

The Purbeck Gazette

January 2016
Issue no. 192

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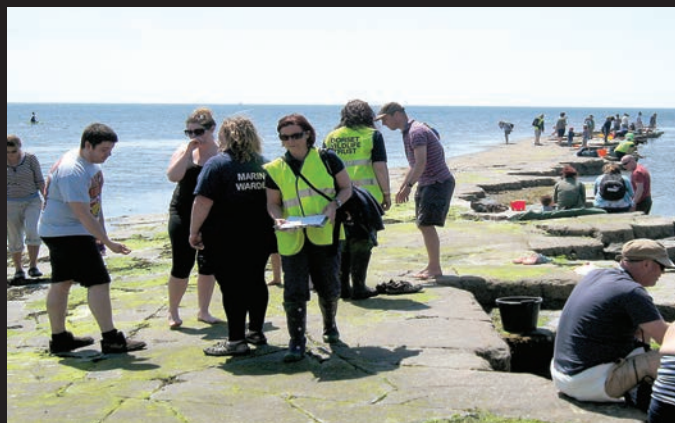
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Editor's note...



Welcome to the New Year! 2016 is here.

Another year ahead of us, full of challenges and changes. Well - where better to face life's challenges than right here on the Isle of Purbeck?!

Staff at Gazette Towers are now delighting in their annual week off (seriously!), undoubtedly eating and drinking far too much and enjoying good company! We hope you're also enjoying a well-deserved break and spending time with those you love.

Swanage and Wareham Foodbanks will be receiving a cheque from David Hollister's recent campaign soon - a huge thanks to those of you who gave up your winter fuel allowance and donated £100 to the cause. Local families facing untold hardships will get to eat this month because of your generosity, so thank you.

This month we bring you some ideas on how to banish those winter blues, with some suggestions from local retailers and eateries. Get out and about and have no fear - the days will be getting lighter this month as spring approaches!

We hope that you've all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the New Year festivities wherever you ended up - hopefully in one piece!

Thanks so much for all the support throughout 2015 - we look forward to seeing what 2016 brings!

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We publish in-full online for those households who do not receive a paper copy through the door.

See: www.purbeckgazette.com

The **February 2016** edition has a deadline of 8th January and will be distributed from 25th Jan - 29th Jan 2016.
The **March 2016** edition has a deadline of 8th February and will be distributed from 22nd - 26th February.

Public Notices & Information



Compiled for the Purbeck Gazette by
National Coastwatch Institution, Swanage



TIDE TIMES - JAN 16

Peveril Ledge, Swanage

Date	HW	LW	HW	LW	HW	Moon / Tides
01-Jan	00:58	07:48	13:26	20:07		
02-Jan	01:46	08:40	14:22	21:04		
03-Jan	02:44	09:54	15:27	22:21		
04-Jan	03:49	11:05	16:33	23:25		SP
05-Jan	04:53	12:02	17:32			
06-Jan		00:19	05:49	12:51	18:22	
07-Jan		01:08	06:37	13:36	19:05	
08-Jan		01:54	07:19	14:20	19:45	
09-Jan		02:39	08:00	15:03	20:24	
10-Jan		03:22	08:40	15:45	21:03	NM
11-Jan		04:05	09:20	16:27	21:42	
12-Jan		04:45	10:00	17:07	22:23	
13-Jan		05:27	10:42	17:48	23:06	SP
14-Jan		06:09	11:27	18:31	23:53	
15-Jan		06:55	12:16	19:18		
16-Jan	00:43	07:47	13:11	20:13		FM
17-Jan	01:41	08:51	14:17	21:23		
18-Jan	02:49	10:13	15:38	22:47		
19-Jan	04:09	11:30	17:00	23:56		NP
20-Jan	05:29	12:33	18:10			
21-Jan		00:57	06:37	13:28	19:10	
22-Jan		01:50	07:35	14:18	20:00	
23-Jan		02:39	08:23	15:04	20:42	
24-Jan		03:25	09:04	15:48	21:21	NM
25-Jan		04:08	09:42	16:30	21:59	SP
26-Jan		04:48	10:18	17:08	22:36	
27-Jan		05:26	10:54	17:43	23:12	
28-Jan		06:00	11:28	18:15	23:44	
29-Jan		06:31	12:00	18:46		
30-Jan	00:14	07:03	12:30	19:20		
31-Jan	00:45	07:41	13:05	20:01		

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

All times are local

Swanage Town Council Meetings - January 2016

Planning & Consultation Committee	Mon 4th	4.30pm
Council (Annual Estimates Meeting)	Mon 18th	7pm
Council	Mon 25th	7pm

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

Wareham Town Council Meetings - January 2016

Planning & Transport	Mon 11th	7pm
Amenities	Wed 13th	7pm
Council	Tue 26th	7pm

Purbeck DC Meetings - Open to public - January 2016

Council	Tue 12th	7pm
Overview & Scrutiny Group	Tue 19th	9.15am
Policy Group	Wed 20th	7pm
Planning Committee	Wed 27th	9.15am

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

About The Purbeck Gazette & Purbeck Media Ltd

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

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Sunrise at Durdle Door on Friday 4th December, by Richard Murgatroyd. www.richardmurgatroyd.me

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DEADLINE FOR FEB IS NOON, MON 8th JAN

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.

FEBRUARY edition deadline: noon on Jan 8th

'Saving Swanage'

Dear Editor,

In June, Infrastrata revealed that their plans to start exploratory oil and gas drilling from Swanage's California Quarry have been postponed for a second year. The proposed well is onshore to offshore which involves drilling under the sea bed. It is necessary for the area from which a well is drilled to be held under a Petroleum Licence. Infrastrata does not hold such a licence but plans to acquire one. Unless the community expresses its concerns drilling could start in Sept 2016.

The threat to Swanage, Purbeck and its World Heritage coastline has not gone away. If Infrastrata find gas or oil and want to extract from California Quarry they will need further planning permissions for a gas refinery and oil pipeline. The simplest way to stop this is for Swanage Town Council, who own the access land, and Dorset County Council to refuse further planning applications.

Saving Swanage has a petition where signatures were collected over a couple of weeks in spring 2015. It states 'We oppose the granting of any further planning permissions that could lead to either oil or gas extraction in Swanage' and was quickly signed by 231 people. 79 Swanage residents and 117 Dorset residents. Dorset is asking us to protect their coastline!

Our online petition at 38degrees.org.uk shows another 576 objectors. Just type Swanage in the search. The VW emission scandal, the huge Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 show that we can't trust the oil and motor companies to protect our environment. It's up to us. Signing the petition is one way to do this.

We are still working to stop oil and gas extraction from the Jurassic Coastline above Swanage. Please help us by writing to Dorset County Council and Swanage Town Council before it's too late to stop it. Just tell them that you oppose the granting of any further planning permissions that would allow oil or gas extraction in Swanage and Purbeck.

You can contact us savingswanage@gmail.com and a copy of your letter would be much appreciated. Thank-you for your vital assistance.

Yours sincerely, Alison Tilley

Fools And Two Second Rules

Dear Purbeck Gazette,

I don't know if there is still discussion about the Harman's Cross speed limit change but it has been interesting and alarming to observe people's driving patterns since it has gone from a 40 to a 30 mph zone. We have been driving between Swanage and Corfe twice a day during the week, for just over a year. It is a lovely drive and we really enjoy it.

We knew the speed limit was going to change and thought it would be quite annoying, but decided if it was our village then walking beside a 40 mph road would be horrible so we could understand why.

We very rarely saw people walking on the main road but thought it was probably one of those chicken and egg situations. Now it is a 30 mph zone we feel indifferent to the change. We just allow a little more time to get to school, we can listen to a few more songs on the radio, it's a good driving challenge to stick to the 30 speed limit (we do), and we hope more of the village feel they can walk down the road (we haven't seen a great increase at the times we drive but nevertheless).

However what we have observed is an alarming increase in aggressive driving by people who are obviously affronted by the change. This morning as we were sticking to 30 mph the car behind having tail-gated all through the village decided to overtake on double white lines round a blind bend.

We frequently observe bunches of cars where the first poor soul sticking to 30 is being harassed it seems by four or five cars behind wanting them to speed up.

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We've had a double-decker bus two metres behind us one day (scary), we observed a white van we thought was being towed it was so close to the car in front, people over-taking in dangerous places, and so on.

Wasn't there a motoring phrase "Only a fool breaks the two second rule"? Anyway I'm sure everyone is aware of all this. I'm just not sure what would improve the situation.

Kind regards, Dinah Johnson, Priest's Road, Swanage

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/highways-agency-warns-tailgaters-that-only-a-fool-breaks-the-two-second-rule> !

Allaying 'Corbyn' Concerns

Dear Nico,

With elections in the coming year, here are some points about Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party to allay local concerns.

Of course many concerns are caused by media propaganda, the rich, greedy and powerful 1% in our society are understandably threatened by the prospect of fairness, sharing and social justice for the 99%. As a result, their mouthpieces, the newspapers, have launched a desperate campaign of abuse.

In particular, this propaganda focuses on fear of social change, even though greater equality would benefit the vast majority of us. The newspapers often say that Corbyn is a threat to 'middle England' but the median salary in Britain is under £30,000, so surely most of us should welcome greater sharing by the super-rich - both by individuals and corporations through taxation.

Media propaganda has also focused on Corbyn's image and non-conformity, but clearly many smart looking, conformist politicians have let this country down and, in contrast, Corbyn actually lives by his principles of 'Green aware' cycling, vegetarianism, near pacifism, egalitarianism, republicanism etc. The last of these has come under particular attack because the monarchy is the ultimate bastion of the rich, greedy and powerful and is fiercely defended by propaganda. However, republicanism is a legitimate cause (shared by 20% of us) and again involves equality, sharing and fairness.

As for the 'National Anthem', as well as being a dirge, it's actually a royalist and religious anthem rather than a national one, and I'm sure that we could come up with sometime more inspiring.

Another criticism is that Corbyn will take us back to the 1970s even though his policies are progressive and are aimed at today's social crisis. In any case, despite media spin, the 70s was a time of low unemployment, fairer taxation and wealth sharing, a properly funded NHS, lower prices under nationalisation, manufacturing industries, far superior schools, grants for students etc. Were Thatcher's 1980s really better, with four million unemployed, greed and social division, banking deregulation, privatisation, council houses sold and so forth?

Finally propaganda tends to demonise and scapegoat parts of our society, such as people on benefits or immigrants, whilst glossing over the far greater social crimes of the very rich. (In 2014 £1.2 billion was lost in benefit fraud, but more than £25 billion lost in tax dodging.) This stigmatisation even extends to our language, where countless words like 'benefits', 'unions', 'public spending' etc have all been spun as being bad even though they involve sharing and support for the weakest. Corbyn's 'true Labour' would clearly support the weakest, but more than this, it would run the country for all of us rather than for a tiny selfish elite. No wonder they don't like him.

A Swanage resident who has requested their name be withheld (for no known reason whatsoever....why???)

Alzheimer's Society Thanks

Dear Editor,

May I take this opportunity through your letters page to thank everyone who has raised funds or volunteered for Alzheimer's Society over the past

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twelve months and to wish all of our past, present and future supporters all the very best for a happy and peaceful festive period.

2015 was a very busy year for us with dementia featuring heavily in the national media. We had some great successes with events organised by local businesses, groups and associations and individual fundraisers.

It is only with the support of those that kindly choose to hold fundraising events and give up their time to volunteer with us, that we can continue to provide support services for people living with dementia and their carers in the local community.

We are always eager to hear from anyone who would like to organise a fundraising event on behalf of Alzheimer's Society and from those who would like to volunteer with us, and with so many other equally deserving causes around we are extremely grateful for all of the support that we receive.

If you would like to find out more about fundraising on behalf of Alzheimer's Society as a company or individual, then contact Laura Kelly, Community Fundraiser for Dorset and Somerset on 07885 231 696 or email laura.kelly@alzheimers.org.uk

Laura Kelly, via email

Remembering Jaroslav



Hi Nico,

This is just to report that I have cleared the memorial site on Wareham Common where we gathered to remember Jaroslav Hlaváč, who died defending the skies above Purbeck on 10 October 1940.

The wreaths and so on which are still in good condition have been moved up to Warmwell to JH's grave.

I enclose a photo of the grave with them around it.

Best wishes, Keith Major.

Ed's note: Thanks so much Keith!

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Get It Sorted STC!

Dear Nico,

I noticed in your December issue a letter from Mr Richard Pursehouse regarding the trimmer/brush cutter damage to the War Graves in Swanage Cemetery.

In particular, I noticed the comment that "the Council deny this" (that the damage is their responsibility, having been committed by the council groundsmen).

I have been in touch with Swanage Town Council, MP Richard Drax and the War Graves Commission over the last three years.

Swanage Town Council even arranged for me to meet with the Head Groundsman, at which meeting he agreed to put a 'bark barrier' around each headstone. The various parties have been looking into this problem for two years now, with no progress whatsoever.

It's a pity we do not live in an area where good quality, hard wearing stone is readily available....?!!

As I have said many times: "If we can't look after our War Dead then we should be ashamed of ourselves."

Please Swanage Town Council, this is your responsibility - get it sorted,

Regards, John B Cordery, Swanage, by email.

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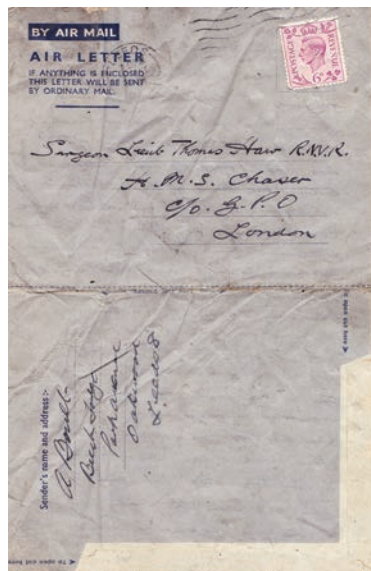
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Letter Mystery Solved



In response to last month's '1943 letter - is it for you?', we have had several replies, including a visit from Chris Haw, the descendent of the original letter recipient.... The letter has now made its way to Chris, thanks to Malcolm Russell, who very kindly wrote in, hoping that our readers would be able to trace the family and deliver the letter - just a few years late!

Dear Editor,

Re: Air Mail Letter – December edition.

Surgeon Lt. Thomas Haw was well known in Corfe Castle for many years, his son is Christopher Haw. Anyone who knew Tommy would have listened to his many tales.

The one I liked was when he was in America and had to be ferried quickly to a ship. He claimed he

was the only doctor to fly over New York in a Spitfire. He was also an Arctic Convoy survivor.

I am sure other readers will have plenty more tales for you.

Harry, Demoulham Road, Swanage

Dear Readers,

I think this letter was originally sent to Tom Haw who was a GP in Corfe for many years - his son Chris Haw was a dentist in the town for many years.

I'm sure that one of the Swanage Sailing Club members would be able to tell you how to get in touch with Chris (not in Swanage phone book!) but how fascinating - hope this helps!

Kind regards, Alex Gray, by email.

Dear Nico,

Many thanks to you and Malcolm Russell for helping retrieve the letter addressed to my father.

I understand it was found on the pavement in West St, Wareham a few weeks ago. I have no idea how it came to be there. Perhaps it was in the pocket of an item of clothing sent to a charity shop.

My father died sixteen years ago, aged 84.

The letter was written to him by his father-in-law in 1943 when my father was serving on HMS Chaser, an aircraft carrier on the Russian convoys to Archangel and Murmansk.

As a Surgeon lieutenant he was mentioned in despatches for removing a crew member's appendix during a heavy storm!

Kind regards, Chris Haw, by email

Suggestion For Gutless Writer

Dear Editor.

I would like to reply to the 'retired new resident' who didn't have the guts to put their name to their letter.

May I make a suggestion? If they hate it here so much, why don't they go back to where they came from and leave Swanage to the people that love it?

I have lived here for seventy eight years and I wouldn't want to go anywhere else.

Yours sincerely, Mrs P Andrews. Swanage.

We Locals Have 'Names' Too!

Hi Nico,

Re: Dorset Brigades from "A New Resident", letters, issue 191.

We locals have various names for the people who come to Swanage. There is of course the "Grockle", usually found walking down the middle of Institute Road oblivious to the difference between "Pavement" for walking on and "Road" for driving on!!

"The Emmett" - A Cornish term for the hordes that descend on Station Road's shops and cafes when the Charabancs arrive!

"Blow-ins" - Self explanatory.

"D.F.L." - Down From London. Bought a second home at an inflated price, who find most things unsatisfactory with the town. House usually purchased in January and horrified at the crowds in August exclaiming "Why is it so busy?"

A sub-group of D.F.Ls are the "it was quicker to get things in London". To which the obvious retort is "well go back there then"!

"When Is" - When I lived wherever it was was much better!

"He knows" - When anything is explained "I know!" Therefore making explanations superfluous!

There are a few who move to Swanage and try to change everything to bring us into the 21st century. Having sat on the council for a term and changed things, they do not like the result and move somewhere else to do the same again. We have seen them come and seen them go and while they are here they are a b****y nuisance.

Of course a large number of folks who move here join the numerous clubs and get involved with the community and thoroughly enjoy their retirement. They become "local" almost straight away.

There is a line in the prayer Desiderata: "Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit." Maybe that explains why "A New Resident" finds life so unbearable! They are being avoided!

Regards, Peter Wakefield, born in Swanage, therefore an ethnic minority, enjoys living in Swanage, hopes to live here for a lot longer!

Founding member of Federation of Angry Retired Townsfolk of Swanage.

Shop Local?

Dear Nico,

Shop Local in Swanage.

Buy roller skates.

Plan for the whole week.

Don't browse.

Don't catch up with people for too long.

Factor queues and product information into time.

Forget about the beach.

Returning home from a tiring treatment for my damaged back, I decided to have a fish lunch. No space except on faint double yellows, so risked it, not having enough time or energy to drive to residents' park plus a ten to twenty minute walk. My hake steak cost £37.00. Challenging is long drawn out and unlikely to succeed.

I would also like to pick up some LED bulbs from Purbeck lighting and possibly a lampshade, but not if it involves a drive and hike. I appreciate the Residents Park. If full, it's a hike and a return up hill and steps - challenging with a dicky back.

I wanted to buy shoes from Landmark. Very helpful in there, but the right fit and style is very important to me. I ran out of time. I should like to browse and perhaps impulse buy, but not with my eye on the clock.

A carpenter with a job in a top flat needed to transfer his tools from his van in three hits. He was penalised for parking opposite the property. Advised to leave his tools on the pavement while he went to park his van. He pointed out that he was unlikely to find them all still there on his



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return. A workman parking in Rabling Road to effect a repair for a resident was similarly penalised. Motor homes have an easier time, it would seem.

It is hardly surprising that Tilly Mead shops struggle – an expensive development. And we now have an astonishing number of eateries in Station Road, rather than useful shops.

Lymington residents pay £30.00 per annum for a residents parking ticket which allows them to shop local all year round. They have a similar influx of summer visitors. DCC has now had £70.00 off me for 'popping in a shop', recycling spent water filters, etc.

Poole is enjoying smoothed roads. Dorchester has free parking. The condition of Bon Accord Road and Queen's Road is tyre wearing with bumps and born-again potholes.

Name and address supplied but withheld on request.

Get Your Act Together

Dear Editor,

I'd like to draw attention to how my partner and I were treated by the Mowlem team recently.

All those who were present on Friday 27th November were witness to the malfunction of the computer projector one hour into the long awaited James Bond film 'Spectre'. We were informed that the computer had crashed and they hoped to fix the problem to resume in ten to twenty minutes. I considered the film experience to be compromised and ruined and so asked the manageress to let us have return tickets for another night or our money refunded.

My partner and I were very abruptly told that it wasn't their fault and that they weren't responsible and we should just wait for the film to restart. After some remonstrance we were begrudgingly given our money back and we left.

I would like to point out to the Mowlem Theatre management a few things: Firstly you are a business providing a service/product like any other. If your product is faulty then the customer has a legal right to a refund.

You are responsible even if events are beyond your control. You provided a faulty product. FULL STOP. Secondly, how dare your manageress treat us so rudely? We are your customers. Your business doesn't exist without us. You should familiarise yourselves with the concept of service and treat your customers with respect and goodwill.

We put up with a lot to come and see films and shows at the Mowlem, and the experience is not entirely pleasant. There is still no proper heating and we have to sit through two to three hours in overcoats, hats and gloves. The volume is uncomfortably loud during the adverts and almost inaudible (even with the loop system) for the actual film, and after one hour in the auditorium the smell of mouldy carpets becomes unpleasant.

On top of that, we are now expected to endure patronising staff whose attitude seems to be that they are doing us a favour and we should take it or leave it. Come on Mowlem. Wake up to the concept of good service. Respect your customers and get your act together.

On this occasion the manageress was all too eager to reopen the sweet shop to sell more 'goodies' during the film breakdown when she should have been offering a proper apology to the audience with the offer of some recompense in the form of a complimentary ice cream during the wait, a cinema ticket for another evening, or a straight refund.

We understand that sometimes events happen beyond your control, so do you actually have a standing policy as to how your staff deal with such situations?

We were not the only cinema goers to have left when the film broke that evening, but I think we were the only ones with the courage to ask for our money back. My partner and I were treated rudely and disrespectfully and made to feel like troublemakers. We feel that a personal and official apology is the least we should expect from you.

Alan Rowland, Swanage.

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Foodbank Thanks

Dear Gazette,

The Swanage Food Bank team would like to wish the people of Swanage and district a very Happy New Year, and one in which we might aspire for a more equal society. One in which we do not have fellow residents with no food to put on the table for themselves or their children.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity shown by Swanage people, we have been able to find food for almost two hundred local residents in 2015, who have needed temporary help in crisis. Furthermore we were able to fill twenty special Christmas boxes with seasonal treats for families who struggle at this time of year.

Thank you to all who have helped and supported us, especially the children of St Marys school, for their donations of Christmas goodies and the gentleman who spent £243 and filled the blue bin in Budgens, whereupon Brian (the store Manager) kindly gave him a generous discount.

For all these many big-hearted gestures thank you, and a very Happy New Year.

Beryl Hopkins for the Swanage Food Bank Team.

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No Narrow Nationalism Please

Dear Editor,

Gavin Rider is correct to point out that I did not refer in my previous letter to those migrants entering Britain from outside the EU - my apologies for that. His own letter unfortunately focuses on perceived problems that immigration may cause without careful consideration of the facts and the reasons why immigration has increased.

Regarding the 636,000 migrants entering the UK in the year ended March 2015, 290,000 came for work-related reasons and 63% of these had a definite job to go to.

This represented a 65,000 increase on the previous year. Many of these migrants, as Gavin Rider states, will eventually return to their own countries, but he is incorrect to suggest that this does not benefit the British economy because the vast majority will be paying taxes and spending some of their income while in this country.

As Britain has a growing economy, it is natural that foreign workers will come here to seek work while it is available. It is an arrangement that is mutually beneficial for the migrants and for Britain.

The second main reason why migrants are coming to Britain is study-related, with 188,000 entering the country in the year ended March 2015, representing a 12,000 increase on the previous year. The majority of these (72%) were non-EU citizens.

These international students give a huge boost to the towns and cities where they live, providing valuable income not only to universities and colleges, but also to those offering accommodation and catering facilities outside campus. The majority are not allowed to work in this country or claim benefits and are normally required to return home on completion of their courses. Furthermore, students from outside the EU pay an NHS surcharge for treatment as part of the immigration process.

The housing shortage is a complex issue with a number of factors involved, but I do not think immigration is the main problem. In Purbeck, at least, the main issue is the lack of affordable housing and the number of second homes that are empty for much of the year!

I think it is good to have a sensible debate on the subject of immigration, but it is important to examine the facts and not to make judgements on the basis of sensational newspaper headlines pandering to irrational fear and prejudice.

Regarding the EU, the free movement of labour within it is an important principle which should not be sacrificed to those wishing to turn their backs on Europe.

Narrow nationalism and insularity do not make a country great in the 21st century.

Yours sincerely, David Leadbetter, Swanage

The Heart And The Head

Dear Editor,

Refugees from Syria – a problem that's not going away- let's look at the bigger picture. A story that is still being told. The heart and the head.

There have been several letters about the plight of the refugees from Syria and how the people of Swanage might contribute to their welfare. Views broadly reflect, on the one hand, the humanitarian response, and on the other the practicality, reality and perceived repercussions of attempting to offer hospitality. Letters from David Holman and 'a Corfe Castle Resident' in the December issue express such apparently opposing views. Both have relevance.

The reality is that this is an immensely complex issue. Inevitably there will be a spectrum of views. It is a story that is still being told. People's views will be shaped as events happen and knowledge deepens.

There is at present no one solution. There will not be a solution unless we can look at both a short term response (life sustaining measures) as well as a longer term plan that looks at the 'infrastructure' (accommodation, language, mental, physical and spiritual health, schooling, social welfare and acceptance etc.). Short and long term must go together.

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The last thing that should happen is that these people, who have been through so much, should find themselves in a worse position in which they were before they risked their own and their families' lives to remove themselves from a state of oppression difficult to comprehend for most of us.

Thus the apparently opposing views I refer to in paragraph 2 are relevant. To refer to those seeking to offer help and wanting to give a 'leg up' to those refugees who succeed in landing on UK soil as "do gooders" is unhelpful. To label those who are concerned, or feel threatened, by a seemingly unplanned and un-prioritized take-over of tax-paid public amenities by immigrants as "anti-immigrants" or "Nimbys" is again unhelpful. They are very real concerns, particularly with apprehension over threats of terrorism, and they must be addressed alongside the acute 'humanitarian' response.

What is required is a balance. The impetus to help people in an unimaginable state of distress and danger comes from the heart. If this is lacking, there is little hope of action. When help is withheld and hope fades the spirit dies.

Tremendous efforts are being made in places in which the refugees are making their journey. Islands off the Turkish coast (see articles by Marianna Pope-Weidemann about working in Lesbos, in Gazette Nov and Dec editions) Athens and Calais. It makes sense therefore to listen, learn, work with and donate to such organizations that have the experience of working alongside refugees.

The approach of the recently formed SAR group in Swanage is doing this. There is a considerable body of experience and skills. We hope the action offered will be greater than the sum of its parts! The desperate situation facing refugees is not going to go away.

Of course the root of the problem lies in the country from which refugees are fleeing. This can only be resolved in the longer term by a political rather than a military approach.

Every pressure must be brought on our government to intervene now, and produce a comprehensive, resourceful plan, working with governments in other countries, and in tune with smaller organizations already engaged 'working on the shop floor'. That's beyond the scope of this letter!

John Challis, Swanage Resident.

'Free Market' Not Refugees

Dear Nico,

I sympathise with "a Corfe Castle resident" (Gazette December) whose daughter only has a small two bedroom flat for her family in Swanage. But I find it depressing that she turns her anger on David Holman and other 'do gooders', whom she condemns as "not Swanage born and bred" and soft on refugees.

Actually incomers are probably a majority in Purbeck, do a massive amount of good and add enormously to the economic, social and cultural life of the district.

The key question she raises is, why is there a housing crisis? Not because of immigrants, who add greatly to the economic and social life of the country.

There is a very large number of empty properties throughout the country and second homes are clearly a significant factor in an area like Purbeck, but for a proper explanation you really have to go to the root cause of the crisis, which is the so-called "free market".

It isn't free: it is very much a political creation in the interests of those who have economic and financial power in Britain. Over the past thirty five years politicians (mostly Tory, but also Labour to a lesser extent) have completely remodelled the availability of housing in Britain: the sale of council houses (many of which end up in the hands of landlords), abolition of rent controls, preventing councils from building new homes for rent, subsidies and tax incentives for private landlords (think how much of Government spending – our taxes – goes to subsidise extortionate rents), removal of controls over financial markets, all underpinned by the growing inequality of wealth and income in Britain.



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The result is house prices out of reach of most people in Britain; the lowest level of new accommodation building in the past decade since the early 1930s Great Depression; private rents rising faster than incomes and taking a higher and higher proportion of the incomes of those forced to rely on the "free market"; an explosion of second-home ownership in the most attractive parts of the country, fuelled by the grossly unequal distribution of income.

What should be done? Start with the Government redirecting the billions spent financing private landlords' greed to building new, publicly-owned houses and flats for renting at reasonable rents – based on the principles that governed council housing in the 1940s to the 1970s.

Remember when Harold Macmillan's Government built over 300,000 houses in a year?! That is quite possible with Government initiatives and would have enormous economic benefit in creating new properties, rather than as the present structure does, simply inflating prices.

The Government should also re-introduce strict controls on the private rental market, with fair rents and much stronger tenants' rights, and impose strict limits on second home ownership: multiples of council tax obligation and a legal obligation to sell at reasonable prices to the local council when selling.

This revolution in housing would certainly require a revolution in the broader economy, particular ending the City of London's domination of economic and political life.

Regards, Fred Lindop, Newton Grange Close, Swanage

(an incomer of thirty-five years, with two generations of family born in Swanage – as if that should count in serious discussion)

The Cost Of War

Dear Readers,

So we are at war – again.

Is anyone else questioning us going around the planet bombing mostly innocent people? (Because bombs are not selective over whom they kill and maim).

Ok, so ISIS have done some terrible stuff, but they are still streets behind 'Middle East Peace Envoy' Tony Blair who, with George Dubya, killed about a million Iraqis, 576,000 of them children.

And if you aren't all that bothered about innocent people being annihilated, maybe the finances will make you sit up and pay attention.

George Osbourne has just brought forward the purchase of twenty-four US built F15s at a staggering £200 million a pop, to go on those two new weapons of mass destruction, er, aircraft carriers, that are already costing £6.3 billion.

The Afghanistan and Iraq wars cost you and I £46 billion, and Osbourne wants to renew Trident at an estimated cost of £97 billion and has already put £500 million aside for updating the Faslane base, £2 billion to improve SAS equipment, £1.9 billion on cyber security and has 1,900 newly employed spies on the payroll.

The numbers are so eye-watering they almost become meaningless so I should tell you, excluding the war with IS (as we don't know that yet) the cost of all this killing has worked out to something over £7,000 for every tax payer in the UK.

65% of everything you earn is taken as tax (PAYE, VAT, inheritance, corporation, council, road, etc) meaning you will work until the 14th August next year before you get to put anything in your own pocket. Hardly surprising with the warmongering Conservatives blowing your

money like water.

Insultingly, privileged George was trying to do away with tax credits to save a comparatively paltry £1 billion (or just five F15s), ignoring Britain's shameful wealth disparity with nineteen million people now living below the poverty threshold (of about £40 a day for a single parent with two children).

I have been to a lot of Swanage Town Council meetings lately where Christian prayers are read to the predominantly Conservative Councillors. This is your party investing in war and bombing people.

Does it make you proud? Does war sit well with your Christian beliefs? We have just had the season of 'peace on earth and goodwill to all men', does that mean anything to you? How about thou shalt not kill? Turn the other cheek? Because from where I am sitting it looks more like the parable of the speck and the plank to me.

I believe it is way overdue for humans to evolve and start acting with love and compassion.

Who in the Conservative Party is brave enough to do that I wonder?

Andy Kirkwood, Swanage, by email.

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A Review - Or A Rant?

David Hollister writes...

Well, by the time you're reading this, Christmas will have come and gone, it will be the New Year holiday, and everyone will be recovering from an excess of eating, drinking, and being merry. Except, that is, people who can't afford to eat, drink and be merry, even at Christmas and who, even if they could, have no home to do it in.

As many readers will know, I started a small campaign asking married couples who both received the 'winter fuel allowance' to contribute one of the payments (£100) to a fund to be divided between Swanage and Wareham Foodbanks. I followed this up on Facebook, and am grateful to the few people who responded; at the time of writing I'm not able to confirm amounts but somehow I'm still vaguely disappointed that throughout Purbeck, the number of people able to spare £100 for those less fortunate than ourselves was so meagre. But never mind, half a loaf is better than no bread.

It's been a funny old year, hasn't it? In February, we celebrated the announcement that Swanage Hospital was – for the time being – safe. And highlighted the blinding inefficiency and incompetence of the Dorset Waste Partnership set up to save the council-tax payers money but who ended up millions of pounds in the red, leaving us with threatened closures of some of Dorset's Recycling Centres, or the option to pay to recycle our unwanted stuff. As someone who pays £2500 p.a. Council Tax for the privilege of living in the 'nice house' in Harmans Cross which I built mostly with my own hands, I have no intention of paying to use a recycling centre which I've already paid for. So I am unashamedly asking you all again to do as I do - keep your local recycling centre open and running, to separate your metals, bottles and cardboard and get off your backside once a fortnight and take them in person. Bag up your garden waste and take it, thereby saving the cost of the roadside recycling.

Many of us remember having a normal dustbin which got emptied once a week. Now, whole roads are blighted by rows of plastic bins – sometimes up to four per house – standing in the street awaiting one of the hugely expensive separate 'bin lorries'. That's progress?

We also highlighted the two-month road closure by SGN at Victoria Avenue, which took many of us by surprise and made access to Swanage town centre a nightmare, especially for those who lived along the alternative routes. We examined the waste of £600,000 on a cycle track between Wareham and Sandford and wondered why so few cyclists used it. Following a rather ill-advised bet, I tried it myself and whilst appreciating not having to ride on the road, felt it odd to share a 'cycle track' with pedestrians and even odder that when the traffic left the 30mph limit, cyclists were jettisoned into the road to cope with traffic travelling at 60mph!

I stirred up a hornet's nest in Langton Matravers by daring to support the scheme for twenty-two affordable homes on Spyway Orchard; it's still going on, the objections on the PDC website are legion. If those objections could be overcome then twenty-two more homeless families might find somewhere to spend next Christmas.

Actually, I take strong exception at the locals' reluctance to even consider homeless people from other parts of Purbeck. Homeless is homeless is

homeless and whilst filling local needs is quite understandable, excluding a Purbeck family just because they happen to come from the other side of Wareham river is totally unacceptable. Seems that you have to be born within a stone's throw of Langton Matravers to even stand a chance.

And let's not 'pussyfoot' around talking about 'affordable homes' and 'housing association rentals'. If a developer gets the necessary permissions, you can bet that one of the local 'housing associations' will snap it up; that the rentals will not be 'market rates' but neither will they be 'affordable'. No, what we need is council houses that do not come with a 'right to buy', that are owned by local councils (and the more local the better) and where the tenants are given a cheap and warm roof over their heads in return for a reasonable rental and a promise to behave, on pains of eviction. But I bet more council houses would not be welcome in Langton Matravers

Or indeed, anywhere in Purbeck. Let's fence off a huge area of heathland and build homes for the Poor People, surround them by a damned great wall so we can't see them, and hope they go away. Hang on, we can't do that in case there's a greater crested newt colony in there somewhere. Plants and insects are so much more important than people. Especially Poor People.

We've had some local elections which on the whole have brought forward a crop of reasonably competent and keen Councillors, some of whom have actually visibly done useful stuff. I know that 'Facebook' is supposed to be 'naff' but hey, there are a number of good local groups to which I'm surprised more local Councillors don't subscribe. If they did, they'd learn what their electorate – well, at least of good proportion of them – really care about.

Which brings us neatly back to the speed limit in Harmans Cross. Warmly welcomed by a number of vocal locals who regrettably are still seldom seen walking the pavements of Harmans Cross, but hated by the masses who have to crawl through the village on their way to and from work. And by me. And a prime reason why you, yes, all of you, should watch the Legal & Public Notices in Another Publication like hawks. In the immortal words of Roger Daltrey (Who!!) "won't get fooled again".

And finally (yes, most of the year didn't get reviewed at all), it seems like the continued Police 'economies' (i.e. cuts) are going to mean even less access to a proper police force. 101 has proved to be a total waste of time unless all you want is a 'crime number' and it's no wonder that crime rates appear to be falling when people just can't be bothered to report them, as the perception is that no-one comes, and no-one cares.

But it's odd, isn't it, that you can get a criminal record for nicking a Mars Bar, or for evading your TV licence or even parking on a zig-zag (if you're unfortunate enough to be caught), but you can perpetrate financial fraud on numbers of your fellow-townpeople to the tune of over a million pounds and get off scot-free because the Police "haven't got the time and resources" to prosecute.

And this column? "Plus ça change, plus c'est la meme chose". And thank you once again to my valued sponsors, Westover of Poole; I really do appreciate your continued support.

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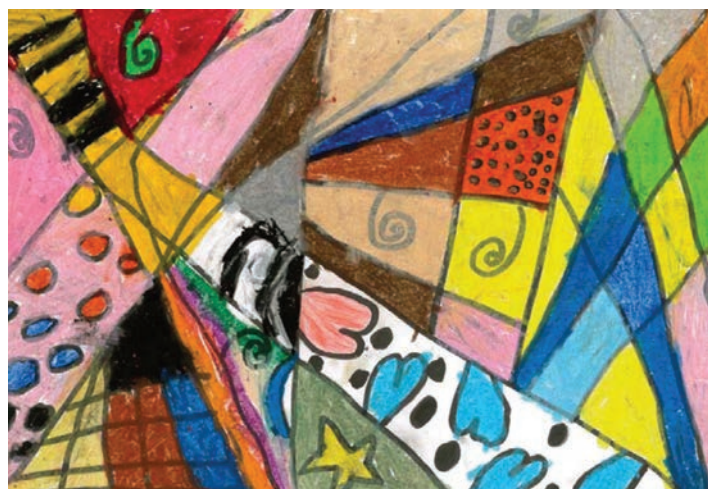
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Stoborough Primary Winner In National Competition



Spirited Arts National Competition

Stoborough Primary School was delighted when they received the exciting news that one of their pupils had won a category in the National Spirited Arts Competition, 'Art in Heaven.'

The competition is open to all schools with pupils aged 4-18 and averages approximately 2,000 entrants per year, including entries from places as far away as Australia and South Africa.

Children from across the school entered different categories of the competition answering five reflective questions.

Front Page: Design a logo for an RE book.

Faith (or Doubt?)

Questions: Big, bigger, biggest.

Stories that change lives

Where is God?

The school was allowed to submit ten pieces of work from Year R to Year 6. The quality of the artwork and spiritual thinking was impressive across the school.

The artwork is judged by RE Today Advisers and students. Zoe Macbeth (age 6) was awarded a winning place this year and was one of five winners in this category.

The competition judges spiritual reflective writing linked to artwork submitted by the children.

This is Zoe's winning entry:

"I See God" The title I have chosen is 'Where is God?' In my picture I used red and black spots on top because ladybirds are so small and beautiful. I see God in the spots of a ladybird. I put a yellow star on my picture because when I look up at the stars God is there. I used green because the grass is green.

When I play in my garden, God is watching me play. I put in orange and black stripes for a tiger because I see God in a tiger. The red heart and the blue heart are there for my Mummy and Daddy because I love them and I see God in their hearts. I used light blue because when I look up to the sky I see God in the sky and it makes me feel happy. I put in yellow because God is in the sun. I put pink there because I see God in our skin.

(Zoe's reflective writing).

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SWANAGE RAILWAY

The Swanage Railway and The Purbeck Railway Circle wish our members, supporters, friends and passengers "A Happy and Prosperous New Year".

During January 2016 the Swanage Railway will be operating a Winter Shuttle service between Swanage and Norden via Herston Halt, Harmans Cross and Corfe Castle.

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd January 2016 a steam hauled service will operate and then Saturdays and Sundays from Saturday 9th January to Sunday 7th February 2016 the service will be operated by our heritage Diesel Multiple Unit. An ideal opportunity for a winter ramble across the Isle of Purbeck to blow away the cobwebs and make good that New Year Resolution!

The 2016 January – May Timetable has now been published together with the 2016 programme of events including our steam and diesel galas, classic transport rally and 70s Music Express.

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

Purbeck Railway Circle

The 2016 Programme will commence on Friday 15th of January 2016 with a digital presentation entitled "East Dorset Railway Curios" by Andrew P.M. Wright. His presentation will be in two parts: "A Heart of Steam" (Bournemouth Engine Shed 1887 – 1968) and "An Eclectic Railway Journey".

The Circle meets in Harmans Cross Village Hall, Haycrafts Lane, Harmans Cross at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tea/coffee/biscuits and railway orientated raffle as usual.

Everyone is welcome.

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

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Generations Work Together For Christmas



What do children from Swanage Primary School and Vena, Rosemary, Viv, Pat and Philomena from Swanage Day Care Centre have in common?

Well together, they transformed the beams of our historic Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre with their intricate handmade Christmas decorations. These were a joy to behold for all the visitors who came to the Museum before Christmas, and showed how the community's older and younger members produced such imaginative works of art for this project.

Children from years 3, 5 & 6 of Swanage Primary School made stars and hanging decorations based on mathematical shapes. The ladies at the Day Centre worked, over a number of weeks, with museum volunteers - Ruth Spencer, Robert Field, Gerry Norris and members of the Day Centre staff - and made "dodecahedrons" of coloured card decorated with stars and other Christmas shapes.

The resulting decorations were hung from the beams of the Heritage Centre and made a colourful display for the weekend openings during December. The Museum at the Heritage Centre will now be closed until Easter. It is planned to have another Family History event, this time extending over a weekend, soon after the museum re-opens.

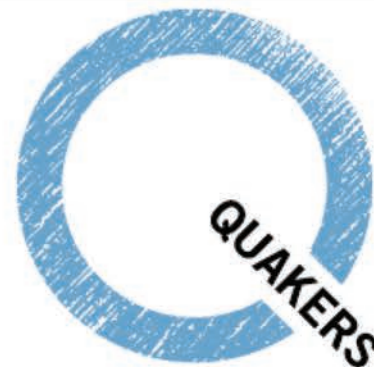


We are always in need of volunteers to man the counter and help in other ways. If you can help just get in touch!



QUAKERS IN BRITAIN

RESPONDING TO TERRORISM



The attacks in Paris on 13 November were deeply shocking and our hearts continue to go out to those killed, injured, bereaved and traumatised.

It is human nature that the closer suffering comes to us, the more acutely we feel the pain and grief. But that experience should sensitise us to the suffering caused repeatedly by acts of war and violent crime in more distant places, including Beirut, Sinai, Bamako and Aleppo. It should strengthen our determination to build a safer world together.

Terrorism is a deliberate attempt to provoke fear, hatred, division and a state of war. War – especially war with the West – is what ISIS/Daesh wants. It confirms the image they project of the West as a colonialist 'crusader' power, which acts with impunity to impose its will overseas and especially against Muslims.

The military actions of Western nations recruit more people to the cause than they kill. Every bomb dropped is a recruitment poster for ISIS, a rallying point for the young, vulnerable and alienated. And every bomb dropped on Syrian cities drives yet more people to flee and seek refuge in safer countries.

Our political leaders seem determined that Britain should look strong on the world stage. Quakers in Britain believe our country should act with wisdom and far-sighted courage. A wisdom that rises above the temptation to respond to every problem with military might. A wisdom that looks back at our failures in Libya and Iraq and Afghanistan and learns from experience. The courage – and strength – to think through the likely consequences of actions to find a long term, lasting solution.

The courageous response of ordinary people who refuse to give up their way of life and refuse to be driven by fear is one that politicians could learn from.

Although there are no quick or easy answers, there are things we can do, all of us together, which will defeat the terrorists more assuredly than military action. Quakers in Britain commit to playing our part in these actions.

We can quieten ourselves and listen to the truth from deep within us that speaks of love, mutual respect, humanity and peace. We can and will refuse to be divided. By bridge-building among faiths and within our local communities we can challenge and rise above the ideologies of hate and actively love our neighbour.

By welcoming refugees, we can not only meet the acute needs of those individuals but also undercut the narrative of those who seek to create fear and mistrust.

And we can ask our political leaders to:

- *Treat terrorist acts as crimes, not acts of war*
- *Stop arming any of the parties fighting in Syria*
- *Observe international law and apply it equally to all parties*
- *Build cooperation among nations, strengthening those international institutions which contribute to peace*
- *Export peace rather than war, so that we can create the conditions the world needs to address its most serious problems, including climate change.*

The statement concludes with this extract from a statement made by Quakers in Britain in 1943 (Quaker Faith and Practice 24.09):

"True peace cannot be dictated, it can only be built in co-operation between all peoples. None of us, no nation, no citizen, is free from some responsibility for this."

Friends of Swanage Pier

The Arts & Skills of Digital wildlife Photography 'Aotearoa'

at the Catholic Hall, Rempstone Rd, Swanage
Mon 18th January at 7.30pm. £5 per person.

Aotearoa is the Maori name for New Zealand. These islands, situated 2000k southwest of Australia are home to stunning wildlife. Because of its long isolation as an island group, many of its species occur nowhere else in the world. Penguins, Albatrosses and Dolphins feature around the coast, while the almost primeval forests hold a splendid range of species.

Come along! Everyone welcome!



National Coastwatch

Eyes along the coast

Who is Mr Average NCI?

Average is a word with many meanings and connotations. Most of them refer to a middle or median value and can be a noun, a verb, an adjective or an adverb, all depending on the context. In law, General or Particular Average refers to the loss of a ship or her cargo. In everyday terms, we see it as something that is in the centre, not extreme or even ordinary. Some people take exception to being Mr or Ms Average, others consider it an honour.



Therefore what or who is the Average NCI watch keeper, or could we even say the Ordinary NCI watch keeper. Taking mathematical averages, the watch keeper on duty at the lookout will be between 50-odd and 80-something ("ordinarily" about 64) and will have a one in five chance of being female.

Ordinarily, the majority will have played in small-ish boats, a few played in big-ish boats and a few will have only played with tiny-ish boats in the bath, occasionally standing on the end of the pier wondering what on earth all of those others were doing.

In some part of their life, the watch keeper may have been an artisan, an entrepreneur, a person in uniform (of varying cuts and colours) or someone who worked professionally on, in or under the water. They could have dealt with animals or people, looked at the shapes of buildings, formations of clouds or the shape of the land, they could have fixed your telephone or your car or even taken pictures to identify cancers!

At the end of the day, there is no such thing as the "Average" NCI watch keeper. They are as different as you and I and the same as you and I. They are people who have decided to make a commitment to attain a level of professionalism in order to spend a few (often uneventful) hours a week keeping a lookout for those who may need their help around our coastline. When these hours are not uneventful, they can be exceedingly rewarding.

So could you do it? Yes, there is training to complete, but no time limits are involved, your pace is what goes. Is there any expense? If you have a white pilot shirt/blouse and a black or navy skirt or trousers and a pair of black shoes loitering in the depths of your wardrobe, then no. If not, then I am sure there is an average cost, but I do not know what it ordinarily would be!

May I end by wishing you all success in all of your hopes and dreams in 2016 and inviting you to send any questions etc concerning the NCI or any other subject relating to the shores and seas around us to the email address below.

If I don't know the answers, we have numerous people in and around the NCI who I am sure will help me out and I will do my level best to convey the answers in a future issue. Please remember that these articles are prepared a month in advance, so please be patient.

Stay safe on whichever side of the tide line your life and leisure take you. The Swanage NCI can be contacted at the Lookout, on 01929 422596, at nci.org.uk or on VHF 65

Bob Clark, swanagenci@btinternet.com, NCI Swanage.



The future of Swanage Pier
is in the balance
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The Pier Appeal

Information is available at the Pier
Tel 01929 425806 or visit www.swanagepier.com

Work Starts On New Dorset Schools

Contractors are due to start work on two brand new schools in Dorset over the next few weeks. Damers First School in Dorchester will relocate to Poundbury in a move that will also see it expand its capacity from 450 to 600 pupils.

In Bere Regis, the primary school is moving from Rye Hill to a new site in the village at Southbrook. This follows the re-organisation of the schools system in Purbeck, which saw the school convert from a first school to a primary school.

Cllr Toni Coombs, Cabinet member for Children and Young People at Dorset County Council, said: "We have seen a significant rise in the school-age population recently. The council has a duty to make sure all children in Dorset have access to good quality education in buildings that are fit for purpose and that we are able to cope with future demand.

"The new designs for Damers and Bere Regis will provide this in an affordable way. I am pleased we can now move forward with building these two new schools for the local communities."

BAM Construction Ltd has been appointed to build the new Damers school, which will cost just under £10m. They are set to start work in the next few weeks. Building work is expected to be finished in December 2016 with pupils and staff moving to their new premises in spring 2017.

Contractor Morgan Sindall will construct the first phase of the new Bere Regis Primary school, which involves creating a new access road. This will be followed by the main school building and playing field, which should take about a year to complete and cost £5.4m.

The new school is expected to be ready for the children to move into early in 2017.

The county council has planned the building programme alongside the educational review in Purbeck, which means the replacement school can be funded from within the existing schools budget.

Bere Regis Parish Council has been instrumental in helping the county council achieve the new school within the village.

Margaret Green Awarded Cash Boost

Margaret Green Animal Rescue is celebrating the news that they have been awarded a grant of £15,240 from Support Adoption for Pets to enhance the lives of their rescue dogs.

The charity applied for the grant earlier this year and requested funds to build a secure fence around the field at their rescue and rehoming centre for dogs near Blandford. Following a visit from Support Adoption for Pets, Margaret Green Animal Rescue heard the news that they had been awarded the full amount to carry out the work.

Kate Cross from Margaret Green who applied for the grant said: "We are all thrilled. The new fence is essential for securing our exercise field at Lincoln Farm. The money will also allow us to divide the field so that we can exercise more dogs at any one time."

One of the dogs that will benefit from the new fencing is Pumpkin the terrier, who is currently waiting for his forever home.

Helen Chittock, manager at Margaret Green's Lincoln Farm branch said: "At the moment we can't let Pumpkin off-lead in the exercise paddock as he can easily escape. The hedges aren't secure and we are close to a main road."

The new fencing will make a world of difference for Pumpkin and his friends here. He will be able to enjoy time off-lead while walking with his carers which will improve his socialisation and give him a better quality of life while he is in our care."

Kate Cross added: "On behalf of all our rescued dogs we'd like to say a huge thank you to Support Adoption for Pets. Without this grant, we would not have been able to carry out this work and our rescue dogs would not be able to enjoy as much time having fun off-lead with their carers and four-legged pals."

If you would like to find out more about Margaret Green Animal Rescue's work with rescued dogs, or if you would like to make an enquiry about Pumpkin, please contact the centre on 01929 471340.



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LOCAL BUSINESS ACHIEVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Steve Wheller receiving the
award on behalf of
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Carpets Select is a local company which employs skilled, local labour, and is a member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

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

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

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

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

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Swanage Christmas Market Defies Gales!

Swanage Rotary Club in conjunction with the Commercial Road Traders held their annual Christmas Market in Swanage on 5th December, a day which was forecast to suffer with gale-force winds.

Stoic as always, the traders decided to carry on regardless, and set up their pitches in the early morning. Stalls filled Commercial Road, Mermond Place and Station Road (which was closed for the day), offering everything from delicious locally-produced food to beautiful craft items, art work and much more.

Father Christmas was in town, delighting the children who got to meet him and share their Christmas wishes with him.

Hundreds flocked to purchase items from the stallholders and to book their local produce from the Purbeck Producers for Christmas. The organisers and stall holders would like to thank everyone involved in organising, setting up and especially to the public for coming along in high winds and making the event such a success!!



Swanage Fire Station Update



Hello and welcome to this month's look at what's been happening at Swanage Fire station.

Operationally it's been quiet again which I hope is because you are all taking note of my safety messages each month. We have responded to only ten incidents - these have included:

Two property fires, Three chimney fires, One heath fire, Two false alarms, One special rescue, One unstable structure.

We have also responded to 36 medical calls in and around the town, backed up by our South West Ambulance colleagues in a paramedic car or ambulance.

I am pleased to report that our newest recruit, Firefighter Oliver Jones, has passed his basic training and is now part of the crew. Firefighters Liam Blake and Joss Gibson have both passed the casualty care and trauma management course, and last but not least, Crew managers Keith Bragg and Nick Corben have requalified as emergency response drivers.

Now that we are into the Christmas period, instead of one safety message this month I would just like to remind you all that in this time of celebration

there are many things that we need to safeguard against. These include:

- Road safety
- Check that your car is in a road worthy condition.
- Have an emergency kit available.
- Never drink and drive.

Open fires

Be careful when using open fires to keep warm. Make sure you always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.

Make sure embers are under control and properly put out before you go to bed. Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained. Cook safely. Don't leave cooking unattended and be sure to take pans off the heat. Make sure you switch off the oven or hob when you have finished cooking. Spark devices are safer than matches or lighters to light gas cookers. Keep electrical leads, tea towels, and cloths away from the oven and hob. Take care when wearing loose clothing, it can easily catch fire.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe New Year... and don't forget to test your smoke alarms!

Phil Burridge, Station Commander

Coastguard Update



HM Coastguard

Normally people ask us if we are busier in the summer than the rest of year. The answer normally is "yes" the summer is busier, however the last few months of 2015 proved to be equally as busy as the summer. November saw a boat being washed up and the team being called to the wreckage three times under Ballard, along with a call to a boat breaking its mooring by the chain ferry.

The National Maritime Operations Centre in Fareham took a 999 call reporting a person in the water off Anvil Point. Coastguard, RNLI and Dorset Police all responded but on arrival discovered it was a lobster pot marker buoy covered in seaweed.

Meanwhile the focus of the team remains on training, which probably got us spotted carrying out 'water rescues skills' near to the Mowlem recently (along with lots more rope training in the station), out on the Downs and at the Fire Station in Poole.

The team continues to be assessed in all areas of their training which saw another team member qualify in their 'Officer in Charge' role whilst conducting the ropes exercise.

Whilst writing this, Cumbria is struggling under huge floods and putting the emergency services under pressure. Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard, RNLI and Mountain Rescue teams are all working to ensure the safety of the public.

Some rescues have had to be carried out where individuals have ignored Road Closure signage and then found themselves stuck. This exact problem happened last time when Dorset was flooded and we urge readers to observe signage and avoid unnecessary rescues.

With ground conditions becoming very wet, we could be faced with landslips and at times paths have to be taped off. We urge people NOT to break the tape and put themselves and others at risk.

Whether it be floods or winter weather be aware, check the weather forecast and observe the warnings given out.

Local Specialist Personal Injury and Workplace Disease Team



By Hannah Brown, Michelle Green and Lorraine Brown

Suffering an injury that is not your fault can have a significant effect on your life both emotionally and financially.

Pursuing a personal injury claim is not just about obtaining compensation for the immediate effects of the accident.

It is also about assessing the injuries and ensuring that any longer term rehabilitation and treatment needs are met. You will also want to be able to return to the quality of life that you had before the accident as far and as soon as possible.

We are specialist personal injury and workplace disease lawyers located in Dorset and Somerset. We have specialists experienced in dealing with injuries lasting a few months to accidents which lead to catastrophic injury from which a full recovery is not expected.

We aim to resolve claims as swiftly as possible, whilst ensuring that the proper compensation is paid.

We would be pleased to meet with you at any of our offices and outreach locations

in Dorset or Somerset or to deal with your claim by telephone.

If you have a significant injury or find it difficult to leave home, we will arrange to see you at home or in hospital. We will be as accessible as possible in order to support you through your claim.

In most cases we are able to offer clients a 'no-win, no-fee' agreement. When we win we will claim legal fees from the insurer of the company or individual responsible for the injuries. If the claim is not successful, we do not charge for our legal fees.

Unlike most lawyers we do not make a deduction from our client's compensation for our own fees.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 0800 652 8411 or call into any one of our offices to make an appointment.



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New Year, New Outlook On Life!

If you are a spectacle wearer or are finding that your eyesight is deteriorating with age.. take a look at contact lenses and join the many people (around 3m in the UK) who have discovered the benefits they provide. The freedom that wearing contact lenses brings, whether for full time use or just for sports such as golf or rugby or any other physical activity can be life changing.

You may have tried them some years ago (or have known someone who did) and think they are uncomfortable, inconvenient to use and expensive. They are now extremely comfortable, and virtually all the historic reasons for not wearing contact lenses have been overcome.

Radical changes in their manufacture has made them an easier, more comfortable and affordable option for spectacle wearers of all ages, including people with special prescriptions.

Book a contact lens assessment with us at I J Brown Opticians. We will discuss your visual and lifestyle needs and then undertake an eye and contact examination to determine if your eyes are healthy and suitable for lens wear.

We will assess the size and shape of your eyes and general suitability for lenses for the purpose you want them. We will then recommend the lenses that are the best for you, your lifestyle and budget, and offer a free trial. If everything is fine we will organise your contact lens wearing plan with you.

We generally offer a pay as you go option for daily lenses or direct debit for monthly replacement lenses.

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Vision for a lifetime....



Artist's House Open Day For Charity

An award-winning artist's home in Swanage, which has been scheduled to be featured in the Sunday Times under the title 'When a House Becomes Art', will be open for public viewing during two Open Days in January to raise funds for a conservation charity.

Swanage based writer, poet, lyricist, Saatchi shortlisted artist, film maker and award winning photographer, Geoff Francis, has provided the overall vision for updating his Edwardian town-house, to which his wife and manager Jaclyn then contributed.

The five bedroom house is the place which Geoff feels has allowed him the most complete expression of himself as an artist. He is particularly fond of the Mondrian-inspired garden cloakroom. It is both quirky, functional ... and a haven for the man in the family.

So many people have said how fascinated they are by Geoff's art, his take on interior design, and by these unique Edwardian town houses, that Geoff and Jaclyn are holding an Open House on Saturday 16th January and Sunday 17th January 2016 11am-3pm in aid of the conservation charity No More Dodos.

There is a suggested minimum donation of £3 to No More Dodos to view the house and art, which includes a complimentary glass of wine.

Visitors love what Geoff has done, and spend as much time examining the art and furniture as the house. There is no such thing as a short visit! Many of the items will be for sale, with proceeds going towards No More Dodos. The house itself is also for sale.

Geoff has had a long term commitment to environmental and animal causes. In 1972 he set up and ran Friends of the Earth's first paper recycling scheme. In the 80s he founded the Animaline charity for Linda McCartney, Carla Lane and Rita Tushingham. In the 90s he helped establish Hillside Animal Sanctuary, which has gone on to become the largest in the country. Now Geoff, Harley Street psychotherapist Jaclyn, and forensic IT specialist Dr Peter Finlay have set up their own environmental charity called No



More Dodos, with the aim of raising awareness of threatened species and habitats, and encouraging people to take practical steps to help.

OPEN DAY 243 High Street, Swanage BH19 2NG

16-17th January 2016, 11am-3pm.

More details: www.artistgeofffrancis.com or 01929

421632 Charity: www.nomoredodos.org



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Out Of The Blue



Well, it is now 2016, Happy New Year!

We at Purbeck Police hope you all had a very enjoyable and safe Festive season.

Reminder - any new possessions can be marked to protect them from theft; just ask your local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT).

We would also like to encourage residents and businesses to join a local 'Watch' scheme, e.g. 'Home-watch' 'Shop-watch' 'Horse-watch' 'Pub-watch' and 'Rural-watch'.

The aim of these schemes is to empower communities to thwart crime and ASB by bringing people together, working with the Police in an organised fashion with safety in numbers - keeping an eye out for each other. Interested? - contact your NPT as below.

Our last request - as the weather turns colder PLEASE keep an eye on those around you; especially the elderly / vulnerable. If you become worried for a neighbour please let the Police know using 101 or in an emergency 999.

Hello Purbeckians,

For this month's article I have a request; if you have any elderly relatives or neighbours please pop in to see them and have a discussion around fraud. The number of different scams around is increasing and some of them are quite convincing.

They used to say that you can't cheat an honest man; unfortunately these



Partners And Communities Together

days that is no longer true and the perpetrators will play on victim's fears of crime. It isn't possible to list the different type of scams in an article this size so I would ask you to search "current UK scams" which comes up with some good results and make yourself aware.

For up to date information you can sign up for Dorset Alert via the Dorset Police website or join the Purbeck Police Facebook page, forewarned is forearmed and it could save you or someone a lot of money

Carry on.

To contact Dorset Police please call our police enquiry centre by dialling 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency when there is a risk of harm or a crime is in progress. Alternatively, call the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111 (mobile phone tariffs may apply).

Remember if you See Anything Suspicious (SAS) call 999. For the latest information on what your local police are doing follow our social media, Twitter - @PurbeckPolice and Facebook - facebook.com/Purbeck-Police, we really value your support and comments.

Purbeck Neighbourhood Policing Team

EDP Drug & Alcohol Charity Open Day

The Swanage branch of EDP Drug & Alcohol Services held a successful Open Day on 2nd December for local people and businesses to drop in to learn about the excellent work they do supporting people addressing their drug and alcohol misuse.

Swanage EDP Substance misuse support worker Rachel Wilkinson said that "...our fundamental belief through our work is that with tailored support and resources, people can and do make extraordinary changes to their lives."

The EDP charity provides a significant service in the South West of England, delivering recovery-based substance misuse services in communities and prisons via their offices throughout Devon as well as in Dorset at Blandford, Bridport, Christchurch, Ferndown, Gillingham, Weymouth, Dorchester, Wareham and Swanage for those misusing alcohol and drugs and their families.

Derek Trotter, a Funeral Director for James Smith's in Swanage personally donated a number of electrical items in 2015 to help. James Smith is part of the FC Douch Family of Funeral Directors who have seven other branches in Dorset, all of which are raising monies this Christmas via their Remembrance Christmas Trees in every individual office.

Derek also donated a Christmas tree for the Open Day and organised local actress Thelma Barlow - who played Mavis Wilton in Coronation



Street - to switch on the lights (pictured, above and below).

Derek further added that "this charity is very close to my heart, and deserves the support of local businesses in helping save and change people's lives in our local community."



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Blast From The Past!

This month, A Decade Ago...

This month we introduce the first part of what we hope will prove to be a fascinating new addition to the paper. We intend to revisit editions of our predecessor paper 'The Frome Valley & Isle of Purbeck Gazette', which many readers will remember was edited by the late Jon Sibthorpe, ably assisted by Nico.

Exactly ten years ago the packed, forty page, January 2006 edition made for some entertaining reading. Back then we printed 18,500 copies (now 20,000). One of the first surprises was to discover how many of the advertisers have remained loyal, and we take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support. Without our advertisers there would be no paper and no opportunity to print the wealth of community news and views which we continue to print in this the January 2016 edition. Turning back to January 2006 issue, we trust many of you will enjoy our brief account of the editorial delights within.

No Gazette letters section seems to be complete without the obligatory letter from Robin Brasher or a complaint about one of David Hollister's columns. Here we have Robin discussing the use of mobile phones (probably not as prevalent then as now) on trains, and another reader taking David to task for not carrying out adequate research before 'publicly expressing his personal views'. It's certainly good to know that in an uncertain world some things never change.

The hard work of the local clubs and organisations was in evidence, with both the Lions Club of Swanage and the Rotary club of Wareham giving details of funds raised and donations made. The Wareham & District Development Trust raised over £4,500 at their first ever charity auction.

In 'Community Spirit at its Best' Nico reports on the Commercial Road Christmas Fair (pictured, below). She ends the piece with news that she and Claire (of Chococo) had been asked to help with the setting up of a similar event in Corfe for December 2006 - Did anything ever come of this I wonder?



Our business of the month was the lovely Manor House Hotel, latterly reincarnated as an (albeit upmarket) farmyard animal!

The food section included a great article by our then resident columnist Martin Pook from the Weymouth Farmers Market about the importance of customer service, but I have to confess I did wonder why this section included an advert for Skinmates, Sheepskin and Leathergoods, possibly a rather tenuous food connection?

The Margaret Green animal sanctuary rescued fifteen pygmy goats from a farm owner who no longer wanted them. On arrival scans showed that at least three goats were pregnant and young Walter was born the day their report was written.



Knollsea Productions were presenting their annual family pantomime, which for 2006 was 'Babes in the Wood' with many well-known faces amongst the cast (Victoria Willshire, James Chelton, Ro Smith and Pat Jones, to name but a few).

The small sports section contained a report of Swanage

The Frome Valley & Isle of Purbeck

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Issue no. 71

January 2006 FREE

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Sea Rowing Club's successful 2005 season, with a 15-year-old Max Burridge (now an adult World Record Breaker!) apparently experiencing his first taste of rowing in the Men's A Team at Cawsand Bay near Plymouth.

A documentary film had been made of the Trafalgar Great River Race featuring four boats from Swanage. With Joe Illing, Chris Burke and Carlotta Barrow among the local professional filmmakers, and informative commentary by Nick Crutchfield and William Boyde. Available then on DVD or VHS - I wonder if this film can now be found online? - I'm sure that a number of our current readers would love to see it!

2006 was the 220th anniversary of the sinking of the Halsewell (between Windspit and Seacombe), and Nico wrote a piece on the history of the ship and the events of that fateful evening, now 230 years ago. Alongside the story we published a copy of Hubert Beavis' oil painting of the Halsewell (pictured below).



SWANAGE CARE NEWS

Agincare

Caring in Your Community

Gainsborough Care Home festive news and events

October ended with Halloween fun. Residents busied themselves - scooping out pumpkins and making spooky creations of witches, pumpkins, ghosts and ghouls within their arts & crafts activities, supported by our care workers who had just as much fun and a uniform change!



On 5th November with pumpkins illuminated, everyone enjoyed a traditional Guy Fawkes supper of jacket potatoes, beans, sausages and burgers and, despite the rain, the fireworks display went ahead with a spark and a bang on schedule. Special thanks must go to Rob, our maintenance man, for his persistence in heavy rain to ensure the lighting of the fireworks and a successful evening!



11.11.11 Two minutes silence was encouraged throughout the home to respect and remember the brave during war time.

Meet Freddie (*pictured below left*) our furry friend looking very dapper in his overcoat ready to go out into the winter weather. Freddie is a PAT dog who is now visiting the home on a monthly basis. He is invited to see all our residents whiwish to enjoy his company, including those residents who are less mobile.

As part of our Christmas programme we will be meeting some of his colleagues who, with the assistance of their trainers will be putting on a display of dancing dogs – something we are looking forward to seeing during the festive time.

Gainsborough Care Home has an extensive activities programme planned throughout December. We will be delighted to give you an insight into all the activities in the next edition.

Recruitment - We are still recruiting at Gainsborough Care Home. We require staff to join our friendly expanding team. If you are interested, please come in for an informal chat or you can also email your CV to: gainsboroughmgr@agincare.com

Volunteers - Do you have an hour or two to spare any day? We are always looking for volunteers to assist at meal times or with our afternoon activities. We are also looking for additional drivers for our residents' mini bus, and a pianist to play our piano for an hour any morning. If you can help, please contact us.

Meanwhile the management and staff at Gainsborough Care Home would all like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year!



The Leaf

By Robert Hamilton

A simple story of a leaf that crossed my path and spurred me on to write something meaningful.

Yesterday, I found a leaf. Or did I? I have this strange and eerie feeling that this leaf found me, as if it and I were meant to meet, by the strangest whim of fate or from the power and wonder of nature, to stop me in my tracks.

Yesterday it was bitterly cold. The wind factor made it feel well below freezing, even though the sky was blue and the sun was shining. This indeed was the coldest day of autumn so far.

I'd wrapped up like a dog's dinner, just to get away from the laptop and the mammoth writing course, which since signing up for two days earlier was now smirking at me, daring me to fail, before I'd even started.

With the cold starting to creep where it shouldn't, I was enjoying the view from outside my house, looking down the Solent towards Southampton and marvelling, as I often do, how the sun manages to shine only on the chalk cliffs, close to where The Needles sit proudly in the sea from the western edge of the Isle of Wight.

Lost in the marvel of this view, I was startled by a leaf. As if by magic, it fluttered down past my nose, landing at my feet.

It begged my attention, for it was perfectly formed. It was of autumn gold, as if someone had painted it especially for such a day, adding hues of red and yellow and then lightly varnishing it, just for me.

The leaf likely came from one of the many trees that separate the neighbours and me from the nature reserve behind us. But how it got to flutter down to me from an empty blue sky above one can only fathom, for there were no such trees that close to where I was standing.

So beautifully formed, this leaf must have been one of the last to fall, as if clinging on to every last second of its life before succumbing to the cold and unrelenting wind.

But this got me thinking.

This time last year it was nothing more than a few cells, as yet dormant until forming a bud, tough enough to withstand the frequent and coldest starts of the British spring.

When the milder side of spring finally came, its sticky bud would have slowly opened alongside all the others, bringing joy to us all as we finally left the woes and wonders of the winter.

On its own maybe it was insignificant, lost in the crowd and insignificant to us humans, destined to be just a leaf, doing what leaves do to keep our air and world as we know it, but then being cursed by the same humans for catching the wind and ending up in our back yard.

But this was no ordinary leaf, for given the chance, this leaf could tell a story of its own.

Its mother tree grew from quarry land, land where the famous Purbeck Stone had long been spirited away to all corners of the globe and land which still hands over this precious commodity. The land it grew on dates back nearly 200 million years, for at such a time this land was not England, or even part of the European land mass.

If the leaf could speak, it would tell us what every good mother tells her child, about family origins, ancestors and the history and culture from where family traditions are still enjoyed. Perhaps the tree did what all mothers should do, told each and every one of her 'children' how much she loved them, how precious they were to her and how, no matter what, she was there for them.

I like to think that the mother tree told a story as one would to a child, that it grew from a land that spans 185 million years of evolution and massive earth movement, creating a geometric link to the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods when dinosaurs, pterosaurs and other terrifying creatures commanded the land and the ocean and which now forms the gateway to a World Heritage site, a unique example of geometric wonders where time and erosion have laid the three prehistoric periods like a tilted layer cake.

During its short life span, this leaf likely witnessed the strange and complex ways of human behaviour, the antics of the local wild life and the joy of people walking their dogs. If it came from where I think it did, it could see beyond the Isle of Wight towards the east, beyond the Purbeck Hills to the north and way past the ancient ruins of Corfe Castle in the west.

It would have shared the very human pleasure of watching the sun rise, followed its own biological process of photosynthesis and then, had the best view of the glorious sunsets we all get to enjoy, if we are so lucky.

This leaf, in its final throes of life, still had dignity, credibility and a purpose. In the next few hours it would wilt, turn brown and become part of the ancient land that gave it life.

I wonder, if the leaf could look back on its short life, whether it felt insignificant, or whether it knew the role it had to play and the instinctive values so essential for all things living. I wonder, if it could have talked, what joy it could have brought to others and what subtle ways its own simplicity might have challenged the crazier notions of man. I'd like to think, in my fantasy, that this leaf understood its own incredible significance the second it crossed my path.

I want to be like the leaf. But I'll never be as beautiful.

ULWELL SWIMMING POOL NOTICE

The pool is closing for some remedial works from 11th January until February 2016.

Please call 01929 422823 for up-to-date information at the time.

Lifeboat Launches



Landmark occasion as future Swanage lifeboat goes afloat for the first time

The Shannon class Swanage Lifeboat has completed its structural build at BERTHON in Lymington and has undergone its first basic commissioning trials.

Station Mechanic, Dave Turnbull, went to see the boat on the momentous day that the George Thomas Lacy entered the water for the first time. Dave said "it was amazing to be one of the first people aboard our future lifeboat, she looks fantastic and we cannot wait for her to arrive on station".

The future Swanage Lifeboat was lowered to the water for the first time and underwent some commissioning trials including stability checks and starting the engines for the first time.

Over the coming weeks a series of further commissioning trials will be completed before the Swanage lifeboat is ready to be handed over to enter the RNLI fleet, around the end of 2015.

Once accepted by the RNLI the George Thomas Lacy will commence a succession of sea trials to test every aspect of the boat's capability. The Swanage crew will be undergoing training on the new lifeboat early next year, ready for the lifeboat coming on service in the spring of 2016.



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Swanage Area Senior Forum

Dramatic Swanage Weather from 1703 until the present day...

David Haysom, curator of Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre will host SASF's meeting on "Swanage Weather Past and Present" on Wednesday 13 January at the Emmanuel Baptist Church Centre in Victoria Avenue at 7pm.

You may remember our packed meeting when David presented "Postcards from Swanage" which so evocatively illustrated Swanage in wartime.

David says: "This is not a technical talk, but a photographic record of Swanage weather past and present. It starts with the 'Great Storm of 1703' which was the worst to affect southern counties of England until the storm in 1987, which is also featured.

"The presentation also covers weather events affecting Swanage in the 19th and 20th centuries. It will feature the 1824 hurricane and storm surge, the great blizzard of 1881, the huge snowstorm of 1908, the waterspout seen in Swanage Bay in August 1939, and the bad winters of 1947 and 1963."

"It goes on to show the tremendous floods in 1914, 1935 and more recently in 1981 and 1990, all of which will be graphically illustrated."

David will finally move on to concentrate on Swanage weather over the last few years and the damage caused by rough seas and high winds. He will explain the effects it has had on local community events.

Do join us!

We will be serving tea, coffee and goodies from 6.30pm and there is plenty of space to park.

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A BRAND NEW YEAR – WHAT WILL IT BRING?

Christmas is behind us and a brand new year is on its way. Who knows what it will bring? One certainty is that none of us will be getting younger.

I don't mean to depress you but to some people this is a real problem especially if they are suffering from a chronic illness or the beginning of dementia. And then, if something in the home is giving a problem this can bring great anxiety and even lead to depression.

This is where our Good Neighbours can really help out. By calling in, fixing the problem while at the same time having a cheerful chat can really make a tremendous difference to someone living alone.

We usually do only one off tasks but if we are worried about anyone we visit we can refer them onto relevant agencies for support and help.

Dementia Awareness Sessions

We would like to invite you to one of our free sessions run by our Dementia Friends Champions.

We are currently running one hour Dementia Awareness Sessions to the local community. They give an insight into the problems that people with short term memory loss encounter within the community and how everyone can help.

If you would like to start the New Year and do something positive for your community by either volunteering or joining a Dementia Awareness session do give us a call and we can give you more information.

We can visit clubs and groups as well as local businesses for the free sessions.

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Herbie in autumn woods, by Carlotta Barrow



Remembrance Parade in Wareham by Sue Booth



Creech Grange by Denise Exon



Wasp Spider, by Barbara Thomas



Swanage Town Crier at Folk fest, by Anne Elford



Autumn walk at Arne by Anne Elford



Beautiful Dorset Dragonfly by Karen Smith

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New Year, New Start

I have always been a big fan of Christmas and particularly enjoy the run up to it in December and with 7 little nieces and nephews, it is a very exciting and busy time.

However, I do also like the fresh start that the New Year offers. Like most people I make a resolution or two that are very idealistic and are usually broken within the first few days, but it is genuinely good to start the year with renewed enthusiasm and to get back into routine.

The New Year offers a good opportunity to get up-to-date with paperwork and I feel that it is a good time to review things. I would, therefore, urge you to look at your financial situation. This may involve a review with your investment manager, financial advisor, solicitor and/or accountant.

I would, therefore, suggest that you consider doing the following:

Look at your day-to-day expenditure and look into any savings that can be sensibly made on bills etc.

Get all your filing up-to-date and make sure your paperwork is all in order.

Make sure your Will is up-to-date and if you have not made one at all, make it a priority to see a professional to draw up a Will for you.

Calculate your full financial position and think about whether your finances and investments are doing what you need them to do to fulfil your short term and long term plans e.g., income or capital growth or a balanced return.

Think about whether you need any professional help with your finances on an ongoing basis. You may find that although you end up paying for help, the monies spent should be more than recouped by more productive and efficient management of your finances.

It pays to set aside a little bit of time to quietly sort and review things. I now need to 'practise what I preach'!

With every good wish for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.

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

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Dividend Allowance

The government announced at the summer 2015 Budget, that a new dividend allowance of £5,000 will be introduced from 6 April 2016. Broadly, from that date, it is expected that the existing dividend tax credit will be abolished, a new annual dividend tax allowance of £5,000 will be introduced, and the rates of tax on dividend income will change. The legislation introducing the dividend tax changes has not yet been published and the rules outlined below are therefore still subject to possible change.

From April 2016, the 10% non-refundable dividend tax credit that currently attaches to dividends will be abolished, the dividend tax allowance will take effect, and the rates of tax on dividend income exceeding that allowance will be 7.5% for basic rate taxpayers, 32.5% for higher rate taxpayers and 38.1% for additional rate taxpayers. The dividend allowance will be available to anyone who has dividend income. However, it has been designed in such a way that those with significant dividend income will pay more tax than those with smaller amounts.

The new rates of dividend tax will apply only to the amount of dividends received in excess of £5,000 (excluding any dividend income paid within an individual savings account (ISA)). It is important to note that the dividend allowance will not reduce total income for tax purposes, and dividends within the allowance will still count towards the basic or higher rate tax bands.

This means that the dividend allowance is effectively treated as a zero rate of tax on the first £5,000 of dividends. This differs from other tax allowances (for example, the personal allowance) which are deducted from taxable income.

Dividends received by pension funds that are currently exempt from tax, and dividends received on shares held in an ISA, will continue to be tax free. To align with our company name we are now using the MKLA domain name for emails.

All email addresses are the same as before except they are now @mkla.co.uk rather than @mklp.co.uk

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Superfast Broadband

Multi million pound partnership is more than 75 per cent towards its goal of reaching 90,000 homes and businesses by end of 2017. A tiny Dorset village with a special place in British history is leading the superfast fibre broadband revolution.

Tolpuddle is one of the first communities in the county to use a new type of all-in-one fibre broadband cabinet.

Meanwhile, the Superfast Dorset partnership has now made fibre broadband available to almost 70,000 Dorset households and businesses – over three quarters of the way towards achieving its goal of reaching 90,000 Dorset premises by the end of 2017.

The number of households and businesses in the county which can get faster, more reliable broadband as a result of the project is growing every week.

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Trading Standards

Know your consumer rights!



Have you heard about Buy With Confidence? It is a national scheme of traders approved by Trading Standards which was set up in response to concerns about rogue traders which are often highlighted in the media.

The businesses are vetted and approved by professionally qualified Trading Standards Officers who will have been and visited the applicant to ensure compliance with the law and help ensure you will receive a quality service.

Continual monitoring is undertaken to ensure the integrity of the scheme. The business will have to pass tailored background checks which include each applicant being checked against the national Trading Standards complaints system. The scheme provides consumers with a list of local businesses which have given their commitment to operate in a legal honest and fair way.

Whilst we cannot promise that a Buy With Confidence member's work will be perfect every time, you can however expect any problems to be dealt with fairly by the business and Trading Standards can offer to assist and help resolve any issues.

Dorset County Council Trading Standards Service check and approve businesses so you don't have to.

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Dorset County Council

Park Home Event

Organisations offered advice and information to over 100 Purbeck Park Home residents at a recent event in Wareham Town Hall.

There was planning and licensing guidance; information about insulation grants; and advice from the Leasehold Advisory Service; Age UK; Wessex Energy Advice; and the Dorset Accessible Homes Service (Handy Van and adaptations for disabled people). With 10 licensed mobile home parks in Purbeck and in excess of 300 residential homes, Purbeck

District Council, which organised the event, recognised the need to gather experts together from a range of services.

Councillor Mike Lovell, Housing Spokesperson for Purbeck District Council, said: "This was a hugely successful event. Attendees told us they found it very informative and having a range of different organisations in one place made it much easier for them to access guidance."

District Council officers were also able to tell attendees about the council's recently-launched home insulation grants for park home owners on low incomes.

Find out more about Park Homes in Purbeck and insulation grants by telephoning the council on 01929 556561.

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Resolve your legal matters with Battens Solicitors



Showing resolve in January

By Natalie Mason, Associate Solicitor in the Private Client Department of Battens Solicitors

If one of your New Year resolutions is to take a fresh look at finances and legal affairs, our advice is to 'keep it simple'.

In these turbulent times, with pension reforms and changing tax rules, it has never been so important to plan ahead and keep matters under review.

An expert advisor can provide the best professional advice for you and your loved ones.

Among the measures to consider is a new additional inheritance tax allowance for married couples who own their own house and wish to leave it to their children or grandchildren.

Coming into force in April 2017, it is a fiendishly complicated allowance to work out but one way to help your Executors is to make sure your Will is up to date and that you have good record keeping.

In particular, Executors will need to know the sale proceeds and the whereabouts of any properties you may have sold during your lifetime. Make sure you also keep details of your spouse's estate if they have died before you, so that your Executors can claim an inheritance tax 'transferable nil rate band' if necessary.

There is a place for 'trusts' in some Wills, depending on what assets you own and the circumstances of your beneficiaries. However, for tax purposes, it usually makes sense to have a straightforward Will drawn up by a professional.

Deeds of Variation are a useful mechanism for retrospectively amending a person's Will for tax, or indeed other purposes. So if you have been lucky enough to inherit some money but wish to pass this onto your children, a Deed of Variation is the most tax effective way to do this.

Coming up to the end of the tax year in April, you should also be aware of the inheritance tax gift rules which allow you to give away up to £3,000 tax free as well as £250 to as many people as you like with no inheritance tax consequences. In addition there is the useful, but under used, 'gifts out of excess income' inheritance tax allowance.

You should also make sure you have up to date Lasting Powers of Attorney in place so that should you have an accident or become ill, someone else you trust can step in to deal with any financial, medical or welfare decisions.

So keep things simple and up to date for the benefit of you and your loved ones, and make sure you take expert professional advice to take advantage of all the complicated tax benefits that are available.

Should you require advice please contact Natalie Mason on 01929 768720 or email natalie.mason@battens.co.uk Battens will be available every Monday from 10am-1pm for face-to-face appointments at Wareham Library. For more information or to book call 01929 768720





Dear Readers, January is upon us - the bleakest month on the calendar. Instead of staying indoors and huddling by the fire, we ask you instead to get out and about this month in an attempt to 'Banish those Winter Blues'! Pop out with friends and family for a nice meal - several eateries have great offers during January!

Want to get fit? Check out the offers from Purbeck Sports Centre and give it a shot! Time for a new look? How about trying out a new hairstyle or colour? Seek out a new outfit or a lovely, warm, winter woolly to wrap yourself up in! Spare a thought for your energy provision next winter and consider some greener options, or decide to get a woodburner fitted. For those with time to fill, there's some crafty ideas from Burngate and Stewarts to keep you busy! Have a great January!!

A Boost for the Young of Wareham

The Harbin & Pitt Trust.

A local Trust, combining the wills of a Mr Harbin and Mr Pitt, has been in existence since 1693. It was originally large enough to award scholarships and apprenticeships to youngsters in the Parish of Wareham, but money goes nowhere near as far these days.

However, the Harbin & Pitt Trust still helps where it can, paying for those up to the age of 18 who need it, money towards courses, equipment and travel to (for instance) job or university interviews.

The aim is to give them a better start in life, with funds which are not available from other sources. It has also, in the past, provided equipment to schools in Wareham, but the emphasis is now mainly geared to individuals, because this is seen to give a greater benefit.

Examples of recent awards are:

a. In conjunction with the Rona Sailing Project, providing a week's sail training for young people who need the demands of being part of a team, pulling their weight and responding to the disciplines of the team. They need to know how to stand on their own feet and prove to themselves that they have some self-worth. They not only learn how to sail, but must cook and clean - finding out what it is like to do so in bad weather and

a rolling vessel. The feedback from the participants has been glowing; the week's achieved the aim.

b. Provision of therapy with horses, and getting the animals to respond to demands without the need for vocal commands; in other words being able quietly to impose one's personality on one's contacts.

c. Funding towards a much needed, but otherwise unaffordable computer.

d. Paying for courses which are outside the scope of general education, but which give qualifications.

The Trustees are ready to consider requests from any child who qualifies, but also need funds to enable it to do so. Its bank balance is improved by gifts from people and organisations who sympathise with its aims, but cannot rely on interest from its modest investments.

This, therefore, is a request for more financial support, so that the ghosts of Messrs Harbin and Pitt can be happy that Wareham continues to look after its young.

Contributions should be sent to The Secretary, Harbin & Pitt Trust, 12 Wyatts Lane, Wareham, BH20 4NH.



JANUARY OFFERS AT CLAVELL'S

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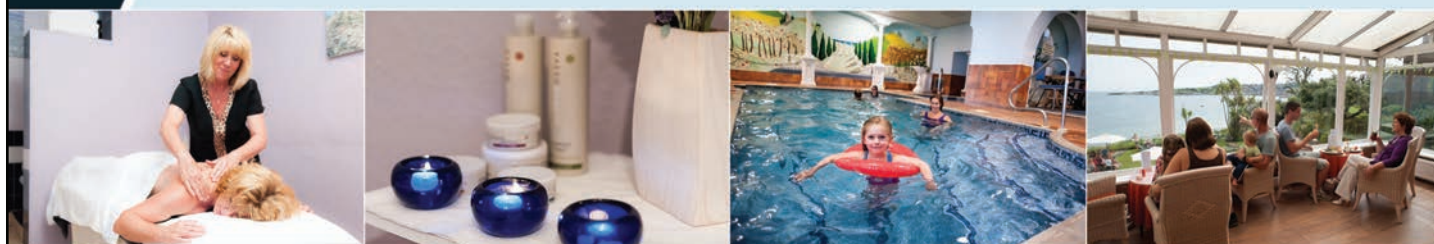
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Goats Cheese Soufflé finished with a toasted walnut and apple salad.

Smoked Salmon, cream cheese and dill roll served with a lemon and smoked paprika dressing, garnished with mixed leaves.

Pan Fried Scallops and Smoked Pancetta, served on rocket leaves garnished with chilli oil and balsamic glaze.

Crab and Seafood Thermidor.

Chicken Liver Pate served with pear and date chutney, olives and warm breads.

Traditional French Onion Soup served with cheese crouton.

MAIN COURSES

Sword Fish Steak served with a Mediterranean tomato sauce, Pilau rice and shallot crisps.

King Prawn and Salmon Linguini.

Cod Loin served on a garlic and spinach mash, with a white wine and cream sauce and a side of seasonal vegetables.

Venison served on roasted root vegetables finished with a rich red wine jus.

Duo of Dorset Lamb, Two Lamb Cutlets and Mini Shepherds Pie, mustard and cream mash, and a side of seasonal vegetables with a rosemary and sweet red currant gravy.

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Celebrating **10 YEARS IN WAREHAM!**

**PHILIP MILLS Hair Design's 10 year anniversary
will be on February 4th 2016.**

Philip, Lyn and the team would like to celebrate by offering a draw to enter. For every two products bought, you will receive a raffle ticket which will give you a chance to win one of 10 Wash, Cut and Blow dries.

This offer will be on until the raffle is drawn on the 4th of February.

At Philip Mills our top priority is education. Our team regularly go on courses to London studios to keep up with the very latest fashions and techniques.

We also have in-salon training nights every Thursday from 4pm - 7pm.

If you want a great haircut or colour on training night, book in now as cuts are only £10 and colour are from £15, and training is fully supervised.

We train our team to work with face shape, skin tone and eye colouring, which gives a greater understanding in designing hair for the individual. This enables us to practise new techniques and keep our team focused on providing an excellent service.

Madeline will start to take appointments from January and will be offering a **15% discount** on all wash, cut and blowdries in January as an introductory offer.

So, from January, we can offer a 'three tier price list' to suit all clients.

All clients that would like colour will be required to have a skin test and some will also require a strand test.

**Philip, Lyn and the staff would like to wish all their clients a
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check out our website for details and don't forget our FREE 'pins and needle' session every Friday 2pm to 4pm, bring whatever you are working on, sewing, knitting or crochet and Jean will give you her expert advice and encouragement free of charge and she makes a very good cup of tea! So along with our fast and professional alteration service, our three large

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If Sharon is not in the showroom, she will be in the Bookshop opp Budgens (not Thursdays).

Please note: For obvious reasons we do not install or service stoves purchased elsewhere.

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dorsetforyou.com/purbecksportscentre 01929 500 000

Happy New Year! Get fit for 2016

Many of us are now thinking about our New Year's resolutions and getting fit is often top of the list. Maybe you'd like to join a gym but are put off by the thought of a 12-month contract.

Well, Purbeck Sports Centre's range of membership options means that's one hurdle you don't need to face!

All of the Sports Centre's Gold Card membership packages have no cancellation period, so you won't be tied to the usual contract. You will also get more than just a gym.

With swimming (general public sessions); sauna; exercise classes; half price Pilates and Yoga courses; regular fitness programme updates; free use of the Power Plate; discounted golf; free crèche when using the gym or going to classes; and discounted personal training sessions, you are guaranteed to keep active.

The Purbeck Functional Training Zone – something new!

The Sports Centre's fantastic Functional Training Zone maximises workouts and delivers fast results! It's great for weight loss, body conditioning and rehabilitation as it conditions the body for the activities we all do in our daily lives, such as carrying groceries or playing a game of football with the children.

The Zone is situated in the Sports Centre's gym so you will have an expert team to guide you all the way.

Three Functional Training classes are available:

PFT HIIT - High intensity interval training boosts metabolism and burns calories for up to 48 hours!

PFT Core - Show your core who's the boss!

PFT Power - Building muscle, strength and power!

Intrigued? See the full timetable at www.dorsetforyou.com/purbeck-sports-centre/gym and contact the Sports Centre to find out more!



Food

The Gourmet Peddler



Italian Job Cod



*The
Bikemonger
Cooks....*

People ask me "Where do you get the ideas for your recipes?" Well, I take inspiration from many places, particularly from restaurants and back street vendors. I have been known to "liberate" recipes from these places: I study the menu, photograph the menu for future reference, make my choice, eat it, enjoy it and then have a think about how I would take that idea and make it a bit better.

So, this is one of those "liberated recipes".

I was due to race the Single Speed World Mountain Bike Champs in the Italian Alps. All my travelling buddies had pulled out, leaving me and a 2.8L V6 car that does a crippling 25mpg. This was going to be a very expensive trip! So I needed another form of transport. What is the coolest vehicle for travelling from Germany in to Switzerland? What would Steve McQueen do?

The wife and kids were away, so I asked the rest of the family if it was ok if I blew all our savings on a Triumph Bonneville motorcycle: they both agreed, with a firm and approving "woof woof", like good dogs do.

A week later I was wearing leathers, covered in dead flies and being waved into Switzerland (no barbed wire fences to jump nowadays). Later that day I had blasted round hundreds of hairpins, charged through countless tunnels, and crossed over the Alps following the route used in the "The Italian Job" movie.

I found myself exhausted outside a small restaurant somewhere in Italy. I could barely walk, too tired to talk (not that I speak Italian), too tired even for Michael Caine impersonations, however a polite request to "please feed me" resulted in something a bit like this recipe.

What you need:

Chunky bit of cod, about 10x6x6cm. Any other chunky fish will do. You can use thinner fish and roll it up, but the large flakes of cod look and feel great in the mouth.

Pancetta: it's a groovy Italian style bacon.

Sweet red pepper: the long thin ones

Tomatoes

Garlic, crushed.

Olive oil

A dash of water

Potato masher

A small oven dish

What to do:

Preheat the oven to 180c

Wrap the cod in pancetta. I find the simplest way of doing this is to lay down the pancetta in a cross shape, pop the chunk of fish in the middle, and wrap it up just like a Christmas present.

Chop the pepper, garlic and tomatoes. Pop them in the bottom of the dish with a slug of olive oil. Other ingredients such as anchovies or chilli work well with the pepper and tomato – it's your call.

Place the cod parcel on top of the peppers etc.

180c, middle of oven for ten minutes.

At this point the peppers should start to singe. Sling in 1/3 cup of water, and it will mix with the pepper mix and start to form a sauce.

Also at this point, flip the cod parcel over to get an even crispy outer, and to avoid the dreaded soggy bottom.

Now give it another 10 minutes.

Remove the cod.

Use a potato masher to mash the peppers etc into a nice chunky sauce.

Serve with green beans. I found that new potatoes squished (not mashed) with capers and good butter is an excellent side dish.

Electric Bikes are here..



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Charlie The Bikemonger

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The Purbeck Producers



Kath Best Church Farm Best's Lamb

With Christmas now over, this brings to an end an interesting year, which saw me enter my first sheep showing classes at The Dorset County show and actually coming home with a prize for my Devon and Cornwall Longwool ewe lamb.

It was a great experience and one

I hope to repeat this year. The long wools are a rare breed we only have a few.

With The New Year beginning, we start looking towards preparation for March lambing. Our main flock of Poll Dorset ewes are scanned this month to see how many lambs they are carrying, they are then split into groups accordingly.

The ewes having singles stay away on grass and keep until later on, nearer lambing, but the ewes having twins or triplets come home to be fed grass, haylage and some concentrates. Last year's lambs have nearly all been sold, only a few late born lambs and Hebridean cross lambs remain, they are later maturing lambs. These will now be fed some extra hay, until they are ready for market.

We have now started to sell our own lamb skin rugs as well as our lamb and mutton sausages and burgers. Happy New Year to all our customers old and new – we look forward to seeing you at our February market.



Farm Cottage Kitchen

The Christmas Market is the last big event for Purbeck Producers in 2015 and this year was a cracker, despite worries about Hurricane Desmond and its potential impact on the day. The Rotary Club are practised hands at organising such events and certainly a minor event such as a hurricane was not going to spoil the fun. Swanage residents turned out in huge numbers as did folk from further afield.

The Christmas Market is a marvellous opportunity for members of Purbeck Producers to showcase their wares. There was a brisk trade through the day and the breadth of local produce including wreaths, garlands, foodie gifts, speciality German cakes, pork, lamb, venison and of course turkeys to order was evident under the gaily decorated Purbeck Producers gazebos.

As usual Christmas puddings have been a best seller for Farm Cottage Kitchen and this year, responding to customer demand, a gluten-free version was introduced containing all the delights of a rich fruity and boozy pudding but with accredited gluten free ingredients but not stinting on the brandy and cider. Christmas cakes, stollen and frangipanes have proven to be equally in demand this year for people who enjoy the delights of handmade Christmas fare produced locally in the Isle of Purbeck.

As the general public is becoming more aware of the health benefits of venison, venison pies too have become more popular. Locally-sourced venison in a rich red wine gravy and topped with an all butter puff pastry makes a great supper dish for either one or two people, with larger versions available to order.

A wide range of Farm Cottage products are available at Wilkswood and of course at your local Purbeck Producers market, held on the second Saturday of the month. It truly is as much my pleasure to cook as I hope it is yours to eat. Happy New Year! Maggie Sutton



Godlingston Manor Kitchen Garden

As I'm writing this it's rather squelchy underfoot..... We've had such a mild autumn, the garlic and shallots are pushing ahead, the rhubarb crowns adored the soggy weeks and are peeping out from underneath their straw hats.

I'm looking forward to a whole new year of exciting and tasty things to grow! For me the rotational planning is always a very enjoyable part of getting things started.

As always, I've got too many different goodies I want to grow and I will try and take more of my own advice. This year I will put extra emphasis into cultivating the spinaches, chards, oriental leaves, endives, chicories, lettuces and brassicas.

However, my lovely customers were also asking for more varieties of beans, mange tout and the like, which I will take on board.

The different herbs were really doing well this last season and I shall continue with all manner of fragrant Basils, Thyme, Parsley, Mints, Summer Savoury, Lovage, Fennel and the like. Summer Squashes and colourful Courgettes had a slow start but then just kept on giving! I will be sowing even more this year, as the courgette flowers for stuffing and eating raw in salads were very much in demand.

Talking about flowers..... as every year, I will be adding more annual and perennial flowers for pollinating insects and of course, for the sheer joy they bring to all. Pumpkins and winter Squashes will of course be happening again, ornamental and tasty as always.

This is just a snapshot of what is growing at the Kitchen Garden - if you want to know more please contact me on 07758013230 or by e-mail : regula@talktalk.net



PJ & PF Samways

I'm Phil Samways, a farmer born and bred in Langton Matravers. Together with my wife, Pauline, we produce the pigs that I sell at the Purbeck Products market, as well as supplying local shops, pubs, restaurants and camp sites with all their pork needs, including sausages, bacon, burgers, ham, gammon, faggots as well as pork joints.

We have a small herd of large white sows which is a traditional British breed with a little more fat cover than other modern breeds, which we find adds to the flavour.

The sows farrow twice a year, the piglets stay with their mum for eight weeks to ensure they get a good start in life, then

they are reared in loose housed yards with natural ventilation and day light.

They stay in their small family groups until finished, therefore there is far less stress on the animal. I transport them myself to a small family-run abattoir in Sherborne, where they are handled quietly with as little stress as possible, then they go on to Curtis Butchers in Wareham for the butchery.

We are passionate in what we produce, that is local, good quality, high welfare meat at affordable prices.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Purbeck Products market! Phil and Pauline Samways.

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Food Hygiene Milestone



The National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, which has been a great success in Purbeck, is celebrating its fifth birthday. Since the launch of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in 2010, shoppers and diners have been able

to see how seriously local food businesses take food safety.

Currently, 563 premises, including restaurants, takeaways, hotels, B&Bs and food retailers, in Purbeck are part of the scheme and have been given a rating. 383 of the premises have achieved the top rating of 5 (Very Good) – that is 68% of the district's rated businesses. 134 of the premises have scored 4 (Good) and 30 of the premises have scored 3 (Generally Satisfactory).

That means 97% (547) of the rated businesses in Purbeck are rated 3 or above. Nationally, around 93% of food businesses are rated a 3 or better.

Councillor Cherry Brooks, Economy and Infrastructure Spokesperson for Purbeck District Council, said: "Purbeck District Council is proud to be part of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and these figures show the district's food businesses take food safety seriously. More and more customers are making an informed choice by voting with their feet, so we are encouraging all businesses in the district to display their rating. Food businesses work hard to achieve a good rating and it's something to be proud of."

Make sure you look out for the green and black sticker, check the Food Standards Agency website at www.food.gov.uk/ratings or ask a member of staff for the food hygiene rating when eating out.

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They All Laughed!

by David Hollister

They all laughed at Christopher Columbus, when he said the word was round. They all laughed when Edison discovered sound.....

So wrote Gershwin for the 1937 film ‘Shall We Dance’. They all laughed – well a good few people did – when I said I was going to Derby in a Skoda for our annual visiting-friends-and-relatives jaunt.

Even after all these years, the word ‘Skoda’ brings out the worst in people, even though it’s been owned by Volkswagen since 1994 – and it’s only very recently that the word ‘Volkswagen’ has taken on a whole new bunch of prejudices of its own! So we rocked up at Westover Skoda maybe wondering what we’d gotten ourselves into, and collected a pretty little Fabia SE 1.2 TSI 90PS – in other words, a pleasant looking little 5-door family hatchback, full of fuel, sparkling in the sunlight, and ready to go. On-the-road price £13,450, but there’s usually a good deal to be done at Westover.



Sharp lines and strong curves are a defining feature of the Fabia, with body-coloured door mirrors incorporating the side indicators. This model came with LED daytime running lights and attractive 15” Mato alloys; a ‘squirty kit’ as spare, but a temporary spare wheel is an optional extra if – like me – you don’t trust DIY puncture repairs!

Considering the size of the car, it’s surprisingly spacious inside; I particularly liked the fact that not only was the driver’s seat height-adjustable but so was the passenger seat, a real bonus as my lovely but tiny wife didn’t have to keep asking me ‘are we there yet?’ Well, actually, she knew where we were because the Sat-Nav (optional extra), built in to the ‘Bolero’ radio infotainment system, was easy to use and even easier to read. Plenty of useful storage including – unusually – a glove compartment that took a 1-litre bottle!

The rear seats folded down increasing the load space from 330 litres to 1150 litres, and that’s a lot of shopping! Other little useful features included a 2-position luggage compartment shelf, never seen one of those before.

Instrumentation was good; it’s called a ‘Maxi-DOT’ display and includes a driver fatigue sensor and a ‘front assistant’ which, using a radar in the front bumper, initiates an audio-visual warning of an impending collision, and also initiates braking to minimise any possible impact. And actually, really works! Of course, I also have an audio-visual accident warning in all my cars, it’s called a ‘Tina’..... and I still don’t see the point of a ‘speed limiter’ in any car; speed should be limited by the driver’s right foot and nothing else.

I was disappointed that the 3-spoke steering wheel lacked the usual multi-functional controls, but this was a 2015 model; Westover have assured me that Skoda has listened to criticism on this point and that 2016 SE models – like you’re going to buy – will have steering wheel-based audio and phone controls. The Bolero system comes with six speakers, telephone controls, a USB port, and much more. It takes a bit of getting the hang of but once you’re familiar with it, works fine.

The onboard computer has a number of functions, including a ‘miles to empty’ feature which I really liked, also a sharp and clear digital speedometer readout between the two analog dials.

So off we went; as usual everything was set to ‘avoid motorways’ and so it was the ‘pretty way’ once again, takes longer but much less stressful. And I have to say that on arrival – both journeys there and back – I still felt as

fresh as a daisy. Air-con and climate controls worked fine and provided a good atmosphere to travel in. It’s a pleasure to drive inasmuch as you don’t actually notice driving it; minimal effort, minimal engine noise and hardly any road noise; after fifty miles I felt like I’d been driving it all my life, like putting on an old favourite pair of 501s. Which allowed me to concentrate on and to enjoy the company and the lovely sunny countryside, even despite Ken Bruce and Jeremy Vine.....

We covered 500 miles and used 45 litres of fuel, that’s 50.5 mpg as against the published 61.4 mpg, that’s 82%, one of the best yet. And we all know that ‘claimed mpg’ figures are all fake no matter what car you buy. So actually, whole trip cost only £48.60 which I reckon is damned good value.

Derby has changed inasmuch as every year, more and more streets become ‘one way’ and – as here in Dorset – the road signs and road markings become less and less legible with age. To the point where on one of two large roundabouts (and I really mean huge) which I have previously navigated without problems, I ended up going the wrong way, pushed into wrong lanes by impatient men in 4 x 4s, and ending up somewhere else. Actually, it was only the town centre driving that I didn’t enjoy and that wasn’t the fault of the Skoda; next time we go, I’m going to leave the car in the hotel car park and go shopping using one of the cheap and efficient taxis with which Derby is blessed.

Technical stuff – 89 bhp. Max speed 115, 0-62 in 11 seconds, but you’re not buying this car for ‘whoomph’, you’re buying it for economy and practicality. 107 CO2s and a BIK rate 16%.

The Fabia has earned the ‘What Car’ Car Of The Year award for 2015 and thoroughly deserves it

“Comparisons are odious” said Evelyn Waugh in “a Handful of Dust”, but I can’t help comparing this 1.2 90PS 5-door hatch with the Mazda 2 1.2 90PS 5-door hatch which I ran from 2013 to 2015 and which cost me within a few pounds of the Skoda.

In so many ways, the Skoda wins; quieter, much better fuel consumption, great space, maybe a little more pleasing on the eye and yes, my New 1.5 Mazda 2 is better equipped, got a bit more whoomph, and also turns in 50 mpg, but it was about £4000 more expensive.

So to close with more words from George Gershwin – “Ha ha ha, who’s got the last laugh now”.....

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There is also an option for a practical refresher drive at a later date. This 90-minute one-to-one practical driving session takes place on local roads and includes town and country driving. This aims to improve defensive driving techniques, hazard awareness and better road positioning, as well as providing tips that can help reduce fuel consumption and vehicle wear and tear. Bookings are being taken for courses across the county for the New Year.

For further information and to book a place on the theory discussion session please go to: www.dorsetforyou.com/roadsafety/gold or call the road safety team on 01305 221031

Westover Give £3440



Mike Boyd, Westover Group Director, has presented Chrissie Wathen-Neal from Macmillan Cancer Support with a cheque for £3,440.00. The money was raised at coffee mornings and cake sales held at each of Westover's 24 showrooms across Dorset and Wiltshire as part of Macmillan's annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning event.

The Westover teams across the region rallied together to support Macmillan, serving nearly 500 drinks to showroom visitors. Thanks to a tempting array of freshly baked cakes as well as piping hot teas and coffees, the showrooms delivered another stunning fundraising total. The Group has raised nearly £14,000 for Macmillan in the last three years.

"We were delighted to throw open our doors and support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning again this year," says Mike Boyd. "Both our teams and our customers are always eager to get behind Macmillan and everyone here is more than happy to bake or eat some cakes and have a cuppa in the name of a good cause!"

Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer. To find out more, visit www.macmillan.org.uk.

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Natural Matters

The Megalopolis (You may know it as Dorchester)

by John Garner



Sometimes one has to break out of the sleepy rurality of Purbeck and head to the dazzling, bright lights of the Metropolis.

Now Dorchester is not quite everyone's definition of the Fritz Lang dystopia of robots and mechanisation that so terrified the cinema going public all those years ago, but at this time of year it can seem like a world apart from the somnambulant rolling verdant corrugations of rural Dorset.

Dorchester, whilst inhabited by scruffs and ragamuffins prior to the invasion, was properly founded and developed by the Romans.

The Romans invaded Britain in 43AD and began to settle in Dunrovia in about 60AD. It seems to have been a fort

town and much of it was wooden built although stone buildings started to appear in the 2nd century and walls erected in the 4th century, mainly in preparation for those beastly Saxon hordes that were soon to start their own empire building feats.

They brought water into the town in aqueducts for their baths and developed the amphitheatre at Badbury Rings to watch their sports, which definitely included cock fighting and may even have entertained gladiatorial contests.

Of late Dorchester has undergone something of a regeneration, but it may still have some way to go before it reaches Roman levels of sophistication. Yes we have electricity and all the benefits of modern life, but the Romans brought us community living like no-one before or since.

All quite civilized, one is led to believe. All the more remarkable given that the original Rome founded by Romulus and Remus (mainly Romulus to be fair, especially after he had bumped his own brother off if legend is to be believed) was a small gathering of just about anybody they could find to populate the place.

History tells us that Rome attracted some of the most unsavoury characters of the time. Whilst many male reprobates were quite happy to be given a new chance in life, early Rome was not so appealing to women and mythology has it that the incumbents invited a load of people from neighbouring districts to a festival and then nicked their women so that they could start to people their newfound state with real Romans.

Two things are noteworthy to me about the Romans. Firstly that they were able to develop from a shaky start into one of the most 'civilised' and most powerful empires in history. And secondly, why, when they had developed a country that was in dire need of cultural development, did the Britons and the rest of Europe seem to go back to living in pongy huts with their animals for company and their steaming piles of manure to keep them warm?

A simplistic summary I'm sure, but those times weren't called the dark ages for nothing.

Life in Roman Britain may not have been perfect but it seems most people would have been better off generally than they were even 1500 years later. Certainly better than huddling round an insect-ridden mound of animal faeces. Unless you were poor in which case it probably made little difference.

You probably ended up as a slave to a rich bloke, but the Romans even

seemed to treat their slaves quite well and some would earn their freedom if they had a particularly benevolent master.

If you were rich then things became positively luxurious. Underfloor heating from furnaces would waft up through gaps in the walls and out through flues in the roof if you were wealthy enough to have a slave or to keep the furnace burning and to have a villa in the first place. Toasty and necessary if you lived in wet and windy Dorset.

Hot water, education and wine were all commonplace in the wealthy Roman households. In some parts of Dorset, people were lucky to have all three of these right up into the 1960s.

Still, the appeal of this basic living is all in the marketing. A friend of mine recently spent a week in a shepherd's hut in the Lake District. No electricity. No heating aside from a log fire (you chopped your own logs) and a long drop convenience, inconveniently placed a few hundred yards down a slope from the house. And the company running the 'holiday' managed to scoop £500 out of his bank account for the privilege (or lack of privileges). And re-use your compost to spread on the vegetable garden. And make some of it into fuel for the fire....

Our return to such living conditions after the Romans left was not a marketing ploy, however. It seems more an act of rank stupidity. Dunrovia seems to have been ignored after the Romans left for the best part of a thousand years which seems strange, but was a scenario repeated all over Europe

It was either the ultimate 'cutting off your nose to spite your face' move or just a very poor collective decision. Maybe they just couldn't keep up the maintenance. Maybe someone did a damn fine job of promoting houses made of dried poo as a glimpse the future. Who knows?

That said, if you want to know more about Dorchester in Roman times (or find this particular synopsis unreliable and all too brief as I'm sure you do), you could do worse than visit the museum in Dorchester. And if you want to know more about Rome there are countless tomes. My favourite is SPQR by Mary Beard.

A brilliant account that allows a non-academic such as myself to access some fascinating and timeless information. We have and still can learn a great deal from the Romans. The long bit after is best summed up by the little known book 'A Thousand Uses for Dung in the Household Whilst We Wait for the Re-emergence of Civilization.'

It's a limited print run.



Dorset County Museum, Dorchester

Margaret Green Animal Rescue

Happy New Year from everyone at Margaret Green Animal Rescue! Thank you so much to everyone who donated a shoe box full of treats and toys for our rescue animals. Your donations made a huge difference to the cats and dogs in our care over the Christmas period.

If you have been thinking about volunteering for some time, but weren't sure how to get involved – now is your chance! Why not make it your New Year's resolution to do something amazing and help abandoned and unwanted animals.

From cat cuddling to dog walking, to fundraising, there is something to suit you all.

Last year we attended all sorts of events both locally such as the Corfe Castle May Fair and slightly further afield like Buckham Fair and the Heavy Horse Show in North Dorset.

Our volunteers get to experience the event and the atmosphere of being involved in a great day, whilst doing a huge amount to help the animals in our care. And it's not just about raising money – it's vital we get out and about in our local community and raise awareness.

Most of our adopters and supporters find us through word of mouth so by spreading the word, you could find a dog its next home, or give a cat



a second chance. If you can help, please give us a call!

To find out how you can get involved, visit www.margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk or call 01929 477070. We hope to see you very soon!





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Volunteers Wanted At Kimmeridge Bay



Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) is looking for new volunteers to join a keen group of warden volunteers at the Fine Foundation Marine Centre at Kimmeridge in Dorset.

DWT is inviting local people who would like to do something valuable for wildlife, and have time to offer on a regular basis to take part. No expertise is required as all volunteer marine wardens will be provided with free training to equip them with the basic knowledge and skills necessary.

Training will include topics such as the identification of rock pool animals, wardening, seaweed identification, marine conservation and coastal wildflowers.

Julie Hatcher, Marine Awareness Officer, said: "We have an amazing team of volunteers at Kimmeridge with a wide range of backgrounds and ages. What they all have in common is a passion for wildlife and a desire to help ensure its well-being. We're a friendly and fun bunch of people to

work with and are looking forward to welcoming some new faces to the marine centre in the New Year."

Volunteers will work alongside DWT staff and to help enthuse visitors about marine wildlife conservation, take part in surveys and research projects, join organised parties carrying out practical tasks and to spread the conservation message at county wide shows, schools and events taking place on the reserve.

By joining the Marine Wardens, you could learn valuable new skills and help your local wildlife at the same time!

There are a limited number of vacancies so if you think you're suited to join the hardworking team then contact Julie Hatcher on 01929 481044 or email kimmeridge@dorsetwildlifetrust.co.uk with any queries.

For more information visit www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/jobs

Do You Have What It Takes To Help Reduce Flood Risk?

The Environment Agency is looking for an enthusiastic person to get involved in managing flood risk in Wessex.

The Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee is one of 12 Committees across the country that make key decisions on local priorities for flood and coastal risk management.

A vacancy has arisen for a talented and enthusiastic individual to join this important committee to represent coastal process or general interests. Applicants do not need to be experts in flood and coastal risk management, but some technical understanding would be beneficial.

Nick Gupta, Wessex Area Manager said, 'We are keen to hear from people who have a real passion to make a positive difference to communities, the environment and the local economy in the face of the challenge of our changing climate. We would particularly like to hear from young people and those from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Also, someone with an interest in Dorset's Jurassic Coast would be welcome.'

The committee meets four times a year at locations within the Wessex Area although the successful candidate may also be asked to attend additional meetings. The role is unpaid, but reasonable expenses, including travel, can be claimed.

Further information can be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/organisation/35633.aspx>

Applications are available on the Environment Agency website or contact Hannah Overtt – wessexrfcc@environment-agency.gov.uk or 020 30 250180.

The closing date for applications is January 22, 2016.

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Gazette Gardening

with Simon Goldsack



We may be in the middle of winter but all the leaves are now down, the days are getting longer and shortly the snowdrops will be in bloom, which is a real sign of hope for the New Year.

I love snowdrops but I am not a Galanthophile (a snowdrop aficionado who finds enjoyment in the minutest variation of markings between different flowers). No...for me they are joyful when planted 'en masse' carpeting the woodland floor and reminding us that although mother nature may well be in her winter slumbers, she is very much alive and well.

In February last year we planted 2000 snowdrops when we landscaped the new lower pond and waterfall and I am eagerly anticipating their first flowering.

To compliment them we also planted ferns, Hellebores, Heuchera, Pulmonaria, Tete a Tete Narcissi and Camellia, all of which will cheer up the next two months. There is also a healthy colony of our native Lesser Celandine which the bees adore and so do I, but others see as a pervasive weed.

Well if you can't beat it ... learn to love it!

Winter is an ideal opportunity to get on with gardening tasks especially those that save time in those precious busy spring months:

- Finish clearing leaves and cut back perennials
- Apply a thick mulch of compost onto your clean borders before the bulbs emerge
- Prune roses and Fruit trees
- Clean out the greenhouse ready for spring sowing
- Cut off the old foliage from your Hellebores before the new flowers emerge

At Holme this month we have a 25% sale on plants and gardening items such as pots, composts and fertilisers.

It's a great time to save money ahead of the main gardening season and whilst you are here take time to see the snowdrops, lower pond and relax with a cup of coffee in the Orchard Countryside Cafe.



Bees love Lesser Celandine for its early nectar source



Hellebores are good companions for snowdrops

Yes I live here.
And I can read..

The Purbeck

Gazette

www.purbeckgazette.co.uk

DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



BSO Resonate Strings: 'Winter Serenade' - Sunday 10th January 7.30pm

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performs the Durlston debut of their fabulous 'Winter Serenade' concert. Covering works from Vivaldi to Piazzolla, Mozart to Warlock, this evening event will bring you close to the heart of the Orchestra in the intimate setting of the Fine Foundation Gallery, located at the Castle.

£10 per ticket (Under 18s £6). Booking recommended and free parking on advance ticket sales.

Artist in Residence – Rudolph Williams 'Space For Nature'. January - August

We have been blessed with an incredible artist who is staying with us here at the park. Inspired by his childhood times at Durlston, Rudolph will be regularly opening his studio to the public, to view his works and the creative process that he goes through to get to the end result.

The work looks into the human curiosity between art and science and the use of satellite technology to inform environmental science, such as the tracking of 'Nicole' the Great White Shark (named after Nicole Kidman) from Cape Town to Australia in just 99 days! Expect space crafts, wildlife and interesting facts for kids, grownups and grandparents!

New Year Bird Walk - Sunday 17th January – 10am

Always a popular event on the park, this walk will look for the birds that winter here at Durlston. If you haven't seen the Guillemots

before, then this is a must for families. £3.00 per person. Meet at the Castle Foyer.

'Shearwater: Seabirds, Stories And Songs' – Saturday 30th January 7.30pm

Storyteller Malcom Green spent three months on an Icelandic Island studying seabirds. From the life of a seabird to a young man's coming of age, Malcom's stories are accompanied by musician and entertainer Tim Dalling (The New Rope String Band).

Touring via Artsreach. Booking essential for this one! £8 per person, £6 for Under 18's and £25 for a family ticket. Free parking on advance sales. Held in the Fine Foundation Gallery.

And whilst at the Country Park, why not come and view the 'Durlston And The Sea' Exhibition (11th January – 3rd February. 10am – 4pm).

We can all appreciate the wonderful Jurassic Coast, but what lies beneath those waves? Find out more about the wildlife and history hidden beneath the waves with this fantastic free exhibition at the Fine Foundation Gallery.

Afterwards why not try the Seventhwave Restaurant for breakfasts, coffee and cakes, locally sourced high quality dishes and inspired Sunday Roasts?

'Look around and read great nature's open book'
George Burt



A Wonderful Surprise For The Orang-utans!

Exciting times are ahead for one of our Bornean orang-utans, Dinda, who recently moved to Rostock Zoo in Germany as part of the European Breeding Programme.

Dinda was born at Monkey World in 2006 to Tuan and Roro who were both rescued from the illegal trade in Taiwan and have been living at the park ever since. Dinda joins her sister Hsiao-ning, who moved from Monkey World to Rostock in 2012, the lovely Miri who she instantly hit it off with, and handsome male Sabas.

The four orang-utans are getting on fantastically and Dinda has been made to feel very welcome in her new group.

The team at Monkey World, although sad to see Dinda go, are absolutely delighted with the success of the move and wish her and her new family all the best for the future.

(Dinda (left) and part of her journey from Monkey World to Rostock Zoo (below). She is now getting on very well with the others in her group.)

Credit copyright to Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre.



Arts & Entertainment



A Tribute To A Lifetime Of Folk Music

Swanage School was the venue of a wonderful celebration which took place in November, for the presentation of the English Folk Dance and Song Society Gold Badge, to Swanage resident, Rollo Woods, in the presence of about 200 of his friends.

Gold Badges are given for unique or outstanding contributions to folk music, dance or song, distinguished service to EFDSS and/or exceptional contributions to the work of EFDSS.

As Jack Crawford, Chairman of the West Gallery Music Association and former Director of EFDSS, said in his excellent citation, Rollo fulfils all of these categories! As was said in a tribute paid by an old friend of Rollo's – "His was a remarkable ministry and when you remember the musicians that flood the land that emerged from his tuition, he worked with extraordinary success. When you add the vast numbers who enjoyed the fruits of his music on the dance floor, the numbers become astronomic".

The day reflected these many aspects of Rollo's contribution to the world of folk music, song and dance. To start the afternoon Rollo led the band in several tunes from his "Never on Sunday" collection of Village Band music. We then had the chance to sing and play West Gallery Carols – (many of which are known to have been written and sung in the Purbeck villages) - from a collection specially put together for this event.

There were around 70 singers and 30 instrumentalists drawn from all over the country, performing under the direction of Steve Earwicker from The Purbeck Village Quire, and Mike Bailey from The Madding Crowd in Southampton, to a large audience of guests. The music had been chosen by Rollo and covered everything from Carols to Christmas Anthems and even some Rounds for good measure!

We were also entertained by the beautiful voice of Nette Woods, (Rollo's daughter-in-law), who sang an arrangement of Wordsworth's poem 'Daffodils' by Eric Thiman and Anthony Woods (Rollo's son); and Vaughan Williams' arrangement of 'I gave my love an apple' both accompanied by Anthony.

After all that singing and playing we tucked into a fine celebration tea with a truly wonderful spread provided by 'Rustic Events' Catering firm.

It included a special celebration cake that was prepared by Clive Williams, the village baker from Wool, whose father, when he was a boy, had sung some of the Wool carols that we had all just sung.

This was followed by the presentation of the EFDSS Gold Badge to Rollo. The citation was read by Jack Crawford (pictured above, with Rollo) representing both the EFDSS and, of course, the

world of West Gallery Music. There were also contributions from Rollo's family who were able to regale us with tales from Rollo's younger days and emphasised his life-long involvement in music and dance.

We then finished off the evening with a Barn Dance led by Rollo's band "Maiden Oak" augmented by members of Rollo's family and some friends who had played with him in other bands, and with Nigel Close calling the dances. During the evening we were treated to displays of dancing from the children of St Mary's School in Swanage, where Rollo plays his concertina for a country dance club; a Mummers' Play from the Purbeck Mummers, whose members all live in Purbeck, and a wonderful Glee for Rollo with words specially written by Nigel Close and performed by The Madding Crowd.

A very special moment for us all, especially Rollo, was the inspired solo playing of his grandson Owen on the Melodeon. So inspired it received an encore! Rollo even thought he made the Melodeon sound like a musical instrument!

The whole day was organised by a group from Rollo's family, the Maiden Oak Band and the Purbeck Village Quire.

We all went home at the end of the day, perhaps exhausted, but certainly very happy and proud to have been part of such a milestone in Rollo's life!



NEW! NEW!

Sunday Afternoon At The Legion

Wow! 2016 is already shaping up to be an exciting year for Music in Swanage. Although I am known for blues festivals, I've got plans for all sorts.

My latest project is Fun on a Sunday afternoon at The Legion. We started with a live Soul Party in December: dance floor, stage, lights, good sounds, comfy chairs, hot food and club price drinks with a great band and free admission. Not every Sunday afternoon, not until there's a steady demand, and that's where you come in - literally. Try it and see. Non-members just sign in.

The band on Sunday afternoon 24th January has a man and woman singing, guitar, bass, drums, saxophone and keyboards, and it will be their last appearance at The Legion this year. Who is it?

You'll find out this and what else is on offer at The Legion and elsewhere, by looking at the monthly 'Live Music and more...' posters or flyers in shops, venues and the Tourist Information Centre. You can also download your own copy or look at the calendar online courtesy of Swanage Blues. That's free too!

What's next? It's a Biggie. Coming up on March 3-6 is the 25th Swanage Blues Festival I've organised. For full details about this and other stuff that's going on, you can join the monthly mailing list at www.swanage-blues.org. Oh, and who's the band on 24th January at The Legion? Drop me a line via the website with your answer - a prize for the first correct one out of the hat!

Steve Darrington, www.swanage-blues.org, 01929 422338

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Purbeck Valley Folk Festival Success!



With the success of this year's Purbeck Valley Folk Festival, it comes as no surprise that the popular family friendly four-day event will be back next year from 25-28 August. The festival champions local music, traditional song writing and originality and is a big draw for music lovers. Tickets are on sale now with exciting headline acts to be announced over the coming months.

Organisers Catherine and Paul Burke have said that they've been inundated with positive feedback from festival-goers who have complimented the music, sound and atmosphere of the festival site at Purbeck Valley Farm near Harman's Cross. They especially want to say thanks for the huge amount of support they received locally. As such, residents in the BH19/20 postcodes will receive a 20 per cent discount on tickets.

"We put a lot of effort into bringing great music from around England and further afield to the Purbecks. We want to encourage as many local people to come as possible. For that reason, we offer a 20 per cent reduction on tickets prices across all festival tickets. Make sure you tell your friends," says Catherine Burke.

This year saw exclusive headline performances from Richard Thompson, Chris Difford, Justin Currie, Hot Rize, Stornoway, Kathryn Tickell and a host of talented local musicians. Surrounded by spectacular views of Corfe Castle, accessible camping and some truly delicious food, Purbeck

Valley Folk Festival was just as much a feast for the eyes as it was the ears.

Running over the August Bank Holiday weekend, revellers were treated to the very best folk, roots and world music. Music fans were given a special treat, as the festival's exclusive Songwriting Circle saw headliners Chris Difford and Justin Currie entertain with colourful stories behind their well-loved songs. There was also a host of other favourite attractions including kids' entertainers, storytellers, craft workshops, music workshops, song sessions, cinema, poetry, Purbeck Rising and open mics.

The organisers continue to carefully choose artists for an exciting festival that reflects the diversity of the current folk scene, with plenty to keep music lovers and families entertained.

Tickets are selling fast already for this year's festival, which takes place on 25-28 August. Weekend tickets (Fri-Sun) include free camping and are on sale now at just £90 (youth £45, children over three £20). For more information and tickets please visit www.purbeckvalleyfolkfestival.co.uk



Pantomime Season In Swanage!

SWANAGE DRAMA COMPANY

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

A Family Pantomime

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th
Friday 15th and Saturday 16th
January 2016

7.30pm Evening Performances
2.00pm Saturday Matinees

MOWLEM THEATRE - Swanage

Tickets:
£9 Adults - £8 Concessions - £5 Children

An Amateur Production



The Mowlem Theatre in Swanage springs into life in January with the latest family pantomime by Swanage Drama Company, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Offering both evening performances and matinees, everyone should have the chance to catch this cracking new show to brighten-up an otherwise grey month. Tickets are priced at only £9 for adults and £5 for children.

The story goes as follows.... Polyester Trott is so poor she is behind with her rent and Squire Fumble-Trumpet has instructed his henchmen Chip and Pin to turn her and her three sons Jack, Simple Simon and Clever Dick out of her cottage.

In order to save his mum and win the hand of the Squire's niece, Jill, Jack must find his fortune. This is not so easy when the village of Upsey Daisy is terrorised by a Giant and his sinister sidekick Fleshcreeper, who will stop at nothing to serve his master, even kidnapping and cooking the principal girl!

Jack is forced to sell the family cow which he swaps for some magic beans..... I wonder how that will work out for him!



The cast features Brian Travers as Dame Trott (pictured), Laura Jolly as Jack Trott, Hannah Foster as Jill, Ro Smith as Simple Simon, Tom Eastcott as Clever Dick, Robert Diment-Davis as the Giant and Mike Peden as Squire Fumble-Trumpet.

There are many more players, and keep an eye out for Gorgonzola the Cow during the performance!

New Jazz For Swanage!



Three Swanage musicians have formed a new Jazz ensemble - Swanage Jazz Machine.

The new band's inaugural performance will be at the Conservative Club lounge on Monday 11th January 2016, and the music will start around 1pm.

Swanage Jazz Machine comprises Rob Mills on tenor sax, Steve Dumble on double bass and Andrew Cannon on piano and vocals.

They will be playing monthly at the Conservative Club lounge and confirmed dates are: January 11th, February 8th, March 7th and April 4th, with more dates to be announced.

Info: 01929-421401.

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Health & Beauty

Get Fit And Healthy For 2016!

It's that time of year again to make new resolutions and set new goals, physically and mentally. Grasp the moment and take advantage of your local team of complementary therapists at Swanage Therapy Centre, who offer a wide range of therapies to treat most health problems.

We have a Chiropractor and Physiotherapists who specialise in treating and preventing your mechanical aches and pains. They deal with problems from arthritis to sciatica, tension headaches and muscular strains and sprains. So come and see them if you enter 2016 with a painful groan!

For your general health and well-being and to stimulate your body's natural healing process, Traditional Acupuncture can provide real support to both your mental and physical well-being. Or you could try Zero Balancing Bodywork to access a deep state of peaceful rest and to align you with yourself.

If you are sore, tired, stressed out or looking for a few moments peace, our Massage Therapists are here to help you, offering; Sports, Deep Tissue, Indian Head and Pregnancy massage. We also provide Aromatherapy, Reflexology and the wonderful Hot Stone Therapy; all guaranteed to loosen your knots and soothe aching muscles.

For people with digestive or fertility problems why not try our Abdominal-Sacral Massage.

If your feet have taken the strain over the festive period we have a Foot Health Practitioner, who can treat and alleviate your foot problems.

Christmas, New Year and financial difficulties could create extra personal and family problems. Our Counsellors and our Psychotherapist provide a completely confidential service.

Or book yourself in for a health assessment with Bio-resonance testing – this provides you with information on any areas of weakness within your body & can then give you advice on diet and herbal support as well as homeopathic remedies.

If your challenge is to get fitter and more active we run Pilates classes five days a week. The courses are aimed at improving your core stability, flexibility, posture and balance.

For relaxation and stress management why not try one of our courses of mindfulness or yoga.

Make a New Year's resolution that can actually improve your health and feel the benefits in both body and mind.

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Swanage Therapy Centre

**Wishing you a Happy
and Healthy New Year!**

We look forward to seeing you!

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I Have Time To Listen

I am an experienced, professionally accredited counsellor and, having recently moved to Wareham, have vacancies for new clients here.

Over the years I have worked with people who feel anxious, angry, guilty, confused, hopeless or desperate. Some feel they are at a crossroads, unsure where to go next. For others, some trauma from the past may still prevent them making the most of life now.

Clients may have suffered bereavement or other loss, find difficulties in personal relationships or at work or have experienced sexual, physical or emotional abuse. For some, Christmas may have been a lonely or difficult time. They may want to put troubles of 2015 behind them but dread facing the new year of 2016. Clients find that it helps that someone who respects and accepts them will listen, understand and support them in exploring painful issues in a confidential setting.

I can say with confidence that, when both client and counsellor are committed to working together within their therapeutic relationship,

Do you need someone to listen?

Wareham Counselling

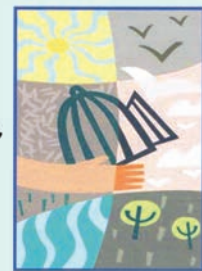
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then beneficial change will follow. Clients come to respect, accept and understand themselves more, to believe a better life is possible and feel strong enough to make any changes they think are appropriate.

Many clients have said in various ways, 'To start with, I didn't believe that talking with someone could make such a difference. But it has and now I feel ready to get on with my life.'

Angela Joynton, Wareham Counselling



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Matron's Round - Our Local Hospitals' Monthly Column

Quite apart from all the nursing care and outpatient clinics at Wareham and Swanage Hospitals, we have had a really busy time with various bits of building improvement work over the last few months.

In Wareham, the ward corridors needed new skirting and, after this was completed, Dorset HealthCare kindly agreed to fund redecoration of all the corridors and doors (all 84 of them!) to bring the area up to standard.

We hope this will be followed up by redecoration and new furnishings for all our patient rooms reasonably soon. Already we can see the transformation that fresh paint has made to the environment, so we can't wait to make all of our patient rooms really beautiful. It's quite complicated to manage such invasive projects whilst still delivering care, but the end results are well worth it.

In Swanage, the ward office wall has been removed and we now have an open nursing station which gives clinicians, patients and visitors much easier access to each other. It's still waiting for a bit of signwriting, but certainly open for business.

We love the way it makes everything more approachable and that visitors don't have to knock on a door or step into an office environment.

Swanage has also had its ward kitchen extended and refurbished and we have a new emergency pathway to the outpatient department.

The metal structure to the left of the entrance has been there a while – it's waiting for glass to arrive and will be our new mobile scooter shelter; we find that the weight of scooters coming into the hospital is damaging the flooring.

The scaffolding you can see definitely helped Father Christmas get down the chimney on Christmas Eve, but is really there for some minor roof repairs and gutter clearing.

So all in all, a very busy time for everyone. We are grateful to Dorset HealthCare and the Friends for their continued investment in our hospitals and appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation whilst the work is being carried out.

We look forward to even more improvement works this year!

Until next time, take care,

Matron



The Friends Of Wareham Hospital

The Friends of Wareham Hospital recently received a generous donation of £500 from the Purbeck Gardeners Club.

This money will pay for improvements to the existing Hospital garden, helping to provide a relaxing space for patients, visitors and staff. The Friends were also grateful to receive £170 from Stoborough WI. This will be used to enhance the room where the new Chemotherapy Clinic takes place every Friday.

Wareham Community Hospital continues to provide NHS care to

patients from the Purbeck area through numerous Outpatient clinics, and also, 16 in-patient beds.

The Friends of Wareham hospital look forward to another year of fundraising to support patients and staff throughout in 2016. New members are always welcome.

Janice Sugrue and Sue McWilliams

Friends of Wareham Hospital Committee.

Swanage Hospital Minor Injuries Unit - Open 7 days a week from 8am - 8pm

If you have an injury, we're here to treat it! Call us on 01929 421329.

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

Sport

A Right Royal Row!



Above: Royal Barge Gloriana

With wind and waves often stopping play, January isn't the best season for rowing. So here's a look back at sunnier times, and two of the most memorable rowing events of the summer.

The Magna Carta anniversary boat pageant marked eight hundred years since the signing of the famous charter by King John. A flotilla of two hundred boats, of all shapes and sizes, sailed along the Thames from Hurley to Runnymede.

It included two SSRC gigs, crewed by club members alongside pupils from the Swanage School. The pageant, led by the spectacular royal barge Gloriana, included a relay of volunteers carrying a replica of the Magna Carta.

The excitement of the pageant was followed by a favourite event in the racing calendar – the Rame Regatta in Cornwall. The colourful spectacle involved thirty traditional pilot gigs which filled the beautiful rocky bay of Cawsand.

On a hot and windless day, the Swanage crews performed well against some of the top rowers in the country.

The exhilarating day at Rame was rounded off by celebrations in the village square. But the rowers who were camping that night didn't manage to sleep off any excesses. They were awoken at 4am by a gale and torrential rain which flooded most of the tents. The joys of the British summer!

Talking of the weather, the Saturday morning open rowing sessions are still taking place (10.30am to 12.30pm), depending on the wind and tide conditions.

Look for the gigs launching at the stone quay. It costs non-members £2 for a short row (about twenty minutes), and there's no need to book.

Find out more about the club, events and membership on our new website www.ssrc.org.uk



Swanage Crew at the Magna Carta event



Above: Royal Barge Gloriana

Swanage Tennis Update



In many ways the conditions for this match looked to favour Swanage, who are more than used to the keen gusts off the sea, sweeping over the Beach Gardens courts than their guests, Virgin Active, who play on carpet indoors.

However Virgin Active always prove to be tough competition and

they didn't disappoint as the Ladies 1 met at the beginning on December.

Meg Mutter and Sam Christmas had a comfortable first match against a competent opposition. Meanwhile on court 2, Diana Dyer and Sue Tindale were trying to contain the strong, deep shots from their opposition. The Virgin Active pair played with aggression – smashing shots straight at the net players at great speed. Diana and Sue just couldn't neutralise the threat their opposition posed and lost the rubber.

Sam and Meg then faced the stronger Virgin Active pair and again had to try to cope with the body shots and speed of their opposition's strokes. And cope they did as they racked up the games evenly, taking them to a tie-break at 6:6. Again, the points were evenly shared between the two sides until Virgin Active just edged forward and took the tie-break 7:5.

The second set continued with neck and neck action and increasingly became a battle of wills and strategy. Both sides changed approaches to try and get the edge but there was little between these two pairs. Line calls were in question as the weather worsened and reflected the tension of the match.

Swanage found themselves 5:6 down and receiving to stay in the match and despite putting up the best fight they could, Virgin Active claimed a victory 7:5.

Sue and Diana had found little success in their second match and so Virgin Active had claimed a 3:1 (rubbers) victory - but only just!

Wareham & District Rugby Club



On 5th December Swans travelled to Witney, in Oxfordshire and got off to a disastrous start as Witney scored a 7 pointer in the first minute.

The hosts added a second try before Swans managed to get on the scoreboard with a well worked try by centre David Elford to make the score 12pts – 5 pts. Witney managed a penalty goal from the half way line before the half ended.

It was all Witney in the second half with them running in a host of tries to put them 42pts – 5pts After a line out Swans managed a catch/drive move with hooker Robert Elford coming up with the ball.

Phil Geaves added the conversion, but Witney had time to score another try before the end winning by 47pts – 12pts.

Main Fixtures for January 2016 (all 2.15 p.m, except veterans game)

1st Swans veterans v Wimborne veterans Home 12.00 noon

Swanage & Wareham's luck did not change in November as they succumbed to another series of defeats in Southwest One (East).

On 21st November, Swans travelled to Salisbury, and the visitors had a tremendous first half, putting the Salisbury defence under severe pressure for the first twenty minutes, but could not convert the pressure into points. At this point a couple of penalties enabled Salisbury to break clear to score a converted try. 7pts – nil at the break.

In the second half Salisbury put some pressure on Swans scoring a couple of tries with Swans countering with a Phil Graves penalty. (19pts – 3pts). In the last five minutes the Salisbury hooker managed two more tries to complete his hat trick leaving the hosts with the victory by 31pts – 3 pts.

Next was another home game this time against Leighton Buzzard who come from Bedfordshire, and were highly placed in the league. The visitors scored early on, and increased their lead with 12 minutes gone. Phil Graves landed a penalty for Swans before a catch/drive move by Leighton Buzzard gave them a 17pts – 3pts lead at the break.

The visitors added another try in the opening minutes of the second period before a move by Swans had second row Will Corsie powering over the line. Phil Graves added the extras (10pts – 24pts). Swans had their best spell of the game and five minutes later, after a series of phases scrum half Chris Tomes went over for a try. (15pts – 24pts). Another interception try by the visitors increased their score to 31 points, before two more scores gave the points to Leighton Buzzard by 15pts – 41pts.

2nd Swans 1st XV v. Maidenhead league SWI (East) Home

9th Swans 1st XV v Newbury league SWI (East) Away

Swans 2nd XV v. Frome league D/WI(S) Home

16th Swans 1st XV v. Swindon league SWI (East) Home

23rd Swans 1st XV v. Trowbridge league SWI (East) Away

Swans 2nd XV v. North Dorset 2 league D/WI(S) Home

30th Swans 1st XV v. High Wycombe league SWI (East) Home

Ron Butler (Publicity Secretary)



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Swanage Football Club

Over the past few weeks, with the help of the staff from the Purbeck View school in Swanage, we have been busy setting up a disability team (see photo). This has been a long term ambition of the Club. The team consists of under 16 year olds with a variety of disabilities.

We are currently training the youngsters in all aspects of the game; training nights are eagerly attended by the pupils and according to their carers, it is the highlight of the week for most. First team regular George Sparrow is the head coach of the side and on the training nights he has two able assistants, our first team manager and coach Tim Brown and Tony Parrott.

All three of them have said how rewarding it is to be involved with the team. Dorset FA have started a league, so from January we will be playing other teams from across Dorset.

As we are now in the depths of winter the floodlights are again, an issue we have to look to resolve. Regular readers will be aware this has been an ongoing problem. We have had a number of electricians up to the Club to advise us on the best way forward.

Our current plan of action is to go down the LED route; this will prove a very cost effective way of lighting up the pitch as well as an easy option in applying new fittings onto the original poles. So this is the next fundraising target we are hoping to achieve in 2016.

Talking of fundraising, we are delighted to announce we are one of three chosen charities in this year's Boxing Day Swim. Julian Wood from the Country Foods health shop in the town has chosen us, with two other charities, to benefit from the sponsorship raised. This has become a regular feature in our calendar now and over the last few years members from the Club have participated in this very popular event.

Walking football is going from strength to strength and is regularly attended by at least ten players. Maybe you were a regular player in your younger days and if you think you'd like to take part in this rewarding activity, contact Nick Surman on 07742 508215. Or just come along on a Tuesday morning from 10-11. For £2 this is a great way to have some exercise and to meet some like-minded people.

There is nothing quite like playing the game and this is one way to prolong your playing career.

From January there will be a Walking Football league across Dorset. As one of the first clubs to have a team, not only will we be a founder member of this league, we will also be a founder member of the new disability league which will be called "Ability Counts League".



To add another string to our bow, we were proudly a founder member of the currently named Dorset Premier League (which started back in 1957) winning it in four out of the first six seasons!!

We really are a club the community can be proud of. Our motto is not "What can you do for us?" but "What can we do for you?"

The 1st team have missed playing recently for a number of different reasons, so it was good to get back to playing last week as we travelled to Westland Sports in the Dorset Premier League.

This can be a difficult place to go but we came away with a 4:1 victory our sixth league victory in succession. We believe this to be a Club record, but would be grateful if anyone who knows any different would let us know as we have records from recent seasons, but they are a little sketchy from days gone by.

Another record that looks to have been broken in the same game was our centre forward, Graeme Rose, scoring his third successive hat trick, a hat trick of hat tricks!

On behalf of Swanage Town & Herston FC, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Come on you Swans.

John Peacock.

The Purbeck Gazette - Proudly Supporting The Swans

Swanage Bowling Club Update

November saw two major events in the Swanage Bowls Club calendar. The first was the Annual Lunch and Presentation of Trophies which was once again held at the Pines Hotel. There were the usual toasts and a raffle and President Barrie Tatman duly presented the various silver cups and trophies to the worthy winners of the club competitions recorded in the October edition of the Gazette.

The proceedings were somewhat overshadowed by the untimely death only the previous day of Ray Vye, one of the club's stalwart members. Ray was a playing member of the club for many years and a very good bowler. In recent times he has been caterer, tea maker, washer-up, raffle king - you name it, Ray did it. He always had an encouraging word for new bowlers and those having a tough game out on the green as well as being one of the first to praise and congratulate those enjoying success.

Around 150 people crammed into his funeral service at Poole Crematorium and it was fitting that they came out to the strains of 'Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye'. Ray's cheerfulness and hard work at both outdoor and indoor clubs will be sorely missed.

The other occasion was the club's AGM. Following the customary items on the agenda, members were then introduced to the Swanage Mayor, Steve Poultney, and Councillor Mike Bonfield, who gave an address about the current position of the council regarding the possible replacement of the grass green with an artificial surface.

There was then an opportunity for members to ask them questions before a proposition was put before members that "In principle the club would like to see an all-weather surface laid at Swanage Bowls Club at a future date to be agreed with the council, and the committee are instructed to begin negotiations to see if it is possible". This was carried by 38 votes to 9.

The star events for Swanage Bowls Club in December were the hilarious performance of the pantomime Aladdin and a New Year's Eve Extravaganza to round off a highly successful year for the club.

A Very Happy New Year to all bowlers and non-bowlers. Make it your New Year resolution all you non-bowlers to come along and try your hand at bowls - watch this space for 'have-a-go' dates when the season starts in April.

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 FEB is noon, 8th Jan

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.

JANUARY

- Fri 1st
18:00 **Purbeck Model Railway Group** Running session at The Stables, Godlingston Manor, Washpond Lane, Swanage, BH19 3DJ. Ffi: Robin Brasher 427015 Email: rbrasher@operamail.com
- Sat 2nd
* **FREE Parking** At Broad rd and Main Beach, Swanage.
- Sun 3rd
15:00 **Mayday Singers** Songs for Christmastide at St George's Church, Langton Matravers. Retiring charity collection.
- Tue 5th
19:30 **Wareham Camera Club** Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham Julian Sawyer – "The Landscape & Wildlife of the Isle of Purbeck" Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822
- Wed 6th
09:30 **"Back to the Future"** Box office opens Box office opens for The Rex Players 20th Variety production "Back to the Future", March 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th at the Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets from Discover Purbeck Information Centre, Wareham at £9.50. 01929 552740
- Fri 8th
19:30 **Swanage Photographic Society** Meets in the Rectory Classroom, Church Hill. For:Members Essays & Pictures +New Year Buffet
- 19:30 **Jack and the Beanstalk** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.
- Sat 9th
14:00 **Jack and the Beanstalk** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.
19:30 **Jack and the Beanstalk** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.
20:00 **Cam Penner** Live acts at the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Sun 10th
19:30 **BSO Resonate Strings** - Winter Serenade At Durlston Castle. Booking recommended, tickets £10/£6.
- Mon 11th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
13:00 **Swanage Jazz Machine** At the Conservative Club, Swanage.
14:30 **Isle of Purbeck Group** At Langton Matravers Village Hall. 'Some of the Wildlife of Costa Rica' - an illustrated talk by David Sagar. Visitors welcome.
- Tue 12th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
14:00 **Parkinson's Self Help Group** At The All Saints Church Hall, Swanage.
19:30 **Wareham Camera Club** Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham "Fun Competition Evening" Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822
- Wed 13th
* **Swanage Probus** Meet at the Purbeck House Hotel. Jurassic Coast by Sam Shriven, World Heritage. ffi: Andrew Yeandle 01225 461087
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
19:00 **Swanage Area Senior Forum** Public Meeting at the Emmanuel Baptist Church Centre. 'Dramatic Swanage Weather - Past & Present'. An illustrated talk by David Haysom, curator of Swanage museum.
- Thu 14th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
- Fri 15th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
19:00 **Purbeck Railway Circle** Meets at Harman's Cross village hall, Haycrafts Lane. "East Dorset Railway Curios" by Andrew P.M Wright. Everyone is welcome.
19:30 **Swanage Photographic Society** Meets in the Rectory Classroom, Church Hill. For: Dorset Cup - 'Water in Dorset' and 3 in 1 Cup – 'Open' Judge: Paul Thackeray LRPS.
19:30 **Jack and the Beanstalk** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.
- Sat 16th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
14:00 **Jack and the Beanstalk** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.
14:00 **Fabric Sale** At Harman's Cross Village Hall. Our fat quarters are £2.25 each, 6 for £12. Bolt end from £4 a metre. Contact Sue MacLean 01929 421091.
19:30 **Jack and the Beanstalk** At The Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.
20:00 **Tobias Ben Jacob & Luke Drinkwater** Live acts at the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Sun 17th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
10:00 **New Year Bird Walk** At Durlston Country Park. £3 per person, meet at the castle foyer.
- 20:00 **Tori Reed** Live acts at the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Mon 18th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
19:30 **The Art & Skills of Digital Wildlife Photography** Friends of Swanage Pier presents. At The Catholic Hall, Swanage. £5.
- Tue 19th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
14:00 **The New Christian Spiritualist Church** Swanage Our guest Medium is Hazel McLister Brewer, A warm welcome to all & tea, coffee & biscuits served after.
19:30 **Wareham Camera Club** Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham Robin Goodlad – "Natural Light Photography" Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822
- Wed 20th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
14:30 **Studland History Group** Meets in the Village Hall for a talk by Carlton Hobbs, "Studland 1840; Land ownership and tenancy". All welcome. Ffi the Secretary 01929 439245.
- Thu 21st
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
14:30 **Purbeck Assoc. of the National Trust** At Carey Hall, Wareham Illustrated talk 'A History of Holme and Beyond' - Simon Goldsack of Holme for Gardens talks about the evolution of his family's well-known local business. All welcome. £3.00 incl refreshments Ffi 01929 427300.
- Fri 22nd
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
20:00 **Gordie Tentrees** Live acts at the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Sat 23rd
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
- Sun 24th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
15:30 **Steve Darrington** At The Legion, Swanage
- Mon 25th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
- Tue 26th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
18:30 **Sixth Form Subject Evening** At Poole Grammar School.
19:30 **Dorset Industrial Archaeology Society** Members Evening All meetings are held in The Dorset Room, Colliton House, Colliton Park, Dorchester (opposite County Hall) and start at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome at all meetings (small donation suggested). Further details from 01305 785968 or 871863.
19:30 **Wareham Camera Club** Meets at Parish Hall, Wareham "League Competition No 3" Visitors welcome. Contact Roger Starling on 01929 553822
- Wed 27th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
- Thu 28th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
10:00 **Purbeck U3A Meeting Points** At Harman's Cross Village Hall. Julian Sawyer, of Purbeck Footprints, shares his incredible adventures in Iceland.
19:30 **Isle of Purbeck Group** At The Methodist Church, North Street, Wareham. 'Andalucian Wildlife' - an illustrated talk by Alan Reese. Visitors welcome.
- Fri 29th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
- Sat 30th
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
19:30 **Shearwater: Seabirds, Stories & Songs** In the Fine Foundation Gallery, Durlston Castle. Booking essential - £8 per person, £6 for under 18's, £25 family ticket.
20:00 **Kent du Chaine** Live acts at the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers. Ffi: 01929 439229
- Sun 31st
10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
10:00 **Purbeck Antiques & Collectors' Fairs** At Furzebrook Hall, Furzebrook, Wareham. £1 entry. www.purbeckantiquesfairs.co.uk
- FEBRUARY**
Mon 1st
09:30 **Taster Morning** At Poole Grammar School. Please contact Viv Wilson to book.

10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
 Tue 2nd
 10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
 Wed 3rd
 10:00 **Durlston & The Sea Exhibition** At Durlston Country Park.
 Thu 4th
 19:15 **Swanage Trefoil Guild** Meets at The Guide HQ Bell Street. Celebrating Thinking Day in Japan. New Members and Visitors Welcome. Ffi: 01929 556374.

Mon 8th
 13:00 **Swanage Jazz Machine** At the Conservative Club, Swanage.
 14:30 **Isle of Purbeck Group** At Langton Matravers Village Hall. Members' Pictures. Visitors welcome.

Tue 9th
 14:00 **Parkinson's Self Help Group** At The All Saints Church Hall, Swanage.

Sun 21st
 10:00 **Purbeck Antiques & Collectors' Fairs** At Furzebrook Hall, Furzebrook, Wareham. £1 entry. www.purbeckantiquesfairs.co.uk

Tue 23rd
 19:30 **Dorset Industrial Archaeology Society** "Looking at Lime Kilns", speaker: Dr. Peter Stanier. All meetings are held in The Dorset Room, Colliton House, Colliton Park, Dorchester (opposite County Hall) and start at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome at all meetings (small donation suggested). Further details from 01305 785968 or 871863.

Thu 25th
 19:30 **Isle of Purbeck Group** At The Methodist Church, North street, Wareham. 'A Year of Images' - an illustrated talk by Steve Davis. Visitors Welcome.

MARCH

Tue 1st
 19:30 **Back to the Future** The Rex Players 20th production "". A fun evening of music, drama and comedy at the Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets from Discover Purbeck Information Centre, Wareham at £9.50. 01929 552740. All proceeds to local charities.

Wed 2nd
 19:30 **Back to the Future** The Rex Players 20th production "". A fun evening of music, drama and comedy at the Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets from Discover Purbeck Information Centre, Wareham at £9.50. 01929 552740. All proceeds to local charities.

Thu 3rd
 * **Swanage Blues Festival** Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org
 19:15 **Swanage Trefoil Guild** Meets at The Guide HQ Bell Street. AGM. New Members and Visitors Welcome. Ffi: 01929 556374.
 19:30 **Back to the Future** The Rex Players 20th production "". A fun evening of music, drama and comedy at the Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets from Discover Purbeck Information Centre, Wareham at £9.50. 01929 552740. All proceeds to local charities.

Fri 4th
 * **Swanage Blues Festival** Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org

Sat 5th
 * **Swanage Blues Festival** Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org
 19:30 **Back to the Future** The Rex Players 20th production "". A fun evening of music, drama and comedy at the Rex Cinema, Wareham. Tickets from Discover Purbeck Information Centre, Wareham at £9.50. 01929 552740. All proceeds to local charities.

Sun 6th
 * **Swanage Blues Festival** Ffi: www.swanage-blues.org

Mon 7th
 13:00 **Swanage Jazz Machine** At the Conservative Club, Swanage.

Tue 8th
 14:00 **Parkinson's Self Help Group** At The All Saints Church Hall, Swanage.

Mon 14th
 14:30 **Isle of Purbeck Group** At Langton Matravers Village Hall. 'The Magic of the Tiny World' - an illustrated talk by Joy Fildes and Ken Dolbear. Visitors welcome.

Tue 22nd
 19:30 **Dorset Industrial Archaeology Society** "Ford Transit Southampton", speaker to be confirmed. All meetings are held in The Dorset Room, Colliton House, Colliton Park, Dorchester (opposite County Hall) and start at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome at all meetings (small donation suggested). Further details from 01305 785968 or 871863.

Sun 27th
 10:00 **Purbeck Antiques & Collectors' Fairs** At Furzebrook Hall, Furzebrook, Wareham. £1 entry. www.purbeckantiquesfairs.co.uk

Thu 31st
 19:30 **Isle of Purbeck Group** At The Methodist Church, North street, Wareham. 'New Finds in the Kimmeridge Clay - The Etches Collection', an illustrated talk by Steve Etches. And AGM. Visitors welcome.

APRIL

Mon 4th
 13:00 **Swanage Jazz Machine** At the Conservative Club, Swanage.

Tue 12th
 14:00 **Parkinson's Self Help Group** At The All Saints Church Hall, Swanage.

Sun 24th
 10:00 **Purbeck Antiques & Collectors' Fairs** At Furzebrook Hall, Furzebrook, Wareham. £1 entry. www.purbeckantiquesfairs.co.uk

Tue 26th
 19:30 **Dorset Industrial Archaeology Society** "The Salisbury to Yeovil Railway", speaker: Giles Harvey. All meetings are held in The Dorset Room, Colliton House, Colliton Park, Dorchester (opposite County Hall) and start at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome at all meetings (small donation suggested). Further details from 01305 785968 or 871863.

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

09.00 **U3A Table Tennis Group** meet at Harmans Cross VH.
 09.30 **Under 2.5 years old group.** Till 11am. at Parish Hall, Wm.
 09.45 **Toddler Club** URC, Sw. Till 11.15
 10.00 **Table Tennis Club** Sw FC All ages/abilities £2.50 Till noon. 480093
 13.00 **Play and Learn** at Wareham's Children's Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Till 2.45pm
 13.00 **Under 1s and Tums** at Chapel Lane, Swanage. Till 3pm
 14.00 **Pins and Needles** at Harmans Cross VH.
 14.00 **Swanage Disabled Club** meet until 4pm. Meeting place alternates between Catholic Hall & Queensmead Hall, Sw. Transport available. Call Mrs Daphne Saville on 01929 425241 ffi.
 16.45 **Soccer Skills** Sw FC First Sch chldn £1 Till 5.45. 425175
 18.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Snr Club Session. 426312
 19.00 **Wareham Choral Society** meet URC Meeting House, Chch St, Wm. Till 9. New singers always welcome. 554229/553460
 19.00 **Swanage Youth Club.** School year 10 and upwards. Till 9.30pm
 19.00 Whist. Come & join us at the Reading Room, Church Hill, Swanage. Ffi, call 07984 968733
 19.00 **Purbeck Chess Club.** Mortons House Hotel, Corfe Castle. Ffi, call Brian Beard 425988
 19.30 **Purbeck Quire** rehearse at Wm Methodist Church. New/visiting singers (no audition necessary). String & wind players also welcome. Ffi: 423505 or 480737.
 19.30 **Wareham Art Club Workshop** at Wareham Parish Hall. Ffi: 553718.
 19.30 **Badminton & Table Tennis Club,** Adults, Swanage Methodist Church Hall. Small friendly club. All levels welcome. Til 10pm. 07917 473390
 19.30 **Wm Folk Dance Club** Stoboro' VH. All welcome. 553519/422730
 19.30 **Swanage Badminton Club** at the Swanage School, till 9.30pm. Ffi: 07966 136641.
 19.30 **Swanage Air Cadets** meet at Air Training Corps HQ, Court Road, Sw. Cadets age 12+. Ffi: email: oc.2185@aircadets.mod.
 20.00 **DARTS** at the RBL Club, Sw.
 20.00 **Herston Hall Management C'ttee** Bingo

EVERY TUESDAY

09.00 **First Steps Toddler's Group.** Swanage Methodist Church till 10.15am. Ffi: Sylvia Garrett 425420, office hours, or sylvia@swanagemethodist.org.uk
 09.30 **Isle of Purbeck Arts Club.** Painting and sketching. At the Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Rd, Sw. Till 1pm. Outdoors in summer. Ffi: Gina on 421689.
 09.30 **Well Baby Clinic** at Chapel Lane, Swanage. Till 11.30am.
 09.30 **Kiddies Corner** Mother & Toddler Group (term time only) No fee - donations welcome. Purbeck Gateway Church. 551415
 09.30 **Wareham Art Club** Workshop at Wareham Parish Hall. Ffi: 553718.
 10.00 **Wareham Croquet Club** meet at the Recreation Ground until 5pm. New members and visitors welcome. Call Bridgit on 01929 552816 or Lesley on 01929 553927 or email warehamgolfcroquetclub@hotmail.com
 10.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Session. Till 11. 426312
 10.00 **Sandford Toddlers** at Sandford Community Hall, till 11.30am.
 10.00 **Short Tennis** at Sw FC All ages & abilities £1.50 Till noon. 425175
 10.30 **Swanage Walking for Health Group** starter walks (15-30mins). Start from the Mowlem Shelter on Swanage Seafront. Get back into the swing of things gently! Ffi: 481000
 10.30 **First Steps Toddler's Group.** Swanage Methodist Church till 11.45am. Ffi: Sylvia Garrett 425420, office hours, or sylvia@swanagemethodist.org.uk
 12.00 **Nature Tots** (0-4yrs) at Bovington Memorial Hall Garden. Until 2pm
 14.00 **Swanage Walking for Health Group.** Walks of 60-90mins, various locations. Walks are very social, for a range of abilities. Walks start from car parks at Studland, Corfe, Arne, Durlston, Langton, Acton, Worth and Kingston. Ffi: 481000.

- 14.00 **Harman's Cross Village Hall Art Group** Till 5
- 14.00 **Wareham Short Mat Bowls.** Furzebrook VH. Roll-up session, all standards welcome. Ffi 401799
- 17.00 **Sw Tennis Club** Junior Session till 6pm. 426312
- 18.00 **Sw Youth Centre Girls' Night** (Yr 8+) Till 10
- 18.15 **Sw Cricket Club** Practice till 8.30pm
- 18.30 **Sw Bridge Club** Mowlem Community Room. 421840
- 19.00 **Wareham Air Cadets** meet at Air Training Corps HQ, St Martin's Lane, Wm. Cadets age 12+. Ffi: email: oc.2185@aircadets.mod.
- 19.30 **Swanage Group of Alcoholics Anonymous** meets at Swanage Day Centre, High Street, Swanage. If you want help to stop drinking, you are welcome. Or call 01202 296000 for more details.
- 19.30 **Sw & Langton Folk Dance Club** Langton VH. Ffi: 421913
- 19.30 **Belvedere Singers** rehearsal at their NEW venue, St Mark's CE VA Primary School, High St, Sw. Parking on-site. All singers welcome! 423729
- 20.00 **Sw Regatta & Carnival Assoc Bingo** Herston Leisure, Herston Yards Farm, Sw.
- 20.00 **Carey Hall, Wm Bingo**
EVERY WEDNESDAY
- 09.00 **St Mark's Toddlers Group**, St Mark's Church, Swanage. Herston, Sw Till 11am
- 09.45 **Corfe Wool Workshop** Corfe VH, East St. Members £1.50; non-members £2.50. Till 12.00. 427067
- 10.00 **Short tennis** for adults at Swanage Football Club. All welcome. Equipment supplied. Till noon.
- 10.00 **Breast Feeding Group** at Wareham's Children Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Offering peer support and breastfeeding counsellor advice. Till 12 noon. Ffi: 552864
- 10.30 **Play and Learn** at Kids of Wool (BH20 6DY) until 12 noon.
- 11.00 **Volunteer Centre Drop-In** at Swanage Library till 1pm. Find our about volunteering to support community groups & charities
- 13.15 **EBC TOTS** meet Emmanuel Baptist Ch, Victoria Ave, Sw. Til 2.45. £1 per child.
- 14.00 **Herston Senior Citizens** meet Herston Hall, Jubilee Rd, Sw. All welcome
- 14.00 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation.** Till 3pm. With Penny at the Mowlem Community Room, Sw. Ffi 07969925502
- 15.00 **Extend Exercise Class**, now at Morton Village Hall. To improve strength, balance and flexibility. All welcome. Donations welcome. Ffi: 471490.
- 16.15 **Swanage Football Club U-7s** Training til 5.15pm. £1. Ffi: 426346
- 17.15 **Swanage Football Club U-9s** Training til 6.15pm. £1. Ffi: 426346
- 18.00 **Swanage Youth Club.** School years 7&8. Till 8.30pm
- 18.45 **Sw Hockey Club** Training Wm Sports Centre. Till 8. 424442
- 19.00 **Wm Bridge Club** at the Library, South St. 552257
- 19.00 **Wareham Short Mat Bowls Club** Roll-up evening Furzebrook VH. 401799
- 19.15 **Purbeck Runners** meet at the Crows Nest, Sw. 4/5 mile run.
- 19.30 **Swanage Musical Theatre** meet Swanage Bay View Complex Rehearsal Room. All welcome. Ffi: 426161
- 19.45 **Badminton Group** meet at the Purbeck Sports Centre until 9.15pm for games of mixed doubles. Ffi, please call Kate on 01929 421806 or email katespurling@btinternet.com
- 20.00 **Sw Youth Centre Club Night** (Yr 9+) Till 10
- 20.15 **Dorset Buttons Morris Practice.** URC Hall, Wm. 423234/421130
- 20.30 **Wm Swimming Club Adults.** All standards + stroke improvement. Till 10
- 22.00 **Sw Youth Centre Club Night** (16+) Till 11.59
EVERY THURSDAY
- 08.30 **Wm Home Producers** Veg, cakes, plants, flowers, handicrafts. URC. New producers/helpers welcome. Till 11. 553798
- 09.00 **Swanage Painting Club.** Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Rd, Sw. Friendly group. New members including beginners welcome. Till 1pm. Ffi: Jane on 01929 427078
- 09.30 **Play and Learn** at Chapel Lane, Swanage, till 11am.
- 09.30 **Well Baby Clinic** at Streche Road, Wareham, until 12 noon.
- 09.30 **Sensory Play** for under ones, at Bovington Centre until 10.30am
- 10.00 **Wm Parent & Toddler Group** During term Parish Hall, Quay Till 11.45. 556806
- 10.00 **First Dorset Credit Union** is in Wareham at 'Not Just Sundaes' community cafe, South Street, Wm. Until 12 noon.
- 10.00 **Wool Country Market** D'Urbeville Hall. Cakes, preserves, plants, crafts, vegetables. Coffee & biscuits available.
- 10.00 **Sw Tennis Club Session.** Til 11am. 426312
- 10.00 **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** at Queensmead Hall, Sw. Til 11am. Adm 50p
- 10.00 **Volunteer Centre Drop-In** at Wareham Library till 12pm. Find our 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 Bridgit on 01929 552816 or Lesley on 01929 553927 or email warehamgolfcroquetclub@hotmail.com
- 10.30 **Harman's Cross Village Hall Chinese Art Group**
- 10.30 **Mid-Week Market Morning** Service URC, Church St, Wm. Prayer requests to Revd. Simon Franklin 556976
- 11.00 **Sensory Play** for 1-4yrs old at Bovington Centre, until 12 noon.
- 13.00 **Studland Toddler Group** at Studland Village Hall until 2.30pm.
- 13.30 **Under 1 year olds** at Wareham's Children's Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Anti-natal mums welcome. Till 3pm. Ffi: 552864.
- 13.30 **Toddler Group.** All Saints' Church, Sw. 423937. Till 3pm (Term times)
- 14.00 **Life drawing classes** at Harmans Cross Village Hall from 2pm till 4pm. For further information, ring 427621.
- 14.15 **Sw Over-60s** Meet in the Rectory Classroom, Swanage, Sw. All Welcome.
- 17.45 **Swanage Youth Club.** Learning Difficulties and disability (age 11-25) night. Till 7.30pm
- 18.00 **Five High Singers,** United Reformed Church Hall, Swanage. 11 - 18 years. Till 7pm
- 18.15 **Sw Cricket Club** Practice till 9pm
- 18.30 **Swanage Sea Rowing Club** Circuit Training at Swanage Middle School. Ffi: 07776 201455
- 19.00 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation.** Till 8pm. With Penny at Furzebrook VH, Wm. Ffi 07969925502
- 19.00 **Purbeck Gateway Club** meets at Wareham Youth Centre until 9pm. Purbeck Gateway is a club for adults with learning difficulties. We meet during term time and have fun! All welcome. Ffi: Lew on 552173. Email: Lewisbell1@aol.com
- 19.15 **Wm Town Band Brass & Woodwind players** welcome. 551478/01202 242147
- 19.30 **Short Mat Bowls** in the Durbeville Hall, Wool. All standards welcome, till 9.30pm. Ffi: 552682
- 19.30 **Purbeck Arts Choir** meet for rehearsals, with conductor Jay Buckle, at Swanage First School from September - 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
- 09.30 **Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation.** Till 10.30pm. With Penny at Furzebrook VH, Wm. Ffi 07969925502
- 09.30 **Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group.** Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage. Term time only. Until 11.30am. Ffi: Alex on 07904 412067.
- 10.00 **Swanage Library Rhyme Time,** until 11.30am.
- 10.00 **Table Tennis Club** Sw FC All ages/abilities £2.50 Till noon. 480093
- 11.00 **Toddler Time** For Under 5s And Carers. Wareham Library. Stories, songs and crafts. Every Friday, including school holidays. Ffi: 01929 556146
- 14.00 **Pottery Classes** held in Corfe Castle. 2 - 5pm. Call Rachel 01929 480455 to book. £10pw
- 14.30 **Short Mat Bowls** at Durbeville Hall, Wool. Till 4.30pm. All standards welcome. Ffi: 552682.
- 18.00 **Purbeck War-Game & Model Club.** Royal British Legion, Sw. 426096.
- 18.00 **Sw Youth Centre Club** 12-13 (Yr 7-9) Till 8
- 18.00 **Sw Tennis Club Senior Club Session.** 426312
- 18.30 **Sw Bridge Club** Mowlem Community Room. 421840
- 19.00 **Sw Youth Centre Seniors Club Night** (Yr 9+) Till 9.30pm.
- 19.00 **Swanage Scouts** meet during term time at the URC Church Hall, Sw. Open to boys & girls aged 10-14 years. Ffi: swanagescouts4th@hotmail.co.uk
- 19.30 **Short tennis for adults** at Swanage Football Club. All welcome. Equipment supplied. Till 9.30pm. £3.
- 20.00 **Sw Youth Centre Live Bands** (as advertised) Till 10pm.
- 22.00 **Sw Youth Centre Late Session** (Yr 9+) till 11.59pm (members free)
- EVERY SATURDAY**
- 08.00 **Purbeck Runners** meet at the Mowlem, Sw. 4/5 mile run.
- 09.00 **Sw CC U11 - U15** Practice till 10.30
- 09.30 **Sw CC U9 & U10** Practice & Kwik Cricket till 10.30
- 10.00 **Tea, coffee and home-made cakes** in the Parish Hall on Wareham Quay during the Community Market. Til 2pm. Bric-a-Brac stall weekly. Christian bookstall most weeks. All welcome for a warm-up and a friendly chat.
- 20.00 **Herston OAP Committee Bingo** at Herston Hall, Sw
EVERY SUNDAY
- 09.00 **Purbeck Runners** meet at the Mowlem, Sw. 8+ mile run.
- 09.45 **Skyscrapers Children's Group** at Swanage Methodist Church Hall. Including a cooked breakfast, games and fun bible stories, ages 0-11. Ffi: Tom Bullock on 421767, office hours, or tom@swanagemethodist.org.uk
- 10.00 **Arts and Crafts Market** at the Mowlem in Swanage. A wide range of local art for sale, including pottery, glass, cards, fabric and much more! To book your table, or for more information, call Tony on 01929 421321.
- 10.30 **Stoborough Emmanuel Baptist Church** meet at Stoborough First School, Stoborough. All very welcome.



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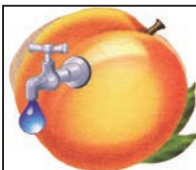
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