

The Purbeck Gazette

February 2018
Issue no. 217

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Super Steph! Pg 10 - 11

Love Is All Around...

Purbeck Valentines! Pg 36 - 40



Disaster Averted. Pg 28



Purbeck Weddings. Pg 41 - 53

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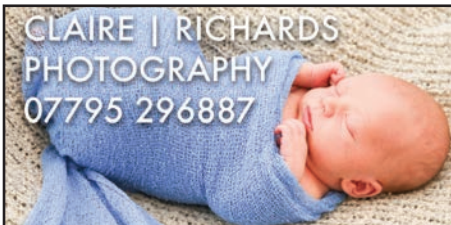
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Editor's note...



Welcome to the February edition of your Gazette!

The days are already getting noticeably longer and signs of spring are popping up all around us. Soon the air will be getting warmer and we can all start to look forward to the sun becoming a regular feature once more - we can but hope!

Another super-packed edition for you this month, including the hugely popular Purbeck Wedding feature, where we bring you some really beautiful shots of local couples who have married recently, along with details of Purbeck's wedding service providers. If you haven't popped the question to your other half yet, then luckily for you, Valentine's Day is just ahead....!

This month we also feature an article which I have written over the past few months and which is possibly one of the most honest editorials I have ever had to write. However, the subject matter is so significantly important that complete, utter honesty is required. We are all in trouble. We all need help. We all need to start an open and sincere conversation about a difficult subject. Please do take the time to read the article on pages 18-19 (I know its long!) and be aware of the often-invisible problems many in our community are facing - sometimes with tragic consequences.

Enjoy the rest of this bumper-packed edition, have a great month, continue to support our wonderful advertisers and we shall see you next month!

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The **March 2018** edition has a **deadline** of 8th Feb and will be distributed from 28 February - 2 March.
The **April 2018** edition has a **deadline** of 9th March, and will be distributed from 26 March - 30 March.

Public Notices & Information



Compiled for the Purbeck Gazette by
National Coastwatch Institution, Swanage



Solar & Tidal Predictions - Feb '18

Peveril Ledge, Swanage

Date	HW	LW	HW	LW	HW	Moon / Tides	Sunrise	Sunset
01-Feb		03:46	09:17	16:10	21:39		07:43	16:59
02-Feb		04:32	10:01	16:55	22:22		07:41	17:01
03-Feb		05:16	10:45	17:38	23:05	SP	07:40	17:03
04-Feb		05:59	11:28	18:21	23:48		07:38	17:04
05-Feb		06:43	12:11	19:05			07:36	17:06
06-Feb	00:32	07:28	12:57	19:52			07:35	17:08
07-Feb	01:18	08:19	13:47	20:47			07:33	17:10
08-Feb	02:10	09:24	14:46	21:59			07:31	17:11
09-Feb	03:11	10:39	15:55	23:10			07:30	17:13
10-Feb	04:25	11:48	17:11			NP	07:28	17:15
11-Feb		00:15	05:44	12:49	18:20		07:26	17:17
12-Feb		01:13	06:51	13:40	19:14		07:24	17:19
13-Feb		02:01	07:37	14:23	19:54		07:23	17:20
14-Feb		02:43	08:11	15:02	20:29		07:21	17:22
15-Feb		03:21	08:42	15:38	21:00	FM	07:19	17:24
16-Feb		03:56	09:13	16:12	21:31		07:17	17:26
17-Feb		04:29	09:44	16:45	22:00		07:15	17:27
18-Feb		05:01	10:14	17:18	22:30	SP	07:13	17:29
19-Feb		05:33	10:44	17:50	23:02		07:11	17:31
20-Feb		06:07	11:17	18:25	23:38		07:09	17:33
21-Feb		06:45	11:56	19:05			07:07	17:34
22-Feb	00:20	07:29	12:43	19:51			07:05	17:36
23-Feb	01:11	08:22	13:40	20:49			07:03	17:38
24-Feb	02:16	09:33	15:04	22:17		NP	07:01	17:39
25-Feb	03:53	11:19	16:52	23:57			06:59	17:41
26-Feb	05:28	12:35	18:07				06:57	17:43
27-Feb		01:04	06:38	13:34	19:08		06:55	17:45
28-Feb		01:59	07:37	14:24	20:00		06:53	17:46

NM = New Moon + FM = Full Moon + NP = Neap tides + SP = Spring Tides

All times are local

e80e

Swanage Town Council Meetings - February 2018

Planning & Consultation Committee	Mon 5th	6.30pm
Transport Committee	Wed 7th	2.15pm
Policy, Finance & Performance	Wed 14th	9.30am
Personnel Committee	Wed 21st	9.30am
Council	Mon 26th	7pm

Wareham Town Council Meetings - February 2018

Museum	Tue 6th	7.15pm
Wareham In Bloom	Wed 7th	7pm
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Thur 8th	7pm
Policy, Resources & Finance	Mon 12th	7pm
Planning & Transport	Mon 19th	7pm
Amenities	Wed 28th	7pm

Purbeck DC Meetings - Open to public - Feb 2018

Council	Tue 20th	7pm
Audit & Governance Committee	Tue 27th	2.30pm
Planning Committee	Wed 28th	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'

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The Purbeck Gazette prints 20,000 copies every month and delivers throughout the region from Swanage to Dorchester, Lulworth to Bere Regis. The Purbeck Gazette is published by Purbeck Media Ltd. All editing, graphic design and lay-up is completed in-house by Purbeck Media Ltd. The Purbeck Gazette is printed by Blackmore Ltd of Shaftesbury and delivered by Logiforce GPS-tracked distribution. The Purbeck Gazette website is managed and edited on-site by Purbeck Media Ltd. Purbeck Media Ltd also publishes The Purbeck Guidette, the Purbeck Visitor Guide. All rights reserved.

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Sea Spray! Picture by Tim Crabb

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DEADLINE FOR MARCH IS 12 NOON, 9th FEBRUARY

Your Letters

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

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

PLEASE DO NOT DUPLICATE LETTERS TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS -

WE DO NOT PRINT MULTI-PUBLICATION LETTERS.

MARCH edition deadline: noon, 9th FEB

Shocked By Litter Louts

Dear Readers,

A wake-up call for everyone!

I frequently take a walk along the Shell Bay, Studland and Bramble Bush Bay beaches. Sadly, instead of just enjoying the scenery of beauty that prevails, I am constantly aware of the rubbish - ie: plastic, fishing hooks and glass which lay on our beaches.

I always take a bag and pick up what I can manage. I must say, I have never seen anyone else do the same during my walks, which is disheartening.

For those of us who want to see our planet survive and flourish, can you please take some responsibility and do your bit to help? Also, I believe the National Trust should pay more attention to what is going on.

Kind regards, R.Francis, by hand

Litter-Free Purbeck Picks

Dear Editor,

For the second year, Litter-free Purbeck's various volunteer groups will be formally taking part in Keep Britain Tidy's brilliant nationwide initiative, the Great British Spring Clean, 2nd - 4th March.

Hundreds of thousands of people will be turning out to spruce up where they live to show that they want a clean, non-toxic place for them, their children and their children's children to live in and to show that they love where they live.

As part of this, we'll be organising litterpicks, beach cleans, talks and you'll see our litter awareness presentations about. We hope as many people as possible will come along.

David Attenborough's BBC autumn series 'The Blue Planet' has highlighted how urgent it is now for us all not to drop litter - most of which is plastic - and to reduce our use of plastics in general if we wish to sustain our planet and all that grows on it.

Here in Purbeck, surrounded by water on three sides, it's essential that we keep waste of all sorts off our lanes, roads, streets, beaches and that our drains are only used for rain. From detergent water, cigarette stubs, to wet wipes, to the largest plastic container, it's all ultimately toxic stuff as plastics never breakdown into inert constituents, just into tinier and tinier poisonous pieces. But *together*, we can do something about it!

If Gazette readers would like to join the Great British Spring Clean, please email us at litterfreepurbeck@gmail.com, look out for our posters this month ahead of March or check us out on Facebook (Litter-free Purbeck) and Twitter @LitterFrPurbeck. And if you can't come along, please help out - as many already - do by picking up at least one person's thoughtlessly chucked piece of litter a day!

Kind regards, Litter-free Purbeck Core Team and Coordinators (Lara, Bridget, Frank, John, Simon, Harold, Liz, Nicola)

Telegram For The Future...

Dear Editor,

We often have articles about the importance of Fort Henry in the planning of D Day landings. Nothing is ever mentioned about the equally important work that was going on below Nine Barrow Down from whence a telegraph cable was laid, via the Mowlem and the Grand, below the sea all the way to Normandy.

There were several branches on land, in case a link was broken. The

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entrance, where many people lived and worked, is near Knitson Farm and is marked by a large wooden structure blocking the doorway.

The telegraph mast was on Godlingston Hill, where there are radio masts now. The full details are in 'Swanage in World War Two' - a book still obtainable, I have seen it recently in the New and Secondhand Bookshop in Swanage.

The relevant chapter has been written by one of the people who worked there - Ivan Lock, who lives in the same block of flats as me. He is obviously elderly, but alert. He wrote that on the day he went to work and saw that the telegraph pole had been raised up, he knew the landings were going to take place.

The extraordinary thing about this is that there seem to be no mention of it anywhere on the internet.

Would it be possible for someone to possibly talk to Ivan and get some of this information on the internet before it is lost in the mists of time?

I have emailed the publishers of the book about this a few months ago, but have had no reply.

Yours faithfully, Josephine Knight, Swanage, by post.

National Rail Credibility

Dear Readers,

I am seriously concerned about the honesty, credibility and behaviour of Network Rail (NR) South-Western trains (SWR) and Dorset County Council (DCC).

I believe the local population are not being told the real reasons for the re-arrangement in the train time table and I strongly suspect that the people of Wareham and environs who are being inconvenienced by the changes will not consider a 10% saving in travel time once an hour sufficient justification for the inconvenience caused by the changes.

For instance, it appears the time saving trains will not stop at Wareham, only the slow trains will, once an hour.

I also think we now start to see the real reasons behind NR's determination to close the Wareham crossing which would also cause great inconvenience to the people of Wareham and damage the community by dividing it in two. NR were clearly indulging in terminological inexactitude when they claimed the crossing was the most dangerous in the UK.

Such a claim could only be justified by assuming in their own risk assessment that all trains went through the Wareham crossing at the maximum permissible speed, even though reality revealed practically all trains stopped at Wareham. The solution would have been to simply to reduce the speed limit to that of the one applied at Poole station which would have had minimal effect on the time table.

So why was this not done? Rumours abound. For instance, Portland harbour may become a destination and refuelling stop for cruise ships. In such an event NR and probably the DCC would want to extend the track from Weymouth to Portland but still maintain a fast service between London and Weymouth to appease the more densely populated areas.

After all, it would make good business sense as Marples and Beeching said in the '60s, when they closed down a large portion of the network on business grounds, but actually to the benefit of Marples as the chairman of the Road Haulage Association and minister of transport.

By giving planning permission to close the crossing the councils will be complicit in considerably reducing services between Weymouth and Poole. Why would they want to do this? Surely, they weren't fooled by the bogus safety reasons which could be so easily solved?

I think it is time for the council to do its job and represent the local population and high time for NR and SWT to come clean and try to explain the benefits to communities in south Dorset of reducing the train services.

At the moment, they appear to be applying the simplest solution regardless of the cost to the local community. I am reminded of the Midland bus



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LIVE ACTS FOR FEBRUARY

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 Fri 9th 8pm Bob Cheevers
 Sun 11th 2pm James Gavin & friends
 Fri 16th 8pm Lyndsey Lou & The Flatbellies
 Sat 17th 8pm Hightown Crows
 Sat 24th 8pm 2 Man Ting

company that didn't stop at every bus stop even when there were people waiting. When asked why by irate 'would be' passengers, they replied that if the buses stopped at every bus stop they would be unable to keep to the time table!

Is the government, Network Rail, Dorset County Council and South Western trains willing to own up to such stupidity?

Mr J.A. Simpson, Wareham, by email

Take Note Of Objections

Dear Editor,

Railway Crossing Objection

I really wish that our elected councillors, both locally and district, would take some note of the objections from the people who have elected them.

The case of the ramps to get up onto the protected railway bridge in Wareham is a case in point.

There is an adequate arrangement in place to maintain the safety of people crossing the tracks, in fact it would be perfectly safe if the closing and locking of the gates were linked to the approach of a train. This would also remove the need for a very well-paid person to be sitting in the hut all day.

The design is unsympathetic with the area, which is a pleasant approach to a Victorian railway station. It is inconvenient, especially for the elderly, the disabled and families with small children.

The alternative for those who cannot manage the distance on the ramps and the steepness of the slope is to traverse the road bridge, but this has been constructed without a footpath!

The proposal would effectively separate the north of the town from the south. The south has the banks, the chemist, the surgery, the shops, the library, the Town Hall and the council buildings; the churches and the comprehensive school. The parking for these necessities is inadequate, so to force people to use their cars is short-sighted.

The cost: Already a great deal of money has been spent at this time of privation. The design is too big for the area and overpowering in its impact and it is unnecessary.

There has never been a fatality but a picture of a very foolish woman with a pram has been extensively used. It appears that the train in the background is stationary.

Thus, a fairly simple and cost-effective solution to link the locking of the gates to the approach of a train would be the sensible way to proceed.

Venn Goldsack, by email

Sympathising, Not Knocking

Dear Readers,

Regarding two letters in the December edition, which accused me of 'knocking the elderly' in one of my poems.

I should just point out that I was merely highlighting the irony that some people who voted for Brexit will not be around to suffer its worst effects – possibly the crucial 4%!

Obviously, the vast majority of elderly people will still be alive to experience the growing hardship and therefore I was actually sympathising with most elderly people, rather than 'knocking' them.

In a broader sense, I was trying to point out the folly of giving a complex economic decision to the general public and then abiding by it, irrespective

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of the consequences. Those consequences threaten to affect the elderly more than any of us.

Yours sincerely, Martin Hobdell, Swanage, by hand

Proud Of Our Swanage

Dear Editor,

I'm proud of our Swanage. We do so much that is good and our visitors appreciate this. On Christmas morning up until 12 o'clock, as far as I know, there was an embarrassing state of affairs.

The Shore Road (Swanage) main toilets were shut. Elderly, disabled and children were inconvenienced yet hundreds were enjoying their Christmas morning by the sea.

Was there a good reason for this seemingly thoughtless situation? It was not very nice for anyone.

David MacDonald (senior citizen), Swanage, by post.

Impact Analysis Failure

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to David Leadbetter for his excellent letter on the subject of Brexit. I would only add that our politicians have failed miserably to provide appropriate leadership to our people.

There has been hardly any mention of the two world wars that preceded the establishment of the Common Market and prior to the referendum, a disgraceful failure to produce a Brexit impact analysis, which is still notable by its absence.

Sincerely, Ian Garratt, Langton Matravers

Accept Decisions Made

Dear Editor,

David Leadbetter (Letters, January) has a curious understanding of democracy. It means accepting decisions that are made by a due democratic process, especially where you do not agree with the outcome. You do not get to pick and choose which results you accept.

The EU Referendum was the largest vote on any political question in British history and it delivered a clear result.

No doubt if the EU Referendum had delivered a different outcome, Mr Leadbetter would be demanding that we all fall in line.

Our democracy provides an opportunity for people to 'change their minds' every five years. It's called a General Election.

If Mr Leadbetter wants to campaign for a party that will get Britain back into the EU (the LibDems perhaps?), he is at liberty to campaign for them and encourage others to do so to. And then see how many votes they get.

Yours Sincerely, John Butler, Chairman, UKIP Mid-Dorset & North Poole

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12 noon on 9th February
FEATURE: Purbeck Gardening

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Grow Up, Remoaners

Dear Editor,

Re: David Leadbetter's recent offering; he says "37% of the electorate ... voted to leave", which still means the percentage of the electorate that voted 'remain' was smaller. So, I had originally intended to just ask what part of "you lost" he was failing to understand, but due to the amount of misinformation he provided, I felt he needed a more comprehensive response.

I did not vote leave on the basis of false promises, in fact I can't recall one 'promise' other than to get us out!! I did a lot of research, so I could reach an informed decision, so I know I voted leave on the basis of factual evidence and I have heard nothing to make me want to change my mind, since.

Why does he think ex-pats should have any say in a country they don't want to live in? And why suddenly should children be eligible to vote? Is Mr Leadbetter also suggesting sixteen-year-olds should suddenly be able to marry and go to prison for criminal activity? I see in desperation he implied the leave campaign needed the Kremlin's help!! What about little green men? Were they involved too?

An extra "£350 million" was not promised to the NHS. He needs to read the sign on the bus again properly and check his facts before wrongly accusing people of lying.

Again, Mr Leadbetter is wrong when he says: "there are no great ideas behind Brexit". The very definition of Brexit (to leave the EU) is indeed a great idea, just not one that Mr Leadbetter subscribes to, and clearly in his mind only people like him, Tony Blair and their Guardian reading cronies have opinions that count.

He may be happy that Farage, Tusk and Barnier can decide whatever they like about our future and if we don't like it, we can't get rid of them as they weren't voted in in the first place, but I'm not.

As we have yet to actually leave the EU, we can only guess at the impact our leaving will have, however even Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, recently admitted his short-term fears (and let's not forget his scaremongering) have not materialised and that our economy is currently doing OK; for example, one only need compare the levels of the stock market from the referendum to now, to see how the index levels have actually improved.

Mr Leadbetter says: "We should all be worried by the huge fall in applications for trained nurses", when figures show the number of EU nationals working in the NHS increased by 5.4% in the year after the referendum.

If the EU was such a great thing to be in, why aren't they saying: "Off you go UK, you'll soon realise your mistake and will be begging to be allowed back in again?" In fact, they know that without us, the EU will struggle and other countries will also try and jump ship if they make it too easy for us.

Once we are out, do the remoaners really think France and Germany won't trade with us anymore? Regardless, we'll then have the whole of the rest of the world open for business to us on our terms, not someone else's.

I fail to see how he thinks the EU is "the largest trading market in the world", when compared to the whole of the rest of the world, excluding the EU.

I'm afraid Mr Leadbetter, Tony Blair and the other remoaners are just bad losers that need to grow up a bit.

Yours, Roger Starbuck, Cauldron Barn Road, Swanage, by email

Cnut's Ancient Sluices

Dear Nicoburga,

I read that the residents of Ridge face the same problem I had - rising sea levels. From my quick inspection, it appears that the old defensive banks and sluices on the Moors are almost as ancient as I am. Hence there is

a proposal to retreat and build new ones to defend the Arne Road and the Ridge community.

There will also be new habitats for wildlife (and I like ducks!). Otherwise the residents may face the same result I had....a very wet best chair, wet tights and my new coat ruined....and all because my court thought I could hold back the rising tide.

Cnut (by email, rather weirdly...!)

Abandon Project Now!

Dear Gazette,

Apart from the primary issue of flooding in Ridge if the Arne Moors Project goes ahead, there are also major concerns about the impact that this project will have on navigation of the River Frome.

One of the sluices at the lower end of the River Frome at Turner's Cove is in urgent need of repair - Ian Alexander of Natural England stated that doing nothing was NOT an option in his presentation.

RMAG entirely agree with this view, Turner's Cove Sluice URGENTLY needs to be repaired. If it is not repaired or indeed if it is breached as part of the plans to flood The Moors, silting of the River Frome (which has been a major concern since the 1950s) will be made much worse.

At present there is shallowing of the river on either side of Turner's Cove Sluice (50 - 80') as the suspended run-off sediment drops to the bottom of the river and decreases the depth.

This is another reason why this project should be ABANDONED NOW before any more taxpayer's money is wasted and before navigation up to Wareham is severely impacted by decreasing depths of water caused by this ill thought out scheme.

The Environment Agency have stated that they will not proceed with this project if there is any detriment caused as a result of this scheme, we would like them to confirm this again to us in respect of these plans.

Yours sincerely, Peter Sibthorp and John Lidgley, Co-Chairs, Ridge Moors Action Group

Moors Feedback Is Valuable

Dear Editor,

It is encouraging to read in your letters' page the passion your readers have for The Moors at Arne. The project is in the early stages and we continue to welcome and have received feedback, both supportive and expressing concern.

We have also held meetings with Arne Parish Council and other interest groups and individuals and will continue to do this throughout the project development. This feedback and the meetings have given us insights which are incredibly valuable to the project partners so that we can deliver a scheme which will benefit as many people as possible as well as providing valuable wetlands for wildlife.

We will be publishing a summary of the feedback received from our consultation and, while your columnist was correct that the initial deadline was too short, this was extended to allow a fuller and proper response. The summary will be published on our website which is where your readers can find the most up to date information about the project: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-moors-at-arne-reducing-flood-risk-and-creating-habitat>

We will be holding further public exhibitions as the design work progresses, we expect the next one to be in the summer of 2018, but this does depend on the results of the ongoing surveys and design work.

Thank you for this opportunity and if you or your readers wish to subscribe for project updates like the feedback summary and news of future consultation events, then contact TheMoorsAtArne@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely, Vanessa Dare, Community Engagement Advisor, Wessex



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Unitary Authority Flawed

Dear Readers,

Please find below a copy of a letter recently sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government from Studland Parish Council:

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

Department for Communities and Local Government

2 Marsham Street

LONDON SW1P 4DF

Dear Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP,

Re: Proposed Reorganisation of Local Government in Dorset

Studland Parish Council does not support the proposals for the reorganisation of local government in Dorset. The consultation for this reorganisation was driven by a leading question and constructed in a misleading manner. At the 12th December 2017 meeting of Purbeck District Council, the chairman, Councillor Bill Trite, described the consultation as "deceitful".

Insufficient information was supplied to make informative decisions. Parish Councils and residents were not given sufficient information about the financial case for the proposed changes. Those proposing reorganisation under unitary authorities have not supplied adequate information for effective decision making.

The proposal of two unitary authorities does not suit the nature and the needs of a parish council like Studland. Unitary authorities are better suited to cities and large urban areas rather than small communities in rural areas. Removing a tier of local government will make decision making remote. Democratic influence and choice will be removed as more power will be concentrated at the unitary level.

Parish Councils are concerned that they will have no ability to represent residents in matters of planning and licensing. Residents will not be represented effectively in decisions that affect them in their areas.

Studland Parish Council prefers to keep what works for our residents and our community rather than be driven into an unknown working relationship with a remote unitary authority.

Yours sincerely, Josephine Parish, Clerk to Studland Parish Council

How To Feed Population?

Dear Editor,

Renewable energy campaigners have endured more humiliation by being told not to repeat claims that their prices had fallen by 50% over the past two years.

The Advertising Standards Authority said their claims were "false and misleading", having taken into account the power of wind turbines not yet built along with many more irregularities to arrive at a 50% reduction. But renewable energy is the least of the world's serious problems.

Since we humans passed the one billion population mark worldwide in 1800, our rising numbers and consumption have already impacted heavily on our environments by expanding deserts, wiping out rain forests and depleting fisheries while irrigation is quarrying out vital aquifers in many countries.

The world's population is now at seven billion and rising at an alarming rate of 10,000 every hour; it's beyond control.

The crunch is that indefinite population growth is physically impossible on a finite planet. The UN forecast there will be 9.3 billion of us by 2050. Perhaps we will be able to feed 9.3 billion people in thirty-three years' time. I do know we are struggling to barely feed seven billion people on our planet, with millions dying from starvation each year.

Yours sincerely, Mike Fry, by email

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TELLING IT LIKE IT IS...

Things Can Only Get....Better?

by David Hollister

Well, another year's gone past in the blink of an eye, so it seems! We've all definitely got older and hopefully wiser, and as I leave each 'special birthday' behind me, it occurs to me that there's still so much to do and so little time; in the words of Pink Floyd "shorter of breath and one day closer to death".

Looking back, the only things that I regret are the things I never got round to doing; memo to self: "less sleep, less TV, more involvement". I know that in 2017 I upset a good many people but my job is simply to 'tell it like it is' and to bring the readers' attention to the many things that are happening in Purbeck, which might otherwise go unnoticed. If it was you that I upset, then sorry. If I told you something that you didn't know about, then I hope that bringing it to your attention at least got you thinking, made your blood boil, and even got you actively involved in trying to do something about it.

Looking back – for me – is a series of Gazette articles, family photos, photos of cats loved, cars tested and places visited, pleasure at new friends made and sadness at old friends lost. I went to too many funerals last year and each one made me realise that life isn't a rehearsal, and that the final curtain is ever closer. So, this year – every waking moment has to be filled with something useful; no 'Netflix' or 'box sets' for me!

It's become clear to me over the past few years that the distance between 'us' and 'them' steadily grows greater. In previous articles I have decried the specious 'consultation process', whereby large and wealthy organisations and government departments pretend to listen to the vox pop for the sake of decency, then plough on ahead with what they were going to do anyway.

By the time you read this, the decision will have been made on the 'skateboard ramp' bridge at Wareham. I know how I'd like it to have been decided but I'd put even money on the 'authorities' just imposing the thing on us anyway; Network Rail's claims that it's in the interests of 'health and safety' have been proven by the facts to be groundless.

I am told by a reader that Rebecca Knox, leader of the Dorset County Council, appears 'too busy' to engage with the community' and to take on the fact that the proposed ramps are unlawful and do not conform with current equalities regulations.

That hundreds of thousands of pounds of ratepayers' money has been wasted in manning a crossing at which properly signal-controlled electronic gates could have been fitted at a tiny percentage of the cost. Come on, Rebecca, engage with the complainants, talk to the local Councillors, and listen to what you are being told. Take Cllr. Beryl Ezzard as a shining example; at least she changed her mind and had the guts to say so. Will 'common sense' rule? We'll know at the end of January.

The Swineham Farm planning application was foisted on the local residents by 'outside' Councillors even when Councillors with proper knowledge of the site and with the ear of the residents were disregarded. That's not

'democracy' or even common sense. Is there anything we can do to get this overturned? Will Cllr Cherry Brooks actually admit that there are people living closer who have a better knowledge of this than she does?

But it's not just planning, is it? It's the city-based unelected organisations who make the decisions; in some cases without even a decent period of 'consultation'. Swanage and Wareham have lost Natwest, HSBC, and half of Barclays. Sub post offices at Sandford, Carey, and north Swanage; all gone.

Wareham PO is struggling to maintain outreach post offices at Stoborough and Harmans Cross, two hours per week. Postal rates increase but service gets no better. When I was a kid, there were post offices everywhere, most towns had all the banks, even Corfe Castle had a Lloyds. There were regular buses to almost everywhere – including Worth Matravers!

There were proper coppers in most villages and no sign of a 'Police and Crime Commissioner'. Dustbins got collected from the house, once a week. The communications system was antiquated but at least when you dialled 999 someone turned up. 111 or 101 hadn't been invented. Directory Enquiries was a free service; now, a call to BT's 'service' costs £4.44 for a minute.

I know, this sounds like the makings of a proper Monty Python sketch ("you try and tell the young people that, they'd never believe you") but actually, older readers will testify that it's all true.

More to the point, younger readers should be asking themselves "what happened?" We'd all just emerged from a financially crippling World War. So, what's the excuse now? How could it be that a succession of governments of all persuasions with delusions of competence actually got it so wrong?

How come that all of a sudden, everyone thinks they have the right to live for ever and demand levels of 'adult social care' which would have made William Beveridge turn in his grave? How is it that medical practitioners 'strive to keep alive' people so ill and in so much pain that were they animals, their owners would be prosecuted. There's nothing quite as painful as hearing a close relative whisper "how much longer do I have to go on?"

Well, even though I'm 'shorter of breath and one day closer to death', I'm not stupid enough to believe that I'm ever going to get younger, or that my ageing body and failing eyesight will take on a new lease of life. Some days I feel – like Bilbo Baggins – "thin, sort of stretched, like butter spread over too much bread."

The trick? Just get on with it, take lots of family photos, tell your nearest and dearest that you love them every single day, live every day as if it were your last because one day it will be.

When mine arrives, I do hope that I have the dignity and strength of mind to accept that it really is time; if what I believe to be true is true then it will be better, and if it isn't true – then it won't matter.

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A Civilised, Progressive Society?

Not whilst one person is without a home, it's not...

Thirty-six households spent Christmas 2017 in temporary accommodation in Purbeck, with thirty of them having dependent children.

Figures had increased from Christmas 2016, when twenty-nine Purbeck households were living in temporary accommodation.

In December there were 615 households on the Council's housing register.

With only 135 housing association homes built in Purbeck since 2012, the district is not keeping up with demand. Therefore, the Council has to find temporary solutions to ensure people have a roof over their head.

Councillor Laura Miller, Housing Portfolio Holder for Purbeck District Council, said: "With families being made homeless and a shortage of housing association homes, we are having to place increasing numbers of people in temporary accommodation.

"Many people think if you are homeless you are sleeping rough on the streets. However, there are families living in short-term accommodation who did not have anywhere to call home this Christmas."

Councillor Miller continued: "People often lose their home through no fault of their own, for example if their landlord decides to sell up. This has a significant impact as people often have to move away from families and support networks, incurring additional costs getting to and from work and putting children into a new school.

"The Council's Housing Needs team works hard to provide accommodation for people but struggles to keep up with the demand for homes in an area where few affordable homes are available to rent."

"We work with housing associations to enable more affordable homes to become available to rent. The Council also offers loans to owners of empty properties so they can be made into habitable homes. It also helps prospective tenants secure a home through financial support."

Voluntary organisations also helped to ease the pressure by collecting food, gifts, furniture and money to help people without somewhere to call home this Christmas.

Councillor Miller continued: "We are so grateful for all the work local organisations do to help people, vulnerably housed people, especially at Christmas."

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Super Steph!



by Nico Johnson

Above: The 'Scrap to the Future' Car Rally. Steph (in pink, right) with Jules Dorrington and Kathryn Hardy.

Many in Purbeck know Steph Shepherd - those who don't know her, are likely to have heard her name in passing. From the early days when Steph and husband John let out rooms in Swanage to fellow hipsters (!!) in the 1970s, through to the current day where, despite age slowly creeping up, Steph remains a formidable force of nature within our community.

My memories of Steph go way back to my early childhood, when I would occasionally play with her son, Joe. I fondly remember a warm, welcoming house, always full of fun and laughter – a most favourite place to visit indeed.

Fast forward to my teenage years, and Steph continued to make a lasting impression on me. I clearly remember watching her storm across the road one day, resplendent in her righteous anger towards a mother who had slapped a small child, hard, in the street. Steph to the rescue – one mother sternly lectured as to the definite wrongs of beating one's child, and one child checked out and consoled. Just watching Steph stride fearlessly to the defence of an unknown child taught me at an early age that one should not pass by on the other side of the street in the face of bullying – one should confront it, always. One should be like Steph. She certainly inspired me.

Gerry Norris (one of Steph's friends and an equally well-known fundraiser and 'person of note' in Swanage) said of Steph: "When my husband Mel and I moved into Swanage over thirty-six years ago, we knew very few people in the town. At that time, Dr Robert and Claire Hardy lived next door. Claire regularly held women's coffee mornings, and invited me in so that I could meet and get to know a few locals. I was very nervous and self-conscious.

"The group had a speaker on 'Gardening for Fun', with lots of sample plants on sale for some good fundraising cause; she was a compelling presence, with a rich, chocolate brown voice and a mass of red hair. That was my first meeting with Steph.

"I tremulously asked her: "Could you tell me the name of this one, please?" (pointing to one of the pretty pots of greenery on display) "Mind your own business," she replied ... Devastated, I made a hasty and tearful retreat ... only to discover later that "Mind Your Own Business" was the common name for the plant! Was I relieved and how we laughed together when I really got to know Steph!

"You cannot live in Swanage for any length of time and not have heard of

Steph; so involved is she in so many varied and different support groups of one sort or another. She is an inspiring Swanage Forum Committee member and also helps out with Funday Sundays by providing a team of ladies to dish out delicious cakes and refreshments at the monthly filmshows. If you want a fundraiser evening for a good cause: Just ask Steph. Need some advice about how to tackle a problem? Just ask Steph. Feeling miserable and need a little joy in your life? Just talk to Steph...

"She deals with her own health issues in an awe-inspiring way, never allowing them to get in the way of what she wants to do with her life, with her family, friends and the community projects she's involved in.

"She has a real gift of passing on her health experience, inspiring others (like me), to seek out the solutions and "never ever give up". She does so in both practical and material ways, and by "gentle nagging" either on the phone or in emails: "Have you got in touch with so-and-so Dr/Clinician yet? Why not? Here's the address again Just do it now before you forget..."



Above: Steph (left) with husband John at a fundraising event at Swanage Cricket Club. Picture by George Crane

Gerry concludes: "Swanage is blessed with many wonderful men and women who tirelessly do incredible voluntary work in the community, but Mel and I think Steph is exceptional."

Many in our community have similar, fond memories of Steph going back decades – her hospitality continues to be boundless, her passion for charity fundraising is phenomenal and her vibrancy, kindness, decency and sheer strength of character are noted by many.

In December 2014, Steph was diagnosed with Neuroendocrine tumours – a form of cancer. After several months of tests, she had surgery in April 2015. During routine follow-up tests, doctors discovered that the original cancer had spread to her liver, lungs, pelvis, lymph, ribs and shoulder.

The prognosis was not favourable and so in November 2016, Steph went for eight months of specialist treatment under the care of Professor Lewington and her team at Guy's Hospital in London. This treatment has had a positive effect in helping fight the cancer.

Throughout it all, unsurprisingly (to all who know her!) Steph has been focusing her attention on raising money for PLANETS (Pancreatic, Liver and Neuroendocrine Tumour Support). This charity is based at Southampton Hospital and helps raise awareness for patients, train staff and purchase specialist equipment.

Steph began fundraising in January 2017. Her original goal was to raise £10k for PLANETS. Throughout 2017, Steph held tea parties, picnics, quizzes and meals with guest speakers. The highlight of her fundraising was taking part in the PLANETS 'Scrap to the Future' challenge; a car rally from Southampton to Loch Lomond.

Steph, along with Katherine Hardy and Jules Dorrington, raised over £5k for the rally – they were the top fundraisers. The money raised by all the teams will help pay for a specialist piece of equipment and the upgrading of two more operating theatres.

This will not only help treat Neuroendocrine tumours, but also other cancers, therefore benefiting the whole of Wessex Health Trust, which extends from Lyme Regis to Portsmouth.

Continuing to fundraise, Steph has now raised over £16k and has therefore upped her ambitious target to £20k – we have no doubt she'll get there, with your help and support, of course.....

Layla, a representative from PLANETS, said: "Steph Shepherd is our most successful fundraiser of the year (2017) and we at PLANETS are truly blessed with having such amazing support from her, despite her being a NET cancer patient and having ongoing treatments to deal with."

"Steph is a wonderfully vibrant and highly energetic person who can light up any room she enters. Her incredible fundraising efforts have seen her raise an impressive £16,600 to date, with various events held throughout 2017. Steph seemingly managed to get most of Swanage involved in the process!"

"Furthermore, Steph entered our 'Scrap to the Future' Car Rally in the summer of 2017, an event that simply would not have been the same without her crazy antics and relentless energy!"

"Steph is an absolute star and we at PLANETS are so proud of her – a truly awesome lady."

Steph is still fundraising, despite her continuing battle against cancer, so if anybody would like to donate, please do so via Steph's JustGiving page online at:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steph-shepherd2

Alternatively, drop your cash or cheque donation to the Purbeck Gazette office at: 17b Commercial Road, Swanage. BH19 1DF, where we will ensure it gets passed on to Steph (cheques made payable to: Planets Cancer Charity).

Steph – we salute you and all that you do for so many in our community and further afield. We send you our collective love and best wishes. You are an inspiration to us all.



Above: Steph (right) with TV presenter and British racing driver, Tiff Needell (centre) and Kathryn Hardy



Above: Steph (left) with good friend, Annie Littleton. Picture by George Crane



Above: Steph (left) with Associate Medical Director, Neil Pearce, founder of PLANETS.

Left: Steph (in pink!) surrounded by friends and well-wishers as she sets off from Swanage for the 'Scrap to the future' car rally. Picture by George Crane.

**Vigilant!**

Not a soldier on gate duty or in a sentry box outside a palace or a policeman on crowd control. Not an espionage agent with a long lens or a teacher in a playground. The vigilance of the NCI is a vigilance of the safekeeping of life and property around our shores. For an island nation, our shoreline is both our security and our vulnerability; our playground and our scrap yard.

A few weeks ago, in 55 knot westerly winds, there were two multi-hulled yachts moored in Swanage Bay. Moored about 30-40 metres apart, nothing out of the ordinary one might think – very true until mid-morning, when the distance between them was noticed by the watch team at the Lookout to be much less than previously seen.

Closer inspection determined that the inshore craft was dragging its mooring and was drifting out of the bay. With all of the bay to drift into, it was heading directly at the other yacht!

The Swanage Sailing Club was called but no answer, so an incident with a possible escalation to having an out of control navigational hazard emerging was initiated with the UK Coast Guard. The NCI was left to observe and keep the UKCG informed.

Shortly before noon, another call was made to the Sailing Club, and the call was answered (nearing opening time perchance?). The owner was identified and notified and the Coast Guard incident closed as the two

yachts slowly separated. Unfortunately, the attempted retrieval of the yacht by its owner ended rather painfully as he had an accident on board and dislocated his hip.

Another incident report as firstly the inshore lifeboat and then the All Weather Life Boat were called upon to effect his landing and transport to hospital whilst his friends took the yacht to a safe berth in Poole. Whoever you are, Sir, I am glad your boat is safe and hope you are by now well recovered.

Vigilant is also the name of one of the four UK Border Force Cutters seen regularly in our area; the others being Seeker, Searcher and Valiant. Constructed in Holland between 2001/4, they are often seen acting “vigilantly” in the local area. A multi-million pound yacht sailed serenely past the Lookout heading towards the Solent. Suddenly the Valiant appeared from Poole Harbour and made to intercept.

After initial exchanges over the VHF Radio, the idea of a yacht travelling from the Mediterranean to the Solent just for repairs obviously raised a few eyebrows and the yacht was told to stop and a boarding crew was sent across. Whether the boat was infringing the UK laws in any way I can't say, but it is good to see that people around our coast do care – and act.

Thanks once more to all the participants of our tea and cake day on January the 1st – hope to see you all again over Easter.

Please stay safe on whichever side of the tide line your life or leisure takes you.

Contact the Swanage NCI at the Lookout on 01929 422596, at nci.org.uk, on VHF 65 or the email address below. We look forward to hearing your comments and/or questions.

Bob Clark, swanagenci@btinternet.com

Coastguard Update



HM Coastguard

DorSAR and Dorset & Wilts Fire and Rescue.

The breakdown of incidents included:

- 1 Washed-up ordnance
- 2 Animal Rescues
- 31 Maritime Rescues
- 9 Cliff incidents
- 21 Medical related incidents

With the closure of 2017, the team recorded 107 incidents. Whilst it's pleasing that numbers are down from 120 in 2016, it's about the average the team have been having in the last five years.

Again, whilst the volunteer team have responded to some minor incidents, there has sadly been an increase in serious and technically-challenging incidents, working with partners including the Police, Ambulance, RNLI,

- 20 Searches
- 14 Investigations
- 4 Minor incidents
- 2 Pollution incidents
- 13 Miscellaneous Incidents

So, we turn to 2018 and will again be providing patrols, accident prevention advice and of course training hard to maintain our skills.

We will continue to exercise with our partner agencies and look forward to bringing you those stories during the year.

Whilst historically a large proportion of incidents occur due to visitors to the area, we must never be complacent.

Please get in touch with us if you plan a local event involving the coast or water, so we can mark it on our calendar and offer advice on accident prevention.

email: events@swanagecoastguard.org.uk

Swanage Firestation Update



Hi and welcome to first report from 2018.

Over the festive period, operationally we responded to 28 emergency calls:

Ten medical emergencies, six alarm calls, one farm fire that involved a grain dryer and required the attendance of two appliances

from Swanage, backed-up with a further appliance from Wareham and a water carrier from Poole.

We also responded to two property fires, one incident that involved a gas leak, one animal rescue and two chimney fires. We assisted our Ambulance colleagues on two occasions and last but not least, at 01:57 on the 16th December, we were alerted to a fire on one of the local caravan parks.

Upon our arrival, eight minutes after the time of call, we were faced with a large fire involving one 25-foot motorboat a six-wheeled mini bus, one static container holding furniture, one touring caravan and one static caravan.

There were also four large propane gas cylinders involved. After a difficult start to fire operations (due to there being no fire hydrants within a half a mile of the site), our crews worked really hard under difficult and dangerous conditions and the fire was brought under control within two hours. It was finally extinguished using ten firefighters wearing breathing apparatus, one foam jet, two main water jets, two hose reel jets fed from a

water carrier, and two further fire appliances carrying out a water shuttle from the nearest water hydrants.

The Swanage crews were backed up and assisted by crews from Wareham and Poole fire stations. Once the investigation had been carried out, the cause of this fire was recorded as accidental ignition.

I would like to start this year by asking if when parking your vehicle, please always think about the need for emergency vehicles to get through. Over the Christmas period we responded to two incidents where our progress was slowed getting to the address as we were blocked by parked cars on both sides of the street. So, please just THINK - it could be you, your family, friends, colleagues or neighbours who we can't get to.

Shrove Tuesday - This Pancake Day, be flipping careful! More fires start in the kitchen than anywhere else in the home. If cooking oil starts to smoke, it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool Fry Safe, Fire Safety. Do not leave cooking unattended and avoid children being alone in the kitchen when cooking on the hob #FireSafety

Valentine's Day - Don't remember Valentine's Day for the wrong reason! Fire Safety - Cooking for a hot date this Valentine's? Take extra care to stop your date going up in flames like in the video - <http://bit.ly/1IXldmo> Make sure you test your smoke alarm every week – and why not show some goodwill by checking on any elderly relatives, friends or neighbours as well?

SWANAGE RAILWAY

During February a steam service will be operating between Swanage and Norden via Herston Halt, Harmans Cross and Corfe Castle. The service will run Saturday 10th through to Sunday 18th (school half term week), Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th February.

Saturday 10th – Sunday 18th February

Services depart Swanage at 10:00, 11:20, 12:40, 14:00 15:20 16:40.

Services depart Norden at 10:40, 12:00, 13:20, 14:40, 16:00, 17:20.

Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th February

Services depart Swanage at 10:40, 12:00, 14:00, 15:20.

Services depart Norden at 11:20, 12:40, 14:40 16:00.

Our Dining Train season commences on Sunday 11TH March with “The Dorsetman” Luncheon Train. Bookings for our ever popular dining trains are now on sale. Daily steam services commence Friday 30th March and run until Sunday 28th October. Our first event of the year is our Spring Gala “Works Outing” Friday 23rd March – Sunday 25th March with the Swanage based fleet of both steam and diesel locomotives in action.

Full details of our timetables, fares and events can be found at www.swanagerailway.co.uk

Purbeck Railway Circle

On Friday 9th February, Brian Jackson will deliver his presentation entitled “160 Years of Railways in Weymouth”. Brian, a resident of Weymouth, is a well-known transport author and historian who holds this complex subject close to his heart. The Circle meets in Harmans Cross Village Hall, Haycrafts Lane, Harmans Cross at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Tea/coffee/biscuits as usual. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

For further information regarding the show and/or the PRC please contact the PRC Chairman at: email: gensec@purbeckrailwaycircle.org.uk

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Saturday 10 - Sunday 18 February					
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14:00	15:20	16:40	14:40	16:00	17:20

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 February							
Services depart Swanage			Services depart Norden				
10:40	12:00	14:00	15:20	11:20	12:40	14:40	16:00

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Out Of The Blue

Dorset Police

February already and how many of you have broken your New Year's resolutions?! Be honest! We know, they seem like a good idea at the time. Well, why not make a late New Year's resolution and join your local Neighbourhood Watch Group?

Evidence shows that these schemes contribute to reducing crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in communities. It's all about mutual support; fostering a caring community so that neighbours look out for each other helping your community feel safer.

So, what's stopping you? Make a New Year's resolution that you can keep and that can make a difference in your community: <http://www.nhwdorset.org.uk/>

And what about what we've been up to? Well, last year saw a slight increase in crime across Purbeck, this was due to an increase in assault-related crime and low-level thefts linked to camp sites or rural areas. Many of the theft crimes can be directly linked to increased visitor numbers, and the assaults are domestic-related. The increase in domestic assaults is as a result of a positive campaign by Police to encourage more victims of crime to come forward, to support and protect vulnerable people.

However, our positive approach to policing, along with your help, has produced some extremely positive results over the year:

We have seen a 47% reduction of theft from motor vehicles and 28.6% reduction in theft of motor vehicles. Most vehicles broken into are generally left insecure and have items on display.

There has also been a 34% reduction in dwelling burglaries, thefts from sheds and garages. The Purbeck police teams, along with our partner agencies, have been working hard to provide crime prevention advice to help reduce risk and it appears to be paying off.

We've also seen a 2% rise in the number of offenders we bring to justice, a big thank you for your help with reporting these crimes.

We ask you to continue to be vigilant and report crimes so that we can take these positive results forward into 2018.

WORKING
TOGETHER
for a safer community

PACT

Partners And Communities Together

Finally, if you need to contact Dorset Police, please call our Police Enquiry Centre by calling 101. Always call 999 in an emergency when there is a risk of harm or a crime in progress. Alternatively, call the free Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111.

You can also use our website to report a number of issues, from full crime reports to lost property; just use the following link <https://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/>

Don't forget to visit us on our Facebook page: Facebook.com/Purbeck-police and Twitter: @PurbeckPolice – we really value your support and comments. You can also see our latest priorities and up and coming events at: <https://www.dorset.police.uk/neighbourhood-policing/purbeck/>

Why not register on Dorset Alert: <https://www.dorsetalert.co.uk> By registering for the free Dorset Police community messaging alerts, you will receive information on local crime and incidents where we believe that sharing information with you will help to prevent further offences occurring, as well as crimes and incidents where you may be able to help by providing vital information; current crime trends, crime prevention advice and safer neighbourhood activity and opportunities to meet the team.

You can also receive news from our partner agencies such as Dorset Fire and Rescue Service or Trading Standards and community safety messages. Please come along to our meet the team events at Swanage, Wareham and Upton, dates can be found on the website, we'd love to see you there!

Purbeck Neighbourhood Policing Team



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Stripped Bare

by Nico Johnson

There is something we need to discuss – all of us. Urgently. Unfortunately, it's a subject which can be difficult to be open about, and therefore it tends to be avoided in general discussion. It's not 'polite' to be too honest about it – not to those who are close to us, and not to those who we don't know that well. Must keep up appearances. We are after all, in Britain. Some things just aren't up for discussion.

This attitude needs to change – with immediate effect, for our own good, and for the good of those around us, especially here in Purbeck. The subject that daren't be broached is suicide. Before you skip to the next page and pretend this doesn't affect you, read on, because it absolutely IS about you. And me. All of us, in fact.

The South West currently has a worryingly high suicide rate when compared to much of the country. We are in the South West. People right here in Purbeck are taking their own lives. Our emergency service personnel, all local people themselves, are being called out more and more regularly to suicide victims of all ages, both male and female. The sights they witness cannot be erased; these distressing and heartbreaking images stay with them for life; often these are the last images they see as they close their eyes at night.

Many of us can now sadly state that we know someone in Purbeck who has taken their own life, or know local families who have been affected by suicide. It's becoming a regular occurrence, right here, now. So, I began talking to the Samaritans a few months ago with a view to getting their posters and contact information put up around the Isle of Purbeck, unsure of what else to do to help those in need of support.

This effort was put on the back-burner for a few weeks at the end of 2017, when normal life shut down as we assisted with the intensive community search for Gaia Pope and along with many, many others, I struggled to regain emotional normality in the aftermath. During this time, I heard another three local suicides had occurred. I do not know how many suicides actually took place altogether in Purbeck during the last weeks of 2017 – but I alone heard about three, in a matter of weeks. All men. From young to elderly. Just let that sink in for a moment. Three of us felt so hopeless, so alone, we felt we had no option but to end our lives.

I use the word 'us' purposefully. Depression is not something that affects 'other' people. Suicide is not something 'other' people do. This is very much an 'us' issue. Something we are all prone to, all at the mercy of. We are human, and this is a human condition – one that distressingly seems to be on the increase.

Life can be really hard, and we're all going through it together, so if someone else in Purbeck can feel bad enough to end their life, then be absolutely sure that you too can feel the same. Rich or poor, you and I are not immune to chemical imbalances of the brain, or to simply feeling the sheer helplessness of modern day life expectations and stresses. We are all one in this issue, so I have decided to take an unusual journalistic course of action. I am going to be completely and utterly honest in the hopes that at least one person reading this takes something worthy away. It turns out that my experiences are completely normal....

This is me: I have a reoccurring dream, every morning during times of stress, just as I am waking up, as consciousness starts to kick in (first time I hit the snooze button). The dream is that I get up and rather than getting washed and dressed, heading to work in order to just about cover the rent, and be a 'coping adult' for yet another day, I hang myself instead.

The problem with this dream is that it's not a nightmare – something in my subconscious brain does not want to continue with life at the point of waking some mornings. Hanging myself and ending the constant struggle to earn enough to keep a roof over my head seems a relief in the dream – rather like just going back to sleep. This dream and the subconscious desire to just stop it all is often a daily feature in my life, as I wake. I don't 'will' it to be this way, it just is, and it turns out that I am far from alone.

Just facing the daily grind is too much for many of us on a subconscious level. Consciously, we're just fine, thanks. Subconsciously, we're seriously f*cked-up, literally – pretty much every single one of us. Our neurological network has not physically evolved for thousands of years – from a time when our energies (and stress levels) were focused on the simple necessities of life, such as shelter, food, water and personal relationships.

Nowadays, those same neurological pathways have to cope with an overwhelming hoard of information and stresses, from 'keeping up with the Jones's' to updating our homes, cars, fashion, friends, social networks; adhering to societal norms, 'putting a brave face on it'; surfing an irrepressible flow of often distressing world news, and so on. If I listed our collective 'daily

tasks', I'd have a breakdown right now, honestly. My brain would melt.... There's simply too much for the human brain to handle in very real neurological terms – which more and more often is resulting in the loss of life as our brains malfunction under the weight of it all and we crumble, with no one to catch us or soften our fall.

The often-mooted suggestion that those committing suicide are 'cowardly' cannot be further from the truth in many ways. No matter how helpless I have felt in the past, I have never mustered the 'courage' to end it, although I've sadly known those who have, despite best efforts to help them.

Perhaps I am just too stubborn, or perhaps my coping mechanism of simply not looking ahead further than today (literally) keeps me 'functioning'. If I think about where I am going to find next month's rent, I know only too well that my brain can spiral out of control, landing in a pit of despondency where everything just seems impossible, too difficult, so pointless. As a small business owner, one prolonged bout of flu for me and the Gazette is sunk, Kay is unemployed, I can't pay my rent and along with thousands of others, would be one month away from homelessness and despair.

You are not alone. Life can be an endless struggle, for all of us, if we think about it too much. I decide, every day, not to think about it, and I carry on.

Many suicide victims honestly feel that those around them would be better off without them and their self-perceived 'problems' or 'failures'. Many commit suicide out of love, as well as sheer hopelessness and irrational or indeed rational, despair. This is where brain chemistry and mental illness come into play. Anyone with a single family member or one good friend to their name will know that they would rather have that loved one alive and with them, no matter what, than lose them forever to suicide. Therefore, the belief that those you love will be better off without you is not factually correct – it's a literal illogical error of brain chemistry; a result of depression or a similarly destructive mental illness. Those around you want you to stay alive. It's absolutely true.

'Mental illness' is an umbrella term that really bugs me. I am convinced that actually, some more common forms of mental illness are just an inescapable part of the modern human condition, something that modern-day life forces upon us all neurologically, at one time or another. It's normal, although still not really accepted or openly discussed in polite society.

Depression is something that will often strike, out of the blue, with no warning. Brain chemistry spirals out of control, and we can suddenly believe the worst about ourselves; that we are worthless when held up against the 'great and the good', who, like us, are most likely to be calm on the surface, but manically paddling like fury underneath, simply to get through each day without literally 'losing the plot'. The problem is, when your brain chemistry changes, you naturally roll with it. You think it's reality – people would be better off without you. Life would be easier if you weren't around.

Your friends and loved ones would tell you differently, would you but believe them. You may feel differently yourself; tomorrow, or next week, or next month – should you stay around to find out.

Too many of us right here in Purbeck are clocking out instead, departing this mortal coil by our own hand and leaving a wake of devastation and sorrow behind us as friends and family try to understand, to come to terms with losing us. Many left behind never recover, blaming themselves for not 'saving' us, tragically becoming depressed and at risk themselves. No suicide victim wishes this for those left behind, I'm sure. So – what to do? In an ideal world, full-scope mental health services would be immediately available when needed. The professional help would be easily (and quickly) accessible to all. It is NOT.

There are too many stories (including locally) of people trying to access immediate help only to be given a referral, and an appointment some months away. No help whatsoever if you've been brave enough to contact your doctor and admit you're on the verge of suicide, if anything, it's likely to compound negative feelings of worthlessness and increase the likelihood of a continuing spiral downwards.

In the days immediately after finding Gaia, I, along with many locals who had worked day and night to find her, found ourselves unexpectedly at the doctor's sit-and-wait surgeries, suffering from mental and emotional exhaustion. I remember actually rocking whilst sitting, waiting to be seen – like a 'mental patient' from the old asylum days....

After an hour or so, I got up and admitted to the receptionist that I felt an almost overwhelming desire to hit the woman typing behind the screen in the corner of the waiting room (the noise of the keyboard was, for some reason, driving me mad), or to alternatively curl up in the foetal position in

the corridor behind the waiting room and sob uncontrollably. I remember both feelings being overwhelmingly strong, whilst I rocked, with my head between my knees, uncaring at that point of what I looked like, or what the people in the waiting room thought of me.

Luckily, I felt able to get up and be totally honest with the receptionist, expressing how I felt, along with explaining what the outcomes of me having to wait yet another hour in a packed waiting room, would be. I felt no embarrassment - anymore than I would have if I'd been complaining of a broken leg. She said she'd change my listing to 'urgent'. Half an hour later, and the doctor I saw was very sympathetic, offered the standard short-term sedative pill 'solution' (which I took), but was clearly unable to physically reach in, sort my dysfunctional neuro pathways and 'fix' me.

Luckily, I have some strength of mind (and little choice but to keep on!), and pretty swiftly, I managed to get back into the swing of getting up, getting dressed and not thinking about the future. For me, life goes on; we fight to raise enough advertising revenue to stay in business each month, keep our jobs, pay the rent on our homes, and I ignore the unwelcome dream I continue to experience upon awakening when stressed.

My story also belongs to many of you.

Alongside our local GPs and the help they are able to offer (medicinal or referral), all we seem to really have to hand at the moment are some (very good) charities and helplines, and a few social movements (such as the inspiring #JoinIn247 Twitter hashtag). Other than that, we just have ourselves; our community. That's it. No one is going to swoop in and fix our growing suicide rate; the chances are that it's going to continue unabated, without intervention, unless we as a community try and help ourselves, starting with being honest with each other.

Since researching this topic, almost every person I have spoken to has admitted to suicidal thoughts at one time or another within minutes of starting an honest conversation on the topic. Many local business owners worry desperately about staying in business; keeping their staff in work, whilst feeding their own families and paying their rent or, for the lucky few, mortgage. Everyone 'in work' worries about job security, as well as the concerns of not being able to earn enough to have anything like a 'decent' standard of living - or to even be able to afford three meals a day.

We have virtually no truly affordable housing locally - a basic human right unfulfilled for many Purbeckians. Thousands are on local housing waiting lists (including families - that's small kids too), with almost no hope whatsoever of a secure, habitable, permanent 'home' here.

Brexit, climate change, racism, xenophobia, Trump, North Korea, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Gaza, South Sudan; famine, war, over-population, disease - the list is endless, no matter your political persuasion; the world is in literal chaos. Think about the future too much and we're all doomed to depression.

Literally everyone I have spoken to has experienced feelings of overwhelming hopelessness or despondency at some point. This makes the issue of suicide and depression most definitely a collective issue; it's an 'us' matter - many of us are collectively struggling with daily life. This is something we all have a connection to, in some way, and we all now need to face-up to depression and suicide, together - in whatever ways we can, as a community. We must collectively be there, for each other, for the foreseeable future.

My humble and possibly unobtainable wish for 2018 is for no more Purbeckians to mourn a lost one as a result of suicide; for no more local schools to have to work out how to deal with grieving youngsters who have lost a parent; for no more parents to feel the utter heartbreak of losing a child to suicide.

I ask that you start to talk to each other - right now. I've been honest and haven't come out in a rash, so it's not that bad - you'll survive, and will be surprised at how many people you 'thought you knew' who will openly admit to having experienced depressive or suicidal feelings at some point, or who simply struggle with day-to-day life. It's quite normal, in reality.

Talking is cathartic. Feeling a part of the collective is a positive thing and is equally cathartic - if this is something the majority of us share, then talking about it can only be a good thing. It certainly can't hurt, and if one person is saved by you being honest about your own struggles, at the bar one night after a few pints, then all the better. A person's life is worth an honest conversation with those around you, every day of the week.

We have material (posters, wallet cards and so on) very kindly provided by the Samaritans (Bournemouth branch) in the Gazette office - if one person from each local village and town could make themselves responsible for getting a couple of posters up, that would be a start. If every pub could offer to stick a Samaritans business card on the back of every toilet door, that would be a start.

Come pick them up, and get them out there around our beautiful island (we're happy to post to you - simply email: ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk and we'll pop them in an envelope, or if you can print some out, we can email you PDFs of the posters). It gives those struggling in the immediate-term a visible

option; the knowledge that they're not alone, that someone will listen, 24/7. I am but one person, struggling day-to-day, along with the rest of you reading this. We are all in this together, so I now ask for your help in saving the life of your friend, your family member, your neighbour.....

Please help to normalize the current human condition - we all suffer from it, and are therefore ideally qualified to help one another to some extent; to empathize, to care and be aware. Please do this for all of us - from today onwards, as the only New Year's Resolution you stick to.

Talk. Be open. Be kind to each other. Be supportive and understanding.

You can contact the Samaritans by phone, text or email - details are on the advert, below. They are there to listen, always, in confidence.

For children struggling with loss due to suicide, please visit: www.winstonswish.org or call 08088 020021 (freephone) or email: ask@winstonswish.org

Don't want to talk? Check out the #JoinIn247 hashtag on Twitter. You do not need to join Twitter to view or read the conversations (threads) gathered under this hashtag. Simply search the internet for 'Twitter', go to the page, and search for '#JoinIn247' and start reading the posts and threads. Originally set-up by comedian Sarah Millican, this inspirational social media gathering is for those who are feeling down, alone or helpless and is a joy to behold - humanity can be amazing. Simply reading the honest feelings of others who are struggling for a wide variety of reasons can do wonders, and no interaction is required unless you want to join in.

Tell your friends and family how you're feeling if you're down. If you're alone (and some people literally are), please reach out to someone, anyone. You'd be surprised how many kind, caring, open people are around you if you just reach out and ask for help. Join a local group or society, post online, anything - but please don't give up on us, or life itself, without trying to find a solution or a better way of feeling or dealing, first.

To those trying to help someone feeling suicidal - listen, do your best, be there. Offer what support you can. Make sure you are equally supported by friends or family.

The Samaritans advise that we should all be aware that if someone really is in the mindset of taking their own life, sometimes there is little to be done to stop them. Accept this fact, but please still try to help.

Most of all, just be there for one another.

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main..... (John Donne)

This life is just a fleeting second in the lifetime of your soul.....

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.....

If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain..... (Dolly Parton)

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in your own way - about
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Swanage Carnival Goes On Safari!



Swanage Carnival is taking our supporters on an expedition to the wild and wonderful with a safari theme.

Whether you want to explore our carnival showground, hunt out prizes in our many competitions and games or discover the Carnival Arms bar, 2018 is set to be a year to remember.

As always, the theme is a focal point of the Carnival Procession so start preparing your safari floats and costumes now!

We are hoping to expand some of our events in 2018 and in order to do this we are looking for some new sponsors.

If you can sponsor a carnival event to help us develop new ideas or continue some of our favourite events for this year, please email our chairperson



Swanage Regatta & Carnival

CHARITY NOMINATIONS

If you would like to nominate a Charity or Good Cause to be a beneficiary from the proceeds of this year's Carnival Week, please apply in writing to the Carnival Secretary no later than 31st March 2018 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 organisations help during Carnival Week with voluntary roles such as bucket collections at events.

Applications to: Andy Wright - Swanage Regatta & Carnival,
25 Durberville Drive, Swanage. BH19 1QN
Email: secretary@swanagecarnival.com

Maria – chairman@swanagecarnival.com

As a sponsor you will feature in our popular carnival programme, thousands of which are sold every year in the run-up to carnival.

Admiral Nurse Fund



Pictured is the presentation of a cheque for the magnificent sum of £2000, raised by 'Aquarius Women In Touch' in Corfe Castle for the Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Community on 2nd January.

The money raised will be going towards supporting a second Admiral Nurse in Purbeck.

Pictured from left to right: Gill Sellen (Joint Chair of Aquarius), Rachel Murray (our first Admiral Nurse), Jean Gibbs (Chair of SADFC) and Penelope Smith (Joint Chair Aquarius)

Jill (Aquarius Committee Member)



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Crossways Donation



On Monday 19th December Crossways Travel, a local Coach Tour operator based near Dorchester, made their "Charity of the Year" donation for 2017 to the Friends Of Dorchester Hospital.

Crossways Travel are delighted to announce that with the help of their loyal customers, they donated a staggering £2000 at their annual Christmas Party Lunch, held in the New Forest.

The money raised will go towards the much-needed new radiography unit in Dorchester Hospital, meaning those who require treatment in our area will be able to receive it without the need to travel further afield to other hospitals.

Kadi Crocker, owner of Crossways Travel, said she was delighted with the amount raised this year for the charity and that the Friends Of Dorchester Hospital were very grateful. Kadi is now starting the planning for 2018's Charity of the Year, this being Dorset Blind Association. She would like to thank all the people that have made the 2017 donation to Dorchester Hospital possible.

Pictured from left: Ron Lewis (Driver), Matt Crocker (Crossways Travel), Sharon Merritt (Friends of Dorchester Hospital), Gill Davies (Crossways Travel), Kadi Crocker (Owner of Crossways Travel)

SWANAGE CARE NEWS

Agincare

Caring in Your Community

Alpacas visit Gainsborough Care Home – What a delight!

We had a visit from some beautiful Alpacas in December sporting winter scarves, and looking very dapper. They visited some of our residents in their rooms and those more able enjoyed their company and cuddles in the resident lounges. They will definitely be returning to Gainsborough in the New Year.

With Winter almost behind us, lighter evenings to look forward to and Spring trying to make an appearance, here is the latest update from Gainsborough Care Home's residents and staff.

A wonderful day was had by all on 1st February as we celebrated National Dignity Action Day. This special event led by The National Dignity Council was enjoyed with an afternoon raffle and musical entertainment from Dave Arnold. This day reminds us of the importance of Dignity in a care home environment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Story telling week will take place from 30th January to 3rd February. This is the first time that this increasingly popular event has been held at Gainsborough Care Home but we are certain of a great attendance. A variety of stories will be told throughout this period.

Another growing event is National Pizza Day! On Friday 9th February we will be holding a 'make your own pizza' for all of our residents that are able to join in. Sweet or savoury options welcome with a prize for the best tasting pizza.

Recruitment

We require staff to join our friendly expanding team. If you are interested, please come in for an informal chat



or 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 activities. If you can help, please contact us.

Care Home Services

Our additional new rooms were very well received over the festive period and we now have 48 registered beds. If you are interested in viewing the care Home or would like to talk about the care services we offer, please call Rosie on 01929 422500 or go to www.agincare-homes.com



PLEASE HELP US TO 'RAISE THE ROOF' at The Centre



DONATE BY:

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Atlantic Rd, Swanage. BH19 2EG

ONLINE: via our website:
www.spdt.org.uk



Help Us Help The Centre Raise The Roof!

A Social Hub at the Heart of the Community

This was the vision in 2016 of a few volunteers (led by Kim Gallagher and Bob Foster) when the ownership of the building, known as the Youth Centre, was handed over to the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust.

Part of this vision was to re-open the youth club, this was achieved with a successful launch of the youth club in Dec 2017, initially with young people aged 11/12 years, with plans to expand to older age groups during 2017.

Earlier, in June 2016, an Open Day launching an ambitious two-phase business plan and vision took place, attended by over two hundred members of the community, many of whom had – in their youth – been members of the thriving youth club.

In April 2017, at a second Open Day, members of the community saw for themselves the extensive refurbishment that had already taken place as a result of the amazing £100,000 raised by donations from the community, fundraising events and a successful application for both local and national grants.

Over the past eighteen months, The Centre Management Board, has worked to deliver the first phase of the business plan to upgrade the building. To date the plumbing has been renewed, a new heating system installed, general redecoration with soundproofing, all of which now make The Centre a building fit for community use. Plans – and funding – are in place to install a sound system, which will enable it to be used as a venue for concerts etc.

Now, as we move to phase two, the high winds and severe weather over the past two years have taken their toll on the roof, which needs to be replaced before next winter at a cost of £45,000.

We – as the Management Board – will also continue to apply for both local and national grants BUT we ask you, our community, to help us raise the money to undertake this essential work to ensure that the vision becomes a reality.

Volunteer With Us!

Swanage Volunteers Get off to a Flying start

Since the Swanage Volunteer Bureau started in May 2017, there had been a fantastic response from the people of Swanage and the surrounding areas.

Every Friday morning (10.30 to 12.30), a person from the Volunteer Bureau has stationed themselves at the top of the stairs in the Swanage Library. More than a hundred people have met us. This has meant a greater awareness of all the volunteering opportunities, to the benefit of those running a charity or an organisation that relies on volunteers. As far as we know, at least thirty-two people have gone on to join a group in Swanage – a real boost to the reputation of Swanage as a caring community.

More than thirty organisations are now registered with the Bureau, looking for at least eighty volunteers.

A sample of our current volunteer request include:

- driver for a Charity bus
- someone to help older people to use the Internet
- a person to help with youth groups

As the Bureau's reputation and success grows, more organisations and volunteer positions are expected to be added in 2018.

Did you know that in a recent survey for 2015/16, by the National Council of Volunteer Organisations, more than 22 million people in the UK were involved in volunteering? The report also said that 17% in the survey had "not heard about opportunities to help", that 14% "don't know any groups that need help" and 8% said "I'm new to the area."

So, are you ready to come and meet us at the top of the stairs?!

Not sure what you want to do or are you unsure what you can volunteer for? Our approach is low key – absolutely no pressure. We'll chat to you, give you any information you want and confidentially point you in the right direction. It is entirely up to you what you do after your visit.

If you are a voluntary organiser and want us to help you find volunteers for your organisation, you too can come along to the Swanage library on a Friday

Will we see you on a Friday morning very soon? We hope so!



Every Friday 10.30 – 12.30
Swanage Library

Give a Little, Gain a Lot

Would you like to: make a difference, use existing or learn fresh skills, meet new people, have fun and be proud to know that you have helped keep Swanage great?

Local organisations, who need volunteers, have joined together to bring all their volunteering opportunities into one place.

From one-off to regular opportunities

Pop in and meet our friendly Volunteer Champions to find out more.

Contact swanagevb@gmail.com
for more information





Looking for a new challenge in 2018?

If you are passionate about Swanage, we would really love to meet you!

The Town Council has a wide range of seasonal and permanent jobs available in 2018 as follows:

Information Centre Assistants
Seafront Advisor
Boat Park Wardens

Enforcement Officer
Beach Gardens Assistants
Beach Cleaners

To find out more about what the above jobs entail, please come along to our Jobs Fair. You will be able to have an informal chat with current staff about becoming part of our team and learn what it is like to work for the Town Council.

When: Thursday 15th February - Saturday 17th February

Time: 10am - 5pm

Where: Swanage Information Centre on Shore Road

Just turn up or for more information, please contact us on: 01929 766018 or email: mail@swanage.gov.uk All of our vacancies are advertised in local media.

National Trust At Corfe Castle

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Teddy bear zip wire and castle quest!

Sat 10 to Sun 18 February

Bring along your own brave teddy to have a go at the fearsome Zip Wire Challenge!

Search for the questions hidden in the castle to successfully complete your castle quest.

For details see:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle



Uncover the secrets of Corfe Castle this year

There's over 1,000 years of history in this medieval castle - what will you discover?

nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle



#nationaltrust

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Swanage Boxing Day Dip 2017!



Swanage's traditional Boxing Day Dip was once again a splendid success, with several hundred brave swimmers taking to the sea, and over a thousand turning up to cheer the swimmers on.

The Woods family of Swanage have, over the past few years, utilised this annual community tradition to raise money for small, local charities.

This year, the donations raised went to help sponsor the next Purbeck Pirate Festival (which in turn raises money for local charities and causes) and the 'Save the Bandstand' appeal. Well done to the helpers representing the chosen good causes who turned up to shake a bucket and encourage the swimmers and spectators to donate.

A total amount of £2020 was donated this year by the wonderfully brave swimmers and dippers, so well done everyone!





Join Us For FUNDAY SUNDAYS!



SPEND SUNDAY WITH GEORGE!

Funday Sundays is a monthly winter afternoon event held at Swanage Day Centre (Connect) in the High Street, which runs from October to April inclusive, organised by Swanage Area Forum.

A topical film is shown every month from 2.30pm, doors open at 1.30pm, when refreshments are served and are included in the entrance price of £3.50. We also have a raffle, and end about 4.30pm.

Sunday can be the most isolating and lonely day of the week for some people, so we decided on this initiative to invite the local adult community (of all ages), whether they live on their own, or are a member of other local community groups.

It has become a meeting-up place for people, some of whom go on to form friendships shared throughout the week.

Why not liven up those cold and miserable winter Sunday afternoons in a warm, welcoming environment with great company?

Please ring 01929 422215 for more information.



Funday Sundays Monthly Filmshow

2.30PM – SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

SWANAGE DAY CENTRE, HIGH ST, SWANAGE

(DOORS OPEN at 1.30pm FOR REFRESHMENTS)



OH BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?

'Stars George CLUNY, John TURTURRO, Tim Blake NELSON

A Coen Brothers smash-hit with wit, style, and air-cushioned with appealing good-natured comedy. Simply: this is a film which is impossible to dislike. Fantastic music too, it's a film to tap your feet to!

ADMISSION: £3.50 Includes refreshments+nibbles

2017 Star Volunteers!



Natalie Boyce and her daughter Maisie (16) are the 2017 Star volunteers. They came to the Volunteer Bureau at the Swanage library on a Friday morning and after reviewing what they were interested in, they felt that volunteering at the Swanage Museum was the way to go. Guess what? Mum and daughter now run the Swanage museum and the museum shop every Sunday!

Natalie is thrilled that they have found an activity that she and her daughter can do together and it combines their interest in Swanage history and other information such as dinosaurs! They really enjoy meeting and talking to people, running the shop. Maisie, who has some learning difficulties, takes great pride in displaying the museum merchandise to best effect and "would like to be here all the time". Apart from the satisfaction and enjoyment of volunteering, it builds Maisie's skills for future job opportunities.

Are you interested in helping as the Museum as it opens for the 2018 season? The museum totally relies on volunteers for a wide range of duties, such as informing visitors, selling items from the shop, developing the exhibits, planning for future displays etc. You can find out more at www.swanagemuseum.co.uk or contact Mel Norris on 01929 422215.

There are many other volunteer opportunities in Swanage, do you want to know more? Come and see for yourself at the Volunteer Bureau in the Swanage Library on Fridays, between 10.30 and 12.30. Could you be the 2018 Star volunteer?

SWANAGE MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

The Square, Swanage BH19 2LJ



ARE YOU RETIRED?
HAVE YOU JUST MOVED HERE?
WANT TO DO SOMETHING MEMORABLE
WITH YOUR GOLDEN YEARS?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you intrigued by the fascinating history of Swanage, its geology, links to the dinosaur age, its stone and fishing industries, its people, the role of smuggling and later the growth of the railway and tourism in Swanage?

What about our links to famous authors and artists?

Do you know the origins of Purbeck Stone, Marble and our world-famous Blue Clay?

Want to find out more? Want to get involved?



THEN JOIN US AT THE SWANAGE MUSEUM

For more information phone 01929 426127

Swanage Area Forum



OPEN MEETING

Wednesday FEB 14th - 7.00pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

Emmanuel Church Centre, 160 Victoria Avenue, Swanage

JOHN MOWLEM

Founding Father of Swanage



A Talk by **DAVID HAYSOM**
Curator of Swanage Museum
& Heritage Centre

The 'rags-to-riches' story of the poor quarry boy who went to London and made his fortune, and founded the international construction firm 'Mowlem'.

John Mowlem was born at Court Hill in Swanage in 1788. His father and brothers are said to have been the last gang of men to have worked the quarry at Tilly Whim, later turned into the tourist attraction by George Burt.

Before he was 20, John had left Swanage to seek his fortune - first at Norris Castle on the Isle of Wight and by 1807 had gone up to London to work for sculptor-mason Henry Westmacott at Pimlico.

In 1822 with capital of £100 John set up his own business and secured contracts from various London parishes to provide stone paving, much of it being shipped from Swanage. The business grew and his first big contract was repaving Blackfriars Bridge in 1839-40 with granite setts. To achieve this he bought land in Guernsey and opened a quarry to guarantee the supply of granite needed.

He was able to retire to Swanage by 1845 and leave the firm in charge of 'his two young men', George Burt and Joseph Freeman, whom he took into partnership. Yet even in retirement John was still very actively involved in the business as his diary reveals, plus making improvements to the roads in Swanage, the building of the first pier, the original Mowlem Institute, and trying to get a railway line to the town from Wareham.

The talk goes on to show the development of Mowlem's company and the major contracts through the years and the legacy of John Mowlem's work that can still be seen in Swanage today, including the old London relics that George Burt brought to Swanage.

ALL WELCOME

PARKING & REFRESHMENTS FROM 6.30PM

MV Pilsum Disaster Averted

by Stephen Sanderson, PRO, St Alban's Head NCI



On a stormy New Year's Eve as most of us were safe in the comfort of our homes looking forward to seeing in the New Year with friends and family, little did we know that a drama was unfolding at sea just off St Alban's Head on the Jurassic Coast.

Over the course of the last day of 2017, concern had been mounting steadily for a 1662 ton Antigua and Barbuda registered cargo vessel, the MV Pilsum, which was drifting out of control in Weymouth Bay as it was battered by storm force winds.

The MV Pilsum had suffered an engine failure earlier in the day and had attempted to anchor in Weymouth Bay in order to shelter from the storm and also to fix its engines. Unfortunately, with winds gusting to over 70mph, the Pilsum's anchor was unable to hold the vessel in position and in the gathering darkness, the ship was dragged relentlessly by the storm and powerful currents eastwards across Weymouth Bay, towards the wave-lashed 300ft cliffs of St Alban's Head near Swanage.

The National Coastwatch stations at Portland Bill and St Alban's Head had been monitoring the situation over the course of the afternoon and had alerted the UK coastguard to the situation and the mounting threat to the ship, its crew and cargo - which included a significant amount of fuel oil.

At 17:30 the lights of the drifting cargo ship became visible to Larry Sullivan and Brian Ellis, who were the duty watchkeepers manning the National Coastwatch station at St Albans Head. It immediately became clear to the two watchkeepers that the Pilsum was in serious danger of being driven onto the rocks at St Alban's Head and they continued to monitor and plot the stricken vessel's progress, while at the same time giving constant briefings to the UK Coastguard Operations room for whom they were quite literally the "eyes along the coast".

The seriousness of what was unfolding became very clear when the Coastguard reported that Whitehall had been advised of the perilous situation that was unfolding and the possibility of a cargo vessel, along with its load of fuel oil, being wrecked on the Jurassic Coast with very serious consequences for both life and the environment.

By 18:00 Weymouth RNLI Lifeboat had been called to the scene, while at the same time the Poole tug 'Kingston' was fighting its way towards the Pilsum against the tide and the gale force winds, with the task of taking the helpless cargo ship in tow. In a rapidly deteriorating situation and in pitch darkness, it looked as though the Kingston had only a one-hour time window in which to get a tow line secured aboard the stricken vessel in order to prevent a disaster. At this point, the crew of the Weymouth Lifeboat were heard to say to the skipper of the tug 'Kingston' that they were now under extreme pressure to take the crew off the drifting ship, given the serious possibility of a shipwreck.

In view of the severity of the situation, the team manning the St Alban's Head Coastwatch station were reinforced by the station operations manager, Dave Hill, and together the team continued to provide a detailed moment-by-moment briefing to the Coastguard on the unfolding drama in the turbulent seas in front of them. This commentary included progress

reports on the position of the tug 'Kingston' as it struggled towards the Pilsum, reports on the state of the sea, the condition of the dangerous tidal race at St Alban's Head, as well as half hourly weather reports. Then, as the possibility of a helicopter rescue mounted, the coastwatch team were able to give details on the cloud ceiling which would dictate the height at which the rescue helicopter would have to operate, if required.

At 19:30 in a deteriorating situation, the decision was taken to launch the Swanage Lifeboat to add further emergency support. All the while, the Pilsum was rolling dramatically in very heavy seas. At times the Weymouth Lifeboat was seen clearly above and beyond the deck of the Pilsum as the waves and the huge swell pounded the stricken vessel.

The tug 'Kingston' was finally able to manoeuvre into position and attempt to pass a lead line to the Pilsum so they could drag aboard and secure the main tow rope. This involved the Kingston passing perilously close across the bow of the Pilsum on several occasions in order to get the tow rope across.

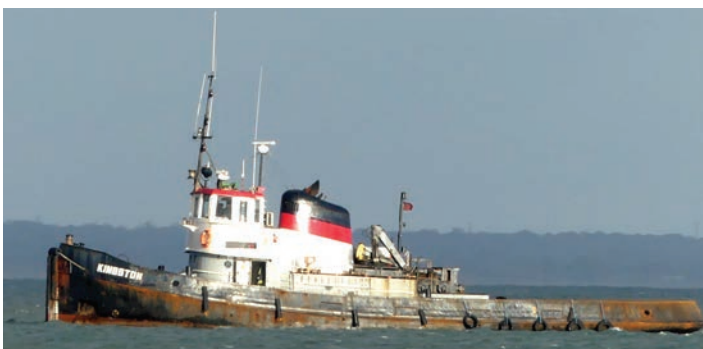
The conditions made this operation incredibly difficult, not to say dangerous, and on the seventh attempt, the guide rope was finally held by the crew of the Pilsum. Unfortunately, instead of using the light guide rope to haul in the main tow rope, the crew of the Pilsum secured the guide rope to their deck and as soon as it came under strain, the guide rope snapped and the main tow rope fell back into the sea. This was all to the very obvious frustration of the Kingston's skipper, who had to repeat the entire hazardous process!

After many further dangerous forays under the bow of the Pilsum, the guide line was once again successfully received by the Pilsum. However, it was clear that the crew of the Pilsum did not understand what they had to do to secure the main tow rope and the skipper of the Kingston was heard shouting repeatedly at the Pilsum to use the guide rope to haul the main tow rope aboard. It then required the Coastguard to provide further explicit instructions over the radio to the skipper of the Pilsum before its crew successfully managed to haul the main tow rope aboard and make it properly secure to their ship.

At last, with the stricken vessel safely connected to the rescue tug and the situation coming slowly but increasingly under control, all those involved in the rescue were able to heave a small sigh of relief. The Weymouth Lifeboat was stood down as were National Coastwatch teams at Portland and St Albans Head as the Swanage Lifeboat escorted the Kingston with the vessel Pilsum safely in tow, into the shelter and safety of Studland Bay.

It had been a very close call indeed and was an excellent example of the joint professionalism and commitment of all those involved, including the National Coastwatch teams, who clearly proved their ability to provide invaluable assistance to the emergency services.

Finally, at 21:30, the Coastguard stood down the weary watchkeepers at St Alban's Head who were able to catch up with their delayed New Year's Eve celebrations in the knowledge that a shipwreck had been prevented, lives saved and an environmental calamity on a world heritage coastline averted.



Wareham Disabled Club Enjoy A Glass!

A festive toast for all the members and volunteers of Wareham Disabled Club, who enjoyed their Christmas Lunch at the Town's Golf Club. Members are pictured, below, enjoying a glass!



Inner Wheel Donate



Swanage & Purbeck Inner Wheel Club are pleased to support Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. President Ann Tiller presented a cheque for the sum of £500 to Leanne Colverson at our November 2017 meeting.

Inner Wheel is one of the largest organisations for women within the UK with 19,000 members and a global membership of over 100,000, being a sister organisation of Rotary International.

The Objects of Inner Wheel are:

- Promoting true friendship.
- To encourage the ideals of personal service.
- To foster international understanding.

Members of our club in Swanage achieve these goals in various ways which combine fund-raising and personal service - all with fun and friendship.

Age UK Benefits Purbeck

Age UK Dorchester is now providing information and advice regarding welfare benefits to older people in the Purbeck area, by way of home visits.

Welfare Benefits volunteers can assist with the completion of Attendance Allowance forms.

If you need assistance with applying for Attendance Allowance, please contact our welfare benefits coordinator, Janice Webb, on 01305 269444 or email: jwebb@ageukdorchester.onmicrosoft.com

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The relationship between you and your estate agent is important. As with all relationships there needs to be the element of trust as without trust, there is no worthwhile relationship. A key factor in establishing and maintaining such trust is communication.



At HomeXperts we believe that communication is a two-way process of reaching understanding, in which everyone exchanges information, news, ideas and feelings.



One of the biggest complaints about estate agents is the lack of communication. However, we will communicate with you on a weekly basis, over and above any calls to arrange viewings, or to give feedback afterwards. Each week you will receive an update from us which shows you what activity has been undertaken in order to generate exposure for your property. We will share with you results of campaigns and provide reports from both Rightmove and Zoopla so you can see for yourself how your property is performing. We believe it is important that you know what we are doing so that you can trust in our efforts to sell your property.



Likewise, this regular contact is an opportunity for you to share with us any changes of circumstances, any ideas or simply how you are feeling about the process and to ask for any advice.



Often a relationship with an agent is restricted to office hours. But not with us. We make ourselves contactable 24/7 in order for you to be able to talk to us when it suits you.



We are people-people, not just a business that sells properties. You receive a professional and thorough approach from us, but we also believe that our relationship as a husband and wife team means you will receive a balanced and personal approach over the influences of both head and heart.

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Blast From The Past!

This month, A Decade Ago...

February 2008 saw the Gazette report on the continuation of local anger against the exploding second home market in Purbeck - seen to be having a serious effect on the chances of local families or the local workforce ever being able to afford their own home.

Local builder, Hayden Sparkes (pictured on the front cover, right), had recently completed a renovation in Swanage, only to discover that two-foot-high lettering appeared overnight on the fencing, declaring 'No to 2nd homes'. Damage to the fence cost several hundred pounds to put right.

Although several of Mr Sparkes's properties had indeed sold to second-home owners, Mr Sparkes stated that he agreed with, and supported, the need for the provision of local affordable housing. Mr Sparkes commented: "Mindless vandalism like this doesn't help anyone's cause. Unfortunately it alienates everyone from the cause of providing local affordable housing. Since the graffiti has appeared, many locals have come up to me and said that they think it's disgusting and makes a mess of our town."

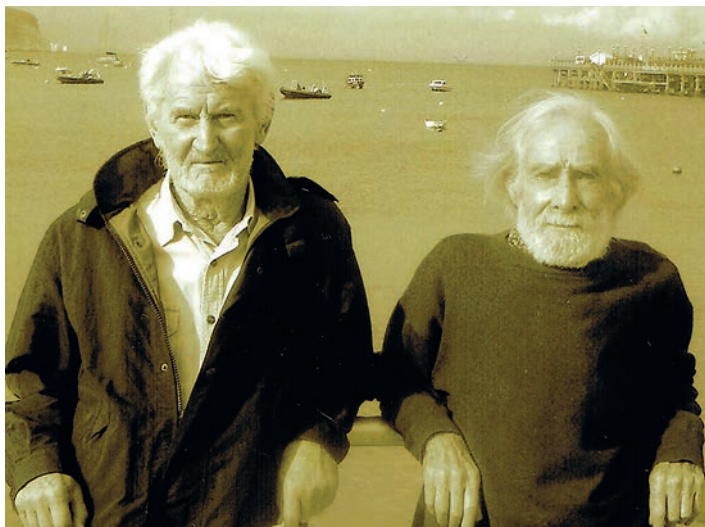
Collette Drayson wrote an article on the debacle that was the Worth Cafe and Craft centre planning application (and subsequent approval). Collette, along with Nicky Gray, had become heavily involved with collating the strong local opposition to the development - not knowing at the time of offering to 'collate paperwork' just how in-depth this case would become!

Both ladies knew the background and the more recent history of the building, and therefore were at an advantage from the off. They then spent numerous hours compiling much further information, learning planning law and regulations, contacting relevant groups such as AONB, English Heritage, Defra, Wildlife Trust and many others. They eventually accumulated four huge files of information and policies relevant to the case. Over sixty letters of objection were sent in to PDC, as well as a petition of over 300 names against the development.

The final vote at the full Council meeting was 4:4, with the then Chairman having the casting vote. Thus the community of Worth Matravers lost one of its last surviving businesses, over eighteen employees lost work in the village, an important architectural and historical Purbeck farm building was lost - replaced with four unaffordable dwellings of little use to the village whatsoever.

Gerry Norris wrote a report following a large, noisy demonstration on the steps of Dorset County Council, where campaigners from across Dorset were awarded with the council's decision to keep four of the five threatened Day Care Centres open for elderly and vulnerable people, whilst they reconsidered financial ways to keep them open in the long-term. Originally, recommendations were for all five centres to close, regardless of the additional £4 million granted to council by government the month previously.

Blandford campaigners were left bitterly angry however, as it was decided that Blandford Day Care Centre would remain open only as a communications/collecting point and would cease to offer any other services.



The Purbeck community bid a sad farewell to renowned artist, Denis Lowson (pictured above right, with friend Paddy MacMiadhachain). Denis was a well-known figure in Purbeck, often to be seen standing behind his easel, or sketching on the beach. Printmaker, painter, watercolourist - Denis was an unapologetic romantic, defying the fashions for over fifty years, only to

The Frome Valley & Isle of Purbeck

for the news... and the views... your guide to...

Gazette

Promoting local business, arts, people & events

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Issue no. 97

February 2008

FREE

'Mindless' Graffiti Angers Community

Nico Campbell-Allen

Swanage has once again been marred by graffiti protesting against the ever-growing second home market.

Slogans such as 'We don't need more luxury flats' and 'No to 2nd homes' have appeared in foot-high letters in several locations across town, including across the Purbeck stone wall boarding the Shore House development-to-be. This new onslaught follows a surge of anti-second-home graffiti that appeared around the town last summer - covered by ITV on 'Tonight', with Sir Trevor MacDonald.

Local property developer, Hayden Sparkes (pictured above), found graffiti adorning a newly-erected fence on one of his properties, protesting against second homes. He estimates that replacing the damaged fencing on his property will cost several hundred pounds. Hayden was born and bred in Swanage and understands that the local property market makes it hard for locals to get on the property ladder. Although several of Hayden's development properties have sold to second-home owners, he agrees with and supports the need for the provision of local affordable housing.

He commented, "Mindless vandalism like this doesn't help anyone's cause."

continued on page 8

So many letters - The peasants are revolting! pages 4-7

What's On in Dorchester pages 16-17

David Eyles - on The Law of Unintended Consequences page 24

PURBECK CONSERVATORIES & WINDOWS

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So will your customers!

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Ashley Blinds

See Page 5 for offers

01929 498029

see most recently the pendulum swing back in his direction.

Denis was a Dorset artist at heart, despite regular trips abroad during the colder winter months and he was well known as an idealist, as well as being supremely artistic in so many mediums. Excelling in friendships, and a master of correspondence (many of us retain his wonderful, illustrated letters to this day), Denis left many friends behind when he travelled away on this last adventure.....

Children from years 3 and 4 from St Mark's CE VA School in Swanage, and children from St George's CE School in Langton joined together with artist, Antonia Philips, to create posters to celebrate what's great about the Jurassic Coast, as part of a new winter art project for 2008.

The work created new displays for the stone quay in Swanage and at Durlston Country Park. The children involved were given the title 'Designosaurs', and partook in a dino-dig at Durlston, an afternoon with the rangers, beachcombing and a cookery demo, before creating their art. The children are pictured below, with artist, Antonia Philips.



@29 re-cycle

29 Commercial Road, Swanage. BH19 1DF

We throw HUGE amounts of electrical items away every year.
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We test and clean every electrical item and guarantee them for three months, and sell them at roughly 25% of the original price.

Proceeds donated to:

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Please contact the charity directly for further information,
or ask us for a leaflet explaining their work

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Wareham Area Forum

Wareham Area Forum's next meeting is on Monday 12th of February 2018. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year! We're only a month in, so I hope I'm not too late.

Last year, we focussed very much on giving you information, so I hope it will be a pleasant surprise this year to find our first meeting is very far from that and will feature a good friend of ours, Hilary Foggo, of Age UK, giving us a Laughter Workshop.

If I say too much about it, I will give the game away. Instead, all I will say is that I suggest you come along and enjoy yourselves. They do say that laughter is the best medicine! My committee and I look forward to seeing you at 10 am at Carey Hall. *Anne Laugharne.*

Wareham Area Forum
Carey Hall, Mistover Rd, Wareham.
Monday 12 February 10am - 12 noon
Come along and enjoy
HILARY FOGGO, from AGE UK
Giving her famous laughter workshop!
Together with tea and cake
£2 donation required
Require transport? Ring Anne on 07896 793858

Sandford St Martins Defibrillator Donation

Sandford St Martins Primary School received a kind donation of £1000 to buy a defibrillator for emergency use at the school recently.

Mr John and Mrs June Smith made the kind donation to both Sandford and Bere Regis schools, where their six great grandchildren attend. The defibrillator comes with an easy-to-use instruction video, a lockable cabinet and both adult and child settings.

Mr Paul Beveridge (Headteacher - left), Mr Anthony Muraro (Chair of Governors - second from left) and Mrs Simona Boboc (Finance Officer -right) were keen to invite Mr and Mrs Smith back to see the installed lifesaving device.

"The defib is a great piece of emergency equipment which could save an adult or child life - we are pleased to have one installed for the benefit of our school community and have positioned it where users of our Church space, school hall and playing fields can still make use of it when school is closed. It is such a kind and lovely gesture." Mr Beveridge shared.



John Lewis Donation To Greengage Project



Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) is delighted to have received a £5,000 donation from John Lewis to help fund its eco-therapy project, 'Greengage', based in Swanage.

The Greengage project is a wellbeing hub designed to give a new lease

of life to people in the local community, by helping them to enrich their lives through ecotherapy and therapeutic horticulture.

The scheme has helped a wide range of people from all backgrounds, genders and fitness levels, including those living with dementia or mental health issues and the long-term unemployed.

DWT Communications Officer, Sally Welbourn, said, "We are very grateful to John Lewis for this donation which will go towards improving the Greengage site and providing tools and materials for people to use who are taking part in the project. The project helps its participants to maintain regular and meaningful contact with nature which will in turn help them to feel better from spending time outside."

The Greengage project has transformed a former commercial plant nursery owned by Swanage Town Council. Through the project, the site will be restored to provide 0.5 acres of good quality land for wildlife friendly horticulture. The site includes a large greenhouse and cold frames, and participants of the project have created a new vegetable plot.

To find out more about Greengage and how to get involved, visit: www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/greengage_project.

Photo: The Greengage site at Swanage © Cat Bolado.

Business Matters

Virtual Swanage
Promoting Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck

www.virtual-swanage.co.uk

CHARLES STANLEY

Wealth Managers

Economic Review Of The Last Quarter Of 2017

During the three months to end of December 2017, the FTSE 100 index rose by 4.3% and was up by 7.6% since the beginning of the year. The FTSE All-World Sterling Index was up 4.7% and 11.1% respectively over the same periods.

Our analysts summarised the global position as follows :

'Outside the UK, global demand growth has accelerated and apart from the UK, global core inflation rates remain below central banks' inflation targets. But in 2018 higher oil prices, narrowing output gaps and lower unemployment may begin to feed through into prices. So, given expectations of continued global expansion, slightly less accommodative monetary policy should be expected.

Although equities are at record highs, a gradual removal of monetary accommodation should not be too disruptive to world economic growth. Furthermore, equities remain underpinned by recent global dividend growth of 14.5%.'

Whilst many global economies have continued to thrive, The UK economy has slowed and the economic outlook looks a bit uncertain with growth for 2018 predicted to be about 1.4% pa over the next 5 years. This is mainly due to the ongoing issue of Brexit.

This has resulted in a number of profit warnings from companies, which has in turn led to some sharp price falls from companies such as Centrica, GKN and Saga. Sectors which have, however, done well during the last quarter are leisure goods, mobile telecoms, mining and oil & gas. During 2017 as a whole, technology and housebuilders have both done well.

At the end of 2017, there were the usual quarterly changes to the FTSE 100 with Babcock, Merlin and Mediclinic being demoted and being replaced by Halma, Just East & DS Smith.

In early November, the Bank of England increased base rates from 0.25% to 0.5% and warned that at least another 2 more 0.25% increases would be needed over the next 2 years to keep inflation in check.

In spite of further interest rate hikes, the US stockmarket has risen strongly and hit some more new highs boosted by technology companies. Economic growth in Europe has been strong, Japan has hit new highs, other Far Eastern economies have been strong and Emerging Markets have been broadly positive

Kate Spurling lives in Swanage and is an investment manager with Charles Stanley, Dorchester office – (01305) 217404 – kate.spurling@charles-stanley.co.uk

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Personal Tax Accounts

HMRC have now officially launched Personal Tax Accounts (PTAs), which enable UK taxpayers to manage their tax affairs online. More than a million customers completing their self-assessment electronically will be directed to their online PTA which will:

- provide a clear and joined-up view of the tax they pay and benefits they are entitled to;

- enable customers to update their tax details as they occur in real time, removing the need to resubmit information; and

- make it easier and more efficient to contact HMRC officials through services like web chat and virtual assistant.

Between now and May 2016 HMRC will continue to add new services to the PTA, including:

- improvements to the 'Check your tax estimate service' so customers can look a year ahead and back on their current, future and previous tax position;

- a new online payment and repayment service;

- expanding the opportunity for non-self-assessment customers to choose to stop receiving paper from HMRC;

- integration of the tax credits online service in time for 2016 renewals;

- introducing change of circumstances for the marriage allowance service; and

- introduction of the new national insurance/state pension service.

Further information on the Making Tax Digital project can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-tax-digital

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Information Event

Wills and Power of Attorney

Age UK Dorchester is holding an Information Event to de-mystify the subject of Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

If you wish to understand whether you need a Lasting Power of Attorney, and to make a Will, Christine Butterfield, Senior Associate Solicitor at Battens, solicitors, will be providing a talk on the subject on:

Monday 5th February 2018 at 10am

at Rowan Cottage, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester, DT1 1PW

No need to book ... just turn up.

Tackling Fraud

Ground breaking rapid response scheme – the Banking Protocol – means local branch staff can alert police and Trading Standards to suspected frauds taking place.

The scheme was launched in Dorset in June 2017. Since then almost £140,000 of fraud has been prevented. Figures from UK Finance show, that nationally, the Protocol has stopped more than £9 million being passed to criminals in its first year of operation and 101 arrests have been made.

This fraud prevention scheme is aimed at identifying and protecting potential fraud victims when they visit a bank or building society branch. The Banking Protocol, developed as a partnership between the finance industry, Police and Trading Standards, enables bank staff to contact police if they suspect a customer is in the process of being scammed, with a rapid response to the branch.

The Banking Protocol was first launched in October 2016 with a pilot in London before a national rollout began in May. Dorset Police launched the scheme in June. It is in place in 43 police forces across the Country, with all remaining forces in the UK committed to introducing it.

Nationally, in the 12 months since the pilot was launched until the end of October 2017, the Banking Protocol has prevented £9.1 million of fraud, with individual customers protected from losing sums from £99 up to £212,000. So far, the scheme has led to 101 arrests being made across the country, with police responding to a total of 1,262 Banking Protocol calls.

Katy Worobec, Managing Director of Economic Crime at UK Finance, said: "Fraud can have a devastating effect on some of the most susceptible people in society and it's by working together with law enforcement, and others, that we can make a real difference when it matters most."

"The Banking Protocol is a great example of this collaboration in action, protecting people from becoming victims. The finance industry is determined to crack down on fraud and is taking action on all fronts - the Protocol is an important weapon in our armoury."

UK Finance has led the development and implementation of the Banking Protocol with support from the National Trading Standards Scam team and the Joint Fraud Taskforce.

As well as stopping frauds taking place, the scheme ensures a consistent response to potential victims and gives them extra support to prevent them becoming a victim in the future. The Post Office is also part of the Protocol.

Detective Inspector Neil Wright from the Volume Crime Team in Dorset said: "This scheme is part of a larger force campaign designed to identify and support vulnerable residents of Dorset and prevent them from becoming victims of fraud."

"We aim to raise awareness of fraud within our communities through our Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the media, encouraging people to take preventative steps. The banking protocol will ensure banks and police are more active in protecting customers by spotting scams before any money has been handed over. This will go a long way to reducing financial crime."

CLINICAL (MEDICAL) NEGLIGENCE

What is is and what it is not...



Legal claims for clinical negligence are often far from simple affairs.

Despite our blame/claim culture, a mistake or a bad outcome from a procedure does not necessarily mean there is a clinical negligence claim.

Hence, the title of this article. This type of phrasing was used by Florence Nightingale in

the title of her book when she penned 'Notes to Nursing' in 1859, and explained the fundamentals of nursing – stating 'What it is and What it is not'. (When you're next in London, take a trip to her museum at St Thomas' Hospital for an interesting insight into the nursing profession in its early years.)

Clinical negligence is a branch of personal injury litigation. It encompasses claims against Hospital Trusts (both NHS and private) and also includes any issues with healthcare provided in another care setting such as GPs, dentists, cosmetic surgery clinics, pharmacists and care homes.

What Makes a Claim?

The principles of negligence will tell you if there is a claim. Breaking it down simply, there are three elements.

Firstly, the care or treatment must be given in a professional capacity.

Secondly, that professional care must fall below the standard of a reasonably competent professional.

Thirdly, the illness or injury must only have happened because of the error, or that the error must have been at least a material cause.

Types of claim

Claims take many different forms depending on the circumstances. However, certain factors are common, such as delay in diagnosis, failure in communication and failure to follow set procedures.

Blame Culture v Our Reliance on the NHS

Hospitals and healthcare providers are central in our society and we rely on the NHS and other healthcare providers to enable us to enjoy life. At Battens, we absolutely recognise that much good work is done by excellent individuals and we in no way wish to undermine the good treatment which is provided. However, sadly errors do sometimes happen.

We all trust our healthcare providers to do their best, but it is also important that you also trust your own instincts. Seeking repeated medical advice if you have continued concerns can avoid undue delay. Asking for explanations can resolve communication issues. It is much better to get the medical help when you need it.

If you have any questions about this article please contact Victoria Knight, Clinical and Medical Negligence Solicitor on 01935 846131 or victoria.knight@battens.co.uk

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Environmental Pressures, Myths And Confusion

by David Hollister

As part of DVLA's national advertising campaign, drivers are being warned their cars will be taken away if they aren't taxed, they say: "While the overwhelming majority of vehicles on the road are licensed correctly, it is only right that we take action against those people who think they can get away with it. The law is clear and so are the consequences – if you don't tax your car, you risk losing it."

Apparently it's never been easier to tax your car – if you're computer literate! The online system is available 24/7 and with Direct Debit you can even choose to spread the cost over the year; there's no excuse for skipping vehicle tax. You can even go to a Post Office!

Whilst 98% of vehicles on UK roads are taxed correctly, the DVLA say that they're currently clamping or impounding around 10,000 untaxed cars every month. An impressive 0.3% of the more than 39 million vehicles on the UK's roads. The advert focuses on the fact that for those who think they can get away with not taxing their car, DVLA can and will take action against them.

There. That's the responsible stuff out of the way. Now here's the truth. We used to have a proper paper 'tax disc' which was a visible reminder to drivers of when their road tax was due. And indeed to traffic wardens (sorry, 'Parking Enforcement Officers'). So, as it worked so well, the Department of Transport scrapped it in favour of the online system; the number of untaxed vehicles has tripled, and revenue is down by over £100 million. Are you really surprised?

Their radio adverts trumpet "there's no escape, we know where you are". Really? If you know where we are then why aren't you impounding and scrapping them all? It's just another sackful of official lies from the Government. And they wonder why these days we don't trust anything that comes from the Department of Transport!

I wouldn't mind forking out my £240 per year to pay towards the upkeep of our Highways network. But according to the RAC, only a quarter of the £7.5 bn raised is actually spent on our roads. Meaning I'm financing not only Education and the NHS – of which I approve – but also Foreign Aid and HS2 – of which I'm afraid I don't. Why should my contribution to the Road Fund be based on my CO2 emissions? That's as good as the Government admitting that it's a pollution tax, so why don't they 'fess up and tell the truth?

My little MX5 does just as much damage to the roads as does a Nissan Leaf, but I pay 240 times as much towards their upkeep. (Nissan Leaf – plug-in hybrid – tax free and even greater value when the councils get around to putting in the promised EV charging points; come on Swanage and Wareham Councils – our nearest point is still at Holton Heath! Don't just sit there and tut – DO SOMETHING!).

New car sales were down in 2017 for the first time in many years, although 2.54 million new cars were registered. Purchases of diesel vehicles fell particularly sharply, dropping by 17.1%, while sales of petrol cars rose by 2.7%. Aston University predicts that by 2025, diesel cars will account for only 15% of new cars sales, as opposed to 50% in 2016.

Diesel's doomed due to environmental pressures, myths and misunderstandings, and consumer confusion over what the Government plan to do. It's time for a scrappage scheme whereby drivers are offered huge financial incentives to buy electric vehicles if they hand in their old diesel car, and a scheme to encourage adequate fast-charge points at every petrol station in the land.

I'm afraid it's a case of 'baby and bathwater' because some of the new generation of diesels are actually cleaner than their petrol counterparts. But everyone now believes that diesel is the fuel of the devil and that all major cities are going to impose surcharges of two million pounds on anyone so socially unacceptable as to drive a diesel into them!

You think I'm joking? Oxford's banning all diesel cars – new and old – from 2020. And of course, consistent with their policies of making ridiculous pronouncements to appease small sections of the community, the Government has announced a ban on the production and sale of all new petrol and diesel cars from 2040, putting over 600,000 jobs at risk.

November's budget introduced a one-off levy on new diesel cars that fail to meet the latest emission standards. Experts predict that it'll end up being applied to most new diesels. An encouragement for manufacturers to continue developing cleaner diesel engines. Of course, more money going into the government sewers to be wasted.

There is, of course, an answer. From 2020, taxi and private hire operators should be told that they will need to get petrol or hybrid cars from 2025, thus giving them five years to get rid of their diesel fleets. They should stop making diesel-powered black cabs tomorrow so that when that current fleet reaches the end of its life, there will be no more.

Large rural buses should be replaced by petrol-driven minibuses; no more three-quarters empty buses trundling along pouring black fumes into the sky. They'll never successfully electrify lorries and buses, but more work needs to be done in producing electric small commercials for 'white van man'.

Having long mused at the ridiculous absence of any road safety measures in Corfe Castle, I was disappointed to learn that Dorset Highways had turned down a really good idea put forward by the Corfe Castle Parish Council, involving the installation of a convex mirror opposite Station Road to aid those pulling out into East Street (a really dangerous manoeuvre even for an experienced and qualified driver).

The second idea – and this is mine alone – is to erect railings on the kerbside between the front door of the Bankes Arms and the dangerous sharp corner, to prevent idiots and their children, pushchairs and even wheelchairs, from trying to cross to the Greyhound when there's a perfectly good pedestrian crossing only twenty yards away.

No, galvanised steel railings don't really fit in with the chocolate-box village scene in an AONB, but I hasten to add that neither do squashed kids, flattened pushchairs, and bloodstains.

It's only a matter of time.....



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MAINS

Roast Topside of Kimmeridge Beef
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 Chicken Breast

(all above served with roast potatoes, cauliflower cheese, carrots, broccoli and cabbage)

Baked Butternut Squash & Oven-Roasted Vegetables

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Fruit & Plain Scones

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Cake Selection

(Lemon Poppy Seed Cake, Vanilla & Chocolate Mille-Feuille,
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Dorset Tea selection includes:

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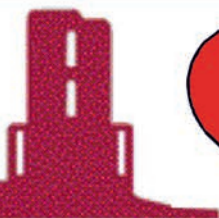
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MAINS

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Rack of Kimmeridge Lamb (£3 supplement)
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Wednesday 14th February

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Mini Crab Cakes, Crispy Squid with an Aioli Sauce and Gremolata *£1 supp

Slow Cooked Breast of Lamb, Carrot Puree and Sultanas (GF)

Mains

Steak Frites - Pan Seared 8oz Rib Eye Steak, Seasoned Fries, Roasted Vine Cherry Tomatoes and
Sauce Bernaise *£2.50 supp (GF)

Herb Crusted Fillet of Cod, Creamed Potatoes, Peas, Broccoli and Mushrooms with Fish Veloute.
(GF)

Roasted Free Range Chicken Breast with Wild Mushroom Risotto and Leek Cream (*GF)

Cauliflower and Olive Tagine with Apricot and Almond Couscous (GF*V)

Desserts

Chocolate Fondant with Salted Caramel Chocolate Mousse and Purbecks 'Vanilla Bean' Ice Cream

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WEDDINGS

Above: Emily Jacobs married Ben Maugham at St James Church, Kingston, with a reception at Cleavel Point on 16th September 2017. Photograph by Elysium Country Cars



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Emily Jacobs married Ben Maugham at St James Church, Kingston, with a reception at Cleavel Point on 16th September 2017. Photograph by Affinity Wedding Photography

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Robb Webb Photography



From The Kitchen Garden...



Baked Duck Eggs

By Regula
Wright,
Godlingston
Manor Kitchen
Garden

As I'm writing this, the light is dull, the hills look brown, the sky's white and it's very squelchy underfoot.....my world seems to lack colour and sparkle.

However, this is mid-winter and actually, if I look closely enough, the vegetation around me only looks dead but life is going on slowly and the plants are just waiting for the soil and air to warm up a little to burst into life. I don't mind this time of year at all - quite the opposite!

The short daylight gives me a chance to tidy up, get organised, fix things that broke during the busy time and even to create new growing spaces ready for the coming sowing/ planting season.

Secateurs and other hand tools need sharpening and I can begin with the annual pruning of my blackcurrants and gooseberry bushes. I've also got one hundred new raspberry canes to plant out - how exciting!!!

As I observe my chickens, geese and ducks, I'm not the only one looking forward to spring. One of my ganders is displaying amorous behaviour towards me rather than the gaggle which is following the other male leader...so, I have make sure he gets his lady!

The ducks are just the best slug control; they dabble about but do not damage most plants and certainly aren't scratching out seedlings and pecking bits out of greens like the chickens do. They're totally free ranging all year round. As lovely as they are, they're a messy lot and need a new patch to splash around.

The last batch of ex-caged hens I picked up in mid-December last year are looking so much better! They feed well, are alert and more curious and less bare every day.

I'm keeping these girls separate from my established flock and I'm sooo looking forward to really letting them loose to enjoy proper laying hen behaviour!

In the meantime, I shall be getting my indoor plant nursery in one of the polytunnels ready. This means washing and disinfecting benches, seed/plug trays and plant pots as well as making sure I've got labels and of course all the seeds, not forgetting a good compost mix. Cleaning the in-and outside of the polytunnels is probably also a good idea at this stage, so I get maximum light in there.

All this activity certainly gives me an appetite and this dish is quick, easy and very tasty!

Baked duck eggs (or chicken eggs) serves 4ish

Ingredients:

1 tbsp butter
2 chopped spring onions or half a big onion
1 hand full cooked ham or bacon lardons
8 tbsp cream
4 duck eggs
Fresh sage leaves
Toast
Mixed salad leaves

Method:

Heat the oven to 160C. Melt the butter and sauté the onions until translucent. Add the ham/bacon and carry on for another few minutes.

Divide spoonfuls of the sautéed onion/meat mix between four ramekins and then pour in the cream. Break an egg into each ramekin.

Chop sage and add. Place the ramekins in a deep roasting tin, then pour in boiling water until it reaches half way up the side of each ramekin.

Bake for 12 minutes. Serve immediately with buttered toast and mixed salad leaves.

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Purbeck Businesses Leading The Way In Dumping Plastic

We have all heard a lot recently about the utter devastation caused to the planet by our ever-increasing reliance on plastic - much of which is simply tossed away and ends up scattered throughout our countryside, on our beaches and in our oceans and rivers.

The government is deliberating a range of ideas to help combat this growing and serious problem, however, they seem to be (somehow) missing the easiest method of swiftly reducing the problem with plastic...

Simply BAN disposable plastic products - get rid of plastic carrier bags, plastic straws, plastic-coated disposable coffee cups and so on. If you want

a takeaway coffee, purchase one of the reuseable cups, or go without. Get a fabric bag for your shopping - you'll certainly remember to take it next time, if you forget it once and there is no alternative.... Quite simple really - we either want to help fix our planet, or we don't. We don't need a few decades to 'discuss' what to do - the answer is simple.

To that end, several businesses in Purbeck are leading the charge to rid themselves of plastic. The High Street Cafe and Buffmonger in Swanage have both made strides already to rid their outlets of plastic, and now they are inviting other local business to join with them. Please do so!

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Dorset Tea selection includes:

Breakfast Tea, Cool Chamomile, Foraged Fruits, Earl Grey Tea, Earl of Dorset, Pure Green Tea, Black Berry Syllabub, Wild About Mint, Ginger & Sunshine Tea

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Natural Matters

LULWORTH

by John Garner

Picture by Rob Knowles

One of the best parts of being here is the off season. Now, don't get me wrong. I don't mind the tourist season. It coincides with the good weather generally so I'm okay with the minus points, given the plusses.

Sometimes, however, the weight of traffic and numbers can make visiting your favourite spots too much trouble. Not so in the winter. So, without wishing to ruin the quiet February days of those gentle folk of Lulworth, I'm going to suggest a trip to the famous Lulworth Cove and its environs.

Lulworth Cove is amazing. Both visually and geologically. On a stormy day you can see out to the edge of the mill pond flat waters of the cove to the foaming surges just beyond the bay itself. It's a little pocket of calm, protected from the elements by a ring of cliffs, with just a small opening out to the real sea.

On a bright winter day, it will look like a Mediterranean inlet, until you put a toe in the water. As a natural phenomenon it takes some beating. Almost definitely why it's so popular in the summer months when all sorts of sea-going activities can be accessed. Kayakers love its accessibility. The recently popular coasteering groups abound and boats seeking a safe haven often pull into the cove for some rest and relaxation. There are just about enough places to eat and drink and plenty of walking and cycling to be had in the areas around the cove.

Then there's the world-famous geology. At about the same time as the Alps were forming in Europe, the pressures of colliding tectonic plates were causing the geological ripples that would eventually result in the local rocks crumpling in on themselves forming the distinctive folds of rock we can see today. The cove itself was created by softer rocks being washed away by the surges of water. This helped form the cove and the arch at Durdle Door.

There are five different types of rock in the area and these have created the landscape as we now see it. There's the Portland stone which is made of very hard limestone and erodes slowly. For fossil hunters these will have enclosed ammonites, bivalves and snails.

The Purbeck beds are made from clays, shales, mudstones and limestones. Fossil hunters could potentially find dinosaur footprints, crocodiles and fish (dinosaur footprints! Can you imagine?). Then there's Wealden clay which, as the name suggests, is a mixture of sand and clay and therefore erodes very quickly. Still full of fossils like fleas and snails (the budget end of your fossils, I imagine).

Greensand next, which is a well named rock as it consists entirely of sandstone layers and encased sea urchins and bivalves. Finally, there's chalk, which is a very deep bed of stone containing billions of tiny marine organisms all crushed up. So, whereas the general way that rocks are formed is on top of each other, the folding process of these sedimentary rocks has shoved them on end and they can be seen rising vertically out of the sea in some areas. Mighty impressive. It also means that the oldest rock is exposed at the edge of the sea and the younger rock some way inland.

Just when you thought the geology couldn't be any more interesting, there's a fossilized forest. Now, I walked the cliffs around Lulworth for many years before I took in the fossil forest. Unfortunately, it's closed at present due to a landslide, but when it's accessible again, you should visit. Why? Because it's a fossilized forest, that's why. But you might not recognize it as such. It's not a forest as we would know it, but with a little education and internet wizardry, I learnt to identify the remaining parts of the fossilized forest.

The story of the fossilized forest goes something like this. About 145 million years ago, as the Jurassic period was coming to an end, the sea levels fell and a forest grew around the tropical shoreline. At this point there were no flowering plants and so the forest would have been full of conifers, tree ferns and things called cycads, which look like small tree ferns. (It's very difficult to imagine 145 million years ago, especially for someone like me who can't really remember much past last weekend. So, I won't try, but it was a bloody long time ago, so there.)

This forest was swamped by the rising waters; the trees, ferns and cycads died as a result and then were locked in time in limestone by sticky mats of algae. So, what you need to be looking for in your fossilized forest hunts are not trees as such, but rounded 'algal burrs'. You'll need to look them up to get a visual image.

It appears that there were some trees, at least the broken trunks of trees, fossilized here, but those pesky Victorian fossil hunters probably removed them. That's what Victorians tended to do. Arrive somewhere, document, steal it and call it their own. Evidence of this can be found everywhere.

Indeed, a short stroll up the hill will take you to Cecil Rhodes' past residence. He took the Victorian formula of arrive, document and steal to whole new levels when he visited what would later be called Rhodesia. Still, there's plenty left to see and explore. Hopefully the fossilized forest will be available to see soon enough.

In the meantime, make the most of Lulworth Cove whilst it's still relatively quiet.

Dear Editor,

I read John Garner's article in the January Gazette with great interest. What a rich heritage of language we have here in Dorset!

Thank you, John, for reminding us in your eloquent article. So, let's celebrate those lost words. Some of you may remember Geoff Hooper, quarry-man, poet and storyteller.

If you heard his stories, told in his rich Dorset voice, you'd never forget them. Though he spent many years away, he was proud of his Dorset voice. It was as natural to him as bird-song.

Let's get yopping.

Wendy Lalla Wharam, by email



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Archaeology Unearthed...

Taking sides: The Scandinavian-Type Flint Axe In Britain

Speaker: Dr Katherine Walker - Visiting Research Fellow, Bournemouth University

Friday 2nd February 2018 at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

Venue: Brownsword Hall, Pummery Square, Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3GW

Come and join us for an interesting talk by Dr Katherine Walker, who is a visiting research fellow at Bournemouth University.

Neolithic connections between Scandinavia and Britain have been largely dismissed in recent years, and characteristic rectangular-sectioned axe-heads have been written out of accounts of prehistory as modern collectors' losses.

An axe-head from Julliberrie's Grave non-megalithic long barrow, Chilham, Kent, is cited as one of the few 'credible' examples. This talk is a presentation of the evidence and the detective work needed to ascertain the credibility of the axe-heads, and situates it in the 'bigger picture' of cross-sea connections.

Katherine is a prehistorian specialising in the Neolithic of northwest Europe and is a Visiting Research Fellow at Bournemouth University. She gained a first class degree in Archaeology from the University of Bristol; an MA in the European Neolithic from Cardiff University, funded by the AHRC; and a PhD from the University of Southampton entitled 'Axe-heads and Identity: an Investigation into the Roles of Identity Formation in Neolithic Britain.'

This lecture is being held at the Brownsword Hall, Poundbury due to the temporary exhibition, Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure.

As space is restricted tickets are £5 for non-members or £3 for DNH&AS members and are available online or can be booked through the Museum



Shop 01305 756827.

For further information contact the Museum on 01305 756827 or check the website on www.dorsetcountymuseum.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Image: Flint Axes © Katherine Walker 2017

Rehome, Retail - A New Style Of Charity Shop



With two MGAR charity shops now open in Winton and Weymouth, we are excited to announce that we will be opening another in Wimborne this spring!

To ensure that the smooth running of the new shop, to support our values, engage with customers about the work we do and the events we run, we are always looking for volunteers to join our growing team.

Can you spare a few hours a week to help with sorting of donations, serve customers, dress our windows and stock shelves?

We're looking for enthusiastic people with a passion for animals to help us raise money to care for around 1,200 animals a year.

To find out more about how to get involved please email jenni.wilkinson@mgar.org.uk in the first instance to register your interest, remember to include a little about yourself and why you'd like to get involved.

We are always looking for good quality, clean donations to sell in our charity shops so, please bear us in mind as you start your spring cleaning!

If you have anything to donate please contact teamgreen@mgar.org.uk so we can let you know where and when to drop off.

www.margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk



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Gazette Gardening

with Simon Goldsack

Praise for the Primrose



Our Native Primrose

Our beautiful native primrose will shortly be poking its way through last year's leaf litter and starting to show off its simple but beautiful flowers. It is one of the earliest perennials into flower each year and provides bees with a welcome nectar source when little else is providing any.

In fact, the name derives from the Latin *prima rosa* meaning 'first rose' of the year. In the wild it thrives in woodland clearings, verges and damp



banks and in the garden, they are easy to grow, given a soil that does not get too hot and dry in summer.

The primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) is very closely related to two other native plants, the cowslip (*P. veris*) and the oxlip (*P. elatior*). In fact, it is so closely related that they will readily interbreed even in the wild.

The Oxlip (*P. elatior*) - left column, bottom left

The Cowslip (*P. veris*) - left column, bottom right



The normal flower colour of the primrose is pale yellow with a deeper yellow eye but there are naturally occurring pink, white and mauve forms. It is from these forms and its ability to cross with the oxlip and cowslip that breeders have managed to develop a multitude of colours and cultivars that we know and love in the garden today.

P. Gold Laced Group - above (red and yellow)

Double Blue Form (right)

Another trait breeders have managed to bring out is to extend the season specially to develop earlier flowering forms that bloom from mid-winter. This makes them very useful bedding plants.

As you can see there is an amazing diversity of primroses available to the gardener from 'understated and subtle' to the 'loud and proud'!

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DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



2017 was a packed and exciting year at Durlston... highlights included...

We tried out lots of new ideas for our Durlston Pleasure Grounds Lottery bid, including Durlston Dash children's fun runs, pram and pushchair walks, the Purbeck Centre learning coppice craft skills from Greenwood Workshop and Nordic Walking with the Better Balance Group from Wareham Hospital. Several of these projects will return or expand this year.

In February, events as part of the Purbeck Literary Festival focussed on the world of children's books and their artwork, along with some fascinating author talks. March was a busy time for Paul, Dan and the Purbeck Ranger team with Coast Path improvements including step, stile and way-marking at Chapmans Pool, and path improvements at Peveril Down and Lulworth Cove.

Hamish Murray's first exhibition in the Fine Foundation Gallery took place in April, while during June, a Clifftop Tour saw both Hobby and Red Kite put in appearances.

July saw the first Durlston Dog Day, held thanks to the enthusiasm of apprentice Shannon and her many helpers.

In August the unusual Down Shield Bug Nymph was photographed feeding on Bastard Toadflax. Monarch Butterflies, were seen taking nectar from Buddleia. These large butterflies do not breed in the UK and the first ever Nightjar was rung at Durlston by the Stour Valley Ringing Group. In autumn, Volunteer Con laid a hedgerow in true Southern style.

In December, Bird Ringer Mick was delighted to have ringed his first Hawfinch at Durlston. Surprisingly, despite being our largest finch, Hawfinches are most shy and are seldom seen.

Upcoming Events:

February 3rd - March 3rd from 10am – 4pm, Durlston Past Exhibition. Tracing the history of Durlston through the 20th Century, using photos and recollections. FREE.

Sunday 4th March at 7.30pm, Impressions of Spring and Summer: Classical Music with the BSO. BSO trio of flute, viola and harp play music including Beethoven, Debussy, Handel and Bizet, supported by Artsreach. Booking advised, tickets £10/£6.

Sunday 11th February, 10am, Bird Walk. Meet a guide at the Castle to look for winter bird life. £3.

Tuesday 13th February at 2.30pm, Castle Tour. A free half-hour tour of Durlston Castle. Donations welcome

Wednesday 14th February at 11am, Wild Wednesdays. Free drop-in craft activities for families in the Belvedere, Durlston Castle. Donations welcome.

February 12th at 2pm, Beachcomber Crafts! Children's event getting creative with everything from shells, driftwood and beachcombed rubbish! Please book. £3.

February 15th at 2.30pm Dolphins and the Deep Blue Sea. A family event to discover the lives of the Durlston Dolphins, with games and activities. Please book. £3 Learning Centre.

For more events, visit www.durlston.co.uk

Arts & Entertainment



Swanage Blues Festival 2018 Is Coming!



What is Swanage Blues Festival really about?

Well, celebrated photographer Paul Dubbelman once said: "The Swanage Blues Festival brings together an amazing collection of blues musicians, fans and friends for a weekend of Jams, Open Mics and Headline Performances that will have you coming back time after time."

For some people this will be the 29th time since we started the first one as a birthday party for local resident, George Crane, back in 2001.

A few months before that, I had come to Swanage for a two-night break with no intention of making a new home and life here. Little did I know that the town and I would fit together so well or that I would stay and never go back home to Buckinghamshire, let alone I would be asked to organise a festival and still be doing it all these years later.

I now see that you can run something like this as a business or as a family. It's fortunate that my previous 35 years' experience as a touring musician mean I'm more into fun than money, otherwise I don't think we would still have the friendly, multi-venue big town party it is today.

You can't sell tickets for admission to pubs, members' clubs, hotel bars and restaurants where people usually go for free. It doesn't work, but the festival still needs money for a host of expenses you don't expect till you start. That's why I ask people – if they can afford it – to help keep the festival going by spending £10 on a wristband, to show their support and to identify with other festival fans.

Wristbands and £2 programmes are available locally from Swanage Tourist Information Centre, participating venues and some retailers, or online at www.swanage-blues.org

Steve Darrington, Blues Organiser. Images: Credited to Paul Dubbelman




THE SWANAGE SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS



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8th/9th/10th
- March 2018 -

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Open: 10:00am - 1:00pm Monday to Saturday
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GREASE - Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey. "Hopefully Devoted to You", "You're the one that I want", "Grease" and "Sandy" used by arrangement with Robert Sillwood.

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 **PURBECK NEW WAVE GALLERY**

GRAND OPENING EVENT

DRINKS AND CELEBRATION CAKE
WEEKEND 3RD - 4TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 5PM
PICTURES, CERAMICS, HOMEWARE

25 COMMERCIAL ROAD, SWANAGE
(NEAR CHOCOCO). 07434 814384

Purbeck New Wave Gallery

Commercial Road Traders in Swanage have welcomed a new business to the street - Purbeck New Wave Gallery, based at 25 Commercial Road, Swanage.

Celebrating the new opening, the gallery are inviting you to attend their grand opening event over the weekend of 3-4 February 2018, where drinks and celebration cake will be available as you browse the collection of art available to purchase and enjoy the newly-updated gallery space.

Those exhibiting in the gallery include Gina Marshall (paintings), Helene Champrond (ceramics), Laura Evans (lamps), Gill Williams (watercolours) and Nicola Stockly (illustrations).

Various art workshops and classes will be available from February at the gallery, so pop in and enquire when you're next passing and sign-up for some artistic and creative workshops this year!

BURNGATE
 STONE CARVING CENTRE
 Charity No. 1135118



FEBRUARY EVENTS

ADULT CLASSES

ENGRAVING SKILLS WITH VAL QUINN
SAT 10TH FEB 10 am—4 pm. £60 per adult.
 Learn the basic skills of engraving in Purbeck stone.

STONE CARVING WITH JONATHAN SELLS
SAT 24TH FEB 10 am—4 pm £80 per adult.
 Known for his unique approach, Jonathan's carving is both figurative and abstract.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

February Half Term Holidays:

FAMILY, ADULT OR CHILDREN HAVE A GO STONE CARVING
TUES 13TH, WED 14TH, THURS 15TH FEB

10 am—12 noon.
 £30 per adult, £17.50 per child.

FOSSIL ART CLASS
WED 14TH 10 am—12 noon.
 £15 per child.

PRE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Kingston Road, Langton Matravers, Swanage, Dorset. BH19 3BE. info@burngatestonecentre.co.uk www.burngatestonecentre.co.uk 01929 439405






Purbeck Valley Folk Festival 2018



Folk music will be turned on its head this summer at the Purbeck Valley Folk Festival (16-19 August), as wild and energetic band Trad. Attack! are set to perform. The trio deliver fresh folk music from Estonia, which is passionate, powerful and true to its roots. Combining the bagpipe playing and vocals of Sandra Vabarna, virtuoso guitar of Jalmar Vabarna and inventive percussion of Tõnu Tubli, the three friends take their inspiration from old archive recordings of Estonian traditional songs. Catherine Burke, organiser of Purbeck Valley Folk Festival says: "We're excited to have Estonian turbo folk band at the festival. This is a band which has taken the world music scene by storm and played festivals across the globe!"

Major headline acts announced so far include Richard Thompson and his Electric Trio, with further acts to be unveiled over the coming months. Other attractions for the family festival include kids' entertainers, storytellers, craft workshops, music workshops, theatre workshops, song sessions, poetry, Purbeck Rising (for new talent) and open mics.

Weekend tickets (from Thursday to Sunday with or without camping) are available from £96 (youth £46, children age 4-11 £21). For more details, visit purbeckvalleyfolkfestival.co.uk

PURBECK VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

16-19 AUGUST 2018

RICHARD THOMPSON ELECTRIC TRIO




TRAD. ATTACK!

**KORBY LENKER
SAM KELLY
& THE LOST BOYS**

**O'HOOLEY & TIDOW
GADARENE - JULIA BIEL
MA POLAINE'S GREAT DECLINE
JEZ HELLARD & THE
DJUKELLA ORCHESTRA
JENN & LAURA-BETH
NINEBARROW
FLATVILLE ACES
REG MEUROSS
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QUINNS QUINNEY
PLUS LOADS MORE!**




20% DISCOUNT FOR BH19/20 RESIDENTS

**Massive range of real ales and ciders
5 stages - 2 ceilidhs - open mics - sessions
workshops - poetry - craft area - healing zone
loads of entertainment & workshops for kids**

Beautiful little festival on a small farm with views across the Purbeck hills and Corfe Castle - everyone's favourite festival!

purbeckvalleyfolkfestival.co.uk   

Swanage Folk Festival Needs YOU To Continue



The Swanage Folk Festival held their annual general meeting on the 9th December in the convivial surroundings of the Black Swan. The 2017 festival was a qualified success, bearing in mind the best efforts of the late summer weather to wash and blow us into Swanage Bay.

Despite an excellent concert line-up and the heroic efforts of the dance sides, the festival made a small but manageable financial loss in 2017.

The 2017 festival was a major milestone in the life of the festival, being the 25th anniversary. Looking forward to organising the 26th Festival (7th to 9th September 2018), the organisers are now facing a growing membership problem.

Twenty-five years is a long time to organise a festival and the anniversary has been the catalyst for some of our long standing and experienced festival members to decide to take a break.

The festival committee is urgently looking for some new and enthusiastic people to help organise and run the festival.

We would particularly welcome some younger helpers as our current IT skills are sorely tested and our idea of social media is using the Royal Mail!

If you would like to help, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us at: swanagefolkfestival@gmail.com or by calling 07785241940.



WANT MORE CUSTOMERS?

ADVERTISING SALES LINE: 01929 424239 ext 1.

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Swanage JAZZ CLUB



THE DORSET YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

perform a fundraising gig for
The Centre/Swanage Action for Refugees
at The Centre, Chapel Lane, Swanage.

BH19 2PW on:

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY AT 7.30pm

TICKETS £5. Licensed Bar.

Tickets from Swanage Jazz Club, c/o 22 Streche Rd, Swanage,
BH19 1NF. 01929 426127. Cheques to: 'Swanage Jazz Associates'

Swing with the Dorset Youth Orchestra!

Swanage Jazz Club is proud to present a concert by the Dorset Youth Jazz Orchestra (DYJO) at the Purbeck Development Trust's Centre at Chapel Lane, Swanage, just off Swanage High Street (behind the Day Centre) at: BH19 2PW on Saturday 24th February.

DYJO brings together the most talented young jazz musicians from schools throughout Dorset to play great big band music, in styles ranging from the great swing bands of the 1930s and 1940s to the more rock influenced music of the present day.

The Orchestra has played at Swanage Jazz Festival each year with great success for more than two decades. The personnel changes from year to year, but the quality has always been high, under a number of music teachers devoted to the music and to the young musicians.

DYJO is funded by Dorset Music Services and is organised and conducted by a new leader, Kevin Morgan.

This is a FUNDRAISING GIG in aid of 'The Centre' and Swanage Action for Refugees

Calling Wareham's Young Royals!



Wareham carnival has events every month, from duck races to car-boot sales. Check out the new website at: warehamcarnival.com for more information.

Wareham carnival's big weekend starts off at Wareham Recreational Ground, with music night on the 20th July.

On Saturday 21st July, our annual flower and craft show takes place, and then on 22nd July, Wareham carnival procession hits the town, followed by lots of fun up on Wareham Recreational Ground.

Everyone is busily getting the outfits and floats organised now, so don't forget that there's plenty of time for you to join in this year!

Please do join us for our special event at Wareham Town Hall on Saturday 24th February, where we'll be selecting our Carnival Queen, Princesses and Princes. Who will become 'Carnival Royalty' for 2018?! We can't wait to find out!

There will also be a disco and refreshments available on the night, so plenty of fun is on the cards! If your child would like to enter, please pick up an application form from Kaffs Coffe Pot in Wareham, or from our new carnival website at: www.warehamcarnival.com

We would like to say a big thank you to all our sponsors, past and present, and to the general public as without your continued support, Wareham's wonderful carnival would not be possible.

Wareham Carnival WANTED

Carnival Queen (aged 12-16)
Two Carnival Princesses (aged 7-11)
Two Carnival Princes (aged 7-13)

Saturday 24th February 2018
Wareham Town Hall
6pm - 9pm
Disco & Refreshments

If your child would like to enter this competition
pick up an entry form from Kaffs Coffee Pot
in Wareham or visit our NEW Carnival Website
www.warehamcarnival.com

Health & Beauty

All New Swanage Therapy Centre!



Swanage Therapy Centre has now completed its refurbishment of the treatment rooms, reception and pilates area, as well updating its website and social media.

We are also able to offer new therapies and classes including: hypnotherapy, nutrition, active living and heart rehabilitation classes, Yoga, pilates and mindfulness courses.



We are running a new mindfulness course in January, which is an eight-week course starting on Friday 26th January, this will be held in our refurbished pilates room.



We also offer gift vouchers, an ideal gift for loved ones on Valentine's day. Please call us on 01929 426506 or see our website for details: www.swanagetherapycentre.co.uk/

Swanage Therapy Centre is looking for a beautician and an additional physiotherapist to work with us in Swanage. If you are interested, please contact us on 01929 426506.



Swanage Therapy Centre
01929 426506

www.swanagetherapycentre.co.uk

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Yoga Classes in Swanage

Trial class £5 (£30 for 5 class pass/£7 drop in)

Tuesday Mornings 8:30am - 9:30am
at The Burlington Gym, The Grand Hotel, Swanage

Tuesdays 11:00am - 12:00pm
at The June Ranger School of Dance

Wednesday Mornings 10:00am - 11:00am
at The Ranger School of Dance, The Mill Pond, Swanage.

For more information call Anna on 07999 369 016
www.threetreeyoga.com

Matron's Round - Our Local Hospitals' Monthly Column



ENDOSCOPY AT SWANAGE HOSPITAL

The endoscopy service at Swanage Hospital has been in place since 1994 and since then we have developed and achieved national accreditation for the service. To maintain high standards, it has been important to constantly review and update our working environment and equipment.

Over the last four months, equipment necessary for decontaminating our endoscopes has been replaced. In order to maintain the service we

have been closely working with the Royal Victoria Hospital at Wimborne. Many of our patients have been offered appointments at this hospital and this has helped us to ensure that everyone referred has been treated promptly. We have also been able to offer a limited service here at Swanage by also decontaminating our endoscopes at Wimborne. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who may have been affected by this upgrade for supporting us.

We are pleased to say that the new Endoscopy Automatic re-processing machine has passed all its necessary validation and is now ready to use. The machine has a much quicker cycle of processing and will mean more efficient working for us all. Endoscopy at Swanage has now the latest equipment and this will mean that we can continue to offer investigations into the future.

The following endoscopy procedures can be accessed at Swanage Hospital: Gastroscopy examination of the oesophagus and stomach, Flexible sigmoidoscopy examination of the lower left side of the large bowel, Colonoscopy examination of the whole of the large bowel (colon) and Flexible Cystoscopy examination of the bladder.

The photograph is of the machine being operated by Judy Ford, Day Surgery Unit Senior Sister (left) and Julie Lloyd, Day Surgery Unit Senior Staff Nurse (right).

Until next time take care, Matron Donna



Swanage Hospital Minor Injuries Unit

Open 7 days a week from 8am - 8pm

If you have an injury, we're here to treat it!

Call us on 01929 421329. We're here for YOU, so use our services!



What is the Cancer Appeal?

We're raising £1.7 million to improve services for all Cancer patients at Dorset County Hospital. We currently stand at £1.4 million, so please continue to help us reach our target.

We want to build a NEW Cancer and Haematology Outpatients Department on top of the Radiotherapy Unit. We will also fund major improvements in the hospital's existing Chemotherapy suite.

DONATE: online at: www.dchft.nhs.uk/charity or call 01305 253424



Sport

Dorset Devils Wheelchair Basketball Club

Early January saw the start of The Dorset Devils Wheelchair Basketball Club, which is run by The Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club, and aims to give more disabled people in Dorset the opportunity to play a competitive sport.

Nine people attended the soft launch and it was very well received. We are running free taster sessions every Wednesday Night from 7pm till 9pm at Rossmore Leisure Centre, Herbert Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HR until and including Wednesday February 7th.

On Wednesday February 21st, we launch officially when the Mayor of Poole Cllr Lindsay Wilson comes down to the club. As usual, we shall of course get her to have a go and it will be a great start to The Dorset Devils Wheelchair Basketball Club!

Sean Gabriel (Rossmore Leisure Centre Manager) has been very important in getting disability sports set up at Rossmore and has bent over backwards to ensure that we get a good start.

It's great to have someone so helpful along with his team who have helped open up so many disability sports to Poole alone.

We intend to set up some friendlies and to get a league team up and running for 2019. But for now, we continue with the fun of learning a new sport. As we were told on our opening night by one of the new players: "It beats doing a workout in a sweaty gym! It's more like being with a bunch of friends rather than doing a sport."

To contact The Dorset Devils Wheelchair Basketball Club or The Dorset



Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club, phone Sue on 07747 586006.

The Devils train Wednesday Nights from 7 till 9pm.

The Destroyers train Sunday mornings from 11 till 2pm

<https://thedorsetdevils.weebly.com/>

<http://www.thedorsetdestroyers.co.uk/>

Swanage Bowls Club Update

Whilst many Club members take a break from bowling during the winter, there are others who continue to play indoors. Until February of last year, the Isle of Purbeck boasted its own Indoor Club in Swanage, but now folk have to travel to Bere Regis or Poole to enjoy the game. Purbeck is well represented in Club matches at both venues and a few milestones have been reached.

Congratulations to Terry Buck who recently played his 100th match for Dorset Indoor Bowling Association, to Mike Keats for playing over 200 matches for Dorset and to Barrie Tatman for taking on the role of Junior Vice President for the county.

Some of the men have continued to uphold the Isle of Purbeck name in the Dorset over 60s league and are currently third in the table. In other men's leagues, Purbeck teams sit comfortably in mid-table. Swanage Ladies play in the league at Bere Regis and are represented both at the quarter final stage of the Ladies Pairs and the next round of the Triples Competition.

The Winter Socials continue to be a highlight of the month for members and the recent Magic Night was no exception. Local magician Kevin Burke entertained with table top magic during the meal and with even more astonishing displays during the main show.

The February social evening is a sing-along Mama Mia session with obligatory platform shoes and spangly outfits.

February and March are important months for the Club as the new Committee members beaver away in the background to make sure that everything is in place for the coming season. Some will be getting used to the demands of their new role (or in the case of a couple, more than one role) and we wish them well as they take on these challenges.

Look out for up to date information about the Club and activities by going to our website www.swanagebowlingclub.org or by visiting our Swanage Bowls Club Facebook page.

Swanage & Wareham Rugby Football Club

On 9th December, Swanage & Wareham had to travel to Marlborough for their latest encounter in the Southern Counties League. It was not going to be an easy away trip, with Marlborough being bolstered with Tongans and Fijians from the local army camps.

However, Swans started well and after five minutes, went ahead with a try by winger Will Slack who scored in the corner. It did not last long as in the next ten minutes, Marlborough landed a couple of tries to take them into a 10pts – 5pts lead.

Swans were on top for five minutes and they scored a second try by Rory Ferguson, his first for the 1st XV. Marlborough soon landed a couple more tries, taking them into a 22pts – 10pts lead. Just before half time, a quickly taken penalty by Swans Captain for the day, Matt Roberts, had Swans' second row Adam Dicker scoring for Swans (22pts – 15pts) at the break.

The hosts were immediately on the attack and scored a try under the posts (29pts – 15pts), but Swans dug in and after sixty-five minutes, a penalty to Swans was taken quickly by fly half Steve Woolley, who dived over the try line (29pts – 20pts).

However, in the last ten minutes, Marlborough scored two more tries, taking the final score to 39pts – 20pts, with Swans gaining a bonus point for four tries.

In the final game before the Christmas break, Swans welcomed North

Dorset to Bestwall and it was not a pleasant experience. In the first two minutes the visitors scored a try in the corner, followed by a penalty, giving them an eight-point lead. Steve Woolley replied for Swans with a converted try (7pts – 8pts) but from thereon in, North Dorset took control and scored four more tries before the interval (7pts – 36pts).

Early in the second half Steve Woolley added his second converted try (14pts – 36pts), but the visitors were not to be denied. Another converted try took them to 43pts. Swans flank forward Kirk Jones added a consolation try out wide (19pts – 43pts) before North Dorset capped the game with a try out wide in the last minute, taking the score to 19pts – 48pts at the end.

The only consolation for the day is that Swans 2nd XV beat North Dorset 2nd XV by 18pts – 12pts.

MAIN GAMES IN FEBRUARY

3rd Swans 1st XV v. Corsham (SCS) Away 2.30 p.m.

Swans 2nd XV v. Lytchett Minster (D/WI) Home 2.30 p.m.

10th Reserve Week - No games for all teams.

17th Swans 1st XV v. Yeovil (SCS) Home 2.30 p.m.

24th Reserve Week - No games for all teams.

Ron Butler, Publicity Secretary.

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 MARCH is noon, 9th FEB

KEY: * = Start time not known or n/a; Ffi = for further information; Sw = Swanage; Wm = Wareham; VH = Village Hall, Telephone code 01929 unless otherwise stated.

FEBRUARY 2018

- Fri 2nd**
19:30 Archaeology Unearthed... At Brownsword Hall, Pumery Square, Poundbury. Taking Sides: The Scandinavian-Type Flint Axe in Britain. Speaker: Dr Katherine Walker - Visiting Research Fellow, Bournemouth University.
20:00 The Glissandos Live Acts at the Square & Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sat 3rd**
09:15 Swanage Beach Clean (Litter-free Purbeck) Meet Swanage Information Centre, Shore Road to beach clean for 1-2 hours on South Beach. Kit provided but please wear stout footwear and bring gardening gloves. Children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Ffi: Bridget on 01929 421753, litterfreepurbeck@gmail.com or see Litter-free Purbeck's Facebook page, @LitterFPurbeck
09:45 Swanage Walking Group Meet at Sika Trail CP on road to Bere Regis for a walk to Woolsbarrow Fort and return by a different route. Ffi 01929 422554.
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Grand Opening Event At The Purbeck New Wave Gallery, Commercial rd, Swanage. Drinks & celebration cake.
20:00 Back in the Shack Live Acts at the Square and Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sun 4th**
*** Dorset Countryside Volunteers.** Will be at Great Ovens, Wareham, Purbeck. We will be cutting small pine trees to maintain this heathland and welcome new people interested in caring for our countryside. For details see www.dcv.org.uk, email DCVpublicity@gmail.com, or text or message 07923-498760 for us to contact you.
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Grand Opening Event At The Purbeck New Wave Gallery, Commercial rd, Swanage. Drinks & celebration cake.
- Mon 5th**
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Wills & Power of Attorney Age UK Dorchester event to de-mystify this subject at Rowan Cottage, 4 Prince of Wales rd, Dorchester, DT1 1PW. No need to book.
10:00 Age UK Dorchester Information Event At Rowan Cottage, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester, DT1 1PW. 'Wills & Power of Attorney'.
- Tue 6th**
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
- Wed 7th**
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Swanage Walking Group Meet at car park next to Manor Farm Road in Bere Regis for circular walk taking in Turners Puddle, Piddle Wood and Jubilee trail. Ffi 07766 630453.
- Thu 8th**
Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
- Fri 9th**
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
19:30 Purbeck Railway Circle Meets at Harman's Cross Village Hall for "160 Years of Railways in Weymouth", presentation by Brian Jackson. Refreshments and railway raffle. Doors open 7pm. Ffi 421 913. Everyone is welcome.
20:00 Bob Cheevers Live Acts at the Square and Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sat 10th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Swanage Walking Group Meet at Houns Tout car park Kingston for circular walk to Corfe via Blashenwell Farm. Return via Corfe Common and Purbeck Way. Ffi 07766 630453.
10:00 Engraving Skills with Val Quinn At Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Langton Matravers. £60 per adult. Pre- booking is essential.
10:30 Hand made Art and Crafts By the Makers at St Edwards Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage. Free Entry. Hot drinks and Cake available. Facebook "Art and Crafts Fairs at St Edwards Hall, Swanage ." Ffi karen@karenboniface.plus.com or patsypeanut@gmail.com
- Sun 11th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle
- 10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Bird Walk At Durlston Country Park. Meet a guide at the Castle, £3.
14:00 James Gavin & Friends Live Acts at the Square and Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
14:30 Funday Sunday Monthly Filmshow At Swanage Day Centre, High Street, Swanage. Doors open at 1.30. 'Oh Brother Where Art Thou?' Admission £3.50, includes refreshments and nibbles.
- Mon 12th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Wareham Area Forum At Carey Hall, Mistover rd, Wareham. Hilary Foggo - Laughter Workshop! With tea & cake. £2 donation required.
14:00 Beachcomber Crafts Children's event at Durlston Castle. Booking essential, £3.
- Tue 13th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle
*** Purbeck Stamp and Postcard Club** Meets at Queens Mead Community Centre, Swanage. New & experienced collectors welcome. Ffi: 01929 450439.
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Family Have a go at Stone Carving At Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Langton Matravers. £30 per adult, £17.50 per child. Pre- booking is essential.
14:00 Purbeck Parkinson's meetings Second Tuesday of every month between September and June. Held at All Saints Church, Ullwell between 2pm and 4pm. Contact details T. Lander 01929 425970 or D. Peters 01929 551962.
14:30 Castle Tour At Durlston Castle. Free half hour tour, donations welcome.
- Wed 14th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle
*** Valentines Evening** At The Greyhound Inn, Corfe Castle. And an evening with the Land Girls. £70 per couple, four course meal, book by 31 Jan and get a free bottle of Prosecco! To book: 01929 480205.
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Family Have a go at Stone Carving At Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Langton Matravers. £30 per adult, £17.50 per child. Pre- booking is essential.
10:00 Fossil Art Class At Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Langton Matravers. £15 per child. Pre- booking is essential.
10:30 Swanage Walking Group Meet at Corfe Castle National Trust Car Park for 6 mile circular walk via Scotland Farm and Wyth Heath. Ffi 01202 570670.
11:00 Wild Wednesday - Free Drop-in Craft Activities In The Belvedere, Durlston Castle. Donations welcome.
19:00 Swanage Area Forum Open Meeting at Emmanuel Church Centre. A talk by David Haysom - John Mowlem, Founding Father of Swanage. All welcome.
- Thu 15th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Family Have a go at Stone Carving At Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Langton Matravers. £30 per adult, £17.50 per child. Pre- booking is essential.
10:00 Swanage Town Council Jobs Fair At Swanage Information Centre, Shore Road. Just turn up, or ffi: 01929 766018 or mail@swanagegov.uk.
14:30 'Dolphins & The Deep Blue Sea' Family event at Durlston Castle, discover the lives of dolphins.
- Fri 16th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle
10:00 Durlston Past Exhibition At Durlston Castle. Free event.
10:00 Swanage Town Council Jobs Fair At Swanage Information Centre, Shore Road. Just turn up, or ffi: 01929 766018 or mail@swanagegov.uk.
20:00 Lyndsey Lou & The Flatbellies Live Acts at the Square and Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.
- Sat 17th**
*** Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe

Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

10:00 **Swanage Town Council Jobs Fair** At Swanage Information Centre, Shore Road. Just turn up, or ffi: 01929 766018 or mail@swanage.gov.uk.

10:00 **Books, Coffee, Cakes and Chat!** At Moreton Village Hall. Saturday 17th February 10 a.m. until 12 noon. FREE Entry. Come and enjoy a tea or coffee and a slice of home-made cake whilst you browse through our huge selection of books. All books just 25p. Donations of books always welcome. Contact: Maeve 01929 463221

10:10 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet at exit of Sandbanks CP for a linear walk along the promenade to Bournemouth Pier via several Chines. Return by bus. Ffi 01929 480224.

20:00 **Hightown Crows Live Acts** at the Square and Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.

Sun 18th

* **Teddy Bear Zip Wire & Castle Quest!** February Half Term at Corfe Castle. Ffi: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle

* **Wedding Fair** At Kingston Maurwood. Ffi: www.kmc.ac.uk/weddings

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

12:00 **Wedding Showcase** At Knoll House. Free entry, bubbles on arrival. Ffi: www.knollhouse.co.uk

Mon 19th

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

Tue 20th

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

14:30 **The Purbeck Assoc of the National Trust** At All Saints Church, Ulwell Rd, Sw. Illustrated talk 'The Swanage Lifeboat Station Project' - Capt Neil Hardy MBE talks about the new Shannon Class lifeboat at Swanage and the construction of the new lifeboat station. All welcome. £3.00 incl refreshments Ffi 01929 427300.

Wed 21st

09:45 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet and start from Knoll House Hotel. Walk via Studland Heath to Greenlands Farm, return via Fishing Barrow and Black Down. Ffi 01929 422554.

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

14:30 **Studland History Group** Meets in the Village Hall for a talk on the **Banks Archive Project** by Luke Dady. All welcome. Ffi the Secretary 01929 439245

Thu 22nd

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

Fri 23rd

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

Sat 24th

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

10:00 **Swanage Walking Group** Park in Bloxworth Village Hall CP on right before church. Walk via Woodlake, East Bloxworth, to Whitefield. Return via West Morden and Morden Lane. Ffi 01929 480224.

10:00 **The Great British Spring Clean** - Clean Up Corfe Meet in the Square, Corfe Castle, to litterpick for about 1.5 hrs. Kit provided but wear stout footwear and bring gardening gloves. Ffi: Liz on 01929 480447, litterfreepurbeck@gmail.com or see Litter-free Purbeck's Facebook page, @LitterFrPurbeck.

10:00 **Stone Carving** with Jonathon Sells At Burngate Stone Carving Centre, Langton Matravers. £80 per adult. Pre- booking is essential.

18:00 **'Wanted - Wareham Carnival Queen'** At Wareham Town Hall. Disco & refreshments. Carnival queen - aged 12-16 Two Carnival princesses - aged 7-11 Two Carnival princes 7-13 Ffi: www.warehamcarnival.com

19:00 **Ladies Night - Eye Candy** At Swanage Bay View. £15 per ticket. Glass of bubbly on arrival. Ffi: 01929 422130.

19:30 **Dorset Youth Jazz Orchestra** At The Centre, Chapel Lane, Swanage. In aid of Swanage Action for Refugees. Tickets £5 Licensed bar.

20:00 **2 Man Ting Live Acts** at the Square and Compass Inn, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229.

Sun 25th

09:15 **Swanage Beach Clean** (Litter-free Purbeck) Meet at Banjo Pier, Shore Road (opp. end of Victoria Ave.) to beach clean for 1-2 hours. Kit provided but please wear stout footwear and bring gardening gloves. Children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Ffi: Bridget on 01929 421753, litterfreepurbeck@gmail.com or see Litter-free Purbeck's Facebook page, @LitterFrPurbeck.

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

Mon 26th

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

Tue 27th

* **Rotary Club of Wareham** At the Springfield Hotel, Wareham. Speaker from Diverse Abilities (Dorset's Disability Charity) <https://diverseabilities.org.uk>. Visitors are welcome. Ffi: Ann on 553727 or see our website www.warehamrotary.co.uk.

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

Wed 28th

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

10:15 **Swanage Walking Group** Meet at Corfe Castle National Trust Car Park for circular walk via Purbeck Way, Baxter Memorial, Ridgeway, Knowle and West Hills. Ffi 07871 100714.

19:30 **The Rex Players Happy Days** At The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets £10, available from Discover Purbeck Information Centre 10929 552740.

MARCH

Thu 1st

*

Swanage Blues Festival Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

19:30 **The Rex Players Happy Days** At The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets £10, available from Discover Purbeck Information Centre 10929 552740.

Fri 2nd

*

Swanage Blues Festival Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

19:30 **The Rex Players Happy Days** At The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets £10, available from Discover Purbeck Information Centre 10929 552740.

Sat 3rd

*

Swanage Blues Festival Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org

10:00 **Durlston Past Exhibition** At Durlston Castle. Free event.

19:30 **The Rex Players Happy Days** At The Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets £10, available from Discover Purbeck Information Centre 10929 552740.

Sun 4th

*

Swanage Blues Festival Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org

19:30 **'Impressions of Spring & Summer'** Classical music with the BSO at Durlston Castle. Booking advised, tickets £10/£6.

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 **Flowers with Liz** at the Purbeck Workshop in Wool. The Workshop provides craft activities free of charge to those touched by cancer - friends and family are welcome too. Unit 6, Woolbridge Business Centre, East Burton Rd, Wool. BH20 6HG. www.purbeckworkshop.org 07757 776907. Email: richris95@gmail.com

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.

14.30 **Get Online FREE at Swanage Library.** one-to-one half hour I.T. sessions, bookable in the Library in advance. Until 4pm.

16.45 **Soccer Skills** Sw FC First Sch chldn £1 Till 5.45. 425175

18.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Snr Club Session. 426312

18.00 **Lesbian and Gay Friendship Group** meets every Monday evening for social events and shared interests, such as meals, walking and outings. Ffi: contact Karen via email: outinpurbeck@gmail.com

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 Steve Peirson on 01929 552504.

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 **Wm Folk Dance Club** Stoboro' VH. All welcome. 552763/551029

19.30 **Swanage Badminton Club** at the Swanage School, till 9.30pm. Ffi: 07966 136641.

19.30 **Swanage Air Cadets** meet at Air Training Corps HQ, Court Road, Sw. Cadets age 12+. Ffi: email: oc.2185@aircadets.mod.

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: Sylvia Garrett 425420, office hours, or sylviag@swanagemethodist.org.uk

09.30 **Isle of Purbeck Arts Club.** Painting and sketching. At the Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Rd, Sw. Till 1pm. Outdoors in summer. Ffi: Gina on 421689.

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 **Wareham Croquet Club** meet at the Recreation Ground until 5pm. New members and visitors welcome. Call Tony on 01929 550190 or Lesley on 01929 553927 or email warehamgolfcroquetclub@hotmail.com

- 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
- 10.00 **A Place Of Welcome** at 21 Commercial Road, Sw. Friendly drop-in for everyone, providing a free cup of tea or coffee, a listening ear, conversation and basic information. Everyone welcome, whatever the circumstances.
- 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
- 10.30 **First Steps Toddler's Group.** Swanage Methodist Church till 11.45am. Ffi: Sylvia Garrett 425420, office hours, or sylvia.g@swanagemethodist.org.uk
- 10.30 **Wareham Walkers.** Convivial health walks for mainly older people, of up to two hours in and around Wareham, ending with coffee at a local tea room or pub. Ffi: www.wareham-walkers.org.uk or call 552933.
- 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 Cricket Club Practice** till 8.30pm
- 18.30 **Sw Bridge Club Mowlem Community Room.** 421840
- 19.00 **Wareham Air Cadets** meet at Air Training Corps HQ, St Martin's Lane, Wm. Cadets age 12+. Ffi: email: oc.2185@aircadets.mod.
- 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
- 19.00 **Belvedere Singers** rehearsal at St Mark's CE VA Primary School, High St, Sw. Parking on-site. Till 9pm. All singers welcome! 423350.
- 20.00 **Sw Regatta & Carnival Assoc Bingo** Herston Leisure, Herston Yards Farm, Sw.
- 20.00 **Carey Hall, Wm Bingo**
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.
- 13.00 **Studland Toddler Group** at Studland Village Hall until 2.30pm.
- 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
- 15.00 **Extend Exercise Class,** now at Morton Village Hall. To improve strength, balance and flexibility. All welcome. Donations welcome. Ffi: 471490.
- 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. 552046
- 19.00 **Wareham Short Mat Bowls Club** Roll-up evening Furzebrook VH. 401799
- 19.00 **Swanage Town Band** meet for our weekly practice in the Council Chamber, Swanage Town Hall. New musicians warmly welcomed. Please call David Cook (musical Director) for further information on: 01929 422909.
- 19.15 **Purbeck Runners** meet at the Crows Nest, Sw. 4/5 mile run.
- 19.30 **Swanage Musical Theatre** meet Swanage Bay View Complex Rehearsal Room. All welcome. Ffi: 426161
- 20.00 **Sw Youth Centre Club Night (Yr 9+)** Till 10
- 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 **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** at Queensmead Hall, Sw. Til 11am. Adm 50p
- 10.00 **Volunteer Centre Drop-In** at Wareham Library till 12pm. Find out about volunteering to support community groups & charities.
- 10.00 **Wareham Croquet Club** meet at the Recreation Ground until 5pm. New members and visitors welcome. Call Tony on 01929 550190 or Lesley on 01929 553927 or email warehamcroquetclub@hotmail.com
- 10.15 **Chess** at the Cafe Tratt, Lower High Street, Swanage (from 8th February 2018). Call in for a friendly game of chess and a chat. All welcome.
- 10.30 **Mid-Week Market Morning Service** URC, Church St, Wm. Prayer requests to Revd. Simon Franklin 556976
- 10.30 **Woodworking** with Bernard and Terry at the Purbeck Workshop in Wool. The Workshop provides craft activities free of charge to those touched by cancer - friends and family are welcome too. Unit 6, Woolbridge Business Centre, East Burton Rd, Wool. BH20 6HG. www.purbeckworkshop.org 07757 776907. Email: richris95@gmail.com
- 11.00 **Sensory Play** for 1-4yrs old at Bovington Centre, until 12 noon.
- 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)
- 14.15 **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
- 18.00 **Isle of Purbeck Arts Club.** Weekly evening Art Group. Aimed at beginners, at the Youth Hostel classroom, Cluny Crescent, Swanage, till 9pm.
- 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 **Purbeck Arts Choir** meet for rehearsals, with conductor Jay Buckle, at St Mary's School, Northbrook Road, Swanage. Sept-May. All welcome. For more information please phone Liz Roberts 01929 481419
- 19.30 **Swanage Youth Club Youth Action** (year 7 - sixth form). Till 9.30pm
- 19.30 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Swanage. FREE Cardio tennis taster sessions. A fun way to get fit and improve your tennis skills. Until 8.30pm.
- 20.00 **Herston Hall OAP Committee Bingo** Sw
EVERY FRIDAY
- 09.30 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation.** Till 10.30am. 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.
- 09.30 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Swanage. FREE Matchplay mix-in taster sessions. First three sessions are free. Come and try our great new courts! Until 11am.
- 10.00 **Table Tennis Club Sw FC All ages/abilities** £2.50 Till noon. 480093
- 10.00 **A Place Of Welcome** at 21 Commercial Road, Sw. Friendly drop-in for everyone, providing a free cup of tea or coffee, a listening ear, conversation and basic information. Everyone welcome, whatever the circumstances.
- 11.00 **Swanage Library Rhyme Time,** ages 0-4, until 11.30am.
- 11.00 **Toddler Time** For Under 5s And Carers. Wareham Library. Stories, songs and crafts. Every Friday, including school holidays. Ffi: 01929 556146
- 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
- 18.30 **Sw Bridge Club Mowlem Community Room.** 421840
- 19.00 **Sw Youth Centre Seniors Club Night (Yr 9+)** Till 9.30pm.
- 19.30 **Short tennis** for adults at Swanage Football Club. All welcome. Equipment supplied. Till 9.30pm. £3.
- 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
- 08.00 **Purbeck Runners** meet at the Mowlem, Sw. 4/5 mile run.
- 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.
- 11.00 **Fantastic Family Fun** at Swanage Library, ages 3-8. Free story and craft session until 11.30am.
- 20.00 **Herston OAP Committee Bingo** at Herston Hall, Sw
EVERY SUNDAY
- 09.00 **Purbeck Runners** meet at the Mowlem, Sw. 8+ mile run.
- 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.



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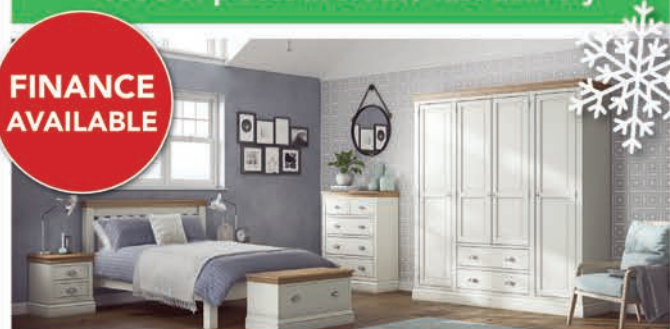
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