

The Purbeck Gazette



June 2020
Issue no. 245

20,000 Copies:
Swanage to Dorchester,
Lulworth to Bere Regis

CORONAVIRUS SHUTDOWN EDITION TWO!



Historical Coastwatch. Pg 10-11



Save Our Service! Pg 15



Working From Home. Pg 30



Wareham Whalers NHS Donation. Pg 34



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Editor's note...



Welcome to the June edition of your Purbeck Gazette! For the second time in our history, we are publishing online only, rather than on paper. Again, this is due to the fact that the vast majority of our advertisers are currently closed.

I must ensure that I firstly thank those wonderful volunteers who have stepped in to help us while the staff are furloughed due to a complete lack of revenue - to Muriel, a retired book-keeper who is helping keep our accounts up-to-date and to those who have assisted in putting the magazine together for the second month in a row - thank you so very much.

Thanks also to the two very kind and generous individuals who donated to the Purbeck Gazette last month - together you enabled us to cover our office rent for May, so we are hugely grateful to you both. The Gazette will return in the near future in its printed form, but we must quite obviously wait until we have enough advertising revenue to cover the cost of printing and distributing.

If you have a business or service which is reopening shortly and looking for immediate customers and you want to let 60,000 readers know about it, contact us to advertise. Please do email us at: ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk - we are currently taking bookings for advertising within the online edition with very low pricing and, based on demand, will return to publishing 'properly' as soon as the advertising bookings (and therefore revenue) allow.

Our community is strong and will continue to be so if we all support one another, stay safe and stay sensible! Enjoy June!

The Purbeck Gazette is delivered by:



We distribute 20,000 copies of the Purbeck Gazette every month to properties in Purbeck utilising Logiforce GPS-tracked delivery teams.

(Residents in blocks of flats, or who live up long driveways or in lesser populated areas will not get a door-to-door delivery. You will not receive a copy if you display a 'no junk mail' sticker on your letterbox)

Purbeck has a population of approx. 45,300, we print & distribute 20,000 copies for Purbeck and further afield (Crossways, Broadmayne, Bloxworth etc).

You will not therefore ALL get a paper copy! 1 in 3 properties get a copy. We ensure a good spread of distribution throughout the whole area to get the best response for our advertisers, who are our business customers.

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

See: www.purbeckgazette.com

The July 2020 edition has a deadline of 10th June.

The August 2020 edition has a deadline of 8th July.

Public Notices & Information



Compiled for the Purbeck Gazette by
National Coastwatch Institution, Swanage



Solar & Tidal Predictions - June '20

Peveril Ledge, Swanage

Date	HW	LW	HW	LW	HW	Moon / Tides	Sunrise	Sunset
01-Jun	05:46	00:12	18:08	12:41			05:00	21:10
02-Jun		01:14	06:47	13:37	19:07		05:00	21:11
03-Jun		02:07	07:41	14:28	20:00		04:59	21:12
04-Jun		02:55	08:30	15:16	20:49		04:58	21:13
05-Jun		03:42	09:16	16:02	21:37	FM	04:58	21:14
06-Jun		04:27	10:00	16:48	22:22		04:57	21:15
07-Jun		05:12	10:43	17:33	23:06	SP	04:57	21:15
08-Jun		05:56	11:27	18:18	23:50		04:56	21:16
09-Jun		06:40	12:10	19:03			04:56	21:17
10-Jun	00:34	07:25	12:55	19:51			04:55	21:18
11-Jun	01:21	08:13	13:42	20:43			04:55	21:19
12-Jun	02:11	09:07	14:32	21:43			04:55	21:19
13-Jun	03:06	10:08	15:27	22:45			04:55	21:20
14-Jun	04:07	11:10	16:28	23:47		NP	04:54	21:20
15-Jun	05:15	12:08	17:34				04:54	21:21
16-Jun		00:44	06:19	13:01	18:34		04:54	21:21
17-Jun		01:34	07:10	13:48	19:23		04:54	21:22
18-Jun		02:17	07:53	14:32	20:04		04:54	21:22
19-Jun		02:58	08:31	15:14	20:42		04:54	21:23
20-Jun		03:38	09:08	15:56	21:19		04:55	21:23
21-Jun		04:18	09:44	16:37	21:56	NM	04:55	21:23
22-Jun		04:58	10:20	17:18	22:34		04:55	21:23
23-Jun		05:38	10:58	17:58	23:13	SP	04:55	21:24
24-Jun		06:19	11:39	18:40	23:57		04:56	21:24
25-Jun		07:01	12:24	19:25			04:56	21:24
26-Jun	00:44	07:48	13:14	20:15			04:56	21:24
27-Jun	01:38	08:40	14:10	21:12			04:57	21:24
28-Jun	02:41	09:42	15:12	22:20			04:57	21:24
29-Jun	03:53	10:55	16:20	23:33		NP	04:58	21:24
30-Jun	05:09	12:05	17:32				04:58	21:23

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

All times are local

Swanage Town Council Meetings - June 2020
ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SUSPENDED

Wareham Town Council Meetings - June 2020
ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SUSPENDED

Dorset Council

For details of council meetings, councillors and decisions please use the web address: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/committees

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

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

About Purbeck Media Ltd

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OUR TEAM: The Gazette team consists of: Nico Johnson, Editor, Kay Jenkins, Sales & Accounts Executive, David Hollister, Columnist, John Garner, Columnist, Regula Wright, Columnist. Purbeck Designs (some graphics), Kim Steeden, Spotlight Diary Editor.

VOLUNTEERS: A massive thanks to our volunteers, whose help is invaluable each month. Our proof readers are the very professional: Gerry Norris and David Holman, with volunteer Photographer, Tim Crabb, also on-hand.

Telephone Sales & Client Contact

We reserve the right to maintain contact with our advertising clients, past and present, through the use of telephone calls and emails. We retain customer's names, addresses, emails and telephone numbers on file. If you do not wish to hear from us to be reminded of upcoming deadlines, please do let us know!



Bournemouth thunderstorm from sunny Swanage. By Liz Griffiths

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**SPORT AND OUR DIARY SPOTLIGHT WILL RETURN IN THE FUTURE
WHEN EVENTS ARE PERMITTED ONCE AGAIN!**

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of this publication may be
reproduced without written
permission of the Editor.***

DEADLINE FOR JULY IS 12 NOON, 10th JUNE

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.

JULY edition deadline: noon, 10th JUNE

An Elongated Holiday?

Dear Editor,

Sadly, John Rowley is correct (letters May 2020) that despite over 30,000 current coronavirus related deaths in the UK and heaven only knows how many front line healthcare workers deaths, there are caravan owners at a local site who have decided they couldn't care less and are using the pandemic for an elongated holiday.

Unfortunately, this site seem to have elected to collude with them rather than shutting off their electric and water supply and are continuing to provide gas bottles, unlike responsible park owners like Ulwell who blocked off all access to their site!

There appear to be at least four caravans occupied, despite the site having a rule preventing their caravans being occupied continuously for (I understand) fifty-seven days, when they must then be vacated for seven. This appears to not be happening, but I would love to hear the site's response.

These happy campers are enjoying our restricted facilities and potentially our limited healthcare resources, without a worry in the world. I approached one couple who couldn't understand what the fuss was about. They are now using the excuse they are not allowed to travel home anyway, even though they refused to head home when they had the whole of the pre-lockdown weekend to vacate.

If you see them please challenge them and let them know that for people who pretend to 'love Swanage', they are not behaving like it. As for the second home-owners (Northbrook Road, Walrond Road - you know who you are!!!), don't get me started.

So many times I hear the expression that these events bring out the best and worst in people, regrettably we are seeing that here.

Yours Michael Lock, Swanage, by email.

Reduce Your Risk Of Stroke

Dear Editor,

Reduce your risk of stroke

Mealtimes will undoubtedly be a highlight of the day for many Dorset residents during the coronavirus lockdown. Choosing what dishes to create can be very exciting, but at the Stroke Association, we'd like to encourage everyone to consider one particular ingredient – the amount and type of salt you use.

That's important because the sodium in salt can cause high blood pressure which is believed to triple the risk of stroke. Reducing our salt intake will reduce incidence of high blood pressure and therefore stroke. In Dorset, more than 103,500 adults have been diagnosed with high blood pressure.

Cutting out salt as much as possible must be a priority. But, I know how hard it is and if you find it difficult to cut out salt completely, there is an alternative to regular salt called LoSalt®. LoSalt® has two thirds less sodium than regular table, sea and rock salts without any taste compromise.

Now as a charity, we're partnering with LoSalt® to encourage a #HealthierUK and share tips and ideas for small changes which can make a big difference to our health – including trying LoSalt in your cooking and baking.

To launch our #HealthierUK partnership we have some really scrumptious recipes, courtesy of LoSalt®, on our website www.stroke.org.uk/healthierUK

Please do note that if you take some types of medication that affect potassium levels, LoSalt® and other reduced sodium salt alternatives may not be suitable for you. This includes people receiving medication

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for diabetes, heart or kidney disorders. Check with your GP for advice. I hope you enjoy trying out the recipes!

Juliet Bouverie, Chief Executive, The Stroke Association

Swanage Jazz Cancelled

Dear Editor,

Due to the current lockdown and social distancing measures, the Committee of the Swanage Jazz Festival have taken the sad decision to postpone this year's Festival. We know many people will be sad about the postponement but it is inevitable at present.

The good news is that we have the dates for 2021, so make a note in your calendar, 9-11 July 2021. We hope to welcome as many of the musicians who were due to perform this year as possible and will be planning our 2021 Festival as soon as lockdown is over.

We have written to all ticket holders for whom we have addresses. If readers have bought a ticket in person and haven't heard from us, please email info@swanagejazzfestival.co.uk for details of ticket options.

For more information please visit www.swanagejazzfestival.co.uk or visit our Facebook page. We hope to bring you online music from our talented musicians on those sites.

Stay safe and we hope to see you in 2021.

Swanage Jazz Festival

The Purbeck Schindler

Dear Readers,

Trevor Chadwick – The Purbeck Schindler

The cancellation of the VE Day 75th commemoration planned for 8th May is a great disappointment to many, who have already devoted much time and energy arranging the celebrations. It is hoped however that some type of commemorative event can take place later in the year.

The 8th May was also planned to be the day when the town was going to launch a very special fundraising event to commemorate an unsung hero of Swanage – The Purbeck Schindler – Trevor Chadwick. His story is fascinating, full of danger, heroism and acts of selfless kindness.

Trevor was a schoolmaster at a private school known as Forres, now the Purbeck View School. Just before the outbreak of the Second World War Trevor was tasked by the school to go to Prague and bring back two Jewish refugee children to the safety of the UK. This he did but whilst there was really moved by the plight of other children and their families who had taken refuge in Prague having fled from other countries overrun by the Nazis.

Trevor returned to Prague and there met a small group of other people amongst them, Nicholas Winton (later to be knighted for his work in saving Jewish children) and Doreen Warriner. Over a period of several months Trevor was instrumental in bringing 669 children back to this country and safety.

He put his life at tremendous risk by saving the lives of so many children who would have been destined otherwise for the concentration camps.

Trevor returned to this country and joined the RAF. After the war he went back to becoming a schoolteacher and also joined the Swanage Lifeboat crew. He was a regular at the Black Swan and quite a lad apparently by all accounts.

On Prague railway station there is a bronze statue commemorating Sir Nicholas Winton and we thought it would be equally fitting to erect a statue in Swanage to pay tribute to a remarkable man, an ordinary local schoolteacher who did extraordinary things.

Trevor's story will continue to unfold over the next several months.

John Corben, Chair - The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust



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Secondly, a home delivery service for beers and ciders! Please text John on 07840 935110 to order.

Thank You From Swanage Foodbank

Dear Editor,

Swanage Food Bank would like to give a public thanks to everyone who has supported our work during lock-down.

Many local businesses have donated food items: John Hutchings of Purbeck House Hotel has supplied newly-laid eggs every week; Hayman's Bakery has delivered frozen bread; Mark Richardson of Budgen's has provided generous supplies of groceries and commodities; Harry Ramsden's, Swanage Youth Hostel, Greggs, Leeson House, Beavers and other shops and businesses have offered stocks since Covid-19 closures.

At a time when need is far greater and supplies have been difficult to access in local stores, these gifts and especially those from individuals, have been vital. Many have given financially, and we are grateful for every donation. Our recent urgent appeal for food items has been met with overwhelming generosity, so empty shelves are full once more. What a wonderful response!

Our bins for donated food are still available during opening hours in Costcutters, Budgen and Co-op, and now in Arkwright's/Spar. Also, a blue bin is placed outside Swanage Food Bank at the Salvation Army Lower Hall (King's Road East) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12 noon to 2pm.

A personal thank you from our team for the gifts of home-made face masks which Sarah Brookes and others have sewn for us. Safeguarding ourselves and the people we serve is of key importance always.

This pandemic has unleashed heart-warming kindness in our community, which brings to mind Charles Dickens' words: 'the best of times, the worst of times'.

The troubles are not over yet, and food poverty is likely to increase for many here - so thank you on our clients' behalf for continuing to give for their benefit.

Yours sincerely, Pauline Werba (Chairperson, Swanage Food Bank)

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Community Matters

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS...

A Good Time To Bury Bad News?

by David Hollister

Since the middle of March we've understandably been preoccupied with avoiding the CV19 virus. Arguments backwards and forwards on the efficacy – or otherwise – of all sorts of central and regional government policies. Suddenly every subscriber to social media has become a virologist, a medical specialist, or the Oracle of Delphi itself. Honestly, I'm fed up with reading about, hearing about, and worrying about a subject over which actually I have no control. And over which, regardless of their splutterings, neither Police nor Politicians can provide concrete solutions. All we can do is – as my late mother used to say – "Wait and See".

So, I refuse to be a prisoner to things I can't change, as James Taylor said: "I will gather up my sorrows and I'll sell them all for gold, then I'll gather up the gold and I'll throw it all away".

But in the meantime, the rest of the world hasn't stopped. In the words of the government aide on September 11th, it's a 'good time to bury bad news'.

So, what's going on? Well, they've reversed the one-way system in Kings Road in Swanage – again – while they finish working on Institute Road. It took less than a week for the stupid traffic lights to fail and leave motorists fuming at the delays. I spoke with Cllr. Gary Suttle who told me: "We are sick of these lights and have raised an official complaint." It's time that Dorset Council demanded action from the traffic light suppliers or kicked them into touch. I do hope that we're not paying for it!

A £147m merger of two NHS trusts in Dorset has been cleared to go ahead by the competition authority. But the "Competition and Markets Authority" has said that there have since been significant changes to policy within the NHS. So, that's OK then.

Leave Purbeck in the wilderness and transfer the main hospital from the centre of the county to the northern outskirts. But fortunately there's still a strong and vocal opposition group fighting for common sense and fairness. But in the words of St.Paul, they are finding that it is "hard to kick against the pricks".....

Now the NHS is threatening to remove Swanage's 'Ambulance Car'. To have your say on this, log on to the petition site at you.38degrees.org.uk Or write to your MP if you still have one. Another appalling example of NHS abandonment of Purbeck. I wont be clapping tonight.

We still have all the other issues that we had before CV19. Such as the utterly unworkable revision of the junction at the bottom of Coombe Hill. I suspect that this was created without having gone through the full approval process at Dorset Council.

A reader advises me that following several emails to Mr. Andrew Bradley, Project Engineer - Highway Improvements at the Council, he understands that the junction will be subject to a Stage 4 Road Safety Audit in mid-June 2020 and the findings reviewed by the design team with any recommendations duly considered. I guess it's highly likely that this timing will slip. But let's keep our eyes on this and not let it be foisted upon us permanently; some of their recent decisions would suggest that the 'design team' couldn't design their way out of a paper bag.

The reduction in traffic in Purbeck would seem to provide an ideal opportunity to fix the potholes..... someone tell Dorset Council.....



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We have the Wareham level crossing fiasco. Still no closer to an automated crossing. Still no closer to a proper pavement on the road bridge for prams and wheelchairs, although we do have a shiny new cycleway on the bypass that few people seem to trouble to use.

So where are we on this? After the appalling experience of young Stan Cole in November 2019, Executive Director John Sellegren said: "no apology can be enough.....". OK, sorry seems to be the hardest word but it doesn't seem to bring any remedial action. Let us keep our eyes on this and hope that the Town and County Councillors involved keep up the pressure to get it sorted.

Firefighters have warned that the pandemic is being used as an excuse to rush through some sneaky cuts to the Fire and Rescue service; they say that these plans amount to a betrayal of both firefighters and the public, as they include major reductions in the numbers of both fire engines and staff. Their union has suggested that government ministers publicly clapping key workers on Thursday nights whilst turning a blind eye to these cuts is little more than hypocrisy.

The scammers are still out and about taking advantage of people's vulnerability; new batches of emails suggesting that car tax and TV licence debits have failed and demanding bank or credit card details. Now you or I wouldn't give anyone our bank details and wouldn't be fooled by these messages..... would we? The fact that these scams are proliferating would suggest that there are still people out there who fall for them.

Probably the same idiots that didn't understand 'stay at home' and insisted on visiting Purbeck in their cars, camper vans and tents, with their kayaks and canoes and leaving their brains behind in Slough or wherever. I wasn't going to mention CV but honestly? Only answer is for canoeists and kayakers who end up calling out our emergency services to have their expensive equipment sold to defray expenses or even destroyed in front of their very eyes.

Thank you to the Ferry Company for taking it out of service until the emergency is over, thus keeping a few idiots out of Studland and Swanage. Shame we can't patrol the roundabouts on the roads into Purbeck to achieve a similar effect.

Thank you also to the Viewpoint Ice Cream van for coming round our streets and making a lot of people very happy! Thank you to Swanage Council for allowing market stalls back on King George's car park.

And some personal thanks – to Michelle and the team of housebound volunteer presenters keeping our local radio station (www.purbeckcoast.com) going, providing news and entertainment to Purbeck on 101.2 FM and thanks also to everyone who listens to my 'Home Alone' show on weekdays and contacts me via Facebook and Messenger.

Thank you to the new Swanage TV which appears on U-Tube – 13 episodes down - and keeping us updated and amused in their own inimitable way!

And of course, thank you to Muriel and our volunteers who are helping to keep the Purbeck Gazette going through the lockdown period so that we can read and enjoy it online at www.purbeckgazette.co.uk .

Together we will see this thing through to the end!

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Dorset Council Thanks Schools And Childcare

The dedication of Dorset teachers, childcare providers and school support staff during the Coronavirus pandemic has been recognised.

On 5th May, Dorset Council said a huge 'thank you' to these workers for keeping much-needed education and childcare services going during the lockdown. Many staff have worked through their holidays to provide care for vulnerable youngsters and key workers' children.

Speaking after Dorset Council's Cabinet meeting today, Cllr Andrew Parry, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Early Help, said: "We are grateful to teachers, school staff and childcare workers for their dedication and hard work during these challenging times.

"Many worked through their Easter holidays to provide much-needed care for our most vulnerable children and also to support other key workers. Those working in education and childcare are in many ways unsung heroes. They aren't as visible as other key workers, but they are also leaving their own families and going into work to do what is needed to help Dorset get through this crisis together."

School staff and leaders have worked hard to make sure that children who usually receive free school meals do not go hungry during lockdown. Some have organised food parcels, others have been delivering meals or distributing food vouchers.

Teachers have also been working hard to educate their students using technology. A huge amount of effort is going into creating digital resources, keeping in touch with students as well as setting and marking work online.

During the Easter holidays many schools and childcare providers remained open. In Dorset 137 children went into school on Good Friday and 104 attended on Easter Monday. Many schools will also remain open during the upcoming half term break.

Latest figures show that at the end of April a total of 99 childcare providers across Dorset were still open, providing care for the children of key workers, those with special needs and children who are supported by a social worker.

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Steve Wheller receiving the award on behalf of Carpets Select

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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 supermarkets, you can't beat personal, friendly, high quality service and workmanship from people who really care about their work.'

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NHS

THANK YOU, NHS!

On behalf of our readers, we would like to thank ALL those working for the NHS, whether cleaning staff or senior surgeon. You are ALL instrumental to the nation as a whole and we support you. A particular thank you to our local hospitals, our GP practices, our District Nurse teams, our Ambulance services and our First Responders. YOU are our heroes.

Dorset Police



WORKING
TOGETHER
for a safer community

PACT

Partners And Communities Together

We hope you are all staying safe and are in good spirits since our last article. With this in mind, we would like to thank the vast majority of people in Purbeck who are entering into the spirit of the government advice. Please be assured that even during these extraordinary times we are doing all we can to keep our communities safe.

Despite these exceptional events we are still out patrolling the towns and rural areas advising and educating, and enforcing, if necessary, by issuing fixed penalty notices in line with current legislation regarding essential journeys. We will continue stopping people and asking them their reason for travel. Remember

Stay alert > Control the Virus > Save Lives

We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:

- stay at home as much as possible
- work from home if you can
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (two metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly
- Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

A fuller list is set out in the regulations. Even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent away from the home and ensuring that you are two metres apart from anyone outside of

your household. You can find out more visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> Information can also be found at <https://www.dorset.police.uk/covid-19-coronavirus/>

We ask you all to continue to keep yourselves updated by visiting the websites shown above and observe Government guidelines and stay safe.

So what else have we been up to? Well, we have been very busy; in the period 9 April – 09 May 2020 we dealt with a total of 491 occurrences in Purbeck, of which 127 were recorded crimes resulting in 38 arrests.

On a less positive note there were 32 occurrences of Road Traffic collisions. These numbers are once again down from the last set of figures due to the lock down; we do not apologise for repeating the message from the last post 'please don't relax just because there is less traffic on the road'. There are still plenty of other hazards such as wildlife, please don't become complacent. Please take extra care on the roads.

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

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

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

Register on Dorset Alert, by registering for the free Dorset Police community messaging alerts you will receive information on local crime and incidents where we believe that sharing information with you will help to prevent further offences occurring and much more!

Purbeck Neighbourhood Policing Team

Fines Issued For Breach Of Covid19 Restrictions In Dorset

Dorset Police has issued 255 fixed penalty notices to people who have allegedly breached the COVID-19 (coronavirus) restrictions. The fines were issued in the county between Friday 27 March and Thursday 29 April 2020.

Officers in Dorset are continuing to work with the public to ensure they understand and adhere to the rules, which are in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19, help the NHS and save lives.

In a number of instances officers have issued tickets to individuals who have travelled from other parts of the country into Dorset for non-essential travel. Examples have included three people who had travelled down from Surrey to look at nature, a group of four people who had driven from Slough to walk at Durdle Door and someone who had travelled from Nottingham to visit Lulworth Cove.

National statistics published have revealed that 8,877 on-the-spot fines for alleged breaches of the lockdown laws were issued across England between Friday 27 March and Monday 27 April 2020.

This data states 116 fines were issuing during this time in Dorset, but there is a recognised time delay in the data being processed and submitted to ACRO Criminal Records Office and this is the reason for the disparity in figures.

Swanage 'Trolley Mayhem' Witness Appeal

Officers investigating an incident of criminal damage in Swanage are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to come forward.

It was reported that at around 9.45am on Sunday 10 May 2020 the victim – a woman aged in her 30s – was waiting in a queue outside the Co-Op on Kings Road West when a woman, who appeared to be intoxicated, began pushing a man around the car park in a shopping trolley near to the victim's car. The victim asked them to move away, however the woman became verbally abusive and pushed the trolley twice into the victim's car causing damage.

It is reported that the offender then directed the trolley toward the victim, causing her to step back in fear. Another customer then pulled up and parked his car nearby, at which point the woman became aggressive and verbally abusive toward him.

The victim reported the incident to a member of staff and the offender was prevented from entering the store. The woman is described as aged in her 50s with scraggly hair and had teeth missing. She was wearing black leggings.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Dorset Police at www.dorset.police.uk, via email 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk or by calling 101, quoting occurrence number 55200065858.

Alternatively, to stay 100 per cent anonymous, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers online at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or call freephone 0800 555 111.

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A Lewis-Manning Hospice Care Patient Story....

Greta Hardy (pictured, centre) is one of the many local people benefitting from Lewis-Manning Hospice Care's newly established day hospice service in Swanage.

Greta has Parkinson's Disease. She is 87 years old and has lived in the small village of Kingston near Swanage for thirty years.

Greta first heard about Lewis-Manning Hospice Care from her GP, who thought a sixteen-week programme could be very helpful for her and her husband. After discussing it with her husband, Terry, Greta felt it would be nice for him to have a day's break from looking after her and that she would like to give it a try.

Greta told us: "After my first visit, I felt nervous about going back but I didn't want to give up on it. The second week, I thoroughly enjoyed! Everyone is incredibly well looked after by the nurses and healthcare staff.

"Normally, I spend the majority of my day at home and don't talk to or see many people. It's very quiet where I live, you can feel quite isolated.

"After my first visit, I felt a real sense of freedom, it was my day out, my day off. I could be myself and switch off and not worry about anything. At home there is always something to think or worry about, but my day in the hospice gives me a welcomed break and all my worries disappear."

"I think it's really important to have a day hospice service here in Swanage" she said. "For many people it's just too far to travel to Poole. There must be countless people here who could benefit from the support like I do. I hope they find out about it and come along."

Greta described her day to us: "I'm there from 10am until 3pm every Monday. We always have tea and biscuits on arrival, then we sit in a comfy chair and have a good ol' chinwag.

"Often, we do some gentle exercises and most weeks, I have some physiotherapy, which helps with my walking, as I do find it hard to get about now. We enjoy our lunch together and play lots of games and puzzles.

"I look forward to it every week and it's great for Terry too. He has a day to himself to catch up with friends or pop to the shops. He always comes home happy after his day."

If you or someone you know has a life-limiting illness, Lewis-Manning Hospice Care is here for you. Our nurses are always on hand to advise on clinical concerns and to offer help and support. If you need our help, please do call us on 01202 708470.

Please help us so we can be sure that we can continue to be here for Greta and many other local people with life-limiting illnesses. Lewis-Manning Hospice Care needs to raise approximately £60,000 a year to provide our day hospice services in Swanage one day each week. Please give whatever you can.

You can help us by:

- Signing up to the Local Hospice Lottery – just £1 a week and every week you have a chance of winning £2,000! – Go to localhospicelottery.org/hospices/lewis-manning-hospice/ or call 0800 316 0645.

• Send a donation by post to Lewis-Manning Hospice Care at 1 Crichel Mount, Lilliput, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8LT. Charity Registration No. 1120193





National Coastwatch

Eyes along the coast



View from the Lookout

There are lots of clichés flying around at the moment: “We live in strange times”, “is this the new normal?”, but a visit to the Point is definitely strange.

While we are still non-operational a walk to Peveril Point to check the lookout over is often part of my exercise routine. At times the seascape, and even the Point itself, is eerily quiet. The place seems totally different than seven weeks ago.

Wandering around I’m often taken back to another different time – World War II. I’m writing this month’s article on VE Day and I thought I might say a little about what the area looked like during

those dark years of the early 1940s.

At the start of the war, the threat of invasion became imminent, and defences were put in place all around the coast. Swanage was seen not only as a potential landing site for the enemy but as an essential defence point for Poole Harbour.

The beach was soon covered in Z-scaffolding, barbed wire, and anti-tank blocks. Some of these defences remained in place until the late 1940s / early 1950s before being removed. Once again, I am indebted to Swanage

Museum for allowing me to look back through their archives and share some of their photographs.

The aerial photo was taken in 1946 and you can see a line of scaffolding between stone jetty and the Mowlem and the line of anti-tank cubes running from Buck Shore along to what is now the Waterfront. The links between the piers and the mainland were blown up and the picture shows the temporary walkway that had been put in place.

Even today some of the tank blocks still remain. They are the large concrete blocks in the water just below the gentlemen’s toilets on the Pier. Not surprisingly there are no photographs of the construction of the defences, but we do have ones of some of them being removed towards the end of the war. The photo that shows the workmen working on the scaffolding was taken in 1944.

Peveril Point became heavily fortified, and together with a gun battery and searchlight emplacement along Shore Road, became Swanage Emergency Coastal Defence Battery. It was commissioned in July 1940 and was manned by 386 Coast Battery of the Royal Artillery. It remained in place throughout the war and was fully manned up until May 1945.

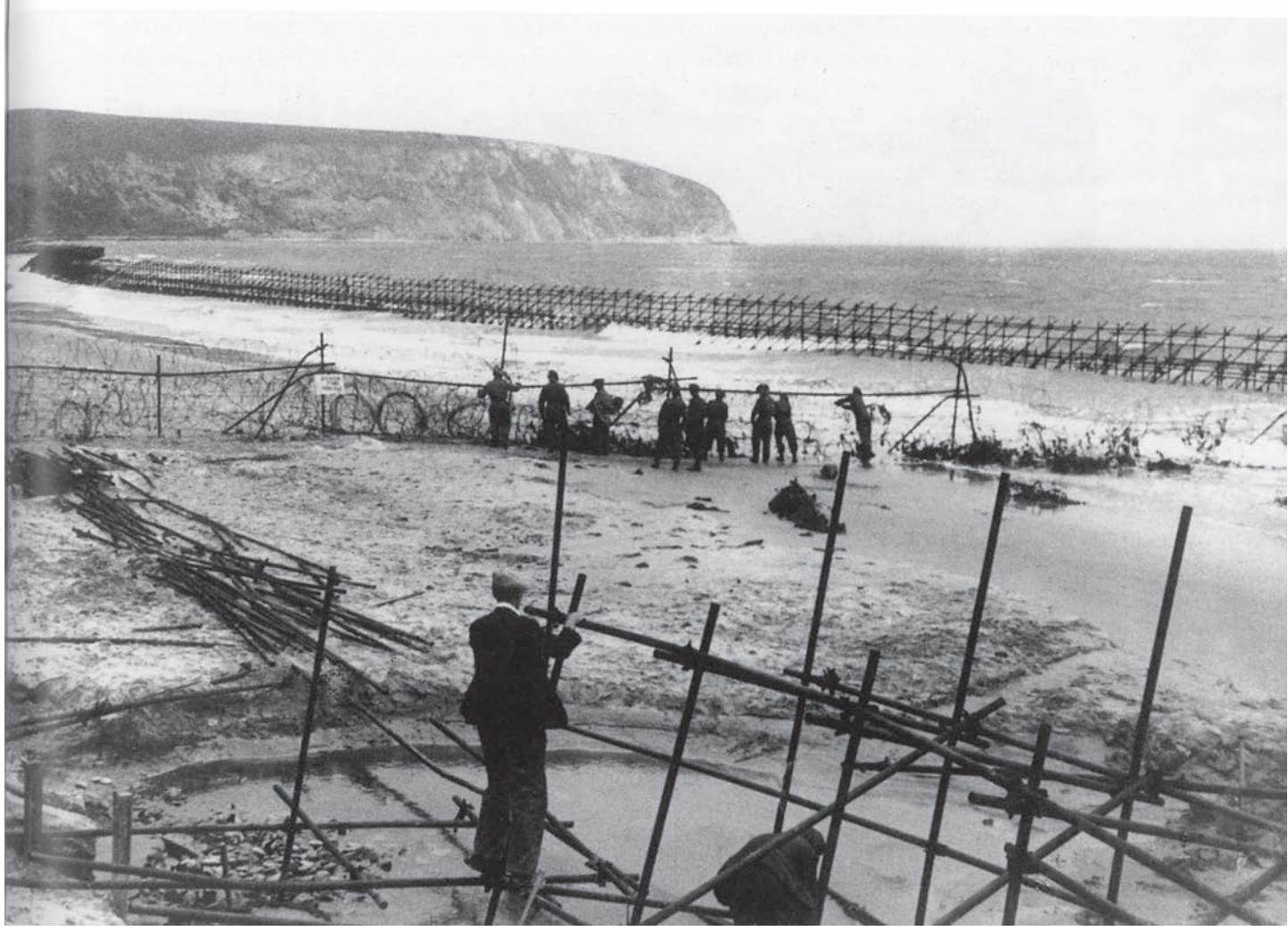
The remains of the battery are still present, and our lookout is built on top of one of the 4-inch gun emplacements. The gun emplacement itself has been converted into our display and book area. On the southern side of the lookout are sloping walls, which show the location of the stairs that led down into the magazines. There are local stories that there is a series of tunnels running between the structures but there is no documentary evidence of that.

The other gun emplacement is still open and has the observation platform above it. If you look closely at the floor of the structure you can still see the remains of where the gun traversing mechanism was.

Both of the emplacements face north and would have covered the bay, in case of enemy landings. They could also have been able to fire out to sea, should an invasion force be heading for Poole.



Pictured: Coastwatch Aerial View defences c.1946



Pictured above: Removing Defences 21st August 1944 (Jeffrey). Below: The WWII Information Panel

Sitting lower down on the Point used to be another emplacement, but sadly this was removed in 2012 as coastal erosion had made it dangerous.

This would have housed the battery searchlight. One of our display panels in the observation platform has an interesting map showing all of the features of the defences at the Point.

As well as the gun batteries there were barbed wire entanglements, machine gun positions and a minefield along the top of the cliff. There was another searchlight down on the shore by the houses that are behind the Lookout.

Sadly, this was removed shortly after the war and all that we think remains is the concrete base where it stood. Some of the houses at the Point were used as billets for the soldiers and the display panel shows a door in one of the houses that still bears the scars of battle – signs of the darts competitions that the soldiers would have had to keep themselves occupied!

When lockdown is relaxed, come up to the Point and have a look at this fascinating part of our history. The panels tell the story really well and help put things into context. There's even a little rifle slot in one of the walls. We'll leave the location as a little challenge. Come and tell the watchkeepers if you find it!

Welcoming visitors back to the Point is something we look forward to, but only when the time is right. We'd ask that everyone heeds the current government advice. In 1944 posters proclaimed, "Careless talk cost lives", in 2020 it's "Stay home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives".

I've just read the report of an incident at Studland where some irresponsible people were cut off by the tide. The rescue response included four police cars, four police officers, one PCSO, one police drone, two coastguard response teams, the inshore lifeboat from Swanage with three crew and a double crewed ambulance later.

Around twenty emergency workers were put at risk as a result of a trip to the beach. Food for thought as we plan our daily exercise.

This is the NCI, Swanage looking forward to listening on channel 65. out

WORLD WAR 2

In the early days of 1940, Swanage was the front line of any possible invasion and was regularly affected by air raids. British Forces had to quickly adapt to the situation and concrete defences were built very quickly to create stop lines in the hope any invasion could be slowed down and prevented heading in land. The invasion by enemy forces codenamed "Unternehmen Seelöwe" or "Operation Sealion" could have been anywhere along the South Coast and at the time no one knew where the invasion would come from. The Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery built a series of fortifications to defend the coast. Military planners installed gun batteries at Swanage, Steyning, Shoreham, Bournmouth, Hengistbury Head and the Needles to protect Poole Bay. The Royal Artillery World War one naval guns at Peveril Point were crewed by 386 Coast Battery RA of 554 Coast Regt, RA, approximately 100 men served at Peveril.

In 1941 the battery was further enhanced in case of invasion but by 1942 the invasion was finally called off. Records show the original plan was to invade Dorset somewhere between Weymouth and Lyme Regis, however these plans were scaled back further with an attack expected in the Kent and Sussex areas.

Map reproduced from 1939 Ordnance Survey map with the kind permission of Ordnance Survey

A door at Water-side showing the metal of those plates who removed the dart board - when the house was used during the war.

with thanks to Ian Brown and David Hayson

1960's photograph showing the building that housed the Search Light - D.E.L. (Defence Emergency Lighting Search Light)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:OperationSealion.org>

An example of 4" Naval Gun which were used at Peveril Point - now in the Imperial War Museum.

Aerial Photograph - 2011 - showing the ravages of time and tide - the reasons for the demolition of the building on the edge.

South West Coast Path, Swanage, Dorset

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Please Don't Come To Dorset!

Dorset Council continues to ask people thinking of visiting Dorset's seaside or beauty spots over the bank holiday weekend and half term to be considerate and think about the potential impact of any visit on Dorset's communities.

Dorset currently has one of the lowest COVID-19 infection rates in

the country thanks to residents who have followed the Government's 'stay at home' advice over the past few weeks.

The council is asking people from other areas of the country not to visit at present as it risks spreading the virus to local communities. Dorset has a large older population and many people have underlying health conditions which make them more vulnerable to the virus.

The latest government guidelines prohibit people from staying overnight at any place that isn't their main home. The council is reminding any potential visitors that they must not stay overnight – whether in cars, tents, motorhomes, camper vans, second homes or holiday accommodation right now.

The government has also said, "it is also important that everyone continues to act responsibly, as the large majority have done to date. The infection rate will increase if people begin to break these rules and, for example, mix in groups".

For anyone considering a visit to the coast, the RNLI has said that lifeguards will not be on beaches and is advising people not to swim or take part in water sports.

The 16th/17th May saw traffic levels across Dorset that were 40% lower than a usual May weekend. Generally, the numbers of people at beaches and beauty spots were manageable and most managed to maintain social distancing. However, there were issues in a number of areas including Lulworth, Portland and West Bexington with irresponsible behaviour by visitors such as illegal parking, littering and lack of social distancing. Sadly since the weekend, and with the good weather, the number of visitors to the county appears to be increasing significantly.

In response to the changing situation, Dorset Council is reopening some car parks and public toilets in key locations in time for the bank holiday weekend to help cope with demand. The usual charges will apply at these car parks. The council also plans to re-open car parks at its country parks from Tuesday 26 May, as part of the phased re-opening of Dorset.

The council reserves the right to close or suspend any facilities if it is deemed that public health is in danger through visitors not following social distancing measures.

Parking payment methods

Dorset Council continues to encourage the use of contactless payment for parking via phone-call, text message or smartphone app as the safest way to avoid spread of the virus. However, in response to public requests, the council is reinstating cash and card payment methods for drivers who do not use a mobile phone.

Due to the required use of keypads at payment machines, visitors who choose to pay by cash or card do so at their own risk. People are strongly encouraged to wash their hands both before and after using the machines to lower the chance of infection.

Dorset Council's Leader, Cllr Spencer Flower, said: "Throughout the pandemic all councils have had to react to a rapidly changing situation, and our priority has always been to protect the health and wellbeing of Dorset residents above all else. We continue to ask visitors to Think Twice about coming to our county at this time.

"However, after closely monitoring what is happening at various locations around Dorset over the past week, we have taken the sensible, but very difficult, decision to adapt our approach in order to deal with emerging problems.

"There are no perfect solutions at this time of crisis. Striking the balance between looking after the safety and health of all our residents while discouraging the mass gathering of people at our many beautiful tourist destinations will remain difficult for the foreseeable future.

"I would like to thank town and parish councils for working with us on these arrangements. And I would particularly like to thank all Dorset residents for their patience and understanding. Dorset Council is working non-stop to rise to the challenge of COVID-19 and I remain incredibly proud of our efforts during these unprecedented times."

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Libraries Stepping Up During Lockdown

The doors may be closed but readers in Dorset are enjoying e-books and e-audio items that are available for downloads from Dorset Libraries.

E-Books and e-Audio books issued peaked at almost 26,000 in April, an increase of 75 per cent on same period last year, perhaps proving that there's nothing quite like a good book to help lift your spirits or provide a bit of escapism.

The increase in Dorset is part of a national surge in eBook library loans, with recent figures showing a dramatic increase in people accessing digital titles across library services in England during the coronavirus lockdown as the nation seeks comfort in e-books.

Cllr Anthony Alford, Cabinet member for Customer, Community and Regulatory Services, said: "The libraries in Dorset reluctantly closed their doors on 20 March, but the latest figures shows you don't have to walk through the doors to be a library enthusiast.

"Thanks to easy-to-use digital services with support to get online, residents are enjoying reading digital books, audiobooks and even comics. Our virtual library service has gone from strength to strength, with thousands of eBooks, eNewspapers and eMagazines loaned and downloaded by people staying at home, up by nearly 50 per cent since lockdown began. "As a result, we've invested in the service to increase the number of available titles – more than 800 new e books & 1400 new audio books so there's now even more choice, with more being added each week!"

See for yourself by visiting www.librarieswest.org.uk

All you need to access these digital services and resources for free are your library card number and email address.

If you're not already a member you can join online: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries-history-culture/libraries/libraries.aspx We will send you your membership number and then you can get started straight away!

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Household Recycling Centres Reopen

Re-open for waste that poses a risk of injury, health or harm

Dorset Council has announced that nine of its ten household recycling centres (HRCs, or 'the tip') reopened on Monday 11 May. This was as a result of central government guidance on managing HRCs in England during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic being updated.

However, the government guidance puts strong restrictions on use to help reduce non-essential journeys. Householders should only take waste to a HRC if it cannot be stored safely at home and no alternative disposal options are available.

Visitors should also expect long queues to access HRCs due to social distancing measures limiting the amount of people we can have on site at any one time. There will be restrictions on site, and additional security staff will help to enforce these, plus traffic management measures. All usual waste types will be accepted, although re-use areas will remain closed.

Most recycling centres will be open from 9am to 6pm daily. To help reduce the need to travel to HRCs, householders should continue to maximise the use of their kerbside waste and recycling collection services. You can always put out additional recycling, glass and food waste at the kerbside provided it is separated properly and placed in sturdy containers that can be lifted by one person.

Garden Waste service customers are reminded to continue using their kerbside bin for all their garden waste. We have also resumed signing up new customers to the Garden Waste service. Visitors will be accepted by vehicle only. There will be no pedestrian/cycle access for safety reasons.

Visitors are asked to note the following:-

- Journeys to a HRC must only be undertaken if essential and your waste or recycling cannot be stored at home safely or disposed of safely by other means. By this we mean the waste cannot be stored without causing risk of injury, health or harm. No other reason for the journey would be considered a legitimate purpose. If you can temporarily store your waste or recycling in a way that does not pose a risk to yours or others safety or human health, then you should continue to do so
- Do not assume that any HRC is open before setting off. Please check the appropriate pages on the Dorset Council website (NOT Google)
- Queues and waiting times to access each site will be much longer than usual, so expect significant delays. This is because there will be limits on the numbers of people that can be on site at any one time to maintain social distancing
- You should not visit the HRC if you are unwell, as you should be following the 7-day self-isolation guidance, or if a member of your household is unwell and you should be following the 14 day stay at home guidance
- Visitors to HRCs must always observe social distancing. If you do not comply with social distancing guidance, you will be asked to leave the HRC and the site may have to close temporarily
- HRC staff will not be able to assist with carrying items. Do not take any items to the HRC that you can't lift yourself, or with the aid of one other passenger from your vehicle
- If you do travel to a HRC, please remember to stay in your vehicle while queuing to aid with social distancing. Please do not leave your vehicle until it is necessary to get out
- Only one person should leave the vehicle to unload waste – a maximum of two if unloading heavy items

- Household waste should be double-bagged and left for 72 hours before being taken to a HRC, and only if it cannot be collected at the kerbside
- Although all usual waste and material types can be dropped off, please bring a maximum of two waste types per visit (e.g. garden waste and black bag waste)
- Reuse areas will remain closed in order to reduce item handling and ensure visitors spend no more time on site than is necessary
- Charges still apply for some waste types, but contactless payments only – no cash.
- On your return from the HRC please remember not to touch your face and to wash your hands for twenty seconds on arrival at your destination.

Someone will be in place at the entrance to each site to speak with visitors and advise on waiting times and procedures on site. If a queue becomes too long, some vehicles may be turned away and asked to return later. Traffic management plans will be in place to help reduce disruption on the local highways as much as possible.

Cllr Tony Alford, Dorset Council's portfolio holder for Customer, Community and Regulatory Services, said: "I'm pleased we have received the guidance needed from central government and we can offer an outlet at the HRCs for waste that may be posing a risk to some Dorset residents and cannot be collected at the kerbside. We have been working hard behind the scenes to plan how we will manage the re-opening of HRCs.

I just want to emphasise, if you really need to take waste posing a hazard to a HRC, you must follow social-distancing guidelines at each site to protect the public and employees from the continuing pandemic. This will inevitably cause significant delays getting into each site, so we are kindly asking people who can continue to store waste safely to delay their trip to the recycling centre until restrictions are eased further.

By working together to focus on essential waste, we can make sure the people who need to use our recycling centres are prioritised before services return to normal. I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding at this time."

PURBECK GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Purbeck Good Neighbours is a volunteer group who can help older people over 50 with small or difficult one-off tasks in their home.

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SWANAGE RAILWAY

The public can now donate by text to the Swanage Railway's £360,000 'Save Our Service' appeal which has so far raised £136,168 to help the award-winning heritage line survive in the wake of the economic effects of Coronavirus.

Rebuilt since 1976, the popular heritage line between Norden, Corfe Castle, Harman's Cross and Swanage – in Dorset's Isle of Purbeck – carries more than 200,000 passengers a year and contributes more than £15 million to the Isle of Purbeck economy every year.

The 'Save Our Service' appeal – at www.saveourservice.co.uk or via the Swanage Railway's Facebook page – aims to plug the financial hole of the popular heritage railway not running trains until further notice after the Swanage Railway ceased running steam trains in mid-March, 2020.

After being launched on Wednesday, 25 March, 2020, the 'Save Our Service' appeal had raised £136,168 by Tuesday, 28 April, 2020, towards the target of £360,000.

Swanage Railway Trust chairman Gavin Johns said: "The Swanage Railway is facing the most urgent and potentially devastating challenge in its history, due to extraordinary and terrible circumstances beyond its control.

"I would like to thank everyone who has already made a donation to the Swanage Railway's 'Save Our Service' appeal during these extraordinary and challenging times. We urgently need the help of the public through donations to our 'Save Our Service' appeal because the Swanage Railway is fighting for its very existence.

"Several generations of people have rebuilt the Swanage Railway from nothing since 1976 and there is still so much more to achieve. The 'Save Our Service' appeal target is £360,000 which – together with grants and Government assistance – will help the Swanage Railway to survive until we are able to again run train services.

"To keep the Swanage Railway in a care and maintenance state, while trains are not running, costs £46,000 a month. We have reduced our costs as much as possible, using Government schemes resulting in most of our 46 paid staff being furloughed, and our dedicated volunteers being asked to stay at home for the time being. The Swanage Railway Trust has launched a number of fund-raising initiatives and the ability for people to make a donation via text message is one of the initiatives that we are taking to encourage public support at this critical time.

"We are monitoring the advice and guidance given by the Government and its public health experts. The safety and well-being of our paid staff, volunteers and passengers is always of the utmost importance. Essential staff are maintaining, repairing and keeping the Swanage Railway secure – while taking precautions and exercising social distancing as per Government advice – until train operations can be resumed," explained Mr Johns.

The Swanage Railway's fund-raising chairman Randy Coldham said:

Save Our Service!



saveourservice.co.uk

"People can now easily donate by phone to the Swanage Railway's 'Save Our Service' appeal by texting 'SOS' to 70470 to donate £10 which costs £10 plus a standard rate message.

"Donors can also choose to give any whole amount between £1 and £20. For example, texting 'SOS 4' equals a £4 donation plus a standard rate message," explained the volunteer Swanage Railway signalman.

The Swanage Railway ran its last public trains on the weekend of 14 and 15 March, 2020, with its shop and café at Swanage station closing on Thursday, 19 March, 2020.

Clearly marked 'Save Our Service' appeal, cheques can also be sent to the Swanage Railway Trust at Station House, Station Approach, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1HB.

To donate by phone, text 'SOS' to 70470 to donate £10. This costs £10 plus a standard rate message. Alternatively, you can choose to give any whole amount between £1 and £20. For example, texting 'SOS 4' equals a £4 donation plus a standard rate message.

To make a 'Save Our Service' donation by PayPal, a Fast Payment through Internet banking or by a cheque in the post, visit www.saveourservice.co.uk while donations can also be made via the Swanage Railway's Facebook page.

Picture, below: Corfe Station, 2016, Andrew.P.M. Wright.



Blast From The Past!

This month, A Decade Ago...

The June 2010 edition saw us morph into our current UK A4 format, having previously been published as an American A4 (slightly smaller) publication.

Nico's editor's note thanked the entire community for their good wishes for the future of the Gazette since she took ownership of the title in April 2010. Nico also made mention of the new website which was due to be launched - offering the entire Gazette each month, for free, online, as a downloadable book for tablets and smart phones.

Last month (May 2020), for the first time in our history, we published online only due to a lack of advertising revenue as a result of most of our advertisers being closed down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Remarkably, at the time of writing, around 60,000 had accessed the May 2020 online version, with nearly 2,000 people downloading the entire publication to their devices to-date.

CHUG SAYS...

*Never fear!
I've had a word over a
Guinness with my close
friend, Fab (Capello)*

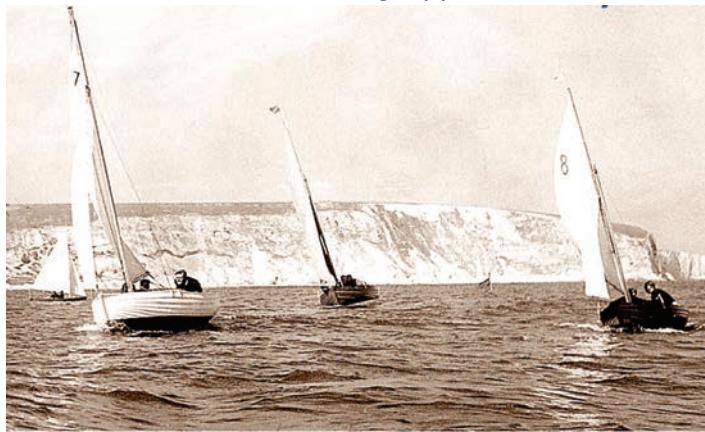


June 2010 saw the entire community, and indeed, country, gearing up for the World Cup. Gazette writer, The Chug (pictured, above), even had a fancy England neck-a-chief made especially for the occasion and we sold a number of 'Chug England' t-shirts in the lead-up to the kick-off. We were playing against the USA on June 12th, Algeria on June 18th and Slovenia on 23rd June. We were later soundly thrashed by Germany (4-1), ending our World Cup dreams once again....!

In June 2010, The Gazette advertised for local community groups to join us with our Gazette-sponsored Swanage Carnival Float. The idea was to provide a float for those community groups who may have been unable to get the required transport together themselves.

Then-columnist, farmer, David Eyles, offered to provide a tractor and a large trailer and various community groups responded to the carnival float advert, including local schools. Plans were afoot and decorating ideas were discussed - balloons, bunting and more was on order!

Purbeck Mobility, then-owned by Managing Director, Bob Richardson, celebrated their first year in St John's Hill, Wareham. Purbeck Mobility offered a wide range of supportive equipment to those less mobile and were a most welcome edition to Wareham. Today the business is still running, with wonderful new owners who continue the good work in enabling those with mobility issues to live a fuller and more independent life. Congratulations to all those at Purbeck Mobility who offer such a wonderful service to their clients. Long may you continue!



Another birthday in the June 2010 edition was that of Swanage Sailing Club (pictured, above), who celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary at the end of May 2010. In May 1935, a small group gathered in a room over the fruit and veg shop in Institute Road in Swanage. Mr James Day, proprietor of the shop, called the meeting. The Club's first Commodore was Dr. G.W.S. de Jersey. From the start, the Club's main aims were to encourage the art of

sailing for pleasure and competition. In 1935 this meant racing traditional clinker built craft, without buoyancy aids, life jackets or safety boat cover, an act which demanded considerable seamanship.

The village of Corfe Castle was gearing up to celebrate 'Corfest10', which was Corfe Castle's summer festival and for 2010, was also the home of 'Celebrity Scarecrows', their theme for 2010's festival.

The event had been running for two years and offered a packed programme of events for the whole family. It was run entirely by volunteers and covered a period of ten whole days of events and entertainments. Corfe Castle (NT) were involved, offering free access to everyone to the Castle itself on the Saturday. Also included was a grand parade with marching bands, majorettes, fancy dress and floats.

Simon King, acclaimed wildlife film maker known for 'Big Cat Diary', announced that he would be filming in Dorset for Springwatch 2010. Details of the filming locations were not released as it was vital not to disturb the wildlife during filming. Nicky Hoar, Communications Officer for Dorset Wildlife Trust, said: "We are delighted to welcome Simon and the Springwatch team to Dorset and to have the chance to show off some of the secrets of this beautiful and exceptionally diverse county."

In 2010 elections reported in the June edition, our readership had elected into power MPs Richard Drax (Conservative, Dorset South) and MP Annette Brooke (Liberal Democrat, Dorset Mid & Poole). Both promised to do their best for their residents.





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Restrictions For Dogs On Beaches To Be Enforced

Following the Government's recent Coronavirus (Covid-19) guidelines to lift some of the restrictions Dorset Council will again be enforcing the restrictions for dogs that had previously been relaxed.

These restrictions are contained within public spaces protection orders (PSPO) and look to protect public health. Dog owners can exercise their dogs in the designated areas taking account of the social distancing requirements. Details of these areas are online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/dog-walking-in-dorset/walking-dogs-on-beaches

Cllr Tony Alford, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Customer, Community and Regulatory Services, said: "The restrictions have been put in place so that local families can enjoy the beach safely at two metres distance from people who are not part of their household."

"Although beaches are open, we are still suggesting caution as far as swimming is concerned. The RNLI has said that lifeguards will not be on beaches and so is advising people not to swim."

More information about staying safe at the seaside can be found at: rnli.org/magazine/magazine-featured-list/2020/may/your-watch-stay-safe-at-the-seaside?type=rescue

The council is also reminding people of restrictions for cycling along promenades. With the expected increase in numbers using seaside towns cyclists will need to obey local rules.

The restrictions for dogs on beaches started on Friday 22 May.

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Remembering VE Day - Some Wartime Facts



In May, we celebrated VE Day across Purbeck. It may not have been the mass celebration originally planned, as due to the Covid19 pandemic, all social gatherings were banned. Our towns and villages organised a plethora of street parties, where residents sat in front of their respective properties and enjoyed a picnic, some drink and in many cases, a good old dance too!

Event organisers in Purbeck are planning to put on the official events which had to be cancelled this year in 2021 instead, so we will (hopefully!) still have the chance to come together as a community and celebrate the extreme efforts undertaken by those who have gone before on our behalf.

This month, we share some information with you with regards to WWII and what happened - distilled, as it were. This may be of use to those of you still teaching children at home - a history lesson for you budding teacher-parents out there! You could easily make a lesson plan based on the below information and create a history project for your children to complete after reading through some facts about WWII.

We have also included some images, kindly provided by Frank Roberts of Swanage, of the Ancaster Road 2020 VE Day 'socially distanced' street party in Swanage. The residents organised to close their road off, decorated it with bunting and flags and joined together to have a special day in the sun celebrating victory in Europe. One resident even took the time to carve a magnificent sign 'The Ancaster Arms', heralding in a new future possibility - a 'street pub'! Every road could have one in months to come...!

So, what happened and when?

On 8th May 1945, Winston Churchill (Britain's Prime Minister) announced that the war was over. This was known as VE Day (Victory in Europe Day). However, the war wasn't officially ended all around the world until 2nd September 1945.

10 Interesting Facts about WW2:

- British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day.
- To avoid using the German-sounding word 'hamburger' during the war, Americans instead called a hamburger a liberty steak.
- 8 out of 10 soldiers captured and held in Russian prisoner of war camps died in the camps.
- Over half of all people who died during WWII were civilians.
- Britain built 132,500 aircraft during the Second World War.
- Britain had the least rationing of any country in Europe.
- Only a few countries decided to stay neutral in WWII. Countries like Spain, Sweden and Switzerland chose not to join either side.
- The number of people killed during World War 2 was more than

the entire population of Great Britain today.

- Calvin Graham was only 12 years old when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and is thought to be the youngest person who fought in the war. He won a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart before the Navy found out how old he was.
- Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's deputy in the Nazi party, was the last person to have been incarcerated in the Tower of London.

When did WW2 start?

World War 2 began on 1st September 1939.

When did the war end?

During the course of World War 2, the Axis troops had captured and occupied lots of countries, including France and Poland. But by 1944, lots of these countries were being freed by the Allies. Italy also changed sides in 1943 and declared war on Germany. Germany and the Axis powers were losing. Then, on 30th April 1945, Adolf Hitler committed suicide.

A week later, Germany surrendered. On 8th May 1945, Winston Churchill (Britain's Prime Minister) announced that the war was over. This was known as VE Day (Victory in Europe Day). However, the war wasn't officially ended all around the world until 2nd September 1945.

Who were the Nazis?

The Nazis were a political party in Germany, officially called the National Socialist German Worker's Party. The leader of the Nazis was Adolf Hitler. In 1933, the German people voted that Hitler and the Nazis should run Germany so they gained power.

The Nazis believed that Aryans (people with blond hair and blue eyes) were the 'master' race and that all other people were inferior to them. Hitler wanted to eradicate these 'lesser' people from Germany to make Germany a powerful world leader

Why did WW2 start?

In World War I (1914-1918), Germany was one of the countries that lost the war. Many other countries blamed Germany for the war. Germany was forced to sign an agreement that said they were to blame for the war, that they had to pay a fine, that they had to have land taken away and that they were only allowed a small army.

However, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis wanted Germany to be a powerful country again. They ignored the agreement and secretly started building up their army. They started to take back lands they had lost. Other countries decided not to fight them because they didn't want another war to start.

However, Germany invaded Poland with 1 million soldiers on 1st September 1939. France and Great Britain then decided that they

couldn't let Germany keep breaking their agreement. They decided to support Poland and help protect them from the invasion. They declared war on Germany. This was the start of World War 2.

Other countries soon joined the war. Soon, there was barely a country left in the world who wasn't involved in the war.

Which countries fought in WW2?

Those who fought against Germany were known as the Allies. Those who fought with Germany were known as the Axis...

The Axis countries included:

- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Hungary
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Bulgaria

The Allied countries included:

- Great Britain
- France
- United States
- Greece
- Australia
- Canada
- Belgium
- India
- Poland
- South America
- ...and many more

What was the Blitz?

In 1940, Hitler attacked Britain. The German air force (known as the 'Luftwaffe') began dropping bombs on the cities of Britain. These attacks were called air raids.

The first bombing took place on 7th September 1940 with around 350 bombers flying across London. For eleven weeks, Britain was bombed every day by the Germans (apart from one night). The Luftwaffe particularly targeted docks, factories and railways so that Britain would be brought to a standstill.

Did you know...

The word 'Blitz' comes from the German word 'Blitzkrieg' which means 'Lightning War'.

How did the people stay safe during the Blitz?

Lots of measures were taken to protect people from the bombs of the Blitz:

- Shelters: People were told to build shelters in their homes and gardens so they could protect themselves during air raids. One of the most popular was the Anderson shelter. This was made from corrugated iron sheets and dug halfway into the ground.
- The Underground: In London, people used the Underground as a shelter. Hundreds of families would squeeze onto the platforms to keep safe from the bombings overhead.
- The Blackout: During the Blitz, the government told everyone to block out any light from their windows and doors using heavy blackout curtains, cardboard or anything else that would block the light. This was in order to confuse the German planes so they wouldn't know where to drop their bombs. People were also not allowed to use street lamps or car headlights.
- Evacuation: Children were sent from the cities as evacuees and sent to live with other families in the countryside to keep them safe from the bombs.

How many people died in the Blitz?

One third of London was destroyed during the Blitz. By the end of the Blitz, 60,000 people had died, 87,000 people had been injured

What was evacuation?

Evacuation was introduced by the government in 1939 because they were concerned about people's safety in the big cities of Britain. Evacuation was mainly for children but some other groups of people were evacuated too, like school teachers, some disabled people and mothers with very



young children. Evacuees were sent out of the cities to live with a new family in the countryside. These host families were given some money each week to care for evacuees. Caring for evacuees was considered a national service – you could be fined if you refused to take in evacuees with no good reason.

Soldiers in the Second World War

When the war started, lots of men willingly joined the army to fight Hitler and Nazi Germany. However, Britain needed lots more men in order to fight. In 1940, 2 million more men were ordered to become soldiers and fight in the war. Some men were also conscripted and ordered to join the RAF or the Royal Navy.

Some men in certain professions didn't have to sign up – jobs like being a farmer, a railway driver or a miner were considered crucial jobs that Britain could not do without. Those who were too old, weak or young to fight, as well as those in important professions, became members of the Home Guard. The Home Guard protected Britain's coastline from attack.

What was life like for soldiers in WW2?

All men called up to be soldiers were sent to train before they went to the battlefield. Once trained, they could be sent anywhere around the world. A soldier's experience in the war depended on what rank of the armed forces he was in, and where in the world he was posted.

For most soldiers, life was very difficult. They had rationed food, but rations were not always able to get through to the base. If they weren't at an army base, they usually lived in tents or in holes dug in the ground. They often wouldn't have access to heating, hot water or other home comforts.

Some soldiers were captured by the Axis troops and were sent to live in prisoner of war camps. Not everyone survived these camps, although many were released once the war ended.



Pictures: Top: Ancaster Road's lit-up Union Jack.

Above: Gazette Editor, Nico Johnson, reports live from the Ancaster Road VE Day street party for Swanage TV

What did women do during WW2?

With so many men away at war, women had to step in and do the jobs men had done, just like they did during the First World War. They also had to carry on running their households, looking after children, growing food, and much more.

From 1941, women were called up for war work, such as working in weapons factories, driving buses or being air raid wardens.

There were also more than 640,000 women in the armed forces during WW2. These women had jobs like driving ambulances in war zones, being nurses at army hospitals or flying aircraft.

What was the Holocaust?

Hitler and the Nazis believed that people with blond hair and blue eyes (known as 'Aryans') were a 'master' race and that anyone else was 'lesser'. It was Hitler's plan to get rid of as many of these lesser races as possible. He wanted Germany to be a pure Aryan race; he particularly wanted to remove all Jews from Germany. Hitler called this 'cleansing'. He considered Jews to be the ultimate enemy.

As soon as he came to power, Hitler started making life difficult for Jews living in Germany. People were encouraged to avoid anyone or anything associated with Jews, including Jewish businesses.

Then, in 1938, a Jewish boy murdered a German officer in France. This was used as an excuse to attack the Jews. In one night, over 1000 synagogues were burned, and Jewish homes, schools and shops were vandalised. Lots of Jews were killed.

The next day, 30,000 Jews were arrested and taken to a concentration camp just for being Jewish. A concentration camp was a place to put people that the Nazis wanted to remove from society. Soon, there were lots of concentration camps. Life in these camps was miserable.

People were given very little food and water and were forced to carry out hard labour.

But this wasn't the worst part. Many Jews in concentration camps were murdered by the Nazis. Many were taken into a chamber where they were told they would have a shower. However, these were gas chambers that the Nazis used to kill dozens on Jews at a time.



By the end of WW2, more than six million Jews had been killed in the Holocaust.

How do we remember the Second World War today?

It is thought that between 75-80 million people died during World War 2. Some of these died on the battlefield, some in prisoner camps and others were civilians who got caught in the crossfire.

Every year, on 11th November, we have Remembrance Day. This is a special day that has been observed ever since the end of the First World War to remember members of the armed forces who lost their lives protecting their country. Editorial provided by PlanBee

Pictures - above Frank Roberts (right) with Jenny Lazenbury (left) and neighbours at the Ancaster Road VE day party. Below: Ancaster Road's party set-up. Pictures thanks to Frank Roberts.





Swanage Sailing Club



Sailing In Swanage Bay Resumes - With Caution And Care!

Taking into account the advice on permitted boating from the Government, the Royal Yachting Association and the RNLI, Swanage Sailing Club is allowing the resumption of some limited sailing and boating into the bay from the Club's beach from Wednesday 13th May 2020.

In this first stage of a phased return to sailing and a new normal, Swanage Sailing Club members have been requested to observe social/physical distancing and to follow the posted additional health and safety precautions to avoid putting other people and rescue organisations at risk.



The measures are many - including only solo or single-household sailing - and have been circulated by email alert and are also detailed on notices outside the Clubhouse, which has to remain closed for the time being.

**More information can be found on the Swanage Sailing Club website at:
www.swanagesailingclub.org.uk**

Dorset Business Survey Results Offer Valuable Insights

Tourism plays a major role in Dorset's economy, valued at around £1bn per year and supporting almost 40,000 jobs.

Results from two important surveys highlight that recovery from COVID-19 requires not just financial support, but a need for advice and guidance on how to operate safely. These surveys have recently been issued to businesses in Dorset by Dorset Council's Visit Dorset team and Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Dorset Council's survey of local tourism and hospitality sector businesses on how COVID-19 is impacting them received over 1,000 responses. The Council has submitted this information to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). Dorset LEP's business impact survey had received over 300 responses as of 7 May, with over half of responses from the tourism and hospitality sector.

Our immediate priority has been signposting local businesses to relevant support and financial aid from ourselves, central government, and various partner agencies. We are committed to continuing this work with the aim of reaching every single business or self-employed person in Dorset.

Insights from Dorset LEP say further guidance needed

Finn Morgan, Business Engagement Manager at Dorset LEP said: "Tourism, hospitality and retail businesses across the county are experiencing a major impact on business operations, with a vast majority now experiencing cash flow issues.

"Many are accessing government financial support and a small number able to operate by making changes to access requirements, or diversifying their products, but what we're hearing now is a need for longer term guidance and information to aid business recovery."

Dorset Local LEP board member, and Dorset Tourism Association Chair, Richard Smith, shared: "It's clear from the evidence being collected across the county that Dorset's tourism businesses need to find way to reopen as soon as possible. If tourism is to remain restricted, the sector will need additional support to protect jobs, especially over the winter."

"We are drawing up guidance about how we can do so as safely as possible. A key focus will be to create an environment where businesses unsure about their future, start to feel increased confidence, and we would value

input from the Government, as soon as possible, about what the national standards for safe working will be."

Committed to continued investment, lobbying and support

Cllr Gary Suttle, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Skills and member of the Dorset LEP board, said: "We are reviewing the ever-evolving direction from central Government and are working on how the ease of lockdown will effect Dorset's business community. We are working closely with partner agencies and groups to ensure our support has a consistent message.

"We are also working hard on how we best support local business through what will be a challenging recovery period and understanding the longer-term impact on Dorset's economy. The council is committed to evolving our strategy, frequently engaging with local businesses and ensuring that local communities and businesses are at the heart of our decision making.

"The recently announced new discretionary scheme will benefit many more businesses which have so far not been eligible for any of the existing packages of support."

Help us build a picture of the economic situation in Dorset

A further Visit Dorset survey will be sent out later this week and the council is encouraging businesses to respond and provide feedback again. This will help us build a picture of the evolving economic situation in Dorset. Dorset LEP's COVID-19 Business Impact Survey remains open for businesses, charities and the self-employed to share the impact on their operations here.

Further information

Of the 1,044 respondents to the Visit Dorset survey, the majority were sole traders or small to medium sized businesses. 80% said they had temporarily closed as a result of Covid-19.

Key takeaways and full results of the surveys can be found on the Visit Dorset website and the Dorset LEP website.

The council will be shining a light on businesses in the near future. Get in contact with the communications team at comms@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or reach out on social media if you'd like to share your story.

Business



**Redmayne
Bentley**

Useful Things to do in Lockdown

Although the lockdown is gradually being eased, it looks like it will be some time before we are all able to fully restore normal activities and that inevitably means that we will have more time at home.

This time can be used constructively to do those finance-related things which are necessary as well as those which are generally useful.

Finances will also be high on everyone's agenda with incomes likely to fall in the short term and beyond for a variety of reasons, including employees being furloughed or possibly made redundant, self-employed people having reduced profits and income and retirees (and anyone who relies on income from their investment portfolio to help fund day-to-day living) receiving a lower dividend and lower returns on cash due to the extremely low interest rates.

It, therefore, seems sensible to look at our finances while we have the time to do so. Among the things that you could do are the following:

- Get all your filing of paperwork (both electronically and paper) up-to-date and securely dispose of anything you don't need (check on www.gov.uk to see how long you need to keep your records). I find that there is something very satisfying about shredding old paperwork!
- If you do your own tax return, get it done now.
- If your accountant does your tax return, get your information for the 2019/20 tax year ready now and send it to them electronically or, if you provide paperwork, get it all together and ready to pass to them when appropriate.
- Look at your income and assess how it might change.
- Look at your usual expenditure by analysing your bank statements. Are there any subscriptions that could be stopped or savings that could be made on any of your utilities or other regular outgoings?
- Check that your income exceeds your expenditure and if it doesn't, think about what you need to do about it.
- Ensure that you have a Will in place and, if you do have one, that it is up-to-date.
- Consider a Lasting Power of Attorney if you haven't already got one.
- Finally, stay alert - scammers and fraudsters have no compassion or morals. Be very wary of any emails or texts that you receive that you feel uncomfortable about or that don't ring true.

Most of the professionals that you normally use to help you with any of the above are probably still working, albeit from home, and can usually be contacted electronically or by phone to help you with any guidance or queries.

Until next month, take care and stay safe.

Kate Spurling, Investment Manager, Redmayne Bentley, Tel: 01202 714 450

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Covid 19 Support for businesses and tax payers

The government have announced a raft of measures and in brief summary the key points are:

Business Grants: Coronavirus business grant fund – check with Dorset Council whether you qualify for this. If so the guidance now states you must actually claim this and not wait to be contacted.

Job Retention Scheme: Support from HMRC available to employers. You continue to pay your staff and claim this back from HMRC. At time of writing it was stated that you will need to do so via your HMRC PAYE online portal although not accepting any applications yet.

Deferral: VAT Payment – payments due between 20th March 2020 and 30th June 2020 can be deferred until March 2021. If you pay by direct debit cancel this at your bank or the payment will be taken as normal. You are still required to file the return as usual

Personal tax: the payment on account, if due, for July 2020 will not be collected until January 2021 together with any balancing payment. These are both deferments to early 2021 at the time of writing, that is likely to cause cashflow issues at the point so consider if this is actually beneficial.

Loan: CBILS – Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. This has just been updated and we are seeing applications granted. These are available from your own bank and other lenders. They are repayable over a period of up to six years. The bank's lending is guaranteed to 80% but your business is liable for the full amount.

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are doing our level best to continue offering our services to all our clients, both old and new.



At this time, INSURANCE is probably very low on your list of priorities, maybe sitting somewhere between clearing out the loft and defrosting the freezer. However, your renewals will still be due for your Car, Home and Business.

Through the wonders of technology, we and our partners in the industry, are aiming to offer 'Business as usual', albeit perhaps a little slower than usual.

Sadly, at the moment, you cannot visit those helpful girls in the front office and not quite so sadly, that Grumpy Old Bloke (GOB) 'out the back', but we are all working as normal. The girls are working, in isolation, from home, able to process renewals and new business quotes as well as handling your queries.

Phone calls to the office (01929 424228) ring their phones and they can even transfer calls to the GOB - if really necessary! Computer and internet tech allows them to run their office computers, access their emails (office@swanageinsurance.co.uk) and even print documents back in the office, ready for GOB, who is still working in splendid isolation, by the way, to get them posted.

We think Purbeck is doing a splendid job, so please keep it up. When you have to go out, stick with the distancing, keep chatting (in the inevitable queues) - strengthen our community! **SIB Ltd.**

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Business Grant Funding

Businesses invited to access grant funding

Eligible businesses in Dorset are invited to access grant funding which the Government announced recently.

The grants from central Government will be administered by Dorset Council to eligible businesses in the Dorset Council area.

There are two new grant funding schemes. First is the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) and secondly the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF). Full eligibility criteria are available on our website.

Councillor Gary Suttle, Dorset Council's portfolio holder for Economic Growth and Skills, said: "We hope this funding will offer some welcome relief to business owners during this very challenging time. I would appeal to all business owners, having checked their eligibility criteria on our website, to complete our e-form as soon as possible. Our revenues and benefits team will be working very hard to process the grants and we will continue to lobby the Government for further support for Dorset."

To ensure the right businesses are supported correctly and no fraudulent claims are made, businesses are being asked to provide information via an e-form. In some cases, additional checks may be necessary to confirm eligibility.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/business-grants>

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From The Kitchen Garden...



In The Kitchen Garden With Regula

By Regula Wright,
Godlingston
Manor Kitchen
Garden

June is a very busy month in the market gardening calendar and I'm pulling out all the stops. Now all the different vegetables really need to be in the ground to make the most of the long days.

This spring has been a very dry one after a soggy wet winter and I'm putting the sprinklers on quite a bit. I don't want to spoil the seedlings too much, but a good start makes all the difference in the long run.

The gooseberries are looking good and the blackcurrants too, although they're not quite there just yet... It's always a bit of a race between me and the birds. I used to net the blackcurrants but the time and effort are massive and there are always birds getting trapped. So, now I leave the nets and just keep a very close eye on the sugar levels and keep the grass short along the rows.

The rhubarb is romping along nicely enjoying the deep mulch it received earlier in the spring.

Hoeing keeps me busy for days, as it's important to keep the emerging seedlings weed-free to get the most nutrients and light.

In the polytunnels the congestion is easing as the seed trays are being moved out and the actual crops are planted in the ground. Often, it's too hot to work in them during the day, so I try and fit in the tomato,

aubergine and chilli pepper care first and/or last thing of the day.

I'm still batch sowing salad crops as well as picking leaves from earlier sowings and transplanting seedlings into permanent positions.

As you can see, June is an important month for germinating seeds and healthy plant growth. The soil is warm and the daylight hours are long. The same rules apply to animals too.

Mother hen has hatched out a lovely clutch of chicks and is kept very busy looking after her inquisitive brood. The cows on the hill are having their calves outside and are being checked by me routinely throughout the day. Like I said at the start - all stops are pulled out.....



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All pictures by Adrian Wright



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Motoring

Appeal - Wareham Forest Fire

Appeal for information in relation to forest fire near Wareham

Detectives working with the fire service to investigate the cause of a forest fire near Wareham are appealing for anyone with information or relevant dashcam footage to come forward.

Dorset Police received a report from the fire service at 1.11pm on Monday 18 May 2020 in relation to a large forest fire in the area of Sugar Hill. Officers attended to assist and put road closures in place.

The fire caused damage to around 150 hectares of forest and heathland and firefighters remain at the scene to continue to monitor the situation. Road closures on the A35 have been lifted but the area will continue to be monitored throughout the day and closures remain in place on Bere Road and at Sugar Hill.

Detective Constable Richard Evans, of Weymouth CID, said: "At this time the cause of the fire remains unexplained and we are liaising with the fire service to establish the full circumstances. To our assist our enquiries, I am keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time and has any information as to how the fire started to contact us. I would also urge anyone who was driving in the area of Bere Road and Sugar Hill between around 8am and 1pm on Monday 18 May 2020 to check their dashcam for anything relevant. I would like to thank the fire service and all those involved in tackling this fire for their efforts to keep the local community safe over the last 24 hours."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Dorset Police at www.dorset.police.uk, via email 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk or by calling 101, quoting occurrence number 55200070290. Alternatively, to stay 100 per cent anonymous, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers online at Crimestoppers-uk.org or call freephone 0800 555 111.



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Swanage Town Centre Improvements Restarted

Dorset Highways' workers returned to Institute Road to finish around five weeks work to widen the footways – with traffic management needed to separate vehicles from the works area in place again.

Institute Road is once again closed to traffic and the one-way flow on Kings Road East has been reversed to ensure drivers can still access the heart of the town. High Street will become two-way with the help of temporary signals and Stafford Road will temporarily become one-way.

Work will first continue to finish the western pavement (town side) and take a few days, weather dependent, and be followed with around five weeks work to widen the eastern pavement (beach side) and improve drainage in the area.

Cllr Gary Suttle, elected member for Swanage, said: "Although residents are still coming into the town centre as part of their daily exercise or to pick up food and other essential goods, there will be far fewer pedestrians around at the moment – making this an ideal time to complete these enhancement works.

"We want to get this work finished to ensure the best start for Swanage businesses when they are able to reopen. And to be able to welcome the return of visitors with a smart new shopping experience."

Work in Swanage town centre started in January but was cut short, with the site closed down from Monday 23 March when social distancing was introduced by the Government.

Guidance for construction activity has since been updated with the Department for Transport advising that it can continue where it fits with both the current Public Health England requirements and in accordance

with industry safety guidance.

Working methods in Swanage have been revised to reduce the number of staff on site to ensure social distancing requirements can be maintained. Additional safety measures are also being taken to ensure the health and safety of workers:

- Single person vehicle movements both to and from site
- Daily toolbox talks to share the latest safe working guidance and COVID-19 updates
- Daily health screening involving temperature checks and general well-being
- No high-risk workers on site

Cllr Bill Trite, elected member for Swanage, added: "Please help protect our community and workforce by respecting social distancing recommendations around the works area."

Dorset Council and Swanage Town Council have been working together for a number of years to develop a scheme that balances the needs of businesses, residents and visitors to the town, with the options discussed at drop-in sessions during June 2018.

The work will eradicate long-running safety concerns of heavy vehicles mounting busy pavements to pass vehicles in the loading bay by widening pavements, raising the pavements to full height and removing the loading bay. New loading bays will be introduced at either end of Institute Road.

The Institute Road improvements are costing around £450,000 and are being funded by Dorset Council, Swanage Town Council and Section 106 money from developers.

Ferry Carrying Out Annual Refit Now

Sandbanks Ferry uses lockdown service suspension to carry out refit works ahead of schedule

The Sandbanks Ferry Company suspended its service on 21st April as a result of the Government-directed lockdown. The lockdown resulted in a dramatic reduction in passenger numbers throughout April, finally reaching on average less than two cars per hour before the decision was made to withdraw the service for environmental and economic reasons.

The ferry company can now confirm that the service withdrawal period will be used to carry out all mandatory maintenance and refit work ahead of schedule while complying with social distancing guidelines. This means that the ferry will no longer need to be withdrawn from service in November for its regular biennial refit and maintenance schedule.

Whilst out of service, the ferry has been moored in Poole Harbour to carry out these works and keep the ferry safe whilst unmanned. However, in the early hours of Friday 8th May, a large piece of concrete unexpectedly detached from the fixed jetty and fell into the ferry. The ferry was not directly attached to or connected with this piece of concrete, but it has resulted in a small but significant amount of damage to the hull. At least one of the main prow hinge fixings is cracked and will need repair using a platform and scaffolding fixed to the deck of the ferry.

As a result, the ferry's return to service has been delayed until at least the beginning of June whilst this unexpected repair work is carried out, and we await Lloyd's safety surveyor's approval. More information on the exact date for the return to service, and social distancing measures for staff & customers alike, will be announced in due course.

Commenting, Mike Kean, Managing Director of The Sandbanks Ferry Company said: "We were very disappointed to have to withdraw the service during this public health crisis. However, we are pleased to be able to carry out the November refit and maintenance work ahead of schedule. This will mean less disruption for businesses and residents in the busy run up to Christmas this year, which I hope will be welcome news.

"The damage sustained by the jetty malfunction is incredibly frustrating, when we were expecting to return to service as soon as traffic volumes were back at a sustainable level.

"We are doing all we can, working with our contractors and suppliers, to get this rectified as soon as possible. Social distancing guidelines must continue to be adhered to, so we once again ask our customers for their patience while we carry out these unforeseen repair works under difficult conditions."

Charges Reinstated In Car Parks

Charges now reinstated in open car-parks across Dorset, but you won't be able to use cash

Car-parking charges are now being reinstated at all of Dorset Council's open car-parks, but the way you pay may be different. Following calls from the general public and Dorset's elected members, the Council suspended charges for the use of any of its car parks that remain open while public health measures were in place in the earlier stages of the lockdown period.

Now that a gradual easing of travel restrictions has begun by government this week, it is anticipated that there will be more demand for car-parking spaces. Therefore, the Council will begin charging users again with immediate effect.

However, visitors to any off-street car-parks will not be able to use cash to pay for their ticket. To reduce physical contact with ticket machines, all open car-parks across the Dorset Council area will only accept the following cashless payment methods until further notice:

Using a smartphone, download the free Just Park app and register your vehicle and bank card for easy payment upon arrival (no additional charges. Telephone 01305 235498 on arrival at the car park and have your payment card ready (6p booking fee applies)

Pre-register your mobile phone with Just Park and pay by SMS (text message, 6p booking fee applies) upon arrival – following instructions on the side of the machine. There is limited on-street pay and display parking in the Weymouth Town Centre area, and all normal payment methods (including cash) will be available at these machines only.

Please check the signage at each car park for the latest information as soon as you exit the vehicle after parking. Instructions on how to use all three payment methods is clearly displayed on all ticket machines. Key workers may continue to use parking facilities without payment until further notice upon display of a relevant pass, but should not park in areas with existing restrictions (yellow lines) or anywhere that causes an obstruction.

Key workers can also register for free parking by e-mailing Parking Services, providing your name, evidence of employer details and vehicle registration number. You will receive a response email and your details will be added to our system, so we know not to issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) to this vehicle.

Car parks at visitor destinations including beaches and country parks across Dorset will stay closed for the time being. Do not park in restricted areas outside of the car park or its entrance as this will result in enforcement.

Natural Matters

Working From Home

by John Garner



I recently moved into a new house. One of the great things about this house was that there was almost nothing that needed doing to it in terms of the garden or indeed the house itself. This was pretty much the best thing about it apart from its location. At least that is what I thought. Oh, how I have wished there were lots of things to do to it now.

Like many of you, I have been working from home lately. I've established a routine and although I am not the most self-motivated of individuals, it has largely gone quite well. Routine has been the key. Something I never, ever thought I would hear myself saying. I get up at the same time each day and after breakfast I head over to the office. The office is my small corner of the kitchen table. A corner that seems to be getting smaller by the day.

I share my office at various times with three others. My wife and two grown up daughters. We have a generally cordial arrangement. Occasionally, I will nudge one and point at the kettle. More occasionally they will reciprocate the gesture. I'd say it was four to one in terms of me making the tea and one of them making the tea. We drink a lot of tea, so I'm up and down quite a lot.

Sometimes I will go for a stroll around the grounds. The grounds are about thirty feet long by about twenty feet wide, so the stroll doesn't last very long, even though I've slowed my strolling pace in accordance with the general pace of life. During the stroll I cannot distract myself with jobs to do. There aren't any as yet. And those that need doing can be done in record time. Yesterday I mowed the lawn. It took five minutes. In the past I would have been overjoyed with this, but now I wish I had acres to mow.

Lunch is taken fairly early as I've had an early start. Sometimes it is taken very early, about 11am. At this point I leave the office and try not to check emails for at least thirty minutes. I might do some exercise at this point.

The highlight of the day is the walk, but I have also noticed a great deal more about my immediate surroundings from being here so much more of the time.

Last month the house martins arrived. I was expecting them and kept a nervous vigil, because there are nests in the eaves, and I was hoping they were not abandoned nests and that they would be return this spring. The odd one arrived at first and then, little by little, the skies began to be punctuated by their acrobatic feeding and general busyness. Then the swifts started to appear, and the combination is a fantastic site when I am sat in the garden pondering stuff.

On the walks we have seen a variety of impressive birds. A couple of

Kestrels, a Buzzard or two and one day a large fan-tailed raptor that could have been a kite or some sort of harrier, but as I'm largely hopeless at identifying birds, it will remain an amazingly graceful, but unidentified hoverer. But probably most significantly, we have spied puffins. Amongst the Guillemots and Cormorants (or Shags) at the base of the cliffs near here, we have seen them. Two at once at one point, just bobbing inconspicuously in the swell, ducking under the surface for prolonged periods and coming up with a shake of the head and colourful beak.

On the same walk I saw a seal and it was really close to the shore, just where the rocky shelf gives way to the deeper sea. Possibly three feet from the edge. It rolled along the shore heading west, hugging the coast, unhurried and undisturbed by a barking dog and an excited bloke pointing it out to no one in particular. It is only the third seal I've seen round here, and it was a fantastic sight. I've never seen one so close before.

Friends and family have sent me pictures of foxes, an Osprey (I'll take their word for it) a baby badger rummaging through the grass and all sorts of other animals that it is often hard to see during the normal rush and rigour of normal life. On the TV there have been sheep wandering through Welsh villages, otters in gardens, lions languishing in South African towns and jellyfish visible in the Venice canals for the first time in years.

Nature will adapt to whatever is the new normal. Whatever our new normal turns out to be after this pandemic I am sure human beings will adapt as well. These are incredibly difficult times for everyone. I just hope you are able to get out and see the amazing wildlife in your area and that we all take a bit of time to appreciate the nature around us. The benefits of doing so are immense.



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Dorset County Show 2020 - Cancelled

The organisers of the Dorset County Show have announced that the Show will not take place this year, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Board of Management of the Dorset County Show Committee has made the decision after closely monitoring government guidance over the past months, recognising the health and safety of everyone involved with the Show as its biggest priority.

Rebecca Hill, Chairman of the Dorset County Show commented: "It is with a heavy heart that the Board of Management has decided to cancel the Dorset County Show, which was due to take place this year on 5th and 6th September.

"This decision was incredibly difficult to make, however first and foremost, we must put the safety and welfare of our visitors, members, volunteers, exhibitors, staff, and traders above all else. We feel it is impossible to hold a Show of the same quality and standard that members of our community know and love, with social distancing measures in place as they should be.

"We recognise how disappointing this news will be to many, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank all key workers who continue to

work incredibly hard to help us tackle COVID-19. We must help them as much as we can, ensuring we are not causing even more of a strain on all services.

"We would like to thank everyone for their support over the years and throughout this difficult time, as well as all of those involved in the hard work that has gone into planning for this year. Preparations are now in place for our 2021 Show, and we will look forward to welcoming everyone then."

The Dorset County Show, now in its 180th year, is a well-established annual fixture in the county calendar for both the agricultural industry and local community, typically seeing around 60,000 visitors over the two-day event.

Taking place at the end of the summer, the Show aligns with the end of the harvest season, allowing farmers a chance to celebrate and spend time with others within the industry. The Show also ties into the end of the school holidays, where families can enjoy a social event together before the school year starts again.

For more information about the Dorset County Show, visit www.dorsetcountyshow.co.uk.



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DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



The lockdown has inevitably brought advantages and disadvantages to the country park. Whilst some might assume less visitor disturbance may have benefits to wildlife, they forget that it also means we have less people submitting wildlife reports!

Visitors have been known, in some case, to deter certain predators thus reducing the impact upon prey species. Without volunteers the Rangers will focus efforts, this year, on undertaking Orchid Surveys on the coastal down land slopes as these have had the longest historic data set.

Fortunately, one of our three butterfly transect walks are undertaken by Rangers and thus have continued. Although we are unlikely to have any Durlston seabird boat trips, the cliff camera has been replaced and enables monitoring of part of the Guillemot colony. You may view narrated film clips through our website.

One benefit has been that the Ranger team has been able to focus efforts on practical tasks including:

- completing 600 metres of new boundary fence on the reclaimed landfill site
- installing a Durlston Bay Mammal Beds interpretation panel
- reopening all the woodland and coast path
- continued drystone walling in the pleasure grounds
- team weeding and tidy up of the car parks
- electric fence placement to accommodate two cattle herds including fresh Hereford calves

June Wildlife:

This month should reveal Bee Orchids and Pyramidal Orchids in the meadows, along with huge drifts of pink flowered Sainfoin in Centenary meadow.

Guillemots and Razorbills will be busy feeding their chicks of the sea cliff ledges. Amongst the grassland small young Grasshoppers and Bush-crickets may be seen. These insects experience five growth stages, each time shedding their old skin as they grow and develop wings.

Fortunately, Cinnabar Moths emerge to mate so that more of their caterpillars might munch upon Ragwort. Sandwich Terns may be seen diving for fish off Peveril ledges and Durlston's sea cliffs. Amongst the invasive Tor grass, one may see a Lulworth Skipper whose eggs are laid sandwiched between blades of said grass.

Whilst the Country Park normally manages to be self-financing there will be an impact through loss of revenue generated by: Shop Sales; Weddings; Exhibitions; Educational Visits and Events; Car Parking and of course the contribution from our partners at Seventhwave dining.

At the time of writing Durlston Castle and Car Park are closed and all events and volunteer task have been cancelled. However, please visit the Durlston Website or Facebook Page for any updates should Covid-19 restrictions have altered.

For further information visit: <https://www.durlston.co.uk/>

Large Webs On Shrubs And Bushes

Residents of across Dorset are finding large webs on shrubs and bushes

These webs are where caterpillars that have been overwintering and large numbers of caterpillars are emerging from these cocoons and feasting on surrounding vegetation.

These could be Brown-Tail Moth Caterpillars, which have hairs which are an irritant to human skin so they should not be handled. In some severe cases, they can cause breathing difficulties.

There are other caterpillars which make webs like this. Identification can only be confirmed once the caterpillars emerge, the Brown-Tail are small brown hairy caterpillars with two bright yellow/orange dots in line on their back, but you could see some blue-grey caterpillars (Lackey) and rarer, black caterpillars (Eggar).

Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, said: "Our advice is to avoid brown tail moth caterpillars, which emerge every spring, rather than try to destroy them. Dorset Council treat infestations on rights of way and council owned land by managing the vegetation or with chemical treatment, where appropriate. If you have concerns about an infestation on your own property, then specialist companies can be employed."

"We work alongside our colleagues in the Town and Parish Councils, so

they may also take relevant control measures."

If you notice them during your daily exercise time, don't panic. Just leave them alone and try to stay away from areas where there are lots of them. The caterpillars are generally more common in May and June.

If you get the rash, which is often on the hands, arms and neck, apply antihistamine cream or calamine lotion. Symptoms should subside after a few hours, but seek medical help if you are unsure, or the reaction doesn't lessen.

If you see them within your home, or in the garden, put on some vinyl or rubber gloves, pick them up and drop them in a bucket of soapy and salty water.

During the winter steps can be taken to reduce the numbers within people's gardens (Oct to Jan). Again, using gloves, remove the nests and destroy by drowning. Burning off the vegetation and nests now will make the problem worse, as the hairs of the caterpillars will become airborne, so do not do this. Also, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service are asking us all to not have bonfires during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The caterpillars have a ferocious appetite so if there are plants in the garden that are affected, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has some advice at: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=896>

Country Parks Reopen

The four country parks managed by Dorset Council re-opened to the public on Tuesday 26 May. Avon Heath, Durlston, Moors Valley and Thornccombe Woods opened from 9am on Tuesday.

The country parks closed in March due to Covid-19 restrictions. Following the easing of lockdown by central government, the council has made some adjustments to the running of the parks so people can enjoy the open air and countryside whilst protecting their health during the current pandemic.

The range of measures for visitors' safety include two metre distancing signs and provision of hand sanitiser. Rangers will be on hand to help

people enjoy their visit and manage any queues.

Councillor Wharf said: "As you can appreciate, we've had to make a number of changes to the way our country parks are operated so they can be reopened. "This is a new experience for us all, and the teams on site will do their best to make sure everyone has an enjoyable time."

For the continued safety of visitors and employees, play areas, cafes, visitor centres and cycle hire will not re-open on Tuesday. This will be monitored and, if possible, takeaway facilities will be made available later in the week. Updates will be posted on social media and on the council's website



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Gazette Gardening

with Simon Goldsack

Sumptuous Salviæ!

We are lucky enough to live in one of the mildest and sunniest locations in the country and so we are able to grow many beautiful and interesting plants that would not survive even just a few miles north of here.

One such group of plants are Salviæ more commonly known by their herb name Sage. They are a large group of plants many with scented foliage which is not surprising as they are closely related to mint. However it is the beautiful flowers which display for up to 6 months of the year that make them so attractive to gardeners.

Sages are best planted in full sun but will tolerate some shade. The varieties featured below are reliably hardy in Purbeck as long as you apply a generous mulch of compost around the base of the plant before the winter chill sets in.

Prune back to the lowest pair of active buds in April followed by a light trim in May to produce strong well branched plants with lots of growing points. Flowering starts in mid May and can continue to Christmas if there are no hard frosts. Wow, what value!

Holme will have a wide selection of excellent Salviæ grown in Purbeck by our friends Bob and Gill. Many will also be planted in the Holme borders for you to enjoy in a garden setting. See you at Holme soon.

Right hand side - top to bottom:

- Salvia jamensis 'Pluen'
- Salvia 'Royal Bumble'
- Salvia 'Violette de Loire'
- Salvia 'Bleu Amor'

Left hand side - top to bottom:

- Salvia jamensis 'Flammen'
- Salvia jamensis 'Melen'
- Salvia uliginosa
- Salvia 'Hot Lips'

Below:

- Right: Salvia 'Wendy's Wish'
- Left: Salvia 'Black and Blue'



Arts & Entertainment



Wareham Whalers Donate To Hospital

Wareham Whalers are pleased to announce that they have donated £500 to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital Charity and £500 to the Poole Hospital Charity to support the health and wellbeing of the frontline staff in both of these hospitals. We wanted to recognise the incredible work and sacrifices they are making to support those in need of special care during this difficult time.

Throughout the year, Wareham Whalers perform at various festivals, concerts and events for local organisations. Any fees or donations received are distributed to our chosen charity partners - Wareham and Purbeck MS society and the RNLI.

This year in addition to these donations, we decided that we wanted to also support our local NHS workers, so we have donated £500 to each of the Poole Hospital and Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch charities. Karen Smith of the Bournemouth Hospital Charity thanked us as follows: "I wanted to write to say thank you so much for your incredibly kind donation

of £500.00 to our COVID-19 appeal. This very generous donation will be used to support the health and wellbeing of our wonderful frontline staff here at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital during this challenging time.

"The incredible donations we receive will be used to fund a number of items to support the physical and mental wellbeing of our frontline staff, including care packages, non-perishable food and drink, access to psychologists and activities and journals that promote positive mental health.

"So far, we have funded a Psychologist, wellbeing packs, hot water jugs, breakfast bars, fridges and refreshments. We are working hard to make sure our staff have access to whatever they need during this time of crisis and beyond."

To help support your NHS Heroes you can donate online at BHCharity.org/donate or www.justgiving.com/campaign/pooleheroes

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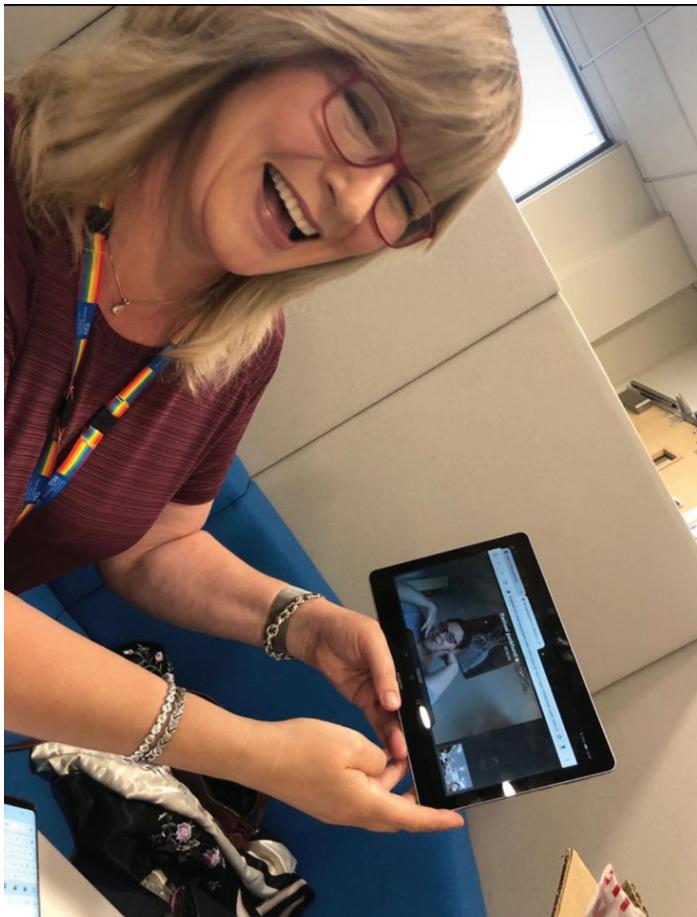
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Health & Beauty

Matron's Round - our Local Hospitals' Monthly Column



This month I thought it would be nice to share news of a newly launched virtual visiting service which is being used at Dorset HealthCare's community hospitals and mental health units.

Visitors are an important part of the recovery process and can help people get better faster, as well as reducing their anxiety and stress. The COVID-19 pandemic means that the Trust has had to restrict all but the most essential visits to its sites.

The Trust came up with the innovative idea of virtual visiting to bring comfort to patients who are unable to have face-to-face visitors. What followed was a brilliant example of teamwork across several departments. For the idea to become a reality, tablet devices were needed quickly. The Trust's Patient Experience team had a store of tablets that are used to gather patient feedback and they didn't hesitate to offer them up.

Once the tablets were available, they then had to be programmed by the I.T. department to make them suitable for virtual visiting. In order to protect patients and staff, a strict infection control process is needed for using the tablets so 10,000 zip lock bags were ordered and supplied within 24 hours.

Staff from the Quality Improvement and Patient Experience teams helped deliver the tablets and trained staff, and guides were created for patients and visitors. Those involved in rolling out the new service were not frontline NHS staff, but felt strongly that this was something they could support them with and make the initiative a reality. In as little as four weeks the service went live.

Patients and their loved ones can now request to speak to one another and a dedicated staff member will arrange a video call. We are so pleased we can provide a little bit of joy to both patients and their families or friends. It is already making a big difference at this time, when they are unable to see each other in the normal way.

Until next time, take care, Matron Donna.



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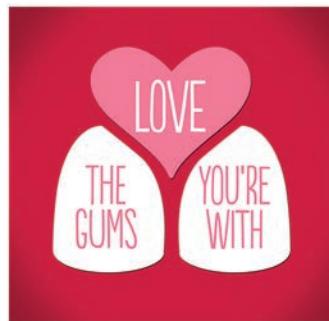
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