

The Purbeck Gazette



February 2022
Issue no: 265

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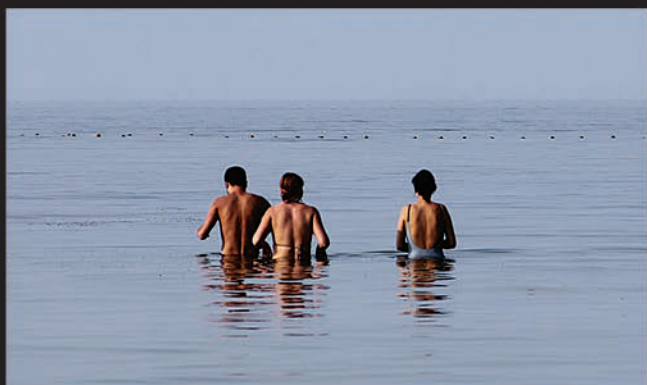
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Editor's note...



Welcome to the February edition of your Purbeck Gazette! It's the month of love, so let's hope the weather jumps onboard and the sun decides to bring some spring warmth to warm our bones after winter!

It's time to look ahead and see if we can slowly get back to how things were pre-pandemic - we lost so very much over the past two years; businesses closed, staff became unemployed, we lost touch with friends, going out became a thing of the past and our fabulous schedule of festivals, fetes and events was seriously curtailed.

This year it's hoped that, with common sense, things may well progress back to some form of normality. It seems most festivals are now planned to go ahead this year, so we'll hopefully have blues, fish, pirates, jazz, folk and much more to celebrate in 2022!

I'd like to thank all of you who have supported the Purbeck Gazette over the past 'pandemic' two years - we have always run the paper as a community-first publication and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have supported us so wholeheartedly. We have really, really appreciated your kindness and it's because of your support that we're still here today!

We do have some super-exciting news to share with you in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on your Purbeck Gazette! It is going to be getting bigger and better (is that even possible?) in the near future as we've been working hard behind the scenes to secure the longevity of the title well into the future, on behalf of the community we serve.

Have a great February folks - we'll see you in March!

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The MARCH 2022 edition has a deadline of 9th Feb.

Public Notices & Information



Compiled by
National Coastwatch Institution, Swanage



Solar and Tidal Predictions - Feb'22

Peveril Ledge, Swanage

Date	HW	LW	HW	LW	HW	Moon / Tides	Sunrise	Sunset
01-Feb		03:19	08:58	15:44	21:17	NM	07:43	16:59
02-Feb		04:06	09:44	16:28	21:59		07:41	17:01
03-Feb		04:50	10:25	17:12	22:41	SP	07:40	17:03
04-Feb		05:33	11:05	17:53	23:21		07:38	17:04
05-Feb		06:14	11:45	18:34			07:36	17:06
06-Feb	00:01	06:55	12:25	19:14			07:35	17:08
07-Feb	00:41	07:37	13:07	19:55			07:33	17:10
08-Feb	01:24	08:23	13:56	20:43			07:31	17:11
09-Feb	02:13	09:23	14:55	21:54			07:30	17:13
10-Feb	03:16	10:48	16:06	23:15			07:28	17:15
11-Feb	04:32	12:03	17:22			NP	07:26	17:17
12-Feb		00:26	05:49	13:06	18:30		07:24	17:19
13-Feb		01:26	06:53	13:55	19:22		07:23	17:20
14-Feb		02:13	07:39	14:35	20:02		07:21	17:22
15-Feb		02:53	08:15	15:12	20:35		07:19	17:24
16-Feb		03:30	08:48	15:47	21:07	FM	07:17	17:26
17-Feb		04:04	09:21	16:22	21:39		07:15	17:27
18-Feb		04:39	09:53	16:56	22:10		07:13	17:29
19-Feb		05:12	10:24	17:29	22:43	SP	07:11	17:31
20-Feb		05:46	10:57	18:03	23:18		07:09	17:33
21-Feb		06:21	11:32	18:40	23:56		07:07	17:34
22-Feb		07:01	12:14	19:21			07:05	17:36
23-Feb	00:40	07:47	13:02	20:10			07:03	17:38
24-Feb	01:33	08:44	14:03	21:14			07:01	17:40
25-Feb	02:46	10:11	15:41	23:04			06:59	17:41
26-Feb	04:32	11:55	17:24			NP	06:57	17:43
27-Feb	06:04	00:31	18:39	13:05			06:55	17:45
28-Feb		01:34	07:15	14:00	19:38		06:53	17:46

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

All times are local

eb02

Swanage Town Council Meetings - FEB 2022

PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNCIL DIRECTLY FOR INFORMATION

Wareham Town Council Meetings - FEB 2022

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Dorset Council

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Alternatively, if you use the old 'Dorsetforyou' address:

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/committees - you will be redirected to the same link called 'committee meetings and papers'.

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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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Swanage's Christmas Lights Train, taken on 11th December 2021, by David Castle

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DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH EDITION IS NOON, 9th FEB

Your Letters

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

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

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

MARCH deadline: Noon on Feb 9th

Content Of Heart That Counts

To The Editor,

How sad it was to read the article by Eric Olinet in the January 2022 edition of the Purbeck Gazette.

It matters not the colour of the person's skin, their ethnicity, religion or sexuality - it is the content of the heart that counts.

I have known Eric for several years and I can say with certainty that his heart is filled with kindness, generosity and compassion for others.

It would be a tremendous loss to our community if a man of his calibre left Swanage and indeed, our country.

My family and I are proud to be members of this town which is known for its outstanding community spirit. I trust that others will show similar support and respect for our friend, Eric, a truly great character.

John Corben, by email

Ashamed To Be British

Dear Editor,

I was dismayed to read of the experiences of both Eric Olinet and Nathalie Sherring, as described in their recent Gazette articles (*January 2022 edition*). The attitudes displayed by the people who made these comments to Eric and Nathalie are appalling. They make me ashamed to be British. Don't such individuals realise how much incomers add to all of our lives?

Eric has shown his commitment to our Purbeck community not only through his stewardship of the Black Swan but also his willingness to get involved with local initiatives such as the annual Fish Festival. Similarly for Nathalie in her role on the Dorset Race Equality Council.

It beggars belief that some local residents are so warped in their narrow-minded and xenophobic views that they feel justified in insulting people in such a way. I used to believe that we were a nation of tolerance, understanding and dignity. Not any more, apparently.

It seems to be open season to insult any minority, whether ethnic, national, gender or orientation. Even disabled people find that they are regularly insulted. And, as Eric pointed out, if the recipient objects they are often met with one of those appalling stock responses that merely worsens the insult: "It's a free country - I can say what I like", or even: "Don't you have a sense of humour?"

We all lose when people are driven from our country because they no longer feel welcome. Crops are left unpicked in fields; hotels, cafés and restaurants can no longer find staff; hospitals and clinics soon find they've lost experienced doctors and nurses; shops run out of stock because of a shortage of lorry drivers.

We seem to be in a battle for the soul of our country. Tolerance, understanding and acceptance against bigotry, prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I'm firmly with the former and I'd like to apologise to both Eric and Nathalie for their recent negative experiences.

Yours Sincerely, Michael Hambling (by email)

Change In Attitude And Actions

Dear Gazette,

Reading Eric's article regarding the racist abuse he has suffered in Swanage over the past few years fills me with despair at the actions of some of my fellow citizens.

These sorry Little Englander views can only make our country a worse place to live in

Eric is a talented chef, a lovely man and a respected business owner and valued member of our local community

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Anybody who recognises themselves after reading Eric's heartfelt article should feel thoroughly ashamed and resolve to make things right with Eric by way of apology and a change in their attitudes and actions towards those who have every right to live in this country

Yours sincerely, Philip Eades, Swanage, by email

Shocked And Saddened

Dear Nico,

We hear much these days about abuse and discrimination, but I was more shocked and saddened to learn from Nathalie Sherring (*January issue*) how common such incidents are in Purbeck. I am thinking in particular of Eric Olinet as I have known him for many years as a best friend and part of the family.

When my daughter was dangerously ill he was the one to tell me, and to drive me back and forth to Dorchester Hospital to visit her in intensive care.

Another time my husband was rushed to Poole Hospital; I was told to phone in two hours to see how he was. By then it was 10pm. A doctor told me it was pneumonia and that I really should come. I had no car, it was too late for a bus and, as I thought, to ask friends.

It was Eric who came to my rescue. 'I'll be there in two minutes,' was his immediate response to my phone call. He waited for hours with me at A & E, thoughtfully providing refreshments, until my husband was assessed by a specialist for ICU. Having had nursing experience, Eric spoke at length with the doctor then contacted Mark's son (in Scotland) to explain the situation. It was gone 2am when we drove home and Eric continued his support for the whole week.

I could go on, but suffice it to say, I would like to ask one of these abusers for help next time I have an emergency, and see if they do as well.

Those who 'dish it out' need to understand that their actions, through ignorance and insecurities, only reflect on themselves.

And, the person whose birthday was recently celebrated the world over, advised: 'Judge not, lest ye be judged.'

Sincerely, Audrey Pembroke (a local born and bred), by email.

You Make It Feel Like Home Eric

Dear Nico,

I was appalled reading Eric's article (*January 2022 edition*).

Where do these "prats" think they originate from?

We are a conglomeration of nationalities. The English pushed off to Wales centuries ago. Swanage itself can boast of surnames from the Vikings, Spanish, French, Italians and many more countries probably. Under the skin we are all the same.

Having lived the first sixteen years of my life in the Black Swan, for the first time, Eric, you make it feel like home again. Thank you.

Judith Walther (nee Bishop), by email.

A Kind Of Nivana?

Dear Editor,

The sad tale from Eric Olivet rang a loud bell with me!

I am a French citizen who has lived in Britain since 1969 when I married my British husband. I have worked here, paid taxes, brought up three children and followed UK law.

I met a lot of kind and open-minded people and felt perfectly at home in a good and civilized country where most people were respectful and courteous, so far so good...

However, since Brexit the atmosphere has changed. I had to provide an overwhelming number of documents and answer a lot of downright



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The Shing-a-lings

offensive questions in order to obtain my so-called 'settled status' in spite of having received indefinite leave to remain in 1969!! I felt suddenly alienated in spite of reassurance from family, friends and neighbours.

A sense of 'them' and 'us' was definitely in the air. At one point a woman came up to me and asked: "why don't you go back to your own country?" and sadly similar remarks have lately been experienced by many on a fairly regular basis.

It would seem that presently some people feel entitled to express their prejudices and xenophobic feelings in the most appalling and aggressive manner. Brexit was cleverly marketed as a kind of Nirvana and did not the EU and its citizens make marvellous scapegoats for all sorts of ills? I am still waiting to see the miracles that were promised!

I respect the democratic choice that was made and I am forever hopeful that things will work out as well as possible whilst strongly regretting all that has been lost. I have known Swanage for well over thirty years and I hope Eric stays put and rides the tide.

He has made a welcome contribution to the hospitality scene in Swanage and his larger than life personality and delicious food are a great asset to the town.

We are all entitled to our views but there is no excuse for offensive behaviour! One of my father's favourite sayings in response to bigots was: "If it comes from too low to be picked up, best leave it where it is!" I think that says it all.

From France Viner, Swanage, by email

Variety Is The Spice Of Life

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your introduction to Mr Olinet's article on Racism. Any offensive remark causes hurt to the person referred to, while reflecting sadly on the one who makes it.

The truth of the old saying, "Variety is the spice of life" rules out discrimination on the basis of nationality, colour or creed.

Regards, Peter Burtwell, by email.

Distasteful And Stressful

Dear Editor

I read with interest G.Yeoman's comment in the last edition that bloodsports can have a negative impact on our wellbeing.

As countryside dwellers in Gloucestershire, we have pheasant shoots on our doorstep. Perhaps the average person would not realise this, but the pheasants are hand reared / fed and come to trust humans. They become virtually tame birds by the time they are adults.

When the pheasant shooting season starts, they are driven out of their cover (ie woodland, bushes etc) by 'beaters', the people who get paid to 'shoo' them out into the open.

They are driven towards the people with guns who have paid vast amounts of money to go on a pheasant shoot. The birds have no chance to escape. They are then shot (or wounded). Some may end up on dinner plates, but many are just buried because nobody wants them.

The word sport doesn't describe this activity. 'Wholesale massacre of birds who have little chance of escaping' seems more appropriate.

Personally, we find this activity very distasteful. Hearing the sound of gunshot is quite stressful, knowing the details I have just described.

Christine Devereux and Arthur Turbfield, regular Swanage visitors

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Erroneous Conclusions

Dear Nico,

Please consider this for next issue's publication. Never written to you before, read the mag with interest. I was concerned that Mike Hetherington in last month's Gazette was so troubled about whether natural immunity was better than vaccination. He clearly doesn't like the idea that being jabbed against Covid-19 maybe the right way forward.

How can this be? All the mainstream evidence says that two jabs and a booster diminishes transmission and even if Covid is contracted, symptoms are less severe. Also that vaccination is considerably more effective than immunity from having had the virus itself. We now know that the current vaccination programme has reduced admission to high dependency units, being put on ventilators, being in hospital for weeks, long Covid and above all has reduced deaths due to Covid-19. Remember all those frightening TV hospital pictures of the first half of 2020? So please don't doubt or underestimate these changes for the good - you know them to be so and we have seen the effect in our communities. And the change is as a result of the majority population being prepared to be vaccinated.

This is nothing new. Our own Benjamin Jesty, buried in Worth Matravers, was ahead of Jenner when it came to vaccinating against smallpox. I remember the deaths and disabilities due to polio - we see thankfully none now. We were routinely vaccinated against diphtheria, measles, mumps, chickenpox, whooping cough as children and took it in our stride. Vaccination has got a hold on all these killers now; they give us proof and faith in the efficacy of a jab.

So, I personally find it truly upsetting that Mike is not on board with this. Instead he has gone to the trouble to trawl the internet for an obscure quote by this Dr Tess Lawrie. She came to some erroneous conclusions based on people's feedback to the Yellow Card reporting system and it hit the headlines in the American press. But if you look up the review of her actions on Health Feedback, there is a warning of misleading information.

She herself acknowledges limitations of the data she made her conclusions on, and said: "that information on Adverse Drug Reactions should not be interpreted as meaning the medicine causes the observed effect or is unsafe to use" i.e. correlation does not equal causation.

Health Feedback say: "however, she contradicted this by concluding 'The MHRA now has more than enough evidence on the Yellow Card system to declare the Covid-19 vaccine is unsafe for use in humans.'" I would call this disingenuity on Dr Lawrie's part. Even if she did have concerns about the data on the Yellow Card system, she must concede the broad picture of the massive overall reduction of deaths because of the vaccination programme, it would be unethical not to.

But it doesn't solve Mike Etherington's problem, who searched the internet for the faintest sliver of evidence to disprove the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccinations. Come on Mike, you owned up to being confused and not knowing who to trust.

Please rethink and join the majority who see the value of concentrated efforts by researchers to produce an efficient vaccine to stop the virus killing so many people, and by the NHS who are delivering it. The overall statistics show it, as evidence. Remember too, the more who are vaccinated the more overall immunity we have. Side effects are infinitesimal to the numbers saved. Infections and diseases have killed millions in times past. Vaccines already protect us against a variety of devastating diseases and still do, so what's different about this one.

Ann Smith, Wareham, by email.

Anti-Jab Jabber Poem!

Message from a Vaccine Doubter - Anti-Jab Jabber!

I'm not having those Government vaccines
I've heard they can kill you in a minute
I'd rather have that Donald Trump one
Cos it's got Domestos in it
It can kill 99% of our germs
Even if we're right round the bend
For the other 1% we'll use Cillit Bang
Cos Barry Scott is our friend

The Government vaccines are much less safe
You can't trust those scientist guys
I've heard that their vaccines have computer chips in them
And even computer French fries!

With eye of newt and toe of frog
They'll make you ten years older
I'd rather visit a herbalist

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Who won't play darts with my shoulder!

A lovely cup of herbal tea

Then my future in the tea-leaves can be read

It's strange though, the message is always the same

That without a proper vaccine ... I'll be dead!!

Many thanks, Martin Hobdell, Swanage, by email.

Get Your Facts Right, Mike

Dear Editor,

Thank you for starting the New Year with a variety of views and opinions in 'Your letters' pages.

Can I reply to letter by M.E. who asks who to trust in the matter of having vaccines? The answer is obviously that we follow the advice given by all the UK medical authorities, NHS, World Health Organisation and every expert in the world - take the vaccine! The more who take it then the greater its effect in closing down the spread of Covid virus.

Mike E. offers as an alternative the views of Dr Tess Lawrie, but if he had done his own research, he would have realised that she is not the Head of the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine as claimed but a one-woman band operating out of an office on a Gloucester trading estate and who promotes a drug, Ivermectin (which has no accepted evidence-based research for Covid use).

Looks to me that Mike E is following a conspiracy theory, so no wonder he is feeling confused. Also, he ought to get his facts right and in context about doctors' opinions, hospitalisations and fatalities.

Nice to read Mike Fry's letter about caring for hedgehogs - I was involved in something similar, five years ago.

Whilst Wareham has numerous sightings in people's gardens and even a club of enthusiasts who meet regularly, we found only one possible sighting in the whole of Isle of Purbeck (perhaps they can't swim across the river?).

If anyone does know of any hedgehogs locally, can they please contact me via Purbeck Gazette or phone 422479. Anyway thanks, Mike Fry.

Andrew Fleming, by email.

'Snowflakes R Us'

Dear Editor,

As January tends to be a bit of a quiet time I have been left to overly ponder my New Year's resolutions.

The first resolution is to continue the struggle against drifting in to a state of hibernation with the hope of waking up in a better world, fanciful I know. The second resolution, and far more fanciful, is to strive to be more cantankerous and to be more outraged by anything and everything than your regular contributor, David Hollister!

I fear my second resolution has a much greater chance of being successful.

Having just read that the 'Colston Four' have been acquitted I am pondering my next move. As we all now appear to have carte blanche to dispose of anything we find offensive or mildly irritating, I am forming a new group called 'Snowflakes R Us' with the long term aim of making the world bland, supine and terribly correct.

Subject to alternative recommendations my proposed first target is the misguided anti Scandinavian King Alfred memorial on the Seafront. With it's blatant Putin bias and the promotion of the annexation of the Crimea, thinly disguised in the form of the Russian Cannonball symbolism, how can we possibly sleep at night with this in our presence?

If we can find anyone tall enough, or perhaps if someone is allowed by Health and Safety to sit on someone else's shoulders, risk assessment permitting, maybe we can have a go at hurling this monstrosity into the Sea. As a lifelong supporter of Ikea and its Mensa challenging furniture I feel our actions, should we end up at the Old Bailey, would simply be met

with raucous applause. Should we survive our first excursion then perhaps the Prince Albert memorial should be next? I am regularly confused and concerned as to why Swanage should have a tribute to such an extreme, and presumably incredibly painful, form of male adornment, but does my stance on this one waft of snowflake hypocrisy!

Then I 'woke' up to an article about Kew Gardens and its founder Sir Joseph Banks who brought back over 30,000 plants from his voyages with Captain Cook. He is on the verge of being 'cancelled' and presumably all the trees in Kew Gardens being pulled down in outrage, because he has been associated with transporting cheap food to the West Indies Sugar Plantations.

Slavery was and is abhorrent, no question. But perhaps there might be some common sense somewhere in this world that decides to learn from the past, correct the mistakes, but leave the legacies in prominent positions so people continue to question and never forget.

Otherwise I will have to hide in my newly installed panic room when I sprinkle sugar over my Cornflakes for fear of being branded racist by the self appointed Cancel Police.

Reflection, balance, common sense, are these qualities too much to ask for in this already deeply troubled world. Surely we have enough issues to deal with without pandering to wokery?

In parting I would like to thank both the Daily Mail for it's accurate and balanced reporting as always and to David Hollister for his inspiration to keep challenging lost causes.

Yours ever, Dave Hill, by email

Reducing The Monarchy?

Dear Readers,

Given that there were huge social reforms after the two World Wars (health and education improvements and women's votes after WWI and the birth of the NHS and Welfare State after WW2), I think that after the Covid pandemic we should radically reduce the monarchy and requisition its hundreds of billions of pounds locked up in possessions, properties, lands etc to help with the national debt, the NHS, the care system, the housing crisis, the millions below the poverty line, etc.

One palace would be sufficient for a small circle of royals to share (the poor can only dream of such space) and their other assets in cash, goods, castles, palaces, lands, etc, could be sold off or thrown open properly to tourists, thus raising those much-needed hundreds of billions (the monarchy is the largest land 'owner' in Britain).

In a time of national crisis, it's obscene that a small elite of royals (who are regularly an embarrassment to us all) can stockpile vast quantities of the country's wealth while so many people suffer.

In simple terms, the monarchy should properly 'serve the nation' by sharing that wealth for the common good. Feel free to edit and please withhold my name in case of local rabid royalists!!

Happy Republican New Year!

M, Swanage, by email.

Working Link Now Available

Hi Nico,

I read David Hollister's piece about Harrow House last month. The original link from his article (and also in Swanage News) does not work. After some searching this is the correct link: <https://hhouse.clanning.co.uk/>

Best regards, Andy Knill



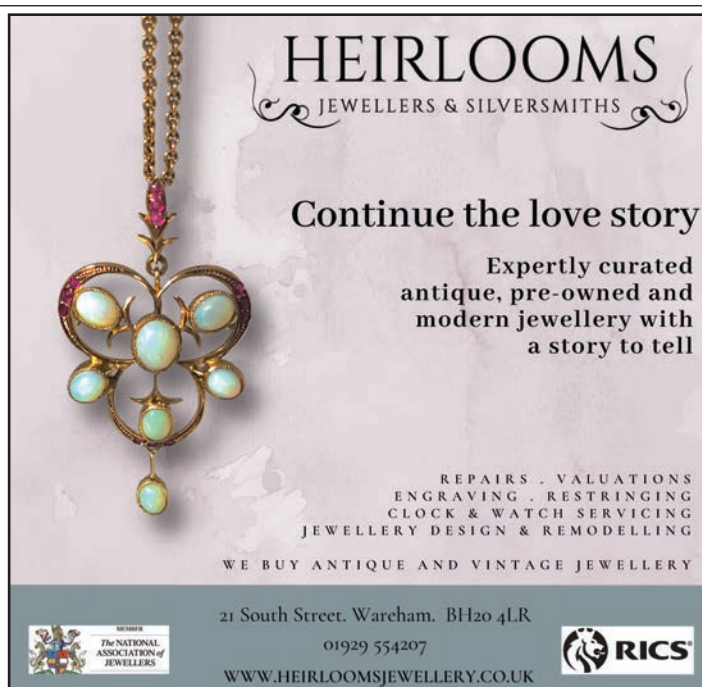
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Ambulance Car Partly Gone?

Dear Readers,

Killing us softly

The Ambulance Car seems to have already been partly withdrawn.

I was shocked, but not surprised, to read in Swanage News that in 2021 it took twice as long for any ambulance response to get to a Swanage emergency as it did in 2019. While the response time target for category 1 – stopped breathing, heart stopped beating and/or unconscious/unresponsive – remains 7 minutes. Average response in 2021 were 15 minutes in Swanage, and 11 minutes in wider Purbeck.

Worried by the apparent absence of the Car around town, I had also raised my own Freedom of Information Act request about the Car staffing. The response shows that the Car is no longer being properly staffed. While there were just 42 twelve hours shifts not covered in 2019, by 2021 more than half the shifts were not covered, with 380 shifts uncovered January-November.

This means that, for more than half the time, in an emergency Swanage and Purbeck has had to rely on Ambulances that work across the County, which take much longer to get here than the Car does. The target response time for imminent danger of death calls is 7 minutes for a reason – how many people who have not been breathing for 15 minutes survive?

Sarah Early, by email

Prestigious Bricks!

Dear Editor,

Here is a reason for Swanage to celebrate and be proud.

The Swanage Brickworks, (owned by Ibstock) has won the 2021 Supreme Award for the best new brick building in the UK. The manager, Mark Woolston, forged a close relationship with the architects Wright & Wright, enabling them to select a unique blend of colours only available from the Swanage clays. The building, Lambeth Palace Library, won the category for the best Public Building and was subsequently chosen for the Supreme award.

This is prestigious. Around 2.4 billion bricks are sold annually in Britain with 1.9 billion coming from domestic manufacturers. This kind of recognition matters not only to the brick makers themselves but especially to architects, builders and specialist brickwork contractors.

These annual awards are made by the Brick Development Association. There are seventeen categories ranging from housing, commercial developments to public buildings also included are awards for innovation and craftsmanship. And at the end of the process a committee of the great and good decide which category winner should receive the Supreme Award.

It's a terrific achievement by one of our few remaining local industries,

Erik Bjorkstrand, by email.

Lewis-Manning Thanks All

Dear Purbeck Gazette readers,

I write as Chief Executive of your local charity hospice, Lewis-Manning Hospice Care, and wish to offer huge thanks to everyone who has supported the charity over the last twelve months. Whether you've donated at one of our shops, to turn chairs into care, or shoes into support, or volunteered your precious time, or made a donation to raise funds so we can keep providing extraordinary care in your community, you are amazing! You really are making a big difference to local people in need to get the care they deserve.

Whilst it has been a particularly challenging time for everyone over the past 21 months, the staff and volunteers have gone above and beyond to ensure patients and their loved ones continue to be supported. A few

highlights I can think of are that we launched the Virtual Day Hospice service, to combat loneliness for vulnerable people shielding because of the pandemic. Our fantastic clinical team were able to still see patients via video calls for one-to-one sessions, but patients could also join group activities, like quizzes, relaxation and gentle exercise.

Another key moment in 2021 was the partnership with Tenovus cancer charity, as they gave the hospice use of its incredible mobile clinics, so that we could bring hospice care closer to home. The mobile clinicals enabled the Lymphoedema, Better Breathing, Bereavement and Day Hospice teams to offer services in Bournemouth and Wimborne, meaning patients had far less to travel to receive their treatments and care.

Your Lewis-Manning Hospice Care charity shops went from strength to strength as more people chose to buy preloved items, which is absolutely fantastic for the environment, as well as raising funds.

The event 'Candles on the Lake' in Poole Park last October, also sticks out in my mind. Over 2,000 people turned up to celebrate and remember their loved ones by dedicating a floating candle, and together made a stunning display of lights throughout the evening. You all raised £7,000 that evening (thank you!) and we hope to see you again at many fundraising events in 2022.

Did you know that in 2022 it is Lewis-Manning Hospice Care's 30th anniversary?! We would love you to join in and celebrate thirty years of extraordinary Lewis-Manning Hospice Care in your community. Thirty years ago, it was Lewis-Manning Hospice Care's founder, Mrs Marjorie Lewis-Manning, whose generosity and inspiration started Lewis-Manning Hospice Care, with a vision to help people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. Without the help of wonderful supporters, the past thirty years would not have been possible. Your incredible dedication and support have enabled over 8,000 people to receive the hospice care they need and deserve. You have and continue to inspire Lewis-Manning to go above and beyond for patients and their loved ones now and in the future.

So, on behalf of all the staff, Trustees, Patrons and volunteers, a heartfelt THANK YOU once again for your much valued kindness and commitment to your community and we look forward to many new supporters to become part of Lewis-Manning Hospice Care in 2022.

With best wishes, Clare Gallie, Chief Executive, Lewis-Manning Hospice Care

Gazette Now On 'AutoEditor' NEW COMPETITION!

Dear Readers,

The last few years have been exhausting for those in the news industry and Purbeck Gazette editor, Nico Van Vinkle, has decided to take a year off for a 'Big Sleep'.

So, she has put the Gazette into 'AutoEditor' and made her way into Outer Purbeck to her secret Van Winkle survival shelter (well stocked with food, drink, medical supplies, Bay City Roller tapesbut no contact with outside world).

She plans to wake up, emerge from her shelter and return to Swanage on January 1st, 2023, but is wary of how the world might have changed by then.

How much do you think the Isle of Purbeck, Swanage, Wareham, etc, will have changed or will it have remained exactly the same?

Readers are invited to write up an account of their predictions for Jan 1st 2023 and describe what Nico might expect to find (up to 150 words each) and send to the Purbeck Gazette by email to: ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk by 28th Feb, 2022.

Yes, this is a competition and big prizes are offered to the most accurate predictions (believed to be invited to the Gazette New Year party with free drinks from 7am-8am, January 1st, 2023).

Happy New Year, Vin Van Vinkle (no relation).

Community Matters

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS...

Affordable Homes? Apparently Not...

by David Hollister

Well, New Year has come and gone and I'm still here....thank you for all your positive messages. This time, I need to bring a number of items to your attention and to remind you that despite the best efforts of our elected County Councillors, we're still being 'rolled over' by the juggernaut that Dorset Council has become.

They say: 'be careful what you wish for' and this unfortunately is true in my case. The Purbeck District Council may have been both authoritarian and inefficient and I for one expressed my gratitude that a whole level of bureaucracy had been done away with. How wrong I was. At least their planners seemed to know where Purbeck was, and at least some of our issues were dealt with at a proper local level. Dorset Council has addressed very few of the issues that we have brought to their attention over the past year.

For instance, the puddle at the foot of St. Michael's Hill (still there), the crazy road junction at Coombe corner (still dangerous), the absence of a 30mph limit on that junction (sank without trace), the pedestrian footpath over the Wareham railway bridge (ditto), and the missing footpath in Harmans Cross (apparently too expensive). And now we have to contend with a planning department that do not appear to recognise the need for 'affordable homes'.

Some years ago, a planning application for thirty dwellings was submitted for the site of the former St. Mary's school in Manor Road. It was granted with the condition that eleven of the thirty homes were allocated as affordable housing and the rest were not allowed to be sold as second homes. But the house builder, Bracken Developments, then successfully argued to remove the condition that they could only be sold as a first or principal home. The Council caved in to that one. So, they – and those people to whom a 'second home' in just an investment – must have rubbed their hands together in glee.

I am sure most of us supported the development of this disused site for much-needed housing and were then appalled to discover that the developer is now applying to evade providing affordable housing at all on the grounds that it would result in his making a smaller profit.

When this was first proposed, the company representative said that existing buildings would be affordable accommodation, which seems to have meant a way to establish the principle of building houses on the site, knowing full well that it could be modified, overturned, and now look what's happening. Cleverly they slipped the revised application in a few days before Christmas hoping that people would be too busy to notice and object! The meeting to consider this took place on 5 January.

It came very close to being overturned. But at the 59th minute, as the District Valuation Service had apparently agreed that the development wasn't financially viable to support the provision of affordable housing, the planning department (unelected officers) recommended councillors to remove the condition for affordable housing. So, now we know whose side the 'officers' are on and it isn't the poor and homeless.

Many local residents opposed the removal of affordable housing; Swanage Town Council wrote:

"The Town Council would wish to express its complete disappointment and frustration that the developer has submitted an application to remove the requirement for affordable housing so soon after obtaining planning approval for this development, the decision on which could have a material adverse impact on local housing needs/requirements."

Both of the councillors who represent Swanage on Dorset Council spoke passionately for the need to retain affordable housing in the town in this location. Councillor Gary Suttle said: "We cannot maintain a vibrant community with second home owners and high end value properties. Community is about diversity and we must support affordable housing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live here." Spot on, Gary.

Councillor David Tooke said that the developer would still be making "a significant amount of profit" and proposed a vote against the application to remove affordable housing from the development. Councillor Alex

Brenton suggested that as the developers didn't even yet own the land, they had the option not to purchase it, if building on it didn't provide the profit margin it required.

Cllr Bill Trite was allowed to speak but not allowed to vote as – in Bill's words: "I wasn't able to vote myself because I was on the record as having opposed this attempt at the deletion of affordable housing eighteen months ago." (You have to show that you have an 'open mind' up to the point of decision if you want to vote.) This is democracy at its very worst. Bill stood up for us previously and has, in doing so, been disqualified from having a vote, when the rubber met the road. Rules and Regulations. Bah Humbug!

Step forward the villain of the piece (pantomime time – boo, hiss) Councillor Toni Coombs, Chair of the committee, who proposed an alternative, suggesting that the matter be deferred for further discussions as she was not confident that the councillors' reasons for rejecting the proposal were "legally robust enough".

Let's be honest, all Councillors are now operating with one hand tied behind their back (in Bill's case, two!) because they're all afraid of expensive litigation.

But let me remind you that the law is open to all – like the Ritz. And actually, it was the 'officers' who made the decision and 'recommended' it to the Councillors all of who – except two – didn't really give a monkeys about the poor and homeless of Swanage. Influenced no doubt by a 'District Valuer' who probably doesn't know where Swanage is!

So let us – as the town – speak by campaigning to stop the whole development until this is resolved. All opposed to what's happening should write as individuals to make sure we get what was originally proposed: Info@brackengroup.co.uk

Frankly, I find this disgraceful. How are local people and their representatives ever to be able to protect themselves and secure housing for all under these conditions? Where a planning application can be rendered basically unrecognisable from a social impact perspective and yet still stand, in the name of profit? Well done to those who stood up against this. We're so lucky to have Gary and Bill on our side.

OK, that's me done for this month! So much to do, so little time. But I'll be back.....!!



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Approaching The Platinum Jubilee!



2022 and February is upon us and plans for the Jubilee Celebrations are still being finalised. Believe it or not, it's not just about putting up some tables and chairs and having a street party! Road closures have to be obtained, Risk Assessments written up and checked over and over again to make sure you haven't overlooked anything, volunteers (loads) have to be found and a full days' entertainment provided, and of course, lovely Sue Whitton arranging all the Jubilee Food to go in the boxes!

Primary Schools need to be contacted to take part in a lovely competition, a programme needs to be written up for it to go on sale in May and Street Party tickets have to be printed ready for sale in April. We will be having a fabulous raffle with all CASH prizes, so if you see us selling them in the town, please come and buy some! They will be priced at £1 for a book of five tickets... bargain!

Prince Albert Gardens will be the centre for all of you who wish to take a picnic and enjoy everything that's happening. A full programme of entertainment is planned for everyone on both P.A.G. and the Lower High Street, from children entertaining with dance and song to the fabulous Salamander Band on stage. There'll be stilt walkers and Kevin Burke, Children's Entertainer, plus a bit of Bingo at 1pm. We really can't wait to enjoy everyone's favourite band, The Reptiles, playing for us in the evening. We will be decorating the town with flags and we are hoping all the shops will decorate to reflect this momentous occasion - the first time ever a monarch has sat on the throne for seventy years. What an amazing, wonderful Queen she has been and continues to be!

The Purbeck Flower Group are going to be busy making up flower arrangements to be hung in Station Road, hopefully also on the front of the Mowlem and The Railway. They are looking for artificial flowers to use as fresh flowers are not an option. They are planning to spray the flowers with the colours they want and we are sure they will all look stunning.

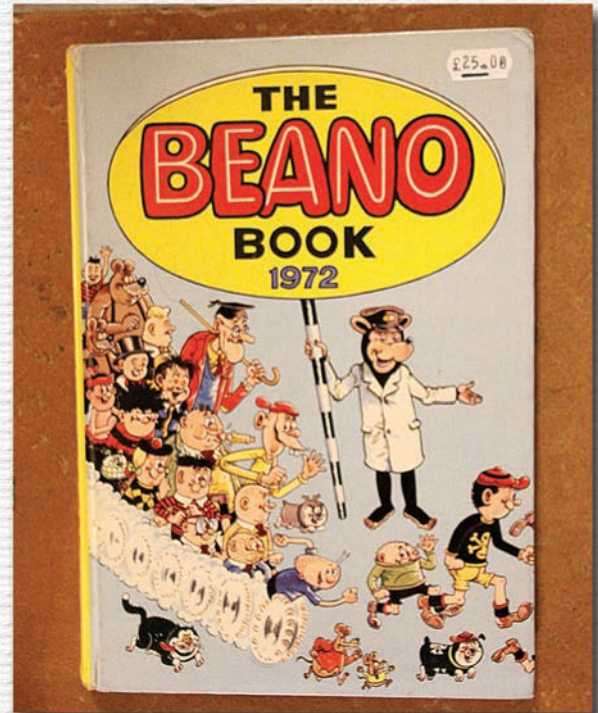
If you have artificial flowers you no longer want, they would be very grateful for them and these can be taken into Swanage Carpets & Curtains in the High Street, where they will be collected.

If anyone wishes to help us on the day, please contact me, Linda, on 07875142227. We will welcome you with open arms.

Linda Welsh, on behalf of The Platinum Jubilee Committee.

The Town House

The Square, Corfe Castle. 07427 003500



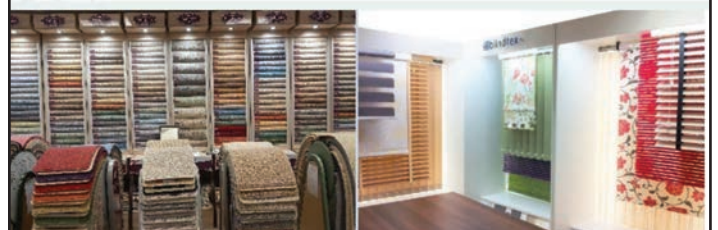
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The Greatest Power

My name is Jessica Cerquozzi and I'm a 26-year-old, new to poetry. I've recently started writing and have been going to the poetry club at The Globe, where they suggested I should send you my latest poem. I hope you enjoy reading it!

*Love is the greatest power we know, nothing greater life can bestow
Pure love has beauty beyond compare, nothing more needed in
times of despair*

*A simple act of kindness can go a long way, a drop of love which is
here to stay*

Although it may be hard at times, to stay positive and be kind

Be the change you wish to see, and now may I ask of thee

To do what's right and lend a hand, a smile, a thanks, nothing grand

And make this world a better place, no matter of your age or race

*A simple act of kindness can go a long way, a drop of love which is
here to stay.*



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Swanage's Annual Tradition - The Boxing Day Swim



Boxing Day 2021 dawned rather grey and uninspirational. No sunshine was on-hand to welcome the masses who gathered on Swanage seafront to partake in the annual Boxing Day Swim, but this certainly did not discourage those intent on being a part of this fabulous and much-loved Boxing Day celebration.

The traditional mad dash into a freezing sea is a real favourite with many, with a significant number of spectators and swimmers travelling from around Dorset to join in with this annual spectacle. Precise origins are somewhat murky - according to our records, many decades ago a few

small groups of people took to the cold winter sea on Boxing Day morning as a family or friendship group tradition. Gradually, over the years, these small groups eventually joined together, agreed a time to rush into the sea and it became a Swanage community tradition.

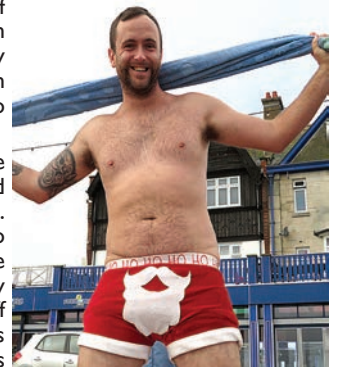
For several years local traders and charity collectors used the spontaneous event to encourage people to swim as part of a sponsored event to raise funds for local good causes. Some sold cups of tea and coffee in aid of charity and for a few years, even bacon butties were available shore-side for those who needed sustenance after they'd completed their swim.

After many years, the event hit the giddy heights of popularity and coaches of spectators began coming from neighbouring towns to enjoy the event. Numbers attending steadily grew and those in officialdom

tasked with watching out for our 'elf and safety' began looking around for an 'event sponsor' to take responsibility and liability (with all related costs) in order to run 'the event' according to regulations.

The cups of warming tea and coffee vanished rapidly as those serving stepped back, the bacon butties disappeared too. Over the past few years, at around two minutes to 11 am, those gathered on the shore seek out someone with a suitably loud voice to start the countdown off from ten, with the gathered crowds taking up the count down to 'one'. That's as far as any 'organisation' goes and we have heard that occasionally, the person selected at random will refuse to begin the countdown just in case they are seen to be 'an event organiser'! Crazy, but true. What official times we are living in these days! A big well done to Andy Knill, Swanage's own eccentric artist-in-residence, for starting the countdown off this year!

Well over one hundred swimmers took part, with several hundred spectators cheering them on. A wide range of fancy dress was worn and I think everyone will agree it was a very refreshing and enjoyable start to Boxing Day! Well done all!







Swanage Town Crier's New Uniform

After 10 years of wearing his old uniform, Swanage Town Crier, Andrew Fleming, decided it was not longer smart enough for purpose and commissioned the creation of a new uniform. This was made by Jane Smith, Town Crier of Bognor Regis, at a cost of £2,200 and worn at numerous events in the latter half of 2021. In order to pay for it, Andrew is now launching an appeal to fundraise this sum to allow him to continue to promote the profile of Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck as well as supporting various local organisations, charities and events.

If you would like to contribute, visit swanagetowncrier.co.uk and look for the new uniform fundraising and the JustGiving appeal.

Alternatively contact Andrew on 01929 422479.

Out Of The Blue



Wow, February already! We hope you are now all over the festivities and focused on the new year ahead, I know we are, staying committed to improving our community by listening and acting upon what you have to say.

Please keep your concerns coming in by taking ten minutes to fill out the priority surveys: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PurbeckEmail>

So, what have we been up to? Well, during the period 06 December 2021 – 06 January 2022, we dealt with a total of 456 occurrences in Purbeck, of which 119 were recorded crimes and resulted in 35 arrests. There were also 119 occurrences of road traffic collisions.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) has been working closely with child services and Wool Youth club dealing with the Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) that was happening throughout December up until the school holidays. The ASB was mainly in the Wool area, although there were some instances in Swanage. Allegedly started by a TikTok video originating from Dorchester, the craze has spread across the county. Youths have been going around knocking on doors and running off, much to the annoyance of residents.

The local NPT officers have been conducting searches and increased their patrols in the and these measures appear to have successfully reduced the ASB in these areas, but the NPT are not being complacent and will continue to monitor this craze, taking appropriate action as necessary. Please don't put up with this unacceptable behaviour, report it, either by phone, email or online.

DON'T PUT UP WITH THIS BEHAVIOUR, REPORT IT!

Finally, if you need to contact Dorset Police, please call our Police Enquiry Centre by calling 101 or email 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk. Always call 999 in an EMERGENCY when there is a risk of HARM



Partners And Communities Together

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? 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, 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.

Purbeck Neighbourhood Policing Team

Celebrate 30 years of extraordinary Lewis-Manning Hospice Care in your community

Find out how you can become part
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Reg Wilson Donates To Trevor Chadwick Memorial



Well-known local resident, Reg Wilson (*pictured, left*), has generously donated the sum of £1,000 towards the life size bronze statue of unsung local hero Trevor Chadwick.

Reg was formerly a farmer in Oxfordshire before retiring to Swanage several years ago and has taken a keen interest in the project as his apartment in Mowlem Court directly overlooks where the statue will be erected, which is expected to occur towards the end of 2022.

Pictured is Reg presenting his cheque to Chairman of the Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust, John Corben (*right*), on the site where the statue will be erected. In the background is Mowlem Court and Reg's apartment is situated on the top floor of the building.

John Corben said: 'We are absolutely delighted with this unexpected and extremely generous donation and for all the support that Reg and other members of our community have given to make this project a success'.

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Wareham Town Council Update

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



News from Wareham Town Council December

The Town Council had received £20,000 from Dorset Council (DC) towards a Town Council Customer Service and Tourist Information office in the front corner of the Corn Exchange and was getting quotes for the building work.

An online booking system will be set up and could be operating in time for the Mayor's next fundraising event in March. The concert in the Rex with John Barclay, the Wareham Whalers and the Poole and Parkstone Singers was declared a success: "Everyone left with a smile on their face".

Presentation of Town Council awards had to be postponed. The Volunteer of the Year 2020 is Joyce Spiller (pictured in December's Gazette) for the time she gives to Purbeck Youth and Community Foundation, successfully wearing many hats including grant application, public relations and youth leading.

The Volunteer of the Year 2021 is Ross Hooper for his irreplaceable part in the upkeep of the town's baskets and gardens with Wareham Community Growers. The Honoured Townsman was awarded jointly to Dr David Evans and Mrs Hilary Evans for their huge contribution to Wareham Neighbourhood Plan.

In the Council's consultation, three people were in favour of refurbishing play areas for every one against. At the Council meeting it was decided to proceed with the work and the increased council tax entailed and to apply for a Public Work Loan. The refurbishment does not include a skate park, although the Council has agreed in theory that there will be one and a survey will be carried out in 2022. The current plan is for a small pump track in a figure of eight made out of concrete.

Parking charges at the Council's Howards Lane car park are to be aligned with DC's parking charges.

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Town Council, the next ones being on Tuesdays 1st March and 12th April, at 7pm in the Council Chamber, though it is worth checking with the office on 01929 553006 or on the Council's website, www.wareham-tc.gov.uk, nearer the date on account of Covid restrictions.

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Rotary's Christmas Programme Raises Over £20,000



Covid curtailed Swanage & Purbeck Rotary's Christmas events programme in 2020 with the cancellation of the Christmas Market. The market returned for Christmas 2021 and attracted a wide range of stalls and activities, which were well received by visitors.

Santa's Sleigh brought much-needed festive cheer to the residents of Swanage, Langton Matravers and Corfe Castle. Supported by Rotary Friends plus welcome help from members of the Swanage Carnival Committee, Swanage & Herston Football Club, Swanage Primary School and Crazy4Corfe.

Santa's busy season started when he put in an appearance at the turning on of Swanage Christmas lights. He also captivated the children when he dropped off Christmas goodies at all primary schools and pre-schools in the area.

Rotary's pop-up Christmas shop was kindly made available by the owners, Derek and Julie Handcock. The shop opened initially for two weeks to sell bric-a-brac and secondhand books. This was very popular. The shop then moved into festive mode, selling jars of chutney, pickle, jams and marmalades, together with home-made Christmas cakes and puddings and a range of Christmas produce.

The festive window display attracted a lot of attention. This was created by Pat Cooper and Nick Acres. The shop was a joint effort by members of Rotary, supported by friends, family, knitters, and indeed anyone who

offered suitable things to sell. This year's Charity Mail took in, stamped, sorted, checked (at least three times!) and then finally delivered 3,400 Christmas cards.

However, Rotary's efforts were not all about fundraising. Rotary was able to send over 300 completed Christmas shoeboxes to children in Montenegro, Albania and Romania. This was an amazing result that was well supported by Rotary members, Rotary Friends and local schools.

In Christmas week, Rotary was delighted to be able to support the Friendly Food Club by funding the food and preparing 150 food bags with ingredients to make a gingerbread figure. The bags also included games and quizzes supplied by the FFC.

Christmas stockings filled by Rotary members (pictured) were personally delivered to thirty-four Swanage residents spending Christmas Day on their own. This replaced the popular Christmas Day Breakfast, which again was cancelled as a result of Covid. Thank you to The Barnett family, Nicola Morgan, Inner Wheel, Budgens, W.H Smith, Chococo and Corbens for their support.

Swanage and Purbeck Rotary President, Deirdre Selwyn added: "With the restrictions put on us all by Covid, our members and Rotary Friends really showed our "can do" ethos with everyone wanting to make the most of the Christmas festivities that Rotary organised. Support from our local community and visitors was incredible raising over £20,000, which will go to local community groups and projects as well as some International projects that our Club supports as part of the Global Rotary Network. In the next few months, we will publish how the funds have been distributed.

Being mindful that many of our Friends have enjoyed working with us this year, we are looking at new ways of membership to encourage individuals to join us to ensure that we continue to be a vibrant, active part of our community.....your input into how Rotary develops is vital, so please let us know your thoughts to help shape our future."



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News From Corfe Castle Community Library

The series of talks organised by the library in Corfe Castle continues with: Gen Crisford: **The Re-introduction of Beavers to Purbeck**, which will take place on February 18th at 2pm, in Corfe Castle Village Hall.

Beavers were a key part of our wetland ecosystems until they were hunted to extinction four hundred years ago. Eurasian Beavers are native animals; they evolved alongside our other native fauna and flora and until extinction had successfully coexisted in Great Britain since the last ice-age.

It is believed that bringing back Eurasian beavers at carefully chosen sites could benefit Poole Harbour and the rivers which flow into it, and local communities are helping to make it a reality.

The release of beavers on Purbeck could occur within a few months. Come and hear about the scheme and how it is progressing.

The talk will be held in the village hall in Corfe in a Covid Safe environment.

Entry is free and all are welcome. It would be helpful if you could email us at corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com so we know how many people to expect.

Corfe Castle Community Library Opening Hours are:

Monday 3pm -5pm. Wednesday 11am -12 noon and 3pm -5pm. Saturday 10am - 12 noon.

Martyn Jessop, Secretary of the Friends of Corfe Castle Community Library



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The Odd British Inventions On Rajasthani Walls

We bring you a series of short essays by renowned author and historian, Ilay Cooper



Above: A paddle steamer copied from a bill of lading on the Ganges river, C.1850



It was no coincidence that an enormous British expansion across the globe was simultaneous with the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and 19th centuries. Before that, most manufacture had been cottage industries, individuals and families producing yarn, cloth, tools, utensils in their own households.

Bright artisans invented efficient machinery to increase their production. The output of a spinning wheel in the hands of a single 'spinster' was too low to feed a weaver at his loom. Ingenuity led to innovation. One such, the 'spinning jenny', resulted in an eightfold increase in one worker's production of thread, just one step amongst a continuous

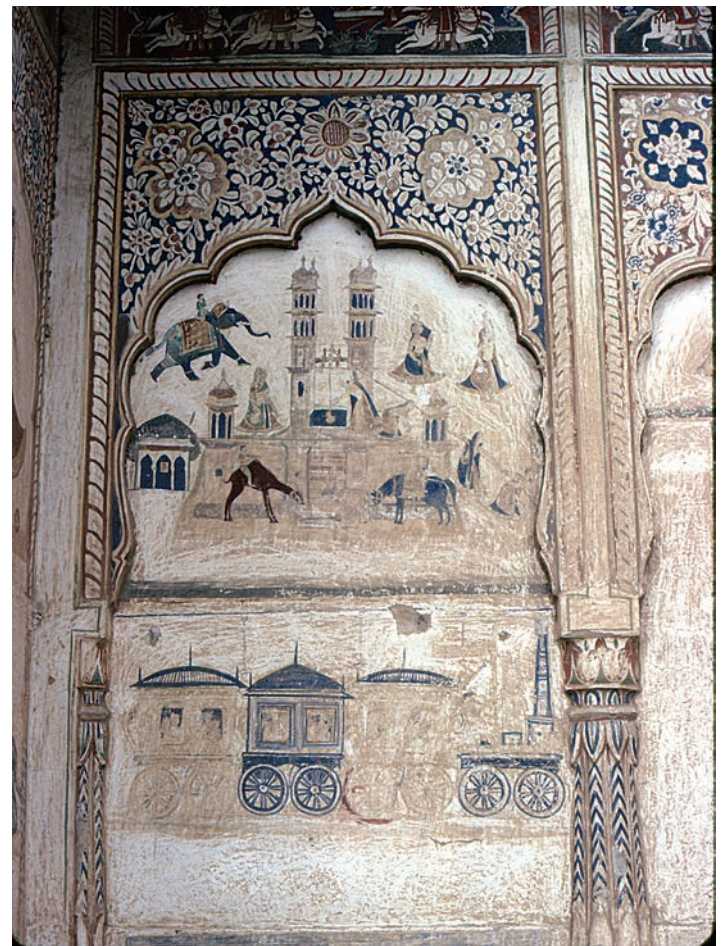
series of improvements. Soon water wheels powered spinning machines, then these were superseded by steam engines. Manufacture rapidly shifted from cottages to large factories housing the new machines. The era of dark satanic mills in burgeoning cities saw no improved protection for a new urban labour force.

Through the 18th century India was the world's largest textile producer



Above: On a railway station, a man sounds the gong while two others operate a water pump. C.1900.

but, as the 19th century advanced, mechanized spinning and weaving around Manchester and Glasgow shifted the centre of manufacture to Britain. Raw cotton, increasingly the source of British textile production, was imported from warmer, distant lands such as India. A classic colonial



Above: Beneath a traditional Rajasthani pillared well runs an early Indian train. Painted 1872.



Above: A mysterious foreign scene. Perhaps these Britishers are distilling booze.... C.1900.

economy developed: Britain imported raw cotton to feed hungry spinning and weaving machines; new methods of dyeing and printing completed the process. Fine mass-produced textiles flooded the Indian market where local textile manufacture could not compete.

Continual advances increased speed and size of output. Machinery required iron and steel. Production was concentrated in the new cities and improved communications were necessary to carry raw materials and manufactured goods. A network of canals revolutionised bulk transport. The steam engine gave rise to railways. Steam-driven ships increased the speed and efficiency of international trade. But there was a down side. Enormous advances in wealth for an elite came at the cost of hideous conditions for British workers. Mass production 'cut the thumbs' (a metaphor used at the time) off rural Indian weavers, who were rendered redundant.

Indian and British merchants thrived on this colonial trade, handling raw cotton exports to Britain and returning factory-made plain and printed textiles. They also forced Indian opium onto China to finance tea for the British market. Prosperity led to conspicuous building. India's mural painters thrived on decorating the building boom, integrating odd foreign gizmos amongst their subjects. A British surveyor often carried a camera lucida to cast an image onto paper where it could be accurately copied. Oppressive heat required a thermantidote, a mobile desert cooler operated by a servant who directed a cool breeze onto sleeping travellers. The telescope, always carried by the British surveyors to examine distant buildings and landscape, featured in the paintings alongside unfamiliar European chairs, tables and eating utensils. It was joined by other oddities, known to be foreign since they were accompanied by men in brimmed hats, not turbans. Half-understood mechanical pumps appeared amongst the novelties.

The painters were particularly inspired by foreign methods of transport. In 1819 a steam launch was carried out to Calcutta on a sailing vessel and assembled for use on the Ganges. By 1833 regular paddle steamer services plied upriver from Calcutta, carrying grain and raw cotton downstream from the heartland of Ganges basin, and returning with Manchester textiles for a vast market. Images of these paddle steamers appeared at the top of every bill of lading issued to the merchants many of which survive amongst business papers. Few Rajasthani painters saw such ships; they merely derived the likeness from such bills.

In the 1850s India's first railways were constructed. The network spread



Above: An early plane is labelled as a 'Flying Ship'. C.1910.



Above: A boy parks his cycle whilst he uses an immobile phone. C.1910.

rapidly to serve every town in the plains of India; the steamers, confined to river ports, became superfluous. A locomotive, manned by hatted Britishers, towing a string of trucks and carriages vied with a procession of uniformed soldiers as the most popular horizontal frieze on the walls of merchant mansions. The earliest survivor I know in Shekhawati is a tall-funnelled locomotive decorating an 1872 memorial. Later train murals often have discreet sexual canoodling going on in one of the carriages. There are 1920s copies of one particular print of an English railway station as a train pulls in. Sometimes the station staff, all wearing hats, prepare for a train's arrival, the stationmaster sounding his brass gong or carrying a paraffin lantern. Men prepare a pump ready to refill the locomotive's tank.

One mysterious scene shows foreigners gathered in a room around some sort of apparatus: are they distilling booze? The British were always associated with drink. Local illustrators were often vague about the images they copied. They still are: in the 1980s a Indian brewer working with German collaboration labelled his bottles 'German Beer' and added as logo a large swastika. A mistake: it was quickly replaced with a lotus!

In the early 1900s the first cars appear on the walls, often carrying ornately-clad foreign ladies driven by a uniformed chauffeur. They soon evolve into streamlined classic vehicles bearing a local ruler or an important politician. Such vehicles still remain under dust covers in the stables of Maharajas' palaces or occasionally pass on the open road.

The painters turned to flight. In one picture, to explain the mechanics, passengers are depicted blowing into a hot air balloon (labelled 'foreigner is flying'). There were Meccano-like planes, even a triplane, most of them copied from prints. In my town, Churu, there is a mural of a Scotsman in a kilt on a motorbike. Not far from him was a battleship attacked by biplanes – the sinking of the Bismarck? – but that building has been demolished.

Foreign men and women cyclists appear occasionally. When I first cycled through Rajasthan people in one village pointed out a mural of Britisher on a cycle, his woman standing on the carrier. They suggested I was missing a trick. In another picture a boy stops to make a phone call, leaving his bike nearby.

Few of these Shekhawati murals postdate Independence. The merchant patrons moved to the cities to finance India's own industrial revolution. However, when motorbiking along a rough rural track we noticed one memorable picture on the façade of a 1950s house; beside the freedom fighter, Subash Chandra Bose, a foreign tourist is shown photographing a doubtful local woman. A dog looks up at her admiringly.



Above: A tourist with her camera (and an admiring dog) stops for a photo. C.1955

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Housing Need Figures For Dorset Reviewed

Independent consultants have carried out an assessment of the housing needs of specific groups such as the elderly, those with disabilities and those who cannot afford market housing.

During this work, the consultants also considered whether there are grounds to plan for alternative housing need figures in the Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council areas, rather than those arising from the standard Government approach.

Housing need figures consider birth and death rates, the number of people moving in and out of the county (migration) and how the area's population will grow in seventeen years. The standard approach also includes a further uplift in the figures, based on housing affordability.

The study uses a different methodology to the standard Government approach and suggests that the numbers for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole might be significantly reduced, due to assumptions that had been made about international migration to Bournemouth.

The Dorset Council area is not affected in this way and the same methodology results in an increase in Dorset Council's housing need.

Dorset Council is considering this evidence and all the responses to the local plan consultation, and councillors will decide on revisions to the plan next year. The consultation document, published in 2021, suggested that the council would use the Government's standard methodology to determine the local housing need.

Cllr David Walsh, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Planning, said: "It is important that, as part of the development of the Dorset Council Local Plan, we test all assumptions and possibilities. The final adopted plan will guide decisions on planning applications in Dorset until 2038. It is vital that we get this right for the future of Dorset."

Alternatives to the standard method will only be considered by the planning inspector when exceptional circumstances to the way the population figures have been calculated can be demonstrated. Unlike BCP Council the figures for the Dorset Council area offer no exceptional circumstances that can be challenged.

Planning also considers factors such as protected sites and areas such as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It also takes into account climate change and renewable energies. It looks at how people will live and work in the Dorset Council area in the next seventeen years, including how these people will access transport and community facilities to help reduce the reliance on cars.

All planning decisions, applications and developments must comply with the National Planning Policy Framework, and the local policies set out in adopted local plans. And there are other regulations for building control and which development requires planning permission.

A Local Plan protects the area from unplanned developments that may harm Dorset's environment. It ensures that community facilities, roads, and access to transport links are considered alongside the proposed housing. Dorset wants to be satisfied it has robust evidence in place to inform the next stages of the plan. www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-council-local-plan/key-stages-of-the-plan

The study that reassesses the Housing need figures can be found at: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan/dorset-council-local-plan-evidence-and-background-papers>

Details of the draft Dorset Council Local Plan, all the comments made in the 2021 consultation and the supporting evidence can be found at: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-council-local-plan

Where possible the proposed policies in the draft plan are mapped and can be viewed on our Dorset Council Local Plan consultation map: <https://explorer.geowesssex.com/dclp?layers=22070,22083,22079,50&basemap=26&x=378008.83&y=99630.73&epsg=27700&zoom=10>

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SUTTLES' DRIVE TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL

Isle of Purbeck and Poole-based Suttles, Dorset's stone experts and specialist civil engineers, is making changes to reduce carbon emissions in its drive to become carbon neutral. As part of this drive, Suttles has invested in solar energy, its vehicles and its systems.



SOLAR PANELS

Topping up grants received from Low Carbon Dorset, Suttles has invested in over 150 solar panels. These power its Swanworth Quarry workshop at Worth Matravers, the quarry's 160kW stone crusher motor (upgraded from diesel to electric), its electric vehicle charging stations and its Hamworthy site workshop.



VEHICLES AND PLANT

Suttles has invested in a growing fleet of 19 electric and hybrid vehicles and plant, replacing petrol or diesel versions.

Suttles has also achieved 'silver' status by the 'Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme', which demonstrates operators are achieving exemplary levels of best practice in environmental protection, as well as safety and efficiency.



Suttles' Director, John Suttle said "We are always striving to minimise any negative impact we may have on the environment. As the peak demand for our electricity is during daylight hours, it made sense for us to invest in solar power, which helps us in our drive for carbon neutrality."

John goes on to say "Our next initiative is the use of HVO, an extremely clean and low CO2 fuel, across our LGV and plant fleet, which we are currently beginning trials on."



Read more here:

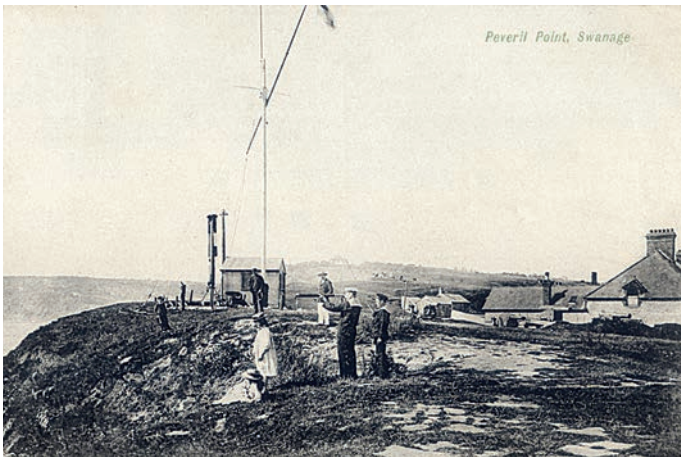


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www.suttles.co.uk



National Coastwatch

Eyes along the coast



I'd like to start this month's article by wishing our colleagues in the Coastguard Rescue Teams a very happy birthday. In January, they officially entered their bicentenary year! Her Majesty's Coastguard is now part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency but can trace its history back to the Preventive Waterguard of the early 1800s.

As soon as custom duties were imposed on luxuries like silk and lace, tea, tobacco, and brandy, people have tried to get round these taxes. At each port, customs officers searched cargoes and collected dues. At sea, revenue cutters watched for vessels illegally offloading cargo, while on land, "Riding officers" patrolled the coast to catch smugglers as they beached cargoes and carried them inland.

In 1743 it was estimated that half the tea drunk in Britain was illegally imported. The 'free trade', as smuggling was called, employed and supplied many people, from paupers to peers. Smugglers have often been romanticised, but the reality was brutal. Local people lived in fear, with violent reprisals on informers and the murder of conscientious revenue officers, while corruption enabled captured smugglers to evade harsh penalties.

In 1809 the Government established a Preventive Water Guard to operate in coastal waters, to tackle any smugglers who had managed to evade the Revenue cruisers further out to sea.

The existence of so many different organisations, trying to combat smuggling, resulted in a lot of duplication of effort. In 1821 a committee recommended the combination of all the preventive services. The proposal was accepted, and on January 15, 1822, the Coast Guard, was formed.

The station at Peveril Point came into operation around in 1842, but we have evidence that there may have been some form of Waterguard earlier than this. The St Alban's Head station came into operation in 1895, when it moved its base from nearby Chapman's Pool. Nowadays, both Swanage and St Alban's Head have a Coastguard Rescue Team, made up of dedicated volunteers who drop everything they are doing to attend a coastal emergency. Both the NCI stations are based in the old Coastguard lookouts and we're proud to carry on the tradition and to call the rescue teams colleagues and friends.

It's not by accident that both stations are situated on promontories with a good all-round view of the immediate coastal waters. Not only do their positions mean that we can keep a close lookout for any vessels in

distress, but it also affords us the opportunity to observe the changing seascapes. I was lucky to find "The Book of Tides" by William Thomson in my Christmas stocking. This fascinating book explores the effect that different aspects of the tide have on coastal life and it's certainly one that I'd recommend to anyone who's got an interest in the sea.

Understanding the tides plays an integral part in our role as watchkeepers and our training manual has a whole unit devoted to the subject. It's more than simply knowing the times of high and low tide, it's also about knowing how the tidal cycle affects the flow of the water along the coast.

In general, the tidal currents along the south coast go from west to east when the tide is rising and from east to west when the tide is falling. If we had a straight coastline this would be quite simple, but the various headlands and bays confuse the situation, creating a whole series of anomalies.

With Peveril Point sticking out into the channel and Swanage Bay facing east, the tidal currents are most unusual. The normal tidal atlases don't go down to the detail required and we're lucky to have a set of customised charts that were created in the 1950s by members of the sailing club. Most water users have a set in their chart box and use them in planning their activities.

The headlands sticking out into the channel and the convoluted nature of the seabed often create turbulent regions of water known as tide races. They are in effect rapids in the sea and can appear and disappear depending on the state of the tide. The most famous local one is Portland Race. In his book, William Thomson mentions a quote from the days of sail which refers to the race as "the master terror of our world".

Despite Portland being more famous, both St Alban's head and Peveril Point have significant races. The St Alban's race is caused by a finger of rocks that stick out from the headland. It extends for nearly five nautical miles and creates a turbulent stretch of water that is hazardous for small vessels. The features creating the race start a short distance offshore and there is a narrow passage close in under the rocks which allows a relatively easy passage.

The Peveril Point race is much shorter and only extends out to sea for about three quarters of a mile. In contrast it starts straight out from the shore and vessels need to keep to the east of the Peveril buoy for a safe passage. Understanding tides locally can take years to build up a sound working knowledge but one of the simplest things mariners can do is invest in a good set of tide tables and ask for local advice!

This is St Alban's Head NCI and Swanage NCI, listening on channel 65. NCI out.

Pictures: Top left: Swanage Coastguard c1904 (credit Swanage Museum)

Top right: Swanage Coastguard team 2020 (credit Swanage Coastguard)

Left: Yacht passing through St Alban's Race – on a calm day! ((credit St Alban's Head NCI Station)

Motoring

Extreme E Racing Prove Events Can Be Eco

The final leg of Extreme E, the electric off-road racing series, concluded in Dorset recently at the Jurassic X Prix. The sport famous for combining sustainability and speed set a precedent for the events industry, by using Eco Sustainable Solutions, a Bournemouth-based waste processor, to convert all the food waste created into electricity. With support from organic waste solutions firm, Tidy Planet, which collected the waste from Bovington British Army Military base where the race took place, Eco Sustainable Solutions turned one tonne of waste into renewable energy.

Extreme E is on a mission to make racing sustainable, taking electric off-road motorsport around the globe to some of the world's most remote locations. Starting in Saudi Arabia and travelling to Greenland, Senegal and Italy along the way, this year's championship came to a thrilling conclusion in Dorset. However, the organisers aren't solely focused on racing, but want to create a blueprint that all events can follow to reduce environmental impact. As part of this mission to promote sustainability and protect the planet, Extreme E turned its attention to the food waste generated at its race site this weekend.

Local organic waste processor, Eco Sustainable Solutions, used the waste created by the event to generate 1000KWh of electricity, which is enough to power around 85 houses for a day. With Extreme E teams owned by some of motorsport's biggest names, including World Champions Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg and Jenson Button, the incredible results from this event could soon influence the wider world of motorsports, and the events industry in general. The success of the weekend could also encourage other Dorset-based events, such as the Bournemouth Air Show, which by nature has quite a high carbon footprint, to make use of the local waste processing facilities on their doorstep and take steps to become more sustainable.

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Business Matters



Redmayne Bentley

Economic Update

After a reasonably flat third quarter, global markets rebounded and produced strong gains in the final quarter of 2021. The so-called 'Santa rally', an apparent bull run in stocks towards the end of each year, was once again in full swing with US equities leading the way, up nearly 10% during Q4, with Europe and the UK up just over 5% each. This came despite a far more uncertain economic landscape, with the Omicron variant of COVID-19 causing an exponential increase in cases globally. However, investors seemed to be less concerned with the new strain of the virus with its lower mortality and hospitalisation rates, when compared with the Delta variant, giving hope that this will lead to fewer and less severe lockdowns.

China was the only major market to experience declines, continuing its trend of significant falls throughout 2021. MSCI China was down almost 6% during Q4, owing to a continued lack of interest from foreign investors thanks to uncertainty and instability over the country's economic, social and business policies. In the US, inflation figures have continued their spiral upwards, ending the year at 6.8%, the highest level since 1982.

Persistent, high inflation has started to cause a harmful reduction in real earnings, as higher wages are often offset by much higher prices. The Federal Reserve has thrown its hat in the ring to help ease pressures, signalling three interest rate hikes by the end of 2022 and a faster easing of bond purchases to help tame inflation. Central bankers across the globe have continually stated that the recent surge in prices is 'transitory' and will soon return to their 2% target, however, with persistent 4%+ readings now the norm for several months, many are wondering how long 'transitory' really is.

In the UK, the threat of the Omicron variant has been targeted by a Government-led campaign to offer booster vaccines and encourage the non-vaccinated to get their shots. The collapses of various providers in the household energy supply sector continued during the final quarter of 2021 and has now affected 4.3m households. In mid-December 2021 there was an adjustment to the Base Rate from 0.1% to 0.25% as a measure to help combat inflation with the the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), rising by 4.6% in the 12 months to November 2021, up from 3.8% in the 12 months to October 2021.

The outlook for markets remains fairly uncertain. On the one hand, corporate earnings remain strong and in high growth territory, with a milder variant of COVID-19 good news even if it can spread more quickly. On the other hand, markets at all-time highs and the risk of further lockdowns offer a heightened risk and reward profile for investors.

As with the last 24 months, 2022 is likely to continue the trend of uncertainty in financial markets, with no definitive end in sight for the COVID-19 crisis. The effects on supply chains, inflation and social gatherings, amongst others, are unlikely to subside quickly and may continue for some time.

Until next month, take care and stay safe.

Kate Spurling, Investment Manager, Redmayne Bentley, Tel: 01202 714 450 kate.spurling@redmayne.co.uk

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Can you claim the Marriage Allowance?

The marriage allowance came into force in 2015 and applies to married couples and those in a civil partnership where a spouse or civil partner doesn't pay tax or doesn't pay tax above the basic rate threshold for Income Tax (i.e., one of the couples must currently earn less than the £12,570 personal allowance for 2020-21).

The allowance works by permitting the lower earning partner to transfer up to £1,260 of their personal tax-free allowance to their spouse or civil partner. The marriage allowance can only be used when the recipient of the transfer (the higher earning partner) doesn't pay more than the basic 20% rate of Income Tax. This would usually mean that their income is between £12,570 to £50,270 in 2020-21.

The limits are somewhat different for those living in Scotland.

The allowance permits the lower earning partner to transfer up to £1,260 of their unused personal tax-free allowance to a spouse or civil partner. This could result in a saving of up to £252 for the recipient (20% of £1,260), or £21 a month for the current tax year.

If you meet the eligibility requirements and have not yet claimed the allowance, then you can backdate your claim as far back as 6 April 2017. This could result in a total tax break of up to £1,220 if you can claim for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 as well as the current 2021-22 tax year. If you claim now, you can backdate your claim for four years (if eligible) as well as for the current tax year. In fact, even if you are no longer eligible or would have been in all or any of the preceding years then you can claim your entitlement.

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From The Kitchen Garden...



Butternut Squash & Rosemary Bread

By Regula
Wright,
Godlingston
Manor Kitchen
Garden

The days are still short and even shorter when dull and drizzly and the mist descends. However, when the sun does come out, it already has a bit of that 'new life sparkle' in it and boy does it make a difference! However, I'm not sure winter has done with us just yet, we've hardly had any frozen ground so far....I wonder, if there are some late frosts in store just when us growers thought we're going to get those potatoes in extra early?

As before every growing season, I've been reviewing the last year, what worked and what didn't and why it didn't work. My customers like the quality and variety of the veg I grow and appreciate the flexible ways of obtaining their 'greens'. Most mentioned they've really missed the lovely chicken eggs this year. With that in mind, I can reassure you, there will be eggs again! However, I'm letting the latest wave of bird flu with its restrictions safely pass, before establishing the new flock in their freshly built run and coop.

With the main sowing and transplanting still a few weeks away and the soil being too wet to plough, I shall concentrate on improving my sorting and packing station. As I'm working on a slope, the flow of the different steps, getting the crops picked/washed/sorted and packed is important. It can add miles to a picking day and that's just inefficient, frustrating and above all knackered.

However, I've done my seed stock take and I'm working on my planting plan. My objective is to be growing plenty of exciting heritage varieties of all sorts, vibrant colours and most importantly- bursting with flavour.

In the meantime, there're plenty of store veg to be used up and one of them are the winter squashes. Such a tasty and healthy cousin of cucumbers, melons and courgettes.

These guys are grown in the full glare of the previous summer's sunshine and keep for months if stored cool and dry. Now in the cooler months, all that carotene is most welcome and they're ever so versatile in sweet as well as savoury dishes. Most can be a substitute for sweet potatoes in recipes. Of course, I will be growing plenty of pumpkins, squashes, gourds and marrows in 2022! Fingers crossed, there will be a Pumpkin Festival at the Square and Compass this coming October - I have missed it so much!

Butternut Squash & Rosemary Bread

Ingredients (12 portions):

- 500gr mixed grain bread flour/or strong white flour
- 1 sachet dry yeast
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp sugar
- 150 g natural live yoghurt
- 100 ml warm water
- 300 g butternut squash cut into small chunks
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled, squashed with the back of a knife

- 1 tblsp chopped rosemary
- 2 tsp olive oil
- a little milk for brushing

Method:

- Stir the flour, yeast, salt and sugar together in a large bowl. Mix the yoghurt and water and stir into the dry ingredients to form a soft dough. Put the dough on a floured work surface and knead for ten minutes. Stick it back into the bowl, cover with a clean tea towel and leave to double in size in a warm place (roughly 1 hour).
- In the meantime, heat the oven to 190 C.
- Mix the Butternut Squash chunks with the olive oil, rosemary and a little seasoning and stick it in the oven until lovely and soft. (25-30 minutes). Leave to cool.
- Roll out the dough on a floured work surface to a 50cmx25cm rectangle.
- Spoon the softened Butternut chunks all over, leaving a 2cm border around the edge. Brush the border with water. Starting from one long side, roll up the dough to make a sausage shape. Form the sausage into a circle, tucking one of the ends into the other. Press together to make a ring. Transfer to an oiled baking sheet and cover and leave to rise for another 45 minutes.
- Using scissors, make twelve incisions around the edges of the circle, taking care not to cut all the way through. Brush with milk and bake for 30-35 minutes until golden and crispy.

Very good with soup or with a dip of your choice.

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Natural Matters

Cold Facts

By John Garner

Many excellent health-giving properties have been associated with cold water immersion. Some even advocate turning the shower to cold for the last however many seconds of your shower. In effect you're changing a very pleasurable experience into a very unpleasant experience. To what end, you may ask?

Well, those that do it say that there are lots of benefits both physical and mental, I am yet to be convinced but for anecdotal evidence, you could do worse than watch 'The Ponds', a splendid documentary about swimming yearlong in the ponds of London's Hampstead Heath and the possibly lifesaving stories that accompany the people documented who submerge themselves in those murky brown waters throughout the year.

Sometimes they have to break the ice on the surface of the water just to enter the ponds, albeit for only a few brisk strokes before hastily climbing out and wrapping themselves in a warm towel and slurping a hot something from a waiting flask.

Still not convinced. Many of those in the programme feel aggrieved if they miss a day and all are adamant about the myriad benefits. Not least the communal nature of their dips. These are not necessarily folk that want to charge up and down and achieve a personal best for the latest lap, although that absolutely has its place. This is about the immersion in sometimes bitterly cold water with a few friends for the sheer exhilaration of the activity. You've got to admire their dedication.

It might be my imagination, but it seems that more and more people are becoming involved in this activity round here as well and let's face it, where better to do so?

I cannot remember seeing so many changing robe clad individuals chatting away on the seafront in Swanage with a steaming mug and an après swim glow fuelling their chatter. (In anticipation of this uptake you would have done well to buy shares in Dry robes or one of the other changing robe companies. You'd be quids in now, I reckon.)

Whilst the water along the south coast doesn't get too far below double figures even in the coldest water months of February and March, it certainly feels cold enough to me.

As I write it is the 4th of January and I have been in the sea most days for over the last week. However, I am something of a cold-water wuss and have been inadequately covered in a 3mm wetsuit to soften the blow. And it has worked. Even though my feet and hands are pretty much numb after about ten minutes, the rest of me is, if not toasty, at least bearably tolerable.

Although any sustained swimming does result in blinding ice cream headaches, these are subsiding and even in the short time I've been back in the water, the length and depth of pain is becoming progressively shorter. My neck also seems to lose all sensation within a few minutes. That one I can't really explain, but again I'm getting used to it.

Not selling it to you?! Pain on a diminishing scale not really what you wanted from your leisure activities?

Well, I can attest to the growing list of claims for cold water immersion. Firstly, whilst the idea of getting into the sea in January may not be the

most appealing of thoughts, if you can get over the negative thoughts and not faff about debated the whys and wherefores, you can be changed and in the water before you know it.

For me that is the key. I am definitely of the 'get in quick' school of cold-water swimming. I totally get the bit-by-bit approach. Presumably it works on the 'numb each part of your body as you go so that you have no remaining senses left when you finally kick off and begin swimming' method.

But as I said, I'm a cold-water wuss, so it's straight in or probably not at all for me.

Even I the short time I've been going in, I definitely feel the benefits. It's a bit less of a shock each time and as a result I can stay in for longer each time. I definitely feel really good about ten minutes after I've got out, the much-mentioned afterglow, I assume. It also feels like something you want to do each day and work commitments mean I don't always get the chance. But I'll be in the next time I get the chance.

So, yes. I am a convert. I didn't think I would be. I was a sceptic. But I'm in. Looking forward to the next dip and maybe even without a wetsuit at some point in the near future (almost definitely not going to happen, but then I didn't think I'd be in the water swimming around in January either, so who knows).

Try it yourself. Small outlay for the wetsuit and you're in. Or maybe no outlay and you're in. If you're one of the tough nuts, that is.




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A United Kingdom?

Not When It Comes To Future Agriculture Policy



England, Northern Ireland and Wales share their agricultural policy visions

On the opening day of the Oxford Farming Conference, agricultural ministers from England, Northern Ireland and Wales shared their different visions for future agricultural policy and how new support payments can help achieve climate targets.

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, George Eustice, said that to meet climate ambitions change will be needed. "Put simply, our vision is for a more sustainable agricultural industry where we produce a significant amount of our own food. Domestic food production is a critical part of our food security and that's why we will be monitoring it every three years.

"Our policy will be putting in place powerful incentives to support sustainable farming. This includes sensitive hedgerow management allowing hedgerows to recover, recognising them as the single most important ecological building block in the farmed landscape, and good stewardship of soils with a focus soil health and biodiversity. But we must also note that there will be some land use change."

The changes to land use includes targets of 10,000 hectares of new woodland creation per year and ambition to restore 300,000 hectares of habitats to their natural state.

Regarding the new Environmental Land Management Scheme, he also notes that payment rates need to incentivise farmers to participate. "We now

have legally binding targets for the environment, most notably a target to reverse the decline in nature by 2030. And we have a responsibility as a government to ensure that the payment rates we make are attractive enough to incentivise the uptake of our schemes on the scale needed to hit the targets we've set ourselves and to which we are legally bound to deliver."

With 50% of farmers already in some sort of countryside stewardship, Mr Eustice announced that the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) payment rates will rise by up to 30%. In addition, any livestock farmer who is currently a claimant of BPS will be entitled to a funded visit from a vet once a year to put in place an animal health strategy.

Edwin Poots, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, said that their Future Agricultural Policy Proposals focused on farming with the environment.

"Enhancing our peatlands and hedgerows and enabling more tree planting are all key elements in how we want to address the issue around climate change. We also want to be smarter in how we farm. Instead of just being a producer of milk or meat, we need to look at that animal as a producer of renewable energy. The methane currently going into the environment needs to be captured and reused and we need to have more anaerobic digestion on our farms."

Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, outlined their plans for Welsh farmers to be leaders in sustainable food production. "For us, we will create a new system of farm support so that we can really maximise the power of nature throughout farming. Our agricultural bill is key to meeting these ambitions.

"Welsh farmers can continue to produce high quality food, whilst maintaining those very high production standards, but what we're proposing is to ask our farmers to go further and we will provide support – both financial and advisory – through the Sustainable Farming Scheme to target outcomes in relation to environmental issues. At the moment, farmers are not currently rewarded for clean air, clean water and flood mitigation, so that's what we'll be looking at as part of our sustainable farming scheme."

DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



February is one of my favourite months at the park, as the winter chill starts to leave and Spring is fast approaching. It starts off very quiet then the February half term brings more hustle and bustle with families and children enjoying their well-earned time off.

Those eagle-eyed visitors may be in with a chance to see our Bottle-nosed Dolphins from the clifftop path at this time of year, make sure to let us know if you spot any! A warm day may bring out a Brimstone or Small Tortoiseshell butterfly, or an Adder if you're lucky. Such an exciting time for returning wildlife and a great time of year to see the park. Guillemots and Razorbills have started to return to the breeding ledges, just in time for valentine's day!

I spent some time speaking to Emily who runs our Seventhwave Restaurant, she was discussing with me what delicious ideas she has for Valentine's Day this year ... sharing platters for two and a romantic high-tea will definitely make a visit to Durlston worthwhile.

On the 18th February I'm excited to have the Wareham Whalers in our Gallery again with their 'Ship Shape and Bristol Fashion' Concert. From previous experience, I know that an evening of songs and sea shanties with these guys will be worth the wait!

Ranger Ben and I have been working hard to make sure our children's activity trail is ready to start on Saturday 19th February. The 'Time Travellers Trail' set up has taught

us a great deal about Durlston's past from the time of the dinosaurs to present day. I keep trying to convince Ben to use my dinosaurs in the trail ... but we may just have to wait until summer until I can have them make an appearance at the park again.

In the February half-term, we have some exciting kid's activities. Bird enthusiast and apprentice Ranger Sammy is hard at work planning for his kids' activity: 'Brilliant Birds of Durlston'. I love hearing bits and pieces when the Rangers are planning activities and get excited for it all to come together. I may drop in and learn a thing or two myself! I suppose I may need to start planning the 'Delinquent Dinosaurs and Fantastic Fossils' activity!

I'm over the moon that 'Wild Wednesdays' will be making a return. Our fantastic Volunteer Margaret will be in the Learning Centre from 11am - 3pm with drop-in craft and activities on Wednesday 23rd Feb. Try your hand at some painting, craft and colouring.

See you at Durlston soon!

Shannon

For more information on events and more visit our Durlston website!

Visit the Durlston website: <https://www.durlston.co.uk/>

Visit the Seventhwave website: <https://7eventhwave.com/>

Margaret Green Animal Rescue

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Gazette Gardening

Gardening to combat climate change

with Simon Goldsack



Winter Flowers for Wildlife

Over the past few months, I have been addressing issues that help gardeners combat climate change and the effect it has on garden wildlife.

As I write, we are approaching mid-winter. The temperature outside is in double figures and the grass is growing strongly. Later this week it is forecast to drop by ten degrees with overnight frosts and this is one of the problems our wildlife faces as global temperatures rise. Hibernating animals don't know whether they are coming or going. Wake up its spring, oh no it isn't, its winter go back to bed!

The trouble is if wildlife wakes up and there isn't any food, animals lose condition searching for something that isn't there. So, it's important for us to plant nectar rich plants that flower in winter and early spring to provide food for those light sleeping insects!

So here are some terrific plants that will do just that but also be very attractive to humans.

Mahonias (top) are evergreen shrubs, many with deep glossy green, spikey foliage making it a good boundary plant but position it so you can enjoy the sweet scent of the beautiful lemon yellow flowers.



Lonicera x purpusii (left) is a large deciduous shrub whose highly scented white flowers can be enjoyed from January to March.

Bulbs such as Crocus, Snowdrops and Aconites (top right) are not only very attractive to wildlife, but they also provide us with lots of bright colour when much of the landscape is still



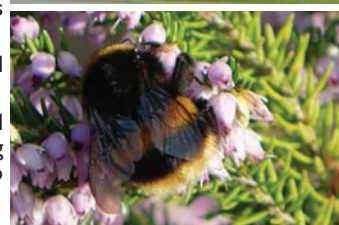
dull from winter.

Cornus mas (right), the Cornelian Cherry is a large deciduous shrub or small tree which flowers profusely in February and March. Deep red edible fruit follow by late summer.

Winter flowering Heathers such as *Erica carnea* and *E. x darleyensis* (bottom right) are smothered in flowers over a ten-week period.

On a mild, late winter's day they will attract thousands of foraging insects.

The varieties described above are all highly attractive plants to us, proving that wildlife gardens don't have to be dull!





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Joining Together To Help Combat Climate Change!



A ground-breaking collaboration between a rugby club and an environmental group has resulted in thirty new trees being planted at the sports team's ground. Swanage and Wareham RFC and Sustainable Wareham got together to come up with a scheme that would involve families and children in the battle to combat climate change.

While the Swans provided a space beside a pitch on their ground in Wareham, the environmental group contributed thirty saplings of silver birch, rowan and wild cherry donated to them by the Woodland Trust. Families and kids connected to club players and officials chose one tree each to plant out and maintain – and were handed a certificate giving them “ownership” of their plot. Many devoted their trees to lost loved ones and one family even added the ashes of a recently deceased grandfather to the roots of their sapling.

Swans chairman Martin Hill said: “We wanted to encourage the club's youth players and the children of older players to adopt, look after and nurture these trees so they become aware of the environment and the need to improve it. We are very happy to do our tiny bit to help the planet. “The plants are very small at the moment but will grow with the children who planted them. In years to come they will hopefully see a magnificent spread of trees. It's brilliant for everyone at the club to be involved in



helping nature. And to have many of the trees representing a memorial to someone who has been lost makes it particularly poignant.”

The planting is the first major nature-related project carried out by Sustainable Wareham, which boasts more than 100 members even though it was launched just seven months ago. They include tree experts who drew up a planting plan for the Swans and advised on the recycled plastic tubes that protect the saplings. The group's founder Mary Morris said: “We thought there was a need to put more trees into Wareham without cost to those who would accept them. I'm glad to say the rugby club said they would love to do it. I was really excited to see the saplings go in. It was great to see the idea come to fruition after a lot of hard work.

“We are looking to do more of the same and are already working on a plan to introduce wildflowers at the club.”

Pictures: top right: Youngsters choose their 'personal' trees before planting. Below right: Digging a hole with sapling ready to go in.

Wareham Community Growers - Winter Round-up

Wareham Community Growers, winners of the South and East in Bloom competition's 'Silver Gilt' award for Wareham in 2021, have not been idle over the winter period in preparation for our 2022 entry, which will take place in July.

Fundraising to pay for the entry, its associated costs and planting is vital, donations have been received and are always welcome. An autumn tabletop sale included in the Mayor's fundraising event at the Corn Exchange raised some much needed cash. In late October, a major effort was made to clear out weeds and undesirable overgrown vegetation from the two raised beds in the Rempstone Centre, involving most of the Growers. A separate group planted around 130 daffodil bulbs in a verge outside the Walls in Worgret Road, which will hopefully soon be in flower.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was not possible to hold the planned AGM, however this is now rescheduled for 26th January, together with a buffet tea for members. Anyone who wishes to join us on that date, or help in any way towards our efforts in 2022 to go for Gold in the SSEIB competition, please contact the Secretary, Jacqui Hall, on chrijaq@aol.com or through the Wareham Community Growers Facebook page.

Rod Curtis, Chairman, Wareham Community Growers

Picture: Bulb planting in Worgret Road (including Julie, Wareham Council's Gazette correspondent who lent a hand!).



FREE Dorset Heath Walks

A health walk is a free, short and regular guided walk that lasts between ten to ninety minutes for people of all abilities. They are the perfect way to get more active and to meet new people. With so many beautiful parks, green spaces, towns and villages waiting to be explored in Dorset, these community walks give you the opportunity to discover new places in the fresh air and to socialise afterwards.

Trained volunteer walk leaders are on hand to welcome participants at each location and will provide encouragement and support throughout the walk. Walking can help improve overall health and wellbeing. It is important to start slowly and build fitness gently, at a pace that is comfortable for you.

There are over thirty weekly walks to choose from across the Dorset Council area. East Dorset, Purbeck, North and Mid Dorset, Dorchester, Bridport, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland all offer a variety of walks in each location, most of which are close to public transport. There are also walks available within Dorset's Country Parks. If you enjoy walking and would like to be part of the volunteer team, please contact us as we are always looking for new leaders to support the walks.

To find out more about the individual walks in your area, or the volunteer walk leader training, please visit dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-health-walks or contact Dorset Council's Health & Activity Team by emailing dorsethealthwalks@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dorset Health Walks are supported by Dorset Council's Health and Activity team and work in partnership with The Ramblers national programme of Wellbeing Walks (previously Walking for Health).

Arts & Entertainment

Swanage Blues Festival

Words by Steve Darrington

The 35th Swanage Blues Festival is here again from Thursday 3th to Sunday 6th March. The months since the last festival have been very quiet so at the beginning of the year, I wondered whether there would be enough interest. I needn't have been concerned! In the last week I've had hundreds of enquiries from fans, most of whom had already booked accommodation – in one case, a house for nineteen people!

I've yet to finalise the Programme but it's well on the way. We're pleased to welcome Swanage Conservative Club – great hall with stage, dance floor, bar and own entrance, plus disabled facilities. This will replace Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, which is changing owners and not available for March.

After a break at the last festival, we welcome back The Legion for a long weekend with a varied programme, and The Centre with acoustic acts, concert-style seating and a limit of sixty people.

The White Horse, White Swan and Red Lion are the town pub hub, and restaurants include Tawny's and the Old Stables – proving that if there's room for a guitarist, anywhere can take part!

Further out The Globe, The Greyhound at Corfe Castle and The Isle of Purbeck Golf Club are also taking part and nearer to home, The Grand Hotel has a full programme as always. We're hoping that Herston Camping & Caravan Park and the Youth Hostel Association will also be coming on board.

What wonderful support there is in this town! Support Wristbands are essential to keep the blues festivals going, still only £10 from venues and some retail outlets over the festival weekend.

All relevant information and a Schedule for free download from the website will soon be available on the website www.swanage-blues.org



'Once Upon A Time' With Swanage Carnival



Swanage Carnival 2022

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 2022 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 event

Applications to: Kevin Langdon, Swanage Carnival,
Unit 8, Jaden Business Park, Prospect Way, Swanage BH19 1EJ
Email: secretary@swanagecarnival.com

After an absence of two years due to the pandemic it's all systems go as planning is now well underway for this year's Carnival and we are excited to announce our 2022 Carnival theme: Once Upon a Time!

Carnival Chairperson, Maria Foot, said: "We have had lots of suggestions for magical and fantasy themes, including Disney, fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Our 'Once Upon a Time' theme covers all of these and allows lots of scope for carnival float ideas, so we are really looking forward to seeing this year's procession!"

Whether you want to tell a story on your way around the procession, dress as your favourite magical fairy tale character or cast your magic over all the locals and visitors who support our huge carnival procession, Carnival 2022 promises to be full of fun and entertainment!



We have again secured some brand-new events, full details of which will be released in a few months' time. So, put the dates in your diary (Saturday 30th July to the Saturday 6th August) and start getting ready for the biggest carnival on the south coast!

If you would like to sponsor a carnival event and feature in our advertising, please get in touch with our chairperson, Maria, by email, at: chair@swanagecarnival.com

Health & Beauty

Matron's Round Our Local Hospitals' Monthly Column



When a healthcare team talk about frailty, they mean a condition that affects your health in the same way that other health conditions such as asthma or arthritis might affect you. 'Frailty' is a term that's used a lot but is often misunderstood. It refers to a person's mental and physical resilience, or their ability to bounce back and recover from events like illness and injury.

The condition is characterised by the loss of physical and/or cognitive inbuilt reserves. Inbuilt reserves are our body's natural ability to recover from illness or injury. We can start to lose these reserves with increasing age or due to a long-term progressive illness. We can be at risk of changes in our health after an apparently minor event such as an infection or a fall.

Some of the indicators of frailty are:

- Unintentional weight loss
- Fatigue without reason
- Muscle bulk loss or weakness
- Slow to stand and walk
- A decline in activity
- A decline in memory

People showing signs of three or more of these symptoms may have frailty. Identifying frailty can improve outcomes and avoid unnecessary harm. Early interventions can be self-directed and include keeping yourself healthy by eating and drinking well and maintaining some activity or even exercises.

As your needs increase, healthcare interventions such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy or making sure you are taking the right amount of medication can be important to prevent further deterioration in your health.

Make sure you are eating well enough to maintain a healthy diet. Keep hydrated, our bodies are made up of approximately 70% water, so it is important that we drink enough. When we do not drink enough and become dehydrated it affects our bodies in ways that increase the risk of falling or getting an infection.

Keeping active is good. You may not be able to do the same amount of exercise as you once did, but it is important that you do as much as you can to maintain the strength of your muscles. This may simply include taking a regular short walk or following an exercise programme provided by a physiotherapist or occupational therapist.

Until next time, take care, Matron Annette Sanchez



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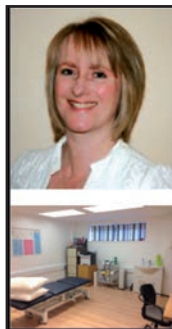
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WE DEMAND ACCESS TO URGENT MEDICAL CARE IN OUR RURAL DISTRICT

WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Save Our Ambulance Car – Save Swanage and Isle of Purbeck Lives

Since April 2020 our community has stood up to Save our Ambulance Car, which saves hundreds of lives in Swanage and villages each year.

We were promised the 24/7 emergency response Car would stay until there was public consultation on options, and that one of the options would be to keep the Car.

So, we still have our Car.... Or do we?

Back in 2019 our Ambulance Car attended just under a thousand callouts in Swanage and local villages.

Over 400 of these call outs were to people at risk of dying.

The average time taken in 2019 to get to Swanage category 1, imminent danger of death, patients was under the 7 minute target, giving the Paramedics the best chance to save these hundreds of lives.

Tragically, new information released for 2021 shows a very different picture.

The Ambulance Trust's reply to a Swanage resident asking about staffing of the Ambulance Car showed that, while in 2019 the Car was well staffed, with 94% of shifts covered, by 2021 less than half the shifts (42%) were covered.

A separate reply to Swanage News, who had asked about response times, showed that ambulance response times had doubled by 2021, meaning an average 15 minute wait for category 1, imminent danger of death patients.

What's being done?

The Town Council has pledged to do all it can to save our Ambulance Car, and is meeting the Ambulance Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group.

We



our

AMBULANCE CAR

IT'S STILL AT RISK!

Help us by signing our petition



The Town Council is also liaising with Dorset Council regarding that Council's statutory duty to ensure that changes to health services do not disadvantage residents, and regarding the promise made by Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group to Dorset Health Scrutiny in 2018 that, with the loss of A&E and Maternity from Poole, Swanage based ambulances would be fully maintained.

Save Our Ambulance Car campaign

Residents continue to make our voices heard at Ambulance Trust Board and Dorset Council Cabinet meetings, in the media, and to fight for our Car, including considering legal proceedings.

What can I do?

There are over 8,000 signatures on Mel Norris' petition to Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, but it is not clear that these will be taken into account.

5,000 signatures are needed on Thelma Deacon's petition to Dorset Council to meet the bar for full Council.

Dorset Council can ask Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group to carry out consultation in line with Gunning principles.

If this is not done, or if the evidence does not support withdrawal of the Car, any plans to withdraw it can be sent back to the Secretary of State for review.

Please sign and share:

Search on the Internet for 'Dorset Council Save Swanage Ambulance Car'

Scan the QR (left) code with your phone or tablet camera to open the petition

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/dorset-council-save-swanage-ambulance-car-1>

Blast From The Past!

This month, A Decade Ago...

Our February 2012 edition contained a record-breaking ten entire pages of readers' letters. So, what was everyone writing about a decade ago? We had quite a few letters from Wareham folk, bitterly upset by the 'destruction' of a wildlife habitat when discovering the clearances which had taken place on the Stoborough side of the river embankment when walking from Stoborough to Ridge.

One reader stated that Wareham residents had enjoyed picking blackberries from this stretch for many years, going on to list the number of wild birds who had called this habitat home, as well as listing the impressive array of flowers and bushes which were found along the path. Readers deducted that no official organisation had undertaken the clearance - it was thought to be the work of one gentleman, who took it upon himself to destroy what was described by many as 'valuable wildlife habitat'.

We also included a letter calling second home owners to action after feeling they had been somewhat unfairly lambasted as a cause of local housing shortages and as motion was being discussed in relation to second home owners having a local vote. This issue is still very much with us, with some local villages now reporting to be around 80% second homes. The letter was as follows, complete with editor's note below...

"Dear Ms Johnson,

Council Review: Re: Second Homes

Why do some people have a downer on second home owners? We pay our rates and taxes and help to keep Swanage businesses solvent, all we ask the Local Authority to do is collect and empty our rubbish bins.

It now seems that Purbeck Council is reviewing second home ownership with a view to take away our democratic right to vote if we do not meet their residential criteria. As a second home owner, I think this is all wrong and in the present economic climate, how much is this review costing and is it really necessary?

If the Council gets away with this and takes away our vote, we urge all second home owners to rally to the call of no taxation without representation.

Yours sincerely, John Goulding. Hertfordshire.

Editor's note: With respect Mr Goulding - you answer your own question. If all you require from the Local Authority is the removal of your rubbish, why should you be entitled to, or even wish to, vote on matters relating to health, education, roads, and other topics which affect those of us living here all year round?

The wind debate also continued, with readers sharing their views on whether the proposed wind farm should be erected off the Jurassic Coast. Pete Barker of Wool wrote in and said: "How delightful it is to still find dinosaurs on the Jurassic coast! - I refer to the entertaining ramblings from the anti-wind brigade in your January issue.

"This time targeting wind farm operators, as if such companies shouldn't be making money. It's funny, I don't often see letters against airline operators whose business is polluting, noisy and far more disturbing. Perhaps we should have a nationalised wind industry, but the country is broke and the politicians ideologically opposed and so they turn to the private sector with incentives to invest in essential infrastructure.

"NIMBYs used to say: 'build them offshore where they won't bother anyone' and now such a scheme has come along still they object, just in case, on a clear day, their visual sensibilities may be offended. What a joke!"

The following letter writer extolled the virtues of tidal power, questioning why, situated on a coastal peninsula, we have no tidal turbines - despite Edinburgh University researching, perfecting and repairing a prototype wave machine way back in the 1950s.

Our 'Chug Says' column gave the following advice: 'Going to church does not make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a mechanic.' Wise words from our now-sadly departed canine columnist.

We ran a competition in February 2012, teaming up with Custom World, who offered one lucky reader the chance to win £3000 worth of quality furniture. Three runners up were presented with vouchers for £300.

Dentistry in Purbeck was a hot topic a decade ago, with news having been announced in January 2012 that Swanage was to lose their last NHS dentistry practice from March 2012. An e-petition was launched and a paper petition made its way around the local shops. A statement from an NHS Dorset spokesperson said: "The Primary Care Trust has taken immediate steps to commission a new dental contract to provide adequate local access to NHS dental services in the Swanage area in future."



One of our main feature pieces in February 2012 was our coverage of the community's kindness and thoughtfulness towards Florinell - then Swanage's Big Issue seller. Florinell (pictured) was extremely well known for being friendly, helpful and a joy to have in our community.

He helped many residents in a wide variety of ways and made many good friends in the town, also playing as part of the local football team.

Encouraged by local nurse, Nikki Harman, residents decided to make Flo's Christmas something special.

On Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th December 2011, residents made their way to Flo's spot outside Boots in Swanage with gifts, vouchers and much more, for Flo and his family.

A friend had to give Flo a lift at the end of the day as he was unable to carry the pile of gifts for his family home on the bus!

What a wonderful community Purbeck can be! Let's hope this inclusive, kind and thoughtful way of being carries on for years to come!



Spotlight Event Diary

Diary Entries are FREE if your event is FREE. If you charge, then it's £5 plus VAT per entry, per month. DEADLINE for MAR is NOON 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 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

Please call prior to attending events listed to ensure they are still on!

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 Methodist Ch. hall, High Street, Sw. All ages/abilities welcome. Steve: 424591, Malcolm: 427695
 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 Digital Champions. Support people in the community to use the internet and gain basic online skills. Booking essential on 01929 423485.
 14.00 Wareham Short Mat Bowls. Meet at Furzebrook Village Hall. New members welcome to come along and meet us!
 14.00 Swanage Disabled Club meet until 4pm. Meeting place All Saints Church Hall, Uwell, Sw. Transport available. Call Mrs Daphne Saville on 01929 425241 ffi.
 16.00 Colour Me Happy. Adult colouring session at Swanage Library. Drop in.
 16.45 Soccer Skills Sw FC First Sch chldn £1 Till 5.45. 425175
 18.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 7pm
 18.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 8.30pm.
 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.
 19.00 Wareham Choral Society meet Lady St.Mary Church, Wm. Till 9.30. New singers always welcome. Ffi: 01202 632678.
 19.30 Purbeck Village Quire rehearse at Wm URC Church. New/visiting singers (no audition necessary). String & wind players also welcome. Ffi: 288045 or 480737.
 19.30 Wareham Art Club Workshop at Wareham Parish Hall. Ffi: 553718.
 19.30 Wm Folk Dance Club Stoboro' VH. All welcome. 07749 853815. Email: warehamfolkdance@gmail.com
 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 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 10am
 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 First Steps Parent & Toddlers' Group. Swanage Methodist Church till 11.30am during term time. Ffi: Sylvia Garrett 425420, office hours.
 10.00 Men & Women's Mixed Walking Football Club at Swanage Football Club. Come and try! All levels welcome, even if you've never played before. Come and join in or just come along to watch a very friendly group of people playing football. Until 11.30am. Call Nick on: 07745 907509
 10.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 11.30am.
 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 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 103 High St. 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. Until 12 noon.
 10.30 Adult Line Dance Class. FREE taster session at D'Urberville Centre, Wool. Till 11.30am with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadibelius@gogglemail.com
 10.30 Employment Hub at Swanage Library. Until 12.30pm. Book via Skills dn Learning on 01202 262300.
 10.30 Swanage Walking for Health Group starter walks (15-30mins). Start from the Mowlem Shelter on Swanage Seaford. Get back into the swing of things gently! Ffi: 481000
 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.
 11.30 New Adult Latin American & Ballroom Dance Class for beginners. FREE taster session at D'Urberville Centre, Wool. Till 12.30pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or

email: donnadibelius@gogglemail.com

- 12.00 Nature Tots (0-4yrs) at Bovington Memorial Hall Garden. Until 2pm.
 14.00 Wareham Short Mat Bowls. Meet at Furzebrook Village Hall. New members welcome to come along and meet us!
 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 Swanage Town Walk. Local historian takes walks lasting 90 minutes. Meet outside the Museum in the 'Square'. No charge but voluntary contributions welcome.
 14.00 Harman's Cross Village Hall Art Group Till 5
 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.
 19.00 New Adult Line Dance Class. FREE taster session at Corfe Castle VH. Till 8pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadibelius@gogglemail.com
 19.00 Give Rugby A Try! FREE! at Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwall Rd, Wm. We're looking for new players, so come and have a go! Until 9pm. Over 18s only. Call John C. on: 07970 500357 Ffi.
 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 Belvedere Singers rehearsal at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Sw. BH19 1AZ. Parking on-site. Till 9.30pm. All singers welcome! 425074.
 19.30 Women's Walking Football Club at Swanage Football Club. Come and try! All levels welcome, even if you've never played before. Come and join in or just come along to watch a very friendly group of people playing football. Until 9pm. Call Nick on: 07745 907509
 19.30 Sw & Langton Folk Dance Club Langton VH. Ffi: 421913
 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 Adult Dance Classes. Modern Line dance. Until 11.30am. At St Edward's Church hall, Swanage. Ffi: 01202 243803 or see: www.purbeckdancestudio.co.uk
 10.30 Play and Learn at Kids of Wool (BH20 6DY) until 12 noon.
 10.30 Books and More - at Swanage Library. Reading & discussion group.
 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
 14.30 Local Historian takes you on a town walk around Swanage, lasting 1 1/2 hours. No need to book, just turn up in the Swanage Museum in the Square, voluntary contributions welcome.
 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 Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 7pm
 18.00 Swanage Youth Club. School years 7&8. Till 8.30pm
 18.30 Sw & Wm Hockey Club Junior (6-14yrs) Training, Wm Sports Centre. Until 7.30pm. Email: swanagewarehamhockey@outlook.com
 19.00 Wm Bridge Club at the Library, South St. 552046
 19.00 Swanage Depression Support group. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at the Lower Hall, Salvation Army, Kings Rd East, Sw. BH19 1ES, until 9pm. Ffi: Nick on: 07766352062 or email: nickviney@hotmail.com or call Mary on: 01929426896.
 19.00 Wareham Depression Support group. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at Not Just Sundaes, South Street, Wareham. BH20, until 9pm. Ffi: John: 01929556315 or 07871 727278 or email: johnoneil905@yahoo.co.uk
 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.
 19.00 Give Rugby A Try! FREE! at Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwall Rd, Wm. We're looking for new players, so come and have a go! Until 9pm. Under 16s-18s only. Call John P. on: 07725 567541 Ffi.
 19.00 Purbeck Runners meet at Beach Gardens Pavilion, Sw.

- 19.30 **Swanage Musical Theatre** meet Swanage Bay View Complex Rehearsal Room. All welcome. Ffi: 426161
- 19.30 **Sw & Wm Hockey Club (13+ years)** Training, Wm Sports Centre. Till 9pm. Email: swanagewarehamhockey@outlook.com
- 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 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 9.30am.
- 09.00 **Carey Crafters** meet every Thursday at Carey Hall, Mistover Road, until 12.30pm (come anytime between). No age or gender restriction. All crafts welcome we have a wide variety! Come along and share your craft or learn a new one! Contact Donna on 07870 993311 or Helen on 07368 352737 ffi.
- 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 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 11am.
- 09.30 **Sensory Play** for under ones, at Bovington Centre until 10.30am
- 09.30 **Adult Dance Classes.** Latin American & Ballroom dance. Until 10.30am. At the Wareham Scout & Guide Hut, N. Bestwall Rd, Wareham. BH20 4HX. Ffi: 01202 243803 or see: www.purbeckdancestudio.co.uk
- 10.00 **Wyvern Savings & Loan Credit Union** opens until 12 noon at Not Just Sundaes, South Street, Wareham, opposite the Library. A secure place to save and loans available at fair rates. Call in for a cuppa and a chat, or call 01305 268444.
- 10.00 **Wm Parent & Toddler Group** During term Parish Hall, Quay Till 11.45. 556806
- 10.00 **A Place Of Welcome** at 103 High St. 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. Until 12 noon.
- 10.00 **Wool Country Market** D'Urville Hall. Cakes, preserves, plants, crafts, vegetables. Coffee & biscuits available.
- 10.00 **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** at Queensmead Hall, Sw. Till 11am. Adm 50p
- 10.00 **Volunteer Centre Drop-In** at Wareham Library till 12pm. Find out about volunteering to support community groups & charities.
- 10.00 **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
- 10.15 **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. D'Urberville Centre, Collier's Lane, Wool. www.purbeckworkshop.org 07757 776907. www.purbeckworkshop.org Phone: 07794 479208
- 11.00 **Sensory Play** for 1-4yrs old at Bovington Centre, until 12 noon.
- 11.30 **New Adult Line Dance Class.** FREE taster session at Corfe Castle VH. Till 12.30pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadiabelius@gogglemail.com
- 13.30 **Under 1 year olds** at Wareham's Children's Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Anti-natal mums welcome. Till 3pm. Ffi: 552864.
- 13.00 **Wareham Area Men's Shed** meets at Purbeck Connect, Sandford Lane, Wm. Ffi: call Chris on 554758, Harold on 792591 or Mike on 288045
- 13.30 **Toddler Group.** All Saints' Church, Sw. 423937. Till 3pm (Term times)
- 13.00 **New Adult Latin American & Ballroom Dance Class** for beginners. FREE taster session at Corfe Castle VH. Till 2pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadiabelius@gogglemail.com
- 14.00 **Swanage Town Walk.** Local historian takes walks lasting 90 minutes. Meet outside the Museum in the 'Square'. No charge but voluntary contributions welcome.
- 14.00 **Wareham Happy Cafe.** Friendly conversation, talks, activities and some fun to put a spring in your step! Everyone welcome. Held at the Not Just Sundaes Cafe in South Street, Wareham. BH20 4LU. From 5th March 2020 onwards. FREE. Until 3.30pm.
- 14.00 **Studland Chair-based Exercise** in the Village Hall, Studland. Ffi: Julie on 558139 or email: jbrad@uwclub.net
- 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 **Isle of Purbeck Arts Club.** Weekly evening Art Group. Aimed at beginners, at Purbeck New Wave Gallery, 25 Commercial Rd, Sw. BH19 1DF. 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 **Over 40s Men's Walking Football Club** at Swanage Football Club. Come and try! All levels welcome, even if you've never played before. Come and join in or just come along to watch a very friendly group of people playing football. Until 8.30pm. Call Nick on: 07745 907509
- 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. Ffi, call: 551478 or 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 David Fawcett, 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
- 20.00 **Herston Hall OAP Committee Bingo** Sw
- EVERY FRIDAY**
- 08.45 **Coffee @ 112 - Drop In For Coffee!** Catch up with friends at 112 High Street (United Reformed Church) in Sw. Cake and bacon butties. Fair trade stall. Donations for 'Besom in Purbeck' and church funds.
- 09.00 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 10am
- 09.30 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation.** Till 10.30am. With Penny at Furzebrook VH, Wm. Ffi 07969925502
- 09.30 **Wareham Area Men's Shed** meets at Purbeck Connect, Sandford Lane, Wm. Ffi: call Chris on 554758, Harold on 792591 or Mike on 288045
- 09.30 **Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group.** Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage. Term time only. Until 11.30am. Ffi: Alex on 07904 412067.
- 10.00 **Table Tennis Club** Methodist Ch. hall, High Street, Sw. All ages/abilities welcome. Steve: 424591, Malcolm: 427695
- 10.30 **Do you want to volunteer in Swanage?** Meet the team at the Volunteer Bureau in Swanage Library! Until 12.30pm.
- 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
- 14.00 **Wareham Short Mat Bowls.** Meet at Furzebrook Village Hall. New members welcome to come along and meet us!
- 14.30 **Short Mat Bowls** at Durbeville Hall, Wool. Till 4.30pm. All standards welcome. Ffi: 552682.
- 18.00 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 8.30pm.
- 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 **Purbeck Youth Choir** at the United Reformed Church Hall, Sw. 8-18 years old. Till 7pm. Ffi: Jay Buckle on: 07947 866945
- 18.30 **Sw Bridge Club** Mowlem Community Room. 421840
- 19.00 **Sw Youth Centre Seniors Club Night (Yr 9+)** Till 9.30pm.
- 19.30 **Informal Lesbian Social Group** meets each Friday for fun, laughter and to make new friends. Ffi, contact Karen by email at: outinpurbeck@gmail.com
- 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
- 09.00 **Swanage Self Defence FUNDamentals** for ages 4-12 years at Swanage Methodist Church, Sw. For a FREE taster session, contact Ian on: 07888660225 or email: swanageSMA@gmail.com and quote 'Purbeck Gazette'
- 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. Till 2pm. Bric-a-Brac stall weekly. Christian bookstall most weeks. All welcome for a warm-up and a friendly chat.
- 10.00 **Swanage Self Defence** for teens and adults at Swanage Methodist Church, Sw. For a FREE taster session, contact Ian on: 07888660225 or email: swanageSMA@gmail.com and quote 'Purbeck Gazette'
- 11.00 **Lego and Megablok Mayhem** at Swanage Library, until 12 noon.
- 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.
- 10.00 **Give Rugby A Try! FREE!** at Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwall Rd, Wm. We're looking for new players, so come and have a go! Until noon. Under 6s-16s only. Call Claire on: 07799 842225 Ffi.
- 10.30 **Stoborough Emmanuel Baptist Church** meet at Stoborough First School, Stoborough. All very welcome.
- 13.30 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 2.30pm
- 14.30 **Swanage Tennis Club** at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 4.30pm.
- 19.00 **Quiz Night with cash prizes** at the Red Lion, High Street, Swanage. All welcome - come along and see if you can win the prize pot!
- 19.00 **Alcoholics Anonymous Wareham.** Until 8.15pm. Doors open at 6.30pm. Call 07855 536039 or email: warehamsunday@gmail.com for details of meeting location and so on.

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