbeck Products Market.

So come and visit us at the next market on the second Saturday of the month. Have a chat and meet the other local producers and see what we have to offer.

We are always pleased to see you there!

Top 2015 Food Trends

Making a comeback is Vermouth - we kid you not. With drinks like Campari becoming popular again, it's time to stock-up on a bottle or two for the drinks cabinet.

New app 'Velocity' is coming in the next year or two, allowing you to book tables at over 200 restaurants and utilise your smart phone to settle the bill. Will any local businesses be joining up? It may be an idea!

Sustainability is this year's foodie keyword, with food outlets looking more and more at how sustainable their businesses are. Food leftovers from restaurants and cafes can be passed on to Food Banks, charities and even prisons (which is happening more and more), and the first UK Meat Free Week will be taking place in March, hoping to make an impact on our overly high consumption of meat and the disastrous consequences for the planet.

Locusts and crickets are set to appear on food menus for the first time in the UK as our hunt for more sustainable protein continues and focuses on the insect kingdom, already very popular as snack items on the other side of the world. Will you be chowing down on fried cricket munchies this summer?

Seaweed is also making a comeback for 2015, with varieties such as sea lettuce and kelp coming to the fore in new recipes. We have around 650 varieties of seaweed growing on the UK coastline, so perhaps time to get that identification book out and go for a forage?

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Thursday Fish Night eat in or take-away
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Weekend Breakfasts from 10am

Open every Saturday Evening for our
Evening Menu

SUNDAY ROASTS - Available every week

EVENTS COMING UP

Mothers Day Lunch and High Tea (see facing page)

Friday 27th March - Pie and Pint Night

Steak & Kidney, Chicken & Ham, Spinach & Feta

Pint of beer or glass of wine included

From 7pm onwards. £9.95

Buy 1 main course get 1 for a £1 (lunchtimes only)
Valid 3rd March - 27th March Tue - Sat
must include a purchased drink, Max 6 guests
1 voucher per couple

We are looking for Sunday waiting staff to join our friendly
team! Must be over 18 yrs. Call Emma on 01929 480701

www.clavellscafe.co.uk

Kimmeridge (Nr Wareham). Tel: 01929 480701

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drink in the view...

Last Fondue Night of the Winter!

Thursday 19th March

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Booking Now for Mother's Day

Sunday 15th March

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Natural Matters



Marine Giant Hot-Spot In Dorset Needs Protection

Two of Dorset's leading wildlife conservation organisations, Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) and MARINELife are calling for the waters of Lyme Bay in Dorset to gain special protection to aid the survival of vulnerable and spectacular marine giants, such as whales, dolphins and basking sharks.

In a report published by the Wildlife Trusts, part of Lyme Bay has been named as one of the seventeen special sites in England and Wales which need to be protected for marine giants, also known as 'mega fauna'. These sites are 'hot-spots' where these animals gather to feed, breed and socialise.

Amongst the UK's most spectacular wildlife, animals such as dolphins, whales, and sharks are continuously at risk from damaging human activities such as marine litter, industrial fishing and pollution. Whilst the Government has begun protecting areas of sea by developing MPA's (Marine Protected Areas), this will only protect wildlife and habitats on the sea bed. Mobile wildlife has been omitted from this developing network of protection.

Conservation Science Manager for MARINELife, Dr Rachel Davies, said, "Research carried out by MARINELife has highlighted part of Lyme Bay as a nationally important foraging area for white-beaked dolphins, and we see them return to the same site regularly. Harbour porpoise are regularly

recorded in all seasons, and there are also important numbers of common dolphin and bottlenose dolphin. Locally and nationally important numbers of the globally endangered Balearic shearwater, as well as guillemot, razorbill, great skua and gannet are present in the area, along with the marine giants; minke whale and basking shark."

DWT Marine Awareness Officer, Julie Hatcher, said, "Another site off the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall is proposed for protection as one of the UK's top four whale and dolphin hotspots. Among the fourteen cetacean species recorded there are England's South West bottlenose dolphin population, some of which are regular visitors to the Dorset coast and can often be seen from Durlston Head and Portland Bill. Protecting this site is very important for Dorset's bottlenose dolphins, and we're encouraging as many people as possible to get involved with supporting us."

The Wildlife Trust's Save our Ocean Giants campaign is calling on people to sign the e-petition, which will be presented to the Government later this year. To find out more and sign the petition, visit www.wildlifetrusts.org/oceangiants. You can also share this campaign on Twitter using #act4giants and #oceangiants.

Photo: Bottlenose Dolphin © Stewart Canham

-

Welcome In The Year Of The Goat!



The Chinese New Year in February ushered in the Year of the Goat (alternatively, the Year of the Sheep in some traditions) and leading veterinary experts have issued some surprising facts and must-know advice to goat lovers and keepers in the UK.

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) and Goat Veterinary Society (GVS) have issued six facts that will surprise many but are critical to ensure that goats are happy and healthy:

Think dogs are man's best friends? Think again – goats are friendly, inquisitive and gregarious animals, and genuinely love the company of humans.

Goats need friends – never keep a single goat on its own. Goats are herd animals and will be miserable if kept by themselves. Two goats together is the absolute minimum.

Toys are a must! Goats should never be kept in a barren environment. Enrichment is key as goats love to climb onto and over obstacles – a straw bale is a plaything for goats!

The Great Escape (or The Goat Escape!) – goats are great escapologists. Any building or paddock must be "goat proof."

Stretching (as well as climbing and bouncing) – goats stand on their hind limbs and can reach up to 2 metres above the ground.

Choosy but chewy – contrary to popular belief, goats won't just eat anything as part of their staple diet but they do love to nibble and chew on anything new. Keep electric cables covered!

DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



As spring approaches and wildlife starts to emerge, the first Wheatears should be arriving at the beginning of the month and Daffodils, Primroses, Violets and Celandines all beginning to flower.

Out on the downs of the Country Park look out for the cutting of regrowth accompanied by the odd bonfire to burn brambles, gorse and blackthorn.

Durlston Castle is open every day from 10am – 4pm, so do come in and find out more about the wildlife around. While there pop into seventhwave café for a warm cup of coffee, bowl of soup or lunch.

'Postcards from the Path'

This month in the Fine Foundation Gallery we have "Postcards from the Path" - an exhibition of prints produced by artist Anita Reynolds whilst walking the South West Coast Path, along with pieces by four guest artists in response to the coast path. The exhibition has been developed by the Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Villages in action and Artsreach. During the exhibition there will be opportunities to take part in special art workshops with the five artists.

On Saturday 7th March, have a go at hand printing and dyeing anodised aluminium, to create jewellery or hanging ornaments, on Sunday 8th March, use local fleece, and natural dyes to make individual, colourful and textured felt wall hangings, while

on Saturday 14th March join Anita Reynolds to create colourful postcard-sized prints inspired by a short walk around Durlston. Workshops cost £40 and booking is essential, as places are limited.

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

'40 Years, Man and Boy': The Artwork of Peter Rush

Another exciting exhibition starts on Saturday 27th March, featuring a look back at the work to date of artist Peter Rush, along with new works.

Throughout his long career (including a stint as the illustrator for 'Jackanory'), Peter has consistently created an astonishing range of witty, beautiful and unique work.

Ranging from book illustrations, oil paintings, TV captions, puppets and wire to paper sculptures and more, the exhibition will also include an ongoing live demonstration of sky and seascape painting, for which Peter has a national reputation.

Workshops and events will take place throughout the exhibition, with the chance to meet Peter and be inspired by his unique talent.

The exhibition will be open daily until the 20th April and entry is free. For more information, visit www.peterrushart.co.uk.



Margaret Green Animal Rescue

Poorly Missy Needs a Home

Could you give Missie the cat a second chance of happiness? At our rescue centre at Church Knowle, we have been caring for Missie in isolation after she arrived suffering from cat flu. She was struggling to breathe and her eyes and nose were very sore.

Missie is on antibiotics now and is being carefully nursed at the sanctuary. Thanks to the love and care and expert veterinary attention she is receiving, Missie is feeling a little better.

But it is vital that we find her a home as soon as possible. The cattery can make Missy stressed and it is likely her cat flu will be much better when she is in a loving home of her own. Kate Wickens, manager at Church Knowle, explains "Missie may be a carrier for cat flu and it is possible that some of her symptoms might return from time to time so we are keen to find a home where she will get all the TLC she deserves."

"Missie is beginning to come out of her shell and will make a wonderful companion for somebody who doesn't have any other cats in the home."




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ck@margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk



Margaret Green
Animal Rescue
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Lincoln Farm Rescue & Rehoming Centre for Dogs, Bere Road, Blandford, DT1 9BP
 01929 471340
lf@margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk

www.margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk



If you think that you may be able to give Missie a home please contact the sanctuary by calling 01929 480474 or email ck@margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk.

NOW AVAILABLE!

For many years the NFU have taken this prime advertising spot as sponsors of John's column. The space is now being offered to a new sponsor.

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The North Wind Will Blow

by John Garner



No part of Dorset is in the Arctic Circle. Not really news, but I mention it merely as a way of pointing out that temperatures in Dorset aren't necessarily known to drop particularly low even in the milds of winter.

A somewhat clumsy and crude analogy, I realise, but I don't think well when I'm cold. Because although it's not supposed to get cold here, it bloody well feels it at present. We have a fairly low incident of snow fall, more's the pity, although incidents of this seem to have been greater in recent years.

However, numbers as low as minus 12 have been recorded in January and February and this is cold by any of standard of measurement. These are the sort of temperatures that

might have my 81 year old mum, who is a tough old Lancastrian hewn from grit stone, reaching for a slightly thicker pair of socks. Recently, the Northerly winds have added a chill to the already low temperatures and whilst I like the clear skies and accompanying brightness, I am not hewn from grit stone and therefore need to get myself wrapped up. With an indefinite supply of money there are all sorts of technical clothing you can splurge your money on, but extra layers will often do just as well.

If you like to get out and take part in strenuous activity this can be a bit of an issue. If you have a bike to ride this can be especially problematic. I have yet to find a means of riding at the right temperature in the winter. You have, effectively, three options as far as I can see.

You cover yourself in multiple layers and make sure as few areas of skin are exposed as possible. This makes anything other than pedalling almost impossible as usually your upper body will be rendered immobile. This can, however, be a huge advantage if you hit ice as you have the equivalent of an ice hockey goalie's protection and as such you will safely bounce along until your momentum is naturally arrested.

You might need help to right yourself, but you'll probably be unhurt. These extra insulators are fine at the start, but as you get going and work up a bit of heat you'll need to shed layers so you will need to stop a lot as shedding clothing on a moving bike, whilst not impossible, has at least a trip to the minor injuries unit written all over it. If you stop for too long you'll get cold again and may well need to put them back on so a degree of efficiency is required.

This shedding of clothing will also necessitate either a big backpack to

carry these items in or, if you're as rich as Rupert Murdoch, you could just throw them away. Neither options are particularly practical.

Although I did wonder if the latter had actually happened the other morning when I saw a pile of frosty clothes steaming in the weak morning sun at the side of road.

Another option is to assume you will hit optimal temperature quite quickly and therefore brave the first ten minutes or so until you do in your best racing lycra. The obvious problem with this is that the first ten minutes are likely to be excruciating and may put you off going out at all in the first place. That first cutting exposure can be enough to have you rushing for cover and warmth quicker than the government minister can strip the assets of the NHS and then call it 'not fit for purpose'. And that's Lewis Hamilton quick.

Finally, you could have a support team driving behind you at all times to cater for your every need. Again we're in Rupert Murdoch territory and if we're honest, no one wants to be in Rupert Murdoch territory in any form. If you could afford this option you could probably pay someone to cycle for you so it's unlikely on all sorts of fronts.

In the mornings as I drive to work, (not being wealthy enough to not have to go to work) I see all the variations. Well, all the variations of clothing. Not yet seen a support vehicle. Some cyclists are wrapped up like Ranulph Fiennes heading out to explore some inhospitable frozen continent minus the huskies, tossing unwanted fingers away as they go. Others, largely people of clearly diminished responsibility, seem to wear next to nothing and these appear to be the ones that are peddling as if their lives depended on it, which they probably are at some of the temperatures mentioned earlier.

Joggers seem to face a similar problem. Steaming out of the top of their woolly hats as they huff and puff around the forest, but at least they don't have that problem of generating their own chilly wind resistance the faster they go.

It has been proven that you can condition yourself against the cold. Swimmers who regularly submerge themselves in cold water begin to be able to withstand lower and lower temperatures. I, myself, was considering doing this over the winter with a view to perhaps swimming a channel relay. I say I was considering doing this as I never actually went through with it. I considered it for a few minutes and then had a hot chocolate and put on two bobble hats and therein ended my considerations. Although in one last consideration, I considered I'd made a considered choice.

We used to wander around with a lot less covering us although the evidence suggests we had more hair. Clothing has made us soft. Should you throw off your clothes, wander around in a t shirt and shorts in the winter and toughen up.

No you probably shouldn't.

Just don't let the cold weather stop you from experiencing Purbeck in what is often some of the most dramatic of weathers. Wear everything you have and get out there. It's worth the effort if only to remind yourself that it's great to get back into the warmth.



With the winter finally over, we can look forward to the warmer months of spring and summer ahead of us. Bulbs are the heralds of spring, already having given us a glorious display since the early Snowdrops blossomed in early February.

Tulips are now heading skywards, ready to burst into flower, and the rest of the garden is not far behind.

Over the following pages we bring you an extended 'Gazette Gardening' feature by Simon Goldsack of Holme Nurseries in East Holme, as well as some well-timed advertising from local businesses, all set to get you in the mood for a summer of glorious blooms!

So, whether you have a few small pots on a patio or windowsill, or a huge expanse of space to contend with, it's time to get those gloves on and get digging. May the gods of the green-fingered be with you!





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& MINI GARDEN CENTRE

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Swanage Garden Society

DIARY FOR 2015

Sat 11th July. Herston Hall 2.30pm.

SUMMER SHOW.

(Summer colours at their best).

Wed 16th September. Herston Hall 7.30pm

THE ARTS & SKILLS OF A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER.

By Mike Read.

(From being an amateur to a Professional photographer in one evening).

Wed 21st October. Herston Hall 7.30pm.

GENERAL QUIZ.

(Head scratching at its best).

Wed 18th November. Herston Hall 7.30pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

(Followed by Cheese and Wine).

Wed 9th December. Herston Hall 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET & BITES.

MEMBERSHIP £5 per year.

(Meetings charges normally £1).

(Where food is served £2).

(We are a social crowd, and would welcome your company).

Sat 28th March. Catholic Church Hall. 2.30pm

SPRING SHOW.

(All the colour of Spring in one hall).

Wed 15th April. Herston Hall. 7.30pm.

SPRING SUPPER.

(3 Courses with wine).

Sat 9th May. Catholic Hall 10am to 12.30pm

PLANT FAYRE.

(Wonderful Different Plants from a leading Somerset Nursery).

Wed 20th May. Herston Hall 7.30pm

DECKCHAIR GARDENING & FUNNY STORIES.

By Martin Catford.

(How about sitting down & listening).

Wed 17th June. Herston Hall 7.30pm.

PLANT SWAP AND SOCIAL EVENING.

(Try a different plant without buying it).



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Gazette Gardening

with Simon Goldsack



Shady Characters

Plants that tolerate shade are at their most colourful from February to May because most have adapted to a natural woodland habitat. In a wood, in late winter and early spring, the soil is moist from autumn and winter rain and there is plenty of light because the trees overhead are not yet in leaf. Think of our native bluebell. From about Christmas they start growing their grass like foliage, by April the woodland floor is a mass of

green leaves and in May the wood turns blue with a sea of flowers that we know and love. By June the trees have shaded out the forest floor and are starting suck moisture out of the soil. The blue bells rapidly die down leaving only the maturing seed head above ground but the plant lives on by riding out the dark dry months as a bulb.

Most people are familiar with snowdrops and Hellebores that also do their growing and reproduction in the early months but here are some more delightful plants ideal for brightening up a shady spot in your garden.

Pulmonaria (Lungwort) *above*, not only has beautiful flowers from azure blue through lilac to pink but many also have attractive mottled foliage.



Lamium or Dead nettle (*below left*) so called because it is a non-stinging relative of the nettle, forms a lovely dense mat of very attractive leaves which in April bear pretty pink or white flower clusters.

Euphorbia amygdaloides (*right*) is native to our woods and is commonly called Wood Spurge.

Try the forms E. Red Wing (*below*) which has dense purple green foliage and red stems or E. var robbiae which forms a dense weed supressing mat of dark green leaves.



Most forms have acid green flower clusters in March and April but be careful when working near them because of their poisonous white sap.

Brunnera Jack Frost (*right*) is a truly beautiful plant with silvery, heart shaped leaves and clusters of blue flowers in March and April.

There are many other great plants for shade such as Hakonechloa, Leucojum, Tiarella, Symphytum, Lily of the valley and lots more. Come in and talk to one of the Holme experts who will be happy to advise you.





Magnificent Magnolia

Most Magnolias flower in spring between March and May before the leaves appear so all you see is the flowers. Contrary to popular belief they are easy to grow in most deep soils and one that does not get too dry in summer. The one pictured above is the paler pink is M. 'Sensation', with the darker version second from top on the right, Magnolia 'Susan'.

Your Soil Needs Nitrogen Now

Nitrogen (N) is one of the 3 major plant nutrients and is used by all plants to produce extension growth. Without it plants become stunted and the older leaves go yellow.

The trouble is most nutrients containing N are extremely soluble and therein lies the reason the soil N levels are currently so low. Excessive rain can wash the available N out of the soil.

Many soils north of the Purbeck Ridge, like mine, are light and sandy and these are particularly prone to nitrogen leaching. Swanage and the Corfe Valley soils are generally on Wealden Clay and these hold the nutrients much more effectively but even here I suspect N levels are lower than they should be.

So what's the remedy? For the longer term, try to improve the soil by adding plenty of bulky organic matter such as compost and manure. This improves the soil's capacity to retain all nutrients, not just N. Unfortunately in the short term this can have the effect of reducing N levels as the beneficial bacteria that recycle the compost actually take N out of the



soil. Eventually this N will be released again as the bacteria die.

So in the short term you will need to add a fertiliser and the quickest source of N is Sulphate of Ammonia. This is available at most Garden Centres and is best applied little and often as being so soluble it is easily leached.

Excessive application is wasteful, can be detrimental to the environment and in extreme cases can scorch the plants you are trying to feed so always follow the instructions on the packet. For an organic natural product use 6X fertiliser which will release nutrients over a longer period.

Advice is always available from the Garden Experts at Holme.

March tasks –

- Apply Lawn Sand to your grass to kill moss and strengthen grass. 10 days later rake out the dead moss to improve grass vigour
- Start to harden off young seedlings sown in February
- Prune Hydrangeas by removing last year's flower heads back to the next strong pair of buds. Remove one or two of the older branches right down to the base.

If you need to move evergreen shrubs like Viburnum tinus or Holly then March is the best month. To improve the chances of success keep the disturbance of the root to a minimum by retaining as much of the original soil around them as possible.

Plants of the month

Dicentra spectabilis - Above, right and Ornamental Cherry Plums - left and right.



Celebrating Flower Festivals

In June 2015 Owermoigne Flower Club and Friends are again privileged to be holding its annual flower festival in the beautiful Tudor House and Gardens of Athelhampton.

This year's theme will be "Celebrating Festivals" and the house and extensive gardens will be abundantly decorated with fresh flowers and foliage depicting all aspects of festivals.

This is the 22nd year Owermoigne Flower Club and Athelhampton have collaborated to produce this wonderful show. Nearly all the club members contribute to the displays, having researched and planned all aspects of festivals in order to produce both classic and contemporary arrangements.

During the festival there will be a house steward available to explain the history of the house and Club members will always be available to assist in flower and club enquiries

During the years these Flower Festivals have raised several thousands of pounds for charity and this year the collection will be in aid of The Dorset Blind Association.

The combination of an interesting historic house with beautiful garden all lavishly adorned with stunning floral arrangements makes an exceptional day out. Refreshments are available throughout the day in the house restaurant.



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Charity no. 1135118

Normal house entry charges will apply but there is no extra charge to view the Flower Festival.

The festival runs from Sunday June 7th until Thursday 11th and is open from 10.30am until 5.00pm

Arts & Entertainment

Swanage Musical Theatre Company
Present
The
PAJAMA GAME
Music and Lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross
Based on the novel 7 & a half cents by Richard Bissell
MOWLEM THEATRE
March 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 2015
7.30pm
Featuring the classic songs
Hey There, Hernandos Hideaway, Steam Heat
Ticket Prices : £14, £12, £8
Box Office 01929 422238
An Amateur Production

Swanage Musical Theatre present: The Pajama Game

The Pajama Game is a musical set in the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory in the 1950s. Labour troubles start when the union, led by Prez, demands a seven-and-a-half cents an hour raise which management refuse.

Sid is the new factory superintendent and Babe is head of the grievance committee and love blossoms between them. There are several characters to follow and well known songs such as "Racing with the Clock", "Steam Heat" and "Hernando's Hideaway".

Tickets available at the Mowlem Box office on 01929 422238.

Any Old Teddy? We Think Not!



There is tremendous interest in teddy bears both for investment and collecting and a beautiful teddy bear will often feature as an interior display item, particularly in a bedroom.

When considering buying teddy bears for investment it may well be prudent to think about the appeal of most antiques – rarity and condition. Many manufactured bears are being produced as limited editions but the limited edition is probably an economical quantity for a factory run and the edition will run to many thousands.

Then consider that if these limited edition bears are being bought as investment pieces, you may like to ask yourself how many of these bears will have been conserved in good condition, what will be their rarity and what will their investment value be in years to come. There is an alternative. There are many artists producing teddy bears of first class quality and first class design. These bears are also produced in limited editions and the edition may be as many as six and some are made as completely unique one-of-a-kind bears. It may well be that these are the bears that will become the rare antiques of the future.

One of the best ways to source these bears is to study the results of the annual competitions organized for teddy bear artists to compete and showcase their skills. One of the best examples in Britain is the International Teddy Bear Artists' Awards organized by Brewins' Bruins and staged in May, at Lyndhurst, in the New Forest.

This competition is staged as several themed Classes using teddy bears to depict the main characters. Past events have produced "Artists of the



Year Awards" for St Francis of Assisi, the Mad Hatter from "Alice in Wonderland" and Admiral Lord Nelson as diverse a trio as you would wish to meet.

In 2015 there is an extra class designed to assist Brian May's Trust 'Save Me', which aims to protect British flora and fauna. Artists have been asked to produce a stylized fox and Brian May, guitarist with "Queen", has agreed to judge the class while enjoying a break during his European tour.

Should any aspiring teddy bear artist be interested in taking part in this competition, further details are available from:- Brewins' Bruins 01929 761398 or e-mail lube@brewinsbruins.co.uk

All entry fees for this vulpine class will be donated to the Trust.



Purbeck Artist - Josh Hollingshead

Local artist Josh Hollingshead will be exhibiting at the Krilova Stefox Gallery in London from 2nd – 15th April.

Josh is now represented by the Gallery, which is a new venture focusing on figurative art with a strong narrative.

The exhibition is called Josh Hollingshead, 'Chronicles', and several large new works will be featured.

Another solo show will follow next year.

Krilova Stefox Gallery currently present exhibitions at 5th Base, 23 Heneage Street, London, E1 5LJ, as they look for separate premises.

In 2012, Josh was awarded the University of Chichester Award in The National Open Art Competition 2012.

This is an annual open competition which aims to nurture creative talent from emerging to professional artists.

Over 2,100 works, the highest ever number of entries, were submitted from across the UK for consideration by the distinguished panel of judges, which included renowned Artists, Art Journalists, Curators, and the Executive Director of Arts Strategy at Arts Council England

The artist's work which is orthodox, oil on canvas, was at that time exhibited at The Minerva Theatre, Chichester in 2012. Josh has also exhibited at Nordart 2013.

We've wanted to publish some of Josh's work larger-scale for a long time (having covered other exhibitions in the past in the Gazette), and thankfully this time we were able to give his art the space deserved!

Well done Josh on continuing to work your way up through the ranks of the art world - we're all proud of you!



Purbeck Valley Folk Festival

Same great festival, fabulous new location!



Something's happening at the Purbeck Valley Folk Festival, as Del Amitri front man Justin Currie is announced as the latest headline act. The Scottish singer-songwriter is responsible for the Del Amitri hits Nothing Ever Happens, Always the Last to Know and Roll to Me.

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 postcodes.

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.

"The feedback has been incredible. Even better news is that we've talked Justin into doing the Songwriters' Circle in the afternoon with Chris Difford. It's going to be brilliant," says Catherine Burke.

While Justin is best known for his work with chart toppers Del Amitri, there's much more to the talented Glaswegian. He'll show these various sides of his music when he headlines the Saturday night of the Purbeck Valley Folk Festival.

Justin has been working successfully as a solo artist for several years. His music is said to be dominated by strong imagery and storytelling, whilst firmly rooted in nineties pop-rock that translates into modern, urban ballads.

Before his Saturday evening headline appearance at the Purbeck Valley Folk Festival, Justin will be giving fans a special treat by 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 headline acts revealed so far including Chris Difford, Kathryn Tickell, Megson, Martha Tilston & the Scientists, Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin and the ever-popular Moullettes.

The Purbeck Valley Folk Festival 2015 takes place on 27-30 August. Weekend tickets (Fri-Sun) include free camping and are on sale now at just £80 (youth £40, children over three £10). A limited number of Festival day tickets will also be available.

For more information please visit www.purbeckvalleyfolkfestival.co.uk and for tickets call 023 8071 1818 or www.ticketsouth.co.uk



PURBECK VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

27-30th Aug 2015

NEW NAME - NEW FARM - SAME GREAT FESTIVAL



DEL AMITRI's

JUSTIN CURRIE

BBC Folk Awards Musician of the Year 2013

SQUEEZE's

CHRIS DIFFORD

Double Ivor Novello Award winner

KATHRYN TICKELL & the Side

BBC Folk Awards Best Duo 2014

PHILLIP HENRY & HANNAH MARTIN

with their new band

MEGSON

3x Spiral Earth Award winners

MARTHA TILSTON & the Scientists



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Purbeck Valley Farm - Corfe Castle, Nr Swanage, Dorset

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7.30pm - 28th March

St Mary's Church, Swanage

Tickets £9 in advance from Corbens/choir members - £10 on the door

Phone 01929 481419 for more details

Print Exhibition

4 Counties, 630 Miles, 56 Days... The South West Coast Path through the eyes of a Printmaker. Anita Reynolds Outline South West Part 2. Touring Exhibition at DURLSTON CASTLE

Printmaker Anita Reynolds is touring a selection acclaimed prints from her epic South West Coast Path walk to venues in Devon and Dorset this spring. This special exhibition tour, titled 'Outline South West Part 2', is organised by Devon Guild of Craftsmen in partnership with touring organisations Villages in Action in Devon and Artsreach in Dorset.

Walking the southernmost section of the coast path has given Anita the opportunity to collaborate with four artists based in the region: Carol Timms (feltmaker), Richard Povall (sound artist), Philippa de Burlet (ceramicist) and Caroline Parrott (aluminium artist and jewellery maker). Each artist has created a piece of work to feature in this exhibition, which will be on display at Durlston Country Park in Swanage from the 2-19 March, open 10:30am-4pm daily.



SWANAGE BLUES FESTIVAL



Swanage Blues Festival returns for the 23rd time this March with dates confirmed for Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th.

Based in Swanage and Corfe Castle, with eighteen indoor venues in clubs, bars, pubs and restaurants, the four-day festival kicks off with organiser Steve Darrington himself making a rare public appearance on Thursday at The Legion, Swanage.

Styled as "An Evening With..." Steve will be playing piano, harmonica, singing and telling a few stories about his life as a touring musician, with contributions from Hugh Budden on harmonica and guitarist Robert Hokum, who has amazing stories of his own and is organiser of the huge Ealing Blues Festival and involved with Ealing Film Festival too.

In total 75 performances by 36 bands will entertain more than 2,000 fans with plenty of audience participation at the Open Microphone and Electric Jamming sessions, where there are often world class performances by gifted amateurs.

**SWANAGE
BLUES
FESTIVAL**
5-8 MARCH 2015

75 GREAT GIGS

18 INDOOR VENUES

36 GREAT ACTS

Weekend Wristbands still only £10 from Venues, Retailers and Swanage TIC
www.swanage-blues.org

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"It's all about great music and a lot of fun!" said Steve Darrington, who puts all this together entirely on his own, "and it's grown organically into a Big Town Party with some of the nicest and most talented people I've ever known in my life. They come from all over, you know. Why, just the other day I dealt with an order for 10 Weekend Wristbands from Norway."

Steve still manages to make this work by asking all who participate to buy and wear at least one Weekend Wristband, price only £10, to show their support.

Wristbands and Programmes are on sale at the Tourist Information Centre, some venues and retailers including Replayed Records, Jenkins (open to 10pm over the festival) and also online from the festival website at www.swanage-blues.org. Image by Freya Boyesen.

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Swanage Blues Festival 2015



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Swanage Blues Festival

Fri 6pm & 8.15pm - Steve Brookes

Sat 6pm & 8.15pm - Pete Christie

OUR PICK OF THE PROGRAMME

Swanage Blues Festival 5, 6, 7, 8 March 2015

Celebrating The Blues in all its forms – electric, acoustic, urban and rural

www.swanage-blues.org

FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2015

Please note all times are approximate and subject to change

- 11.00am Railway Station - Assorted Buskers
- 2.00pm Red Lion - Open Mic with Martin Froud & Johnny Sharp
- 6.00pm Quayside - Back Porch
- 6.00pm Tawny's - Steve Brookes
- 8.15pm Quayside - Back Porch
- 8.15pm Tawny's - Steve Brookes
- 8.30pm Grand Hotel - Zoe Schwarz Blues Band
- 8.45pm Black Swan - Will Killeen
- 9.00pm White Swan - Dan Sowerby Band
- 9.00pm Red Lion - John Crampton
- 9.45pm White Horse - The Milk Men

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2015

Please note all times are approximate and subject to change

- 11.00am Railway Station - Assorted Buskers
- 12.00pm Quayside - Back Porch
- 2.00pm Red Lion - Open Mic with Martin Froud & Johnny Sharp
- 3.00pm White Swan - Jason Manners & 3 Buck Shirt
- 3.00pm Grand Hotel - The Jawbreakers
- 6.00pm Quayside - Back Porch
- 6.00pm Tawny's - Pete Christie
- 6.00pm Floribunda - Steve Brookes
- 8.15pm Quayside - Back Porch
- 8.15pm Floribunda - Steve Brookes
- 8.15pm Tawny's - Pete Christie
- 8.30pm Grand Hotel - Kevin Brown Band
- 8.45pm Black Swan - Will Killeen
- 9.00pm White Swan - The Blues Issue
- 9.00pm Red Lion - Fabulous Fezheads
- 9.45pm White Horse - The Mustangs

SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2015

Please note all times are approximate and subject to change

- 11.00am Railway Station - Assorted Buskers
- 1.00pm Red Lion - Open Mic with Martin Froud & Johnny Sharp
- 1.30pm Black Swan - Will Killeen
- 1.00pm Red Lion - Open Mic with Martin Froud & Johnny Sharp
- 3.00pm White Swan - Blue Touch
- 3.00pm Grand Hotel - Bob Pearce Gospel & Blues Band
- 6.00pm White Horse - Northsyde
- 8.30pm Grand Hotel - Festival Finale – Hugh Budden & the Blue Chords with Guests

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The most common condition we see in clinic is low back pain. Read next month's article for up to date ideas on How Pain Changes The Brain.

For more information or to see Pam Joliffe for an assessment please phone Swanage Therapy Centre on 01929 426506 or visit our website www.swanagetherapycentre.co.uk

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Pictured: Karen Riley of Harley Court Cosmetic Centres.

Matron's Round - Our Local Hospitals' Monthly Column



Hello again from Swanage and Wareham Hospitals.

Both Swanage and Wareham Hospitals have dementia champions, but Sister Gina Ford has provided this update about Swanage's dementia care, which I thought I would share with you.

"Stanley Purser Ward is a dementia friendly unit in which Staff Nurse Hayley Garner and I are dementia champions. We receive training and implement strategies to care for people affected by dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

All the staff on the ward aspire to the best practice guidelines published by experts such as the Royal College of Nursing and Alzheimer's UK.

People are always treated with dignity and respect on our ward. Anyone with dementia, memory issues or cognitive decline is a unique individual and will respond in their own unique way, which is why we adopt a person-centred approach.

Part of our work is to encourage activities which stimulate the patient's memory and exercise to improve physical health.

We use the "This Is Me" documentation which allows us to collect personal information such as likes and dislikes and the names of family members. This enables us to tailor care to individuals.

On the ward there are several simple things we do that can make a big difference to patients with dementia.

We use strong colours and contrasts to assist with visual disturbances: red and blue are known to improve sight for example, and can help patients identify where toilets or showers are.

We have clocks stating the day and time to aid orientation. We also have a colour coding system which highlights to staff which patients may need assistance with diet and fluids.

Before a patient is discharged we work closely with our colleagues in the Community Mental Health Team to find the best treatment plan and ongoing support."

Until next time, take care

Matron Donna.



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Hello From Swanage Medical Practice



I hope that you have all recovered from the surprise snow in Swanage; I hope that things will be more spring-like from now on! Spring is a time of change and at Swanage we hope that some new changes will bring benefits to you all.

Welcome

Two new doctors joined us in February, Dr Andrew Dennison and Dr Peter Blick. We think they will make a great addition to the growing team at Swanage Medical Practice.

Electronic Prescribing

Are you aware that you can register for electronic prescribing? All of our local pharmacies – Boots, Co-op and Day Lewis are offering this service in Swanage.

It is simple to register, just complete a 'nomination' form, available from

any of the local chemists.

This service will save you time as you won't have to queue to collect your repeat prescriptions from the surgery. Instead, your GP will send it electronically directly to the pharmacy

Online prescription requests

You may now request your prescriptions online. If you wish to use this new convenient service please bring a valid passport or driving licence and proof of your address with you to reception and ask for an online registration form.

RSVP Please

Annually we write to many of our patients to enquire about their health, usually regarding management of their blood pressure, breathing problems or diabetes.

If you have received a letter from the surgery enquiring about your health or inviting you to make an appointment, we would very much appreciate a response, even if it is a 'decline to comment/invite'. We strive to provide the highest quality care and working with you helps us to deliver this.

Healthy corner

I am delighted to report how popular the healthy corner has been thus far in 2015; we have had many successful stories of weight loss through the weight referral scheme, so if your body mass index is over 30, and you are keen to lose weight please ask at reception for a referral.

I hope that you find the developments above an improvement to the care you receive from us all at Swanage Medical Practice.

Cheerio for now, Dr Claire Lehman.

Serious Case Audit - Purbeck Care Home

A report published today outlines a string of safeguarding improvements recommended by Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) following an investigation into a former Dorset care home for vulnerable adults.

The Serious Case Audit (SCA) into the now closed Purbeck Care Home in Wareham, found that residents suffered abuse and received inadequate standards of care between January 2010 and November 2012. The report highlights a number of learning points for health and social care agencies, including better sharing of information, stronger links with families and advocacy services as well as improved procedures for staff to raise concerns about standards of care.

The investigation began in 2012, when the home had forty residents placed by various agencies from across the country. A newly appointed member of staff raised concerns after finding verbal abuse as well as neglect of one of the vulnerable residents with learning disabilities.

He also reported that some residents were left on their own all day despite having a history of self-harming. As well as reports of neglect and abuse, there were also concerns about the dirty condition of the home and lack of staff on night-time duty.

Dorset County Council stopped funding any new placements in 2012, following an incident where a male member of staff subjected a female resident to a prolonged period of physical and verbal abuse. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment in 2013.

A subsequent multi-agency case audit uncovered significant gaps in staff training, lack of planning sufficiently for care of older residents, limited access to any activities and poor provision of food and beverages.

The report prompted the council to find suitable alternative accommodation for the residents, and the number of placements at the home dropped to twenty three. The home eventually closed in October 2014.

The SCA highlights a number of failings to ensure the privately owned and run home was adequately operated. It also calls for action on all health and social care organisations involved to improve communication, cooperation and sharing local intelligence. The most significant point in the report underlines the view that vulnerable people with complex needs should be cared for in local communities, or care home placements close to their home and family where they can receive better care and support, to prevent institutionalised neglect and abuse in the future.

All agencies involved, including local councils, the police and Care Quality Commission, have welcomed the recommendations of the report and are keen to work closely to reduce the risk of similar mistakes being made in the future.

Jane Ashman, chair of the DSAB, said: "This in-depth review is about the lessons we must learn and the actions we must take to prevent abuse from happening again. It is also about promoting a culture and a way of working that actively challenges poor practice and promotes compassionate care across the system. Accommodation and support services for people with a learning disability have developed greatly over the past decade to meet changing needs and expectations. Most adults with a learning disability and their carers prefer more independent living where people have their own self-contained accommodation and yet can maintain contact with others such as friends."

The full report can be found on www.dorsetforyou.com/406421

Sport

Oarsome Encounters!



Rowing is the perfect way to enjoy our stunning coastline. On calm days, rowers can see the parts of the Jurassic Coast that walkers miss – the sheer cliff faces, etched with cracks, caves and quarries. Up closer, they can see the teeming birdlife that clings in the most precipitous places.

A row towards Old Harry Rocks takes the gigs along the dazzling white chalk cliffs of Ballard Point, where cormorants, fulmars and peregrines nest. At the other

side of the bay are the grey limestone cliffs of Durlston. Here, guillemots crowd along the ledges, often speeding past the gigs in their strange clockwork-like flight.

Within the bay, cormorants often swim close to boats, then disappear underwater as they hunt for fish. And terns hover above, suddenly skydiving straight down to catch their unsuspecting prey.

But most rowers will agree that the most exciting encounters over the

past year have been with our newly-resident seal, 'Ron'. He appears to be fascinated by the gigs and often pops up alongside to take a good look.

Of course, the racing teams have less chance to take in the views and wildlife as they get into training for the season. The first race is this month – the 3 Rivers Race in Plymouth on 14 March.

The club also has regular social events off the water. It recently organised two fundraisers; the Swanage 10k Run and a Curry and Quiz night.

Don't forget that anyone is welcome to join the rowing club. Non-members can get a taste of rowing at the open sessions which currently run on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30 (weather permitting). Starting at the Stone Quay, these short rows cost £2. There's no need to book, but after three such sessions, people need to become members to continue rowing.

For more details about the rowing club or membership go to www.ssrc.org.uk or phone Gill Jennings on 01929 424144.

Picture of 'Ron-Seal' with the crew on the contents page



Swanage Tennis

Swanage Tennis Club's Mixed I team were once again on fine form to take on their visitors this month. Hale Gardens didn't get the chance to enjoy the experience of playing at the idyllic Beach Gardens for very long before having to face the long drive home.

Deborah Miller and Andy Mutter's solid game wasn't questioned or challenged as they secured a comprehensive win in both of their matches, 6:1, 6:1 and 6:1, 6:1. The equally competent second pairing of Meg Mutter and Mike Angell failed to be pushed out of their comfort zone in their first match – breezing through with a 6:1, 6:1 win.

They then proceeded to take on Hale Garden's first pair who were of a better calibre than their second but were still not in the same league as Meg and Mike who dominated the match throughout, winning 6:2, 6:3. This excellent display from Swanage continues a run of outstanding wins

in their division this season in which they have won all but one of their matches at 4,0.

The men's team ventured off into darkest depths of Hampshire to play Sway Tennis Club. The Swanage team featured one of their up and coming stars, Kieron Stracey (aged 14), who played alongside Mike Angell to make up the number one pair for Swanage. The pair lost their first match in a set tie-break but they came into their own winning in the second match winning, 6-2, 6-0.

The limelight for Swanage was taken by their second pairing of Graham Ward and Jamie MacDonald who won their first match 6-3, 6-1 and went on to have a phenomenal battle with the Sway number one team beating them 7-7, 7-6.

Swanage & Wareham Rugby Football Club Ltd



Swans continued their 1st XV outstanding form in January, with a visit, for the first time, to Midsomer Norton in Somerset. With a vicious cross wind blowing during the game, it did not make for constructive rugby, but in a tight game, the visitors pushed the Norton pack backwards, and were awarded a penalty try. Just before the break Midsomer Norton scored with a penalty (3pts – 7pts). Swans continued to dominate the forward battle, and scored a pushover try by captain Robert Elford after ten minutes of the half. Centre, Matt Roberts scored a fine individual try midway through the half giving Swans a 3pts – 19pts lead. In the last minute the hosts scored a converted try leaving the score 10pts – 19pts at the end of the game.

On 17th January Swans welcomed old rivals North Dorset to Bestwall and the visitors opened the score after only three minutes. Prop forward John Sheldrake reduced the arrears but a penalty put North Dorset 5pts – 10 pts ahead. Tries by scrum half Chris Tomes and fly half Charlie Parish gave Swans a 22pts – 10pts half time lead. Swans dominated the second half, with Charlie Rowberry (2) and Joe Desmond adding further tries to put Swans 41pts – 10pts ahead. In the last five minutes North Dorset scored a couple of tries to make the final score 41pts – 24pts.

On the last day of January, it was a new venue for Swans 1st XV as they travelled to the Supermarine Club based outside of Swindon. Swans travelled with a weakened team due to injuries, but after an unsure opening the debutants performed exceedingly well. Matt Roberts was first on the score sheet followed by prop forward Zach Wyburgh giving Swans a 14pts lead. Second row forward Jack Hogg was next to score with Callum Baird adding the extras to give Swans a 21-0 half time lead. Baird was next to score a try, with captain Robert Elford next on the score board giving Swans a 33-0 advantage. Another debutant, wing forward Ben Dennett scored his first try at this level, before winger Todd Stephens helped himself to a couple of tries. Matt Roberts completed the scoring with Swans scoring nine tries and six conversions in the 57pts – 0pts victory. This leaves Swans on 73pts in the league with second placed Salisbury on 56pts.

In the last month, thanks to sponsors Virador, the RFU, Suttles and others, Swans have had floodlights fitted to two of their pitches and hope to have an opening ceremony on 28th March. On the 7th March, prior to the home game against Walcot, it is Ladies Day at the club with a luncheon open to all Ladies who have any connection with the club. Contact Melanie Moriarty on 01929 480272 for further details.

Main Games in March

5th Purbeck Schools U11 tournament at Bestwall 12.30 p.m.

7th Swans 1st XV v Walcot league SC(S) Home 3.00p.m.

21st Swans 1st XV v Wimborne league SC(S) Away 3.00 p.m.

Swans 2nd XV v Wimborne 3rd XV D/W2(S) Home 3.00 p.m.

28th Swans 1st XV v Bradford-on-Avon SC(S) Home 3.00 p.m.

Floodlight opening Swans U16 v Trowbridge U16 7.30 p.m.

Ron Butler (Publicity Secretary)

Swanage Bowlers

Every sports club has members or supporters who are not necessarily officers of their club but carry out all sorts of unpaid behind-the-scenes jobs to help their club along in some way or another. This might be by being an umpire, scorer, groundsman, barman, coach or caterer.

Swanage Bowls Club has its share of club stalwarts and two of them, Ray and Mary Vye, recently clocked up 60 years of marriage with a Diamond Anniversary lunch for their friends and relatives at the pavilion in Beach Gardens. Her Majesty the Queen declined to attend but sent a celebratory telegram.

Ray and Mary have been members of the bowls club for 20 years and have played in countless matches and competitions. Ray has now hung up his bowling shoes but Mary carries on playing in the Ladies team and friendly matches and her woods are still never far from the jack. They both contribute in a big way in social events and run the club raffles.

Ray, together with his colleague Ivan Lock, make sure that members enjoy finishing off their Friday evening Club Nights after the bowling with burgers, butties or whatever they conjure up to go with the beer or wine. Ray also kindly turns up at the Men's Dorset League home matches on Monday evenings to make tea for the players at half-time and post-match snacks, which are much appreciated not only by the Swanage players but by the opposing team, particularly if the team is faced with a long trip back after the game to places like Gillingham or Shaftesbury. Ray is also a dab hand at wielding the vacuum cleaner.

So thanks Ray and Mary, long may you continue the good work, hearty

congratulations on your 60th anniversary and long may you continue to keep Swanage Bowlers fed, watered and 'raffled' with your warm welcome and ever-present smile.

The indoor bowls continues through the cold winter days and there have been some most enjoyable matches. The Ladies are still in with a shout in the Inter-Club League Division 2, lying in 4th place behind the two Dolphin clubs and Moonfleet and are currently only 8 points behind the leaders.

The Men's Over 60s League B team are lying in 2nd place with 2 games in hand over the leaders Dolphin. Two of their matches have resulted in spectacular wins for the Isle of Purbeck club, thrashing Dorchester 61 – 24 and Moonfleet 50 – 14.

Club competitions are in full swing and there have been some interesting results, most notably the win in the Men's Singles by Mark Coburn, playing in only his second season, over Les Bentick who has been the winner for several years running.

Swanage Bowlers have a final social of the winter on Saturday 14th March at the pavilion in Beach Gardens in the form of a Dog Racing Evening.

A light blanket of snow covered the outdoor green on a bitterly cold morning in early February, white and glistening in the weak hazy sunshine, making it look more like an ice-rink than a bowls green, but the outdoor season is looming on the horizon when we look forward to some warmth and the sun on our backs with the opening game in mid-April.

Bowls enquiries, both indoor and outdoor to Jean on 426795 or David on 450405.

YOUR Chance To Take Part!



It may be only three years old but The Purbeck Marathon has been ranked in the UK's top three Marathons each year. What's more, it is rated the sixth best race of any distance in the UK. This is an outstanding achievement for a small local event run entirely by volunteers. However, The Purbeck Marathon is making waves with the 2014 event a sell-out well before the closing date for entries despite increasing the number of places. The 2015 race on 20 September is already filling up fast.

The Purbeck Marathon bills itself as "More than Just a Marathon." Runners completing the classic Marathon distance of 26 miles and 385 yards will find they still have a short distance to run including a final hill up to Sandpit Field in Swanage. It is closer to

27 miles but well worth the extra effort.

It is "More than Just a Marathon" because of the stunning scenery that takes in the beautiful seaside resort of Swanage, The Jurassic Coast, Durlston Country Park and the Purbeck hills. How many Marathons offer you stunning views of the Isle of Wight and the Isle of Portland (weather permitting)?

It is "More than Just a Marathon" because of the unique places it passes on the route. Runners cross the MOD tank firing range and run through the deserted village of Tyneham. They cross the historic Swanage Railway on a foot crossing, skirt the iconic ruins of Corfe Castle and finish alongside the beach where the sea is a great way to relieve tired limbs.

It is "More than Just a Marathon" because finishers receive a goodie bag that includes a technical T-shirt as well as locally-made Purbeck Ice Cream and a bottle of Isle of Purbeck beer.

One of the objectives of The Purbeck Marathon is to involve the community, working with local groups and giving increasing sums to charitable causes. In 2014, The Purbeck Marathon donated £6,000 to local community good causes. Race Director, Martin Payne, noted the importance of community involvement:

"The Purbeck Marathon is about showcasing the beauty of Purbeck while raising funds for local charities and good causes. Runners have noted the wonderful support on the course even though much of the route is in the countryside."

The Purbeck Marathon is organised totally by volunteers. A committee works all year to develop and improve the event and many more volunteers are required on the day for tasks such as marshalling, baggage tent, first

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aid, etc. The Purbeck Marathon is always looking for people who wish to join us and be part of the wonderful and unique event. If you would like to become involved, please contact info@thepurbeckmarathon.co.uk.

We welcome partners who would like to become involved in this unique event. We are pleased to announce that Corfe Castle company Blue Level Media has joined with us to work on an updated Web site. We are looking forwards to working closely with them.

The organisers have announced that entries for the 2015 Purbeck Marathon on 20 September are already open with details available at www.thepurbeckmarathon.co.uk.

This marathon is a community event, put on by (extremely tired!) volunteers in order to share our favourite runs with you and to raise much needed funds for local charities and good causes. In 2014, we were able to donate £6,000 to these causes, a 50% increase on 2013.

Photographs courtesy of Gavin Gardner or Martin Payne.

Swanage Cricket



Swanage Cricket Club are pleased to announce that this year's AGM was held at their Days Park pavilion on Friday the 27th of February.

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.

As well as that, the club would also like to place on record their sincere gratitude to both Andy Dunster from Purbeck Kitchens and Matt Forbes for their time and expertise in completely overhauling and up-dating both the kitchen and bar areas at the club.

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 (this includes a newly-formed softball Under 9's team to run alongside the Under 11's, 13's and 15's). Please keep an eye on the website for any winter coaching - this will happen as soon as the club get the all-clear from the Swanage School.

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

Mike Nash (Press & Media Officer)

Swanage Football Club



We recently saw our 1st team get back to playing at Day's Park for the first time in over two months. This has been a frustrating time for all concerned as 80% of the pitch has been playable on most occasions and it is only the far north western corner that has the drainage issues.

If we have a prolonged period of rain this area, which has a very high clay content, floods making it dangerous to play on. This problem area of our pitch is something that is going to be addressed at the end of the playing season.

We have requested with the Dorset Premier League and the Dorset Football league to bring our home fixtures forward for both our senior sides so we can finish the season at Day's Park as early as possible. This will enable us to do the necessary work in installing the drains on the pitch and the time to reseed the area so it's all ready for the new season starting in late August, early September.

Consequently, this has seen our first team playing all their games away from home and we are currently, at time of writing this article, still looking for our first win in 2015. We've currently played four, drawing two and losing two.

Our other senior side the Reserves currently play their football in Dorset League 1 and the team is now being managed by Paulo Carvalho, who has recently moved to Purbeck from Sussex. We are very pleased to have Paulo who is a level 2 qualified coach and will be helped in his role by Club stalwart Paul Yerby and McEnroe.

Bournemouth Samaritans sponsored the 1st team at the start of the season with training shirts for the players and have now paid too for a banner which will be displayed at Day's Park.

The Samaritans are a charity that's main aim is to supply a confidential service for those in crisis that need support. Operating 24 hrs a day 7 days a week the Samaritans offer a fantastic service operated entirely by volunteers. Contact number 08457 90 90 90 or email jo@samaritans.org

Walking Football is proving a great success at the Club and we are hoping to be playing a competitive fixture in the very near future. The session is held on a Tuesday between 10-11 and afterwards there's time for a cup of tea and a chat.

It's a really great way to meet new friends, we plan to add a new session on a Thursday evening between 7-8. This is to accommodate the 50 year old (or over) who is still in work and struggles to attend the Tuesday daytime session.

For more details on this or anything else associated with the club contact me on johnpeacock@swanagefc.com or 07919277568

The Clubhouse, as you are probably aware, is always for hire, as is our sports hall. If you want a party and want the hire of just the bar area where we have a large dance floor, or maybe you want a football party for example, you can hire both the bar and hall.

We have a busy timetable at the Club with a number of different Clubs and groups using our facilities. Currently we have the Badminton Club, Table Tennis, Short Tennis, several keep fit groups, Modern Jive and Swanage Disabled Club to name a few. As you can see, our hall is not only a great asset to us but is also enjoyed by many members of the community.

A number of our Youth teams are coming into the final few games of the season. We are hopeful that we will have a number of teams winning their respective leagues. At the time of writing, we have the U14s who have just secured winning their league title. Manager Andy Dunster and his right hand man Geoff Willcocks have had a great season remaining unbeaten up till now, winning 12 of their 13 games.

Another youth team having a good season is our U13s who progressed to the semi-final of the County Cup, losing in a controversial game to Weymouth. The U13s are our only youth team to play their football in Division 1 and are holding their own against the best teams of that age across the County.

We are still looking for a treasurer.

This is a really import role within our club and if anyone has had financial experience over their working life and can spare a little time, we would love to see you or if you would like to just have an input into the football club we are always looking for new committee members.

Come On You Swans!

www.swanagefc.com

John Peacock.

@SwanfcJohn

@swanagefcyouth

The Purbeck Gazette - Proudly Supporting The Swans

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 APR is noon, Tue 10th Mar

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.

MARCH 2015



- * **2nd Purbeck Literary Festival** Ffi: www.PurbeckLiteraryFestival.info
Purbeck Antiques & Collectors' Fair At Furzebrook Hall, Furzebrook, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5AR Delicious homemade lunches and cakes. Admission £1 Adults including free entry into prize draw to win a £10 voucher. Free Parking. Disabled Access. Ffi: 01929 761398
- Mon 2nd
 19:30 **Wareham-Hemsbach Society AGM** At Carey Hall, Mistover Road, Wareham.
- Tue 3rd
 * **'Pack up your Troubles'** The Rex Players variety show at The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets on sale from January 7th at Discover Purbeck Information Centre.
- Wed 4th
 * **'Pack up your Troubles'** The Rex Players variety show at The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets on sale from January 7th at Discover Purbeck Information Centre.
- 10:30 **The History of the EU** Probus Club of Purbeck meets at The Purbeck Hotel, Swanage. Ffi: Roger Livingstone on 01929 425002.
- Thu 5th
 * **'Pack up your Troubles'** The Rex Players variety show at The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets on sale from January 7th at Discover Purbeck Information Centre.
- * **Swanage Blues Festival Weekend** wristbands still only £10 from Venues, Retailers and Swanage TIC. Ffi: swanage-blues.org
- Fri 6th
 * **'Pack up your Troubles'** The Rex Players variety show at The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets on sale from January 7th at Discover Purbeck Information Centre.
- * **Swanage Blues Festival Weekend** wristbands still only £10 from Venues, Retailers and Swanage TIC. Ffi: swanage-blues.org
- 18:00 **Purbeck Model Railway Group** Running session at The Stables, Godlingston Manor, Washpond Lane, Swanage, BH19 3DJ. Ffi: 01929 427015.
- 20:00 **Sean Taylor Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sat 7th
 * **'Pack up your Troubles'** The Rex Players variety show at The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets on sale from January 7th at Discover Purbeck Information Centre.
- * **Swanage Blues Festival Weekend** wristbands still only £10 from Venues, Retailers and Swanage TIC. Ffi: swanage-blues.org
- 10:00 **CAP Money Course** A free, short course over three sessions. Money advice and taking control of your finances. Free coffee and pastries. To sign up for the course call 01929 423931 or email Tim at: silk@sandhot.fsnet.co.uk
- 14:30 **Beetle Drive** At the D'Urberville Hall, Wool.
- 20:00 **Two Man Ting Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sun 8th
 * **Swanage Blues Festival Weekend** wristbands still only £10 from Venues, Retailers and Swanage TIC. Ffi: swanage-blues.org
- 15:00 **'Spring Song'** with Canzonetta At Swanage Methodist Church. Tea and cake afterwards. Retiring collection for 'Wave', a local churches project for young people of Purbeck.
- Mon 9th
 19:00 **Swanage Annual Parish Meeting** In the Community Room, Mowlem Theatre, Swanage. Agenda items submitted no later than 4pm on Friday 27th February 2015 in person at the Town Hall, by telephone - 423636, or by email admin@swanage.gov.uk.
- Tue 10th
 10:00 **West Country Embroiderers Meet** At Carey Hall, Wareham. Silk Fibre Workshop, tutor Kate Patterson. Ffi: 01929 554070 or trevandgill@heritage1.eclipse.co.uk
- 14:00 **Purbeck Parkinsons** At All Saints Church Hall, Ulwell rd, Swanage. Ffi: 01929 425970
- 19:30 **Wareham Town Trust AGM** To be held at Wareham Town Hall The speaker will be the head of The Purbeck School, Mrs Leanne Symonds. "Recent Developments at The Purbeck School". Refreshments will be provided, tea and coffee or a glass of wine and nibbles for a small donation.
- Wed 11th
 14:00 **Stoborough WI Meeting** At Stoborough Village Hall. Talk on 'Street Children of the Philippines', by Jan Shaw. Competition - Bulb in a pot.
- 18:30 **Swanage Area Senior Forum** At The Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage. 'The National Trust', a speaker will join us to speak on the Trust's aims and ambitions in Purbeck. The Head Ranger from Durlston will also be joining us.
- 19:30 **Studland WI Meeting** At Studland Village Hall. R. Spicer Short "Pets as Therapy". Competition: Animal Ornament.
- Fri 13th
 19:30 **Purbeck Railway Circle Meets** at Harmans Cross Village Hall. Slidse show entitled "The Manx Experience", presented by Keith Carter. Free admission, donations welcome. Ffi: 01929 554765 All Welcome.
- 20:00 **Jim Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith** Live Music at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sat 14th
 09:00 **Purbeck Produce Farmers Market** At Commercial rd, Swanage. Local produce from local producers. www.purbeckproducers.co.uk
- 09:30 **Freebay Tabletop Sale** At The URC Swanage. Free table, free entry, refreshments. To book a table or ffi: Call Elizabeth on 01929 422406.
- 10:00 **CAP Money Course** At The Emmanuel Baptist Church, Swanage. Free coffee and pastries on arrival at 10am. Course runs from 10.30-12.30. To sign up, contact Tim Silk on 01929 423931 or email at: silk@sandhot.fsnet.co.uk
- 11:00 **Official Opening of New Beach Huts** Shore rd, Swanage. Raffle will be held, prizes include a chance to win the use of a beach hut for a week out of season.
- 19:30 **Stanford Quartet - Concert** by Candlelight Part of Purbeck Strings Festival. At St Marys Church, Swanage. Tickets £12.50 from Parish Office: 01929 421117.
- 20:00 **Woody Pines Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sun 15th
 14:00 **Woody Pines, Hut People & Kelly Oliver** Live Music at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- 15:30 **Festival Strings Concert** Part of Purbeck Strings Festival. Conductor - Ian Pillow. At St Marys Church, Swanage. Tickets £10 from Parish Office: 01929

- 421117.
- Tue 17th
10:15 **Isle of Purbeck Arts Club** Spring Coffee Morning and Exhibition at the Catholic Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage. FREE entry.
- 14:30 **The Purbeck Assoc of the National Trust** meet at All Saints Church, Ulwell Rd, Sw Illustrated talk 'Turner's Petworth' – Howard Oliver talks about JMW Turner's stays at Petworth House and the work he produced there. All welcome. £3.00 incl refreshments Ffi 01929 427300.
- Wed 18th
14:30 **Studland History Group** In the Village Hall. A short AGM will be followed by a 10th Birthday Tea and a Studland Quiz. Please come along and join us, all welcome. Ffi 01929 439245
- 19:30 **Wareham & District Archaeology & Local History Soc** At Wareham Town Hall. Talk by Claire Ryley - 'Roman Gardens'. Visitors welcome £2.
- 19:30 **'The Pajama Game'** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage. By Swanage Musical Theatre Company. Tickets £14, £12, £8. Box Office 01929 422238.
- Thu 19th
* **Last Fondu Night** At The Scott Arms, Kingston. £18.95 per person. Booking essential. Ffi: 01929 480270
- 19:30 **'The Pajama Game'** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage. By Swanage Musical Theatre Company. Tickets £14, £12, £8. Box Office 01929 422238.
- 19:30 **'The History of the Public Houses of Swanage'** In The Village Hall, Langton Matravers. Illustrated talk by John Patrick. All welcome. Members £2.50, non members £3.50.
- Fri 20th
19:30 **'The Pajama Game'** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage. By Swanage Musical Theatre Company. Tickets £14, £12, £8. Box Office 01929 422238.
- 19:30 **Swanage Photographic Society** Meets in the Rectory Classroom, Church Hill at 7.30pm. For: Jubilee cup (Prints) - 'Open' and Ward & Purbeck :- Shadows' Competitions. Judge: Sheila Brown LRPS Visitors welcome. ffi Colin Brixton – 423841
- 20:00 **Josh Harty Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sat 21st
* **Members Weekend** At Swanage Railway.
- 10:00 **CAP Money Course** A free, short course over three sessions. Money advice and taking control of your finances. Free coffee and pastries. To sign up for the course call 01929 423931 or email Tim at: silk@sandhot.fsnet.co.uk
- 14:30 **Bingo** At the D'Urberville Hall, Wool.
- 19:30 **'The Pajama Game'** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage. By Swanage Musical Theatre Company. Tickets £14, £12, £8. Box Office 01929 422238.
- 20:00 **Kelley McRea Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sun 22nd
* **Members Weekend** At Swanage Railway.
- 14:00 **Kelley McRea Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sat 28th
* **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org
- 14:30 **Swanage Garden Society** Spring Show at The Catholic Church Hall, Swanage. All the colour of Spring in one hall. Membership £5 per year, meetings charges normally £1 (£2 where food is served).
- 20:00 **Curst Sons Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sun 29th
* **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org
- 10:00 **Purbeck Antiques & Collectors' Fair** At Furzebrook Hall, Furzebrook, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5AR. Delicious homemade lunches and cakes. Admission £1 Adults including free entry into prize draw to win a £10 voucher. Free Parking. Disabled Access. Further details:- 01929 761398
- 14:00 **David Celia Live Music** at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- 15:00 **'Music for Holy Week'** with Canzonetta At Bere Regis Parish Church. Tea and cake afterwards. Retiring collection for church funds.
- Mon 30th
* **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org
- Tue 31st
* **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

APRIL

Wed 1st

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

Thu 2nd

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

Fri 3rd

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

19:30

- Swanage Photographic Society** Meets in the Rectory Classroom, Church Hill at 7.30pm. For: 'Theme Boards' (Prints) - 'Open' and Ken Moore Trophy (Little Camera) - 'Open' Judge: Members Visitors welcome. ffi Colin Brixton – 423841

Sat 4th

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

Wed 8th

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

14:00

- Stoborough WI Meeting** At Stoborough Village Hall. Afternoon tea and 'Kurling'. Competition - A stone object.

19:30

- Studland WI Meeting** At Studland Village Hall Studland Annual Meeting. Followed by coffee and cake. Competition: A Brooch.

Thu 9th

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

Fri 10th

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

Sat 11th

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

09:30

- Freebay Tabletop Sale** At The URC Swanage. Free table, free entry, refreshments. To book a table or ffi: Call Elizabeth on 01929 422406.

19:30

- Wareham Town Band** - Music from Stage & Screen At Lady St Mary Church, Wareham. Tickets £7.50 available from Farwell's, Wareham. Ffi: www. warehamtownband.co.uk

Sun 12th

- * **Easter Holidays at The Tank Museum**, Bovington. New exhibition open, plus tours, talks, trails and an easter egg hunt. Tracked vehicle rides. Ffi: 01929 405096, www.tankmuseum.org

Tue 14th

- 10:00 **West Country Embroiderers** Meet At Carey Hall, Wareham. Felt Making workshop, tutor Jill Beaufoy. Ffi: 01929 554070 or trevandgill@heritage1.eclipse.co.uk

Wed 15th

- 19:30 **Swanage Garden Society** Spring Supper at Herston Hall, Swanage. 3 courses with wine. Membership £5 per year, meetings charges normally £1 (£2 where food is served).

19:30

- Wareham & District Archaeology & Local History Soc** At Wareham Town Hall. Talk by Karen Brown: A History of Dorset in metal detected finds. Visitors welcome, £2.

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 out 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 out 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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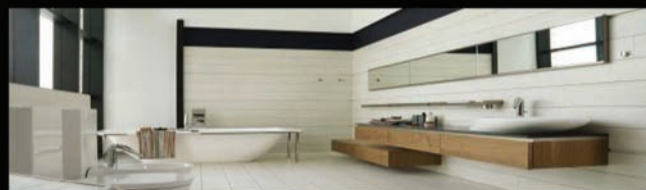
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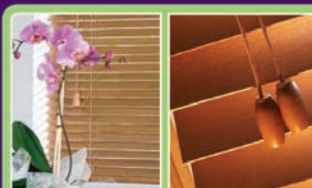
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