

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

AQUARIUS CORFE CASTLE WOMEN IN TOUCH	SUE SEDGLEY	289102
BADMINTON	CHRISTINE KEMP	480007
BUSY BEES	SAM COLE	481631
CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES	STEFF ROBINSON	07584079401
CHURCH KNOWLE FOOD FAYRE	ANN WAINWRIGHT	480567
CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH CLERK	ANDREW PARSONS	450212
CHURCH KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL	ANGELA BOON	480534
CHURCH KNOWLE READING ROOM BOOKINGS	ANGELA BOON	480534
EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	CELIA TAYLOR	07908807115
CORFE CASTLE CHARITY	MANDY MEAKER	480873
CORFE CASTLE CLUB	BAR STEWARD (CHUBBY)	480591
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST	ALISON PALMER	480096
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY		480760
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY PRE SCHOOL	SAM COLE	481631
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CRAZY 4 CORFE	DENISE FULLER	477247
CORFE CASTLE LATIN AMERICAN & BALLROOM	DONNA DEBELIUS	07518 056149
CORFE CASTLE LINE DANCE	DONNA DEBELIUS	07518 056149
CORFE CASTLE PARISH CLERK	MICHELLE HARRINGTON	01202 670105
CORFE CASTLE TOWN TRUST	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
CORFE CASTLE TOWN HALL BOOKINGS	JOHN LINDSAY	481498
CORFE CASTLE YOUTH CLUB	DONNA DAVIS	481284
CORFE CASTLE TODDLER GROUP	CHERYL THAKE	07745242511
CORFE CASTLE VILLAGE HALL	DAVID ATKIN	07590352219
CORFE CRAFTERS	CHERYL THAKE	07745242511
DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST KIMMERIDGE	JULIE HATCHER	481044
DOUBLE ACT drama group	DAVID WATSON	481265
DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION	LEAH CROSS	01202 712869
FRIENDS OF C C COMMUNITY LIBRARY	ALISON ALLWRIGHT	480123
FRIENDS OF THE SURGERY	KATHY MORRIS	425890
FURZEBROOK HALL BOOKINGS	TINA BEST	07935068881
FURZEBROOK WHIST DRIVES	EILEEN CAKE	552392
GOD'S ACRE CLERK	MICHELLE HARRINGTON	01202 670105
KIMMERIDGE VILLAGE HALL	OFFICE	270000
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
MARGARET GREEN ANIMAL RESCUE	HEAD OFFICE	480474
MILLENNIUM PAVILION BOOKINGS	DEBBIE REYNOLDS	480179
NATIONAL TRUST	NICK HUGHES	450002
PARISH CHURCHES		
POTTERY IN PURBECK	RACHEL FOOKS	480455
PROBUS CLUB	STAN LAYTON	480038
PURBECK ASS'N of the NATIONAL TRUST	DAVID COLE	550488
PURBECK CHESS CLUB	STEVE PEIRSON	552504
PURBECK GARDENING CLUB	CYRIL HARRISON	552105
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	GEOFF VARNEY	480591
SPORTS TRUST	DENISE FULLER	477247
ST EDWARD'S COVENANTS/TREASURER		
SWANAGE AND PURBECK ROTARY	DEIRDRE SELWYN	480279

CORFE VALLEY NEWS



APRIL 2024

*An independent magazine for
the villages of Corfe Castle, Church Knowle,
Furzebrook, Kingston, Kimmeridge, Steeple and environs*

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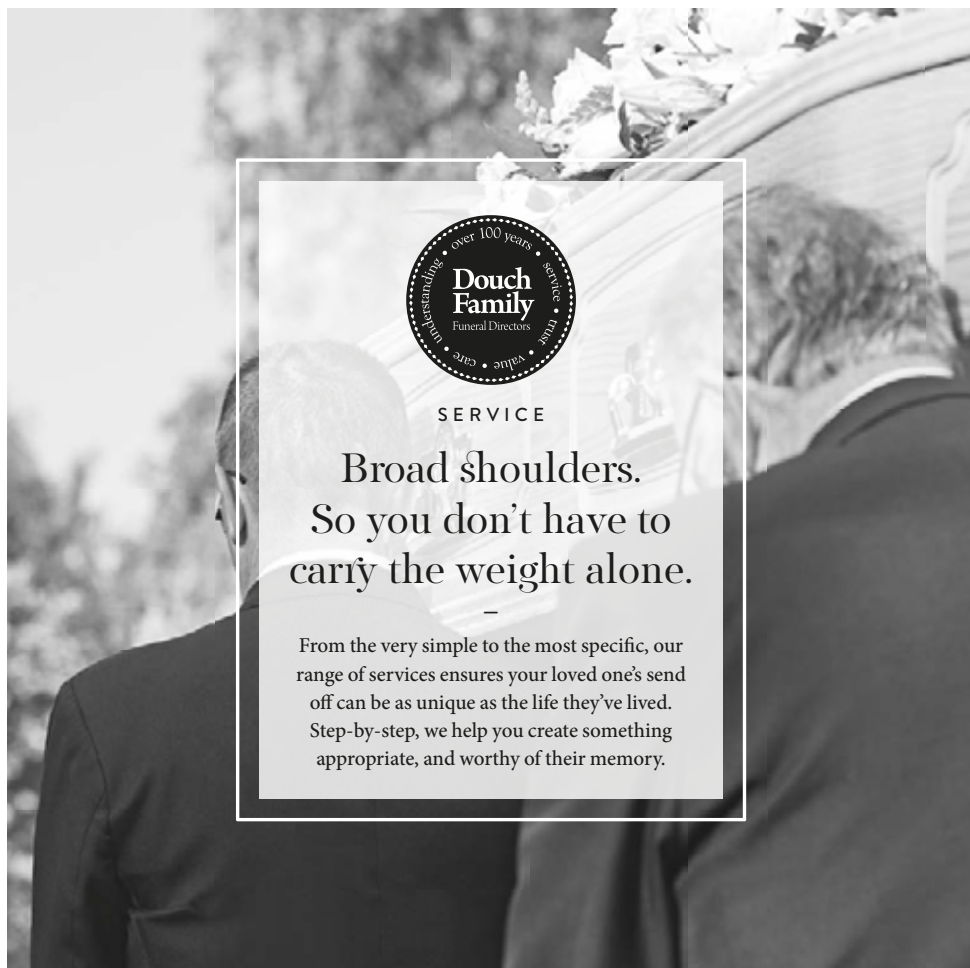
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Corfe Valley News

A monthly magazine providing news, information and items of interest for the villages of Corfe Castle, Kingston, Church Knowle, Kimmeridge, Steeple and environs.

Established June 1982

Issue No 504 April 2024

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James Kirkwood 1985-91
Geoff Marshall 1991-96
Kate Macdonald 1996-97
Linda Applin 1997 - 2004

Please send items for publication by 5 pm on the **15th** of the preceding month. All contributions can be left at 55 East Street or at The Post Office, Corfe Castle.

Preferably items should be e-mailed to **corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk**

Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue

Editorial

We have said goodbye to Carole and Terry as they leave the village stores. Nine years ago they took over an almost failing shop and have turned it around to make it the very successful business we all know today. Thank you, Carole and Terry, for all that you've done to help the village, from organising deliveries during the COVID pandemic to providing a friendly ear for anybody who needs one. I know that the village is going to miss you. Please have a look at the Notices and Thanks for a message from Carole and Terry.

However, at the same time we extend the greatest possible welcome to Carl and Sarah who have taken over. We hope to tell you more about them in the May addition of CVN.

We are sorry that the bin collection dates we published in the Notices and Thanks last month were wrong. They had been corrected and are now the right ones.

Council elections are coming up in May and please be warned that when you go to a polling station you must have a form of photo ID before you can vote. There's an article about this just after the Parish Council report.

Stephen

Some useful Telephone Numbers

(There are more in the middle of the magazine)

Police non-emergency call line	101
National Electricity Number	105
NHS Emergency Medical Care Service	111
In the event of Gas Leak	0800 111999
Electricity Failure	0800 0727282
Swanage Police Station - out of hours calls rerouted	422004
Swanage Hospital	422282
National Trust outside office hours	07970-595963
Wareham Hospital	552433
Poole Hospital	01202 665511
Bournemouth Hospital	01202 303626
Dorset County Hospital	01305 251150
Corfe Castle Community Library	480760
Citizens Advice Adviceline: Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm	08001448848
The Samaritans	01202 551999
Street Light Defect - SEC Contracting	0800 068 4145
Childline	0800 1111
Dorset Councillor – Cherry Brooks	07512897908

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The cover picture is a sketch of Kimmeridge Bay by Joan Bracchi with Clavell's Tower in its original position before it was moved

MARCH FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

Monday 20th May from 7pm
Corfe Castle Village Hall

NEW FORMAT – FREE TEA & COFFEE & BISCUITS. This year the Parish Council are trying a new Parish meeting format. We are inviting local groups / organisations to have a **FREE** tabletop display, where they can sell small items, between 6 – 7pm. At 7pm there will then be a presentation from the Council on the Parish achievements over the last year, and what the future may hold. If you would like to exhibit, please contact the Clerk.

Soup ‘n Pud Club: The Parish council would like to send their congratulations to the organisers of the Soup ‘n’ Pud Club, for securing a grant for the second year running. Well done to all involved for hosting such wonderful community events.

Thanks to Terry and Carole Birnie: The Parish Council would like to send thanks to Terry & Carole for their dedication to the village over the last 10 years. We wish you safe travels.

Sandbanks Ferry: The Parish Council is objecting formally to the Ferry Company proposal to increase charges beyond the agreed levels. Other local Council are also objecting.

Consultation: The Parish Council will shortly be carrying out a consultation for various Highways issues around the Parish. Keep an eye out next month for further information.

Residents Car Park: Do you own a property in Corfe Castle, have no dedicated parking, and find it a struggle to park? The Parish Council may have the answer for you. On 1st April each year we renew are residents parking permits and this year we have a couple becoming available. If you would like to have a dedicated parking place guaranteed all year round, then contact the Clerk for further details.

Planning application update: The following applications have been received by Corfe Castle Parish Council, for full details including proposed works please see the Dorset Council website:

Application No: P/HOU/2023/07255, Location: 168 East Street, Corfe Castle BH20 5EH. Recommend No Objection

Application No: P/VOC/2023/07522 & P/VOC/2023/07502 & P/FUL2023/07355, Location: Downs Quarry, Kingston Road, Langton Matravers, Swanage BH19 3JP. Recommend Corfe Castle Parish Council “Object”, due to the visual impact from the Corfe Castle Parish, plus noting the area covered in the application is outside of the approved area as stated within the Mineral Strategy adopted in 2014 by Dorset Council

Full details for all planning applications can be found on the Dorset Council website, <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning>

Dorset Council issues: During our March meeting there was a lengthy discussion with Cllr Brooks about the recent flooding. Cllr Brooks is pursuing the issue and will report back.

Purbeck Park Footpath: A report received recently from Dorset Council stated further studies are being undertaken on possible routes.

Council Tax on Empty Homes and Second Homes: This month Dorset Council resolved to shorten the period to one year for the tax surcharge on empty properties starting April 2024. It will also double the Council tax on second homes from April 2025.

Photo ID for the elections. All Councils in Dorset are having elections on 2nd May 2024. Voters will need photo ID such as an Older Person’s / Disabled person bus pass, driving licence or passport to cast their vote in person, a full list of approved ID can be found on the Dorset Council webpage <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/voting-in-person-at-a-polling-station>. If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

Next Council Meeting: Monday 8th April 2024, at 7pm in the Corfe Castle Village Hall, Bill Carter Room. To start the meeting is a public half hour, so please come and join us and have your say.

Parish Council contact details:

Clerk: Michelle Harrington,

Telephone: 01202 670105,

Email: clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk,

Write: 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ,

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC,

Website: www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Voters encouraged to get their ID ready ahead of this year's local elections



Residents are reminded that they will need be registered to vote and show an approved form of photo ID when they go to the polling stations on 2 May to elect for Dorset Council councillors as well as Town and Parish Councils.

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections also takes place on the same day.

Following the Elections Act 2022, photographic identification is a mandatory requirement for everyone voting at polling stations.

Residents will also need photo ID to vote at parliamentary general elections, expected to be called sometime this year.

Various forms of photo ID are accepted, including a driving licence, passport, Older Person's Bus Pass, a blue badge or Disabled Person's Bus Pass. The full list of accepted ID can be found

here: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id

Residents can also use an expired ID as long as the photograph is still a good likeness.

For those without accepted photo ID, a free Voter Authority Certificate can be obtained online. Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, 24 April to be processed in time for the 2 May elections. The Voter Authority Certificate is valid for 10 years and is valid for all elections. www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

If you need further guidance, you can also contact the Electoral services team on:

Email: elections@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01305 838299

To cast your vote in the upcoming elections, you must be registered by Tuesday, 16 April, 2024. If you're not already registered, you can complete the process on the Government's website. Voters only need to register once, unless they have changed their name or address.

Postal votes:

There is no need for people to provide photo ID if you vote by post, but you will need to give your National Insurance number and date of birth.

Once your postal vote is set up, whenever an election, referendum or poll at which you are entitled to vote is called, you will be sent a postal poll card giving details of the forthcoming election, referendum or poll. This will be followed by a postal vote pack. www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/voting-by-post

Who to Contact When:

If you have a problem, do you know who best to call to help deal with the issue? If not don't worry, the contacts below may help you.

My bin was not emptied:

Self Service Portal - <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-litter/report-a-bin-problem/missed-bin-collection>

Telephone: 01305 221040

A public litter bin is overflowing

Self Service Portal - https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP_Report_a_public_litter_bin_problem

Telephone: 01305 221040

To report a pothole

Self Service Portal - <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report-a-pothole> - Telephone 01305 221020

To report an overgrown hedge, tree or verge onto the highway

Self Service Portal - <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-hedge-tree-or-verge-issue> - Telephone 01305 221020

To report a problem on a road or pavement

Self Service Portal - <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

Telephone 01305 221020

To request a highways gully clear

Self Service Portal - <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-gully-drain-or-flooding-issue> - Telephone 01305 221020

To request a road sweep on a highway near you.

Self Service Portal - https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP_Report_for_Mechanical_Road_Sweeper

Telephone 01305 221020

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Church Knowle Parish Council

The March meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 6:30pm. It was attended by eight members of the Council (Cllr Burt in the chair), one member of the public and Cllr Cherry Brooks from Dorset Council.

The main items of interest in the meeting were:

Public Discussion

The topics raised included:

- Flooding at East Creech owing to the inadequate sizing of the under road culvert. While the Highways Department regularly clears this with a suction machine it soon blocks with debris again.

Vacancies on the Parish Council

We are pleased to welcome Ian Gilbert who joined the parish council this month. There is now only one vacancy on the council which has a full strength of nine and any interested parishioners can apply to clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk. All eight current councillors will be up for election at the 2nd May elections. Any eligible parishioner can stand for election, the papers can be obtained from the Dorset Council website or from the clerk. The deadline for submission of papers to County Hall, Dorchester is 4pm, 5th April 2024.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Church Knowle Parish Neighbourhood Plan is entering the next phase. To best represent the wants and needs of parishioners, you are invited to a consultation morning at Church Knowle Village Hall on Saturday 20th April at 10 am. This will be an opportunity to discuss your thoughts and ideas with the Steering Group and your feedback will shape our Neighbourhood Plan. Before this meeting, a set of questions for you to consider will be delivered to your home. We hope to see you there.

The Neighbourhood Plan carries statutory weight under the Localism Act 2011 and this is an opportunity for the parish to take advantage of this.

Report from Dorset Council

The Dorset councillor Cherry Brooks reported that the Dorset Council has balanced its budget and that no services will be cut. At the latest Dorset Council meeting it was decided to apply a 100% council tax premium to long term empty houses and second homes. Holiday lets will continue to be classed as businesses. This will be applied from 1st April 2025.

The May 2nd elections require that voters have a photo ID with them at the polling station.

Planning

There were no new planning applications.

Highways

The problem of deer in the parish and on the road was discussed. Dorset Highways will be approached about the possibility of providing deer warning signs on the roads. Deer have become a massive problem in the parish and indeed in rural communities throughout the country. There are now some 2m roaming free causing 75,000 road accidents a year.

Furzebrook Phone Box

This was decommissioned by BT and adopted by the Parish Council over a year ago and is available for new role. Suggestions for a use for this box are sought. Please contact the clerk and these will be put to the Parish Council to be considered.

Tenders

The last Playing Field inspection recommended that the wooden elements be treated with preservative. Tenders are therefore being sought for treating all of the timber at the playing field with an approved preservative. The timber will have to be sanded to remove any splinters first. Apply to the Clerk at clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk for details.

The March meeting finished at 8:30 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Furzebrook Village Hall at 6:30 on 9th April 2024.



Skirmish in the skies!

There have been some spats and skirmishes in the skies over the castle over the last few weeks. Ravens nested at the castle for centuries, but when they moved out some years ago, and peregrines moved in. Well, it seems the ravens are trying to make a comeback. They have been circling around the castle and bringing nest materials, but the peregrines have been divebombing them and trying to drive them away. Although ravens are bigger, peregrines are formidable hunters and the fastest birds in the world (reaching over 200 miles per hour in a dive). It is highly unlikely that both birds will nest at the same site, so we'll have to wait to see who is victorious!



Works to The Old Stables update:

We have had an updated schedule from Dorset Council for the roof works to The Old Stables on the A351. The works will now commence on Monday 15th April for 3 weeks. This is when the traffic management system will be in place through the village.

We fully appreciate the disruption is difficult, but the schedule and works have been set by the contractors of Dorset Council. The length of time is due to the building requiring structural repairs and works to its roof so that it can continue to be used by the village festivities committee.

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Corfe Castle Surgery

The sun is shining as I write this, lets hope April starts with a change in the weather!

A polite reminder that the morning sit and wait clinic is for more urgent on the day medical problems. Please speak to reception to book an appointment if it is a more routine problem or query for the GP. If it is a medication question this could be directed to the dispensary team or the reception team can book a telephone consultation with the Pharmacist, Tim that works closely with the clinical staff.

We have now welcomed Keeley to the reception team who I am sure you will all see or speak to soon, it is great to have her here with us and I am sure you will all extend a warm welcome when you come in.

Kerry Norman Practice Manager

Patient Participation Group.

At our recent PPG committee meeting I was delighted to have representatives from the wide Practice area who are actively contributing to our PPG work and will be seeking comments from patients to help support the work of the Surgery.

It was however very disappointing to hear that in the last two months **100 patients** have not attended booked appointments despite text reminders resulting in significant loss of valuable clinical time of doctors and nurses and therefore reduced access for those needing appointments .The Surgery will 'phone up to 3 times or send a letter to try to rebook what could be an important appointment missed, which also then adds pressure on an already stretched clerical team so please can we help each other by cancelling appointments if they are not needed or we are unable to attend.

I would also like to mention the national shortage of some medicines which is affecting local pharmacies and our own Surgery. We are so fortunate to be part of a Dispensing practice with a team who work so hard for us and are doing their best to provide us with a good service.

If you do experience problems and wish us to raise them with the Surgery please do use our PPG email address or contact us through the Surgery, corfecastleppg@gmail.com

We are continuing with our Health Talks programme and are delighted that Mr Simon Parvin. Consultant Vascular Surgeon. Royal Bournemouth Hospital

will be coming to the **Corfe Castle Club on Thursday 11th April at 7pm** to give us a talk entitled '*Aneurysms the Silent Killers*'. All are welcome to attend, please do support the evening.

Maggie Hardy, PPG Chair

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a friendly environment for local residents to increase community
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Our March Lunch was so well attended that we needed to lay up an additional table, which is a great indication of how the local Community are really enjoying Soup 'n Pud. This is also borne out by another comment recorded from our diners **"It provides an opportunity to meet folks I don't know. It's wonderful to have the chance to share a community meal."**

We are hoping to hold a 'Kiddies Kitchen' session with the Toddler and Pre School Groups, their parents and staff on Tues. June 18th at 12.00 noon in the Village Hall which will be in the form of an age appropriate lunch. Lots of finger food!! We are very much looking forward to this venture, as are they. This should also give the Village Hall more support to pursue grant applications towards improving the kitchen facilities for all users. The next Soup 'n Pud will be on Sat. April 6th at 12.30pm and as always we welcome any extra in-date fruit, vegetables and tins and will use them wherever possible to avoid waste but regret that we can't accept any pre-frozen food as we are unsure of the relevant dates.

There will be the expected tasty food and friendly chat and we will have our happy band of volunteers helping with serving etc, without whom we would be unable to manage. If you would like to join them we would be very happy to see you. Remember that you get a lunch as well!

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Challow Farm

The Revd Hutchins thought that this farm's name was derived from the chalk way that leads up East Hill - Chalway. An alternative suggestion is 'Chalwyll', meaning cold spring/stream or well. In 1910, it consisted of about 203 acres and was owned by Captain Guy Marston, RN, of Rempstone Hall. He was a nephew of the last Calcraft and inherited the estate in 1901.

Challow was a dairy farm. The tenant rented 14 milk cows at £12 per cow from Captain Marston.



The gated lane of Sandyhill by Challow Farm showing more than 14 dairy cows.

It was part of Rollington tything and lies just outside the boundary of the borough of Corfe. There are traces of Celtic field systems on its northern side on Rollington Hill.

It's not clear when or how the Clavells came to own Challow – either by purchase or marriage – but one Richard Clavell died in 1510, leaving 10 acres of meadow and an alder bed at 'Chalwyll'. No dwelling is mentioned. This passed to his daughter, Elizabeth, as his sole heiress. She was already married to Thomas Dackombe and her property became his, as was the usual practice then. The farm then passed to their son, Robert Dackombe in 1540 and continued down the Dackombe line until about 1740 when it was sold to John Moreton. He left his estate to his nephew, Revd. John Colson, and it was his brother's son, John Morton Colson of Studland, who inherited the estate and sold it to John Calcraft.



A watercolour of the dairy farm painted in June 1894.

In the late 19th century, it was rented to James Wiltshire who described himself in the 1891 census as the registrar for births and deaths for Corfe Castle, a coal merchant, and a farmer. He sublet the farmhouse to John Long, a dairyman. The dairy farm was auctioned off in 1919 by Captain Marston along with his properties in Worth.

Louise Haywood

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5th March 2024 AGM

The AGM followed the prescribed format with the Chairman’s report highlighting the successes of the year, in particular the interesting speakers, the Spring Fayre and the Summer BBQ. After many years of fantastic service to Aquarius, Linda Stocks and Helen Layton have stood down from the committee. We cannot thank them enough for everything they have done for Aquarius and all its members during this time. Cathy Brett is kindly taking over the role of Secretary from Linda. Sue Sedgley and Denise Fuller continue as Chairman and Treasurer respectively



Linda was presented a plant by our Chairman, Sue and our new Secretary, Cathy in our gratitude for her hard work and dedication as Secretary. Helen Layton

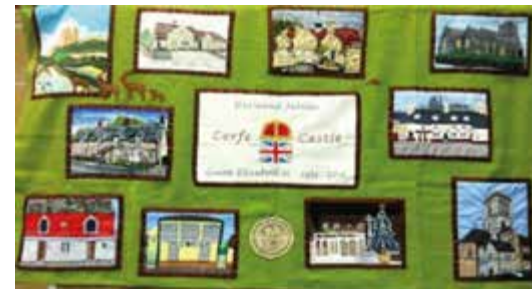
was sadly unable to attend the AGM but we will give her thanks in person when she is back.

12th April 2024

We are looking forward to a very informative talk from The Dorset Ginger Company. Without spoiling what is to come, this company make ginger based non-alcoholic drinks. It will be great to know how this is done.

Smart TV quilt cover

After an appeal for quilters and embroiderers in the March newsletter, we have set up a sewing group to make a beautiful cover for the new Smart TV in the Bill Carter Room of the Corfe Castle Village Hall. For any of you that have visited the Corfe Castle doctors surgery you will have seen the outcome of a similar project. We are very excited to see the finished article.



Future Events

The Aquarius Spring Fayre will be on Saturday 20th April at Corfe Castle Village Hall between 10.00 – 12.00. If you are interested in having a stall at the Fayre please let the committee know by emailing:

2008aquariusbodies@gmail.com

The Corfe Castle Village May Fayre 27th May – After the success of last year we will be hosting an Aquarius cake and sandwich stall again. We will shortly be asking for volunteers to bake cakes, make sandwiches and serve these on the day.

We are always looking for new members to join our friendly group of ladies. If you would like to come along to our monthly meetings for an interesting talk, a cuppa and chat, why not join us for a taster session. We also have a monthly draw for the 50/50 club, book groups, walking groups and a lunch club.

To contact Aquarius please tel: 01929 289102 or email:

2008aquariusbodies@gmail.com

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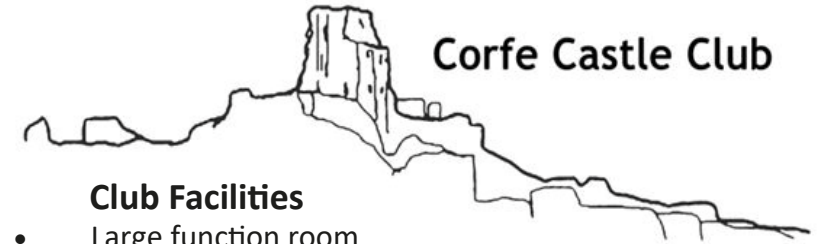
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Sunday: All day 12.00 - 7.00pm

Weekly Events

Poker Night: Wed 8.30pm
One Card Bingo: Fri 8.30pm
Chase the Ace Draw: Sat 9.00pm
Beer/Meat Draw: Sat evening
One Card Bingo: Sun 1.00pm

Forthcoming Events

Sat 20th April 7.30pm —
Fun Quiz Night
Sat 29th June—Mini Beer Festival

Membership application forms are available from
the Club Steward. Annual Membership is £10.
Local beers, ciders and lager at very reasonable prices.
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w a l x d o r s e t . c o . u k

2024 is turning out to be a delicious dramatic sandwich for Double Act. The bread is Peter's play, 'This Secret Isle', while the main filling is 'The Shaftesbury Tales'. Then there's a surprise nugget of a tasty mini-panto popped into the main filling.



For the year so far we have been enjoying rehearsing 'This Secret Isle', a thriller set in Purbeck in WWII, but that goes on the back burner for most of the cast during the summer; we resume regular rehearsals after July through to the 'explosive' production in November. So that is the 'bread' bits of the sandwich accounted for.

Now to the sandwich filling. On April 8th in the Village Hall we will have our first 'Shaftesbury Tales' meeting, with members of Treehouse Theatre joining us. The recent Short Story Writing Competition winning entries will be shared with us, and we will choose a Tale to develop into a short play. For the next 3 months this will be our focus, to make sure our performances in St Edward's Church Corfe Castle on July 11th and 12th are up to muster. We may be repeating the performances in Wareham on July 14th and 15th too. Some of us may walk parts of the St Edward's Way before joining the final Shaftesbury Tales event in Shaftesbury on Thursday 25th July. Anyone interested in being involved in this exciting one-off event is welcome to join us on April 8th.

The Surprise Nugget will be a mini-panto at the May Fair in the Castle on Monday May 27th. Come along to see which Panto it is, and there will be several opportunities to join in as we perform it at least twice during the day. Each performance will only take about 5 minutes, so truly a treat to be savoured!

If you would be interested in joining our friendly safe group or for more details, please contact the chairman, David Kemp 01929 480007 - or email doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com.

New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome!



Purbeck Art Weeks Festival 2024 Concert tickets now live!

The Purbeck Art Weeks Festival (PAW) is getting ready to enchant the local community and visitors alike with its upcoming celebration of art in all its forms. Running from 25 May to 9 June, the Festival will be jam-packed with captivating Concerts, Open Studios, Exhibitions, demonstrations, and other events, showcasing Purbeck's diverse talent - plus a

few surprises

Tickets are now live and bookable for our Concerts and other Events programme. We're delighted to open the Festival with a celebration of summertime with **Gawain Glenton**, who returns this year with **In Echo**, an ensemble of cornettos, violins, viola, violone and organ. **I Fagiolini** are back to perform a four-choir mass by Benevoli, Carissimi's beautiful oratorio, *Jephtha*, and some of Monteverdi's greatest ensemble and solo works from Venice.

The **Fieri Consort** will play on the first Friday of the Festival with music inspired by birdsong. **Helen Charlston** (mezzo soprano) and **Toby Carr** (lute) will also return with another lovely programme, this time of English songs from the 16th and 17th centuries. Don't miss them this time! And back by popular demand to close the Festival, we have the wonderful vocal ensemble **The Gesualdo Six** with a concert of music inspired by the ancient service of Compline, from the renaissance to the present day.

We're also delighted to have distinguished sculptor, and PAW President, **Philip Jackson** speaking on *The Changing Face of Beauty*, and **The Purbeck Poets** will be running their open mic poetry night event.

For more information and to book tickets please go to www.purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk

Concerts and other Events Programme includes:

- **Saturday 25 May – St James', Kingston at 6pm – *In the Summertime...* – Gawain Glenton with In Echo**

- **Bank Holiday Monday 27 May – Lady St Mary, Wareham at 6.30pm – *From Venice (to Rome) With Love* – I Fagiolini**
- **Wednesday 29 May – Conservative Club, Swanage at 6pm – *The Changing Face of Beauty* by PAW President, Philip Jackson**
- **Friday 31 May – St James', Kingston at 6pm – *Dawn Chorus*, Fieri Consort**
- **Monday 3 June – Swanage, The Globe Inn – 7.30pm – open mic poetry night with The Purbeck Poets.**
- **Friday 7 June – St Edward's, Corfe Castle at 6pm – *Lend us your Ears* – Helen Charlston (mezzo soprano) and Toby Carr (lute)**
- **Saturday 8 June – Lady St Mary, Wareham at 6.30pm – *Fading* – The Gesualdo Six**



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Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

Thanks to all those who attended the March VH Coffee Morning. £193.21 was raised for Village Hall funds.

The 100 club draw is made at the Coffee Morning. In March the first prize of £21 was won by member 48, with member 54 getting second prize £10 and member 53 winning the third prize £5. If you would like to become one of the many villagers who support their local village hall like this please contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

The village hall offers a large amount of secure storage space. Currently two storage units are available for hire. For more details please contact Judith on 01929 480216.

regular weekly events:

Monday mornings	Purbeck Dance Studio
Monday evenings	Double Act
Monday evenings	Purbeck Chess
Tuesday mornings	Toddlers
Tuesday mornings	Yoga
Tuesday evenings	Martial Arts
Tuesday evenings	Badminton
Wednesday mornings	Corfe Crafters
Wednesday mornings	Pilates
Wednesday afternoons	U3A Pickleball
Wednesday evenings	Youth Club
Thursday mornings	Silver Swans adult ballet
Thursday evenings	Cubs
Thursday evenings	Alcoholics Anonymous
Friday mornings	Pilates
Friday mornings	Purbeck Dance Studio

regular monthly events:

1st Saturday morning	VH Coffee Morning
1st Sunday all day	Cameo Antiques Fair
1st Tuesday afternoon	Aquarius
1st Thursday evening	Gardening Club
2nd Monday evening	Parish Council
3rd Wednesday morning	Carers' Support (P Jones)
3rd Friday afternoon	Citizen's Advice bus

Village Hall Website Gallery

Our website www.corfecastlevillagehall.co.uk includes a section called Gallery. The newly added "Wedding Reception Three" section shows an innovative lighting approach used for a wedding reception last year. The VH Trustees were so impressed that they have purchased these "extras", and these are now available for hire. Take a look!

May Fair Tombola

On the VH stall at the May Fair as well as the usual books we will also be running a tombola, to raise funds for the work on the kitchen / chair store. If you have any gifts you would like to donate for this tombola please contact Gerry on 07711 441258.

To book a room at the hall, preferably use the email address david@davidjatin.plus.com. Alternatively ring David on 07590 352219.

News from the Library



Don't Forget the Quiz Night

The Charity Quiz Night takes place on **Saturday 13th April** in the Village Hall.

Proceeds will be split evenly between Corfe Castle Community Library and Weldmar Hospice care. Nibbles will be provided but please bring your own drink and glasses. Tickets are £8 and are available from the library, from the Village Stores or email reservation to CorfeCastleLibrary@gmail.com. See the poster for this event elsewhere in this magazine for more details.

Changes to Library 'Friends' Subscriptions

After 10 years of running the Friends of the Library scheme we are changing things a little. We thank all our friends who have supported the scheme so generously over the years. We have changed our bank account so any direct debits you have set up will bounce.

What we'd like to do is to invite old (and new!) subscribers to set up annual (or one-off) donations of £5 to our new account which is 'Friends of Corfe Castle Community Library', Sort Code: 30-99-50, Account Number: 26636668.

Come in out of the cold for a free Cuppa and a Biscuit!

We will be offering a hot drink and biscuits for anyone who would like to come in to warm up and have a chat.

Normal Library Opening Hours

Monday 3.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Wednesday 10.00 -12.00 a.m. and 3.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Saturday 10.00 - 12.00 a.m.

Charity Quiz Night

For Corfe Castle Community Library
and Weldmar Hospicecare

Saturday 13th April
Corfe Castle Village Hall

6.30pm for 7.00pm Start

Quiz Master Barry Stocks

Tickets £8

Bring your own drinks and glasses.
Nibbles provided

Raffle Prizes

Tables of a maximum of six people or roll up and be part of a team.

Tickets will be available from the Library, the Village Stores and via email at CorfeCastleLibrary@gmail.com from March 20th

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Have you been watching 'The Pottery Throwdown' on Channel 4?
Feeling inspired & fancy having a go?



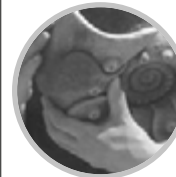
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There's an interesting selection of ceramic items to purchase at Furzebrook Studios. We have a small exhibition space displaying sea-inspired sculptures, organic forms created from local clay & many gift ideas. Please drop by if you're passing & take a look... browsers are very welcome!



My Pottery Studio is part of a lovely arts & crafts community with an exhibition area & lots of car parking. I'm usually there 9.30am-2.30pm Monday-Friday during term time... you're very welcome to drop in.

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News from The Castle

The evenings are getting lighter and the clocks have sprung forward – it is well and truly Spring! We have an exciting April coming up, with half term offers and our themed St George's Day.

Starting off with our mid-week lunch offer:

April 1st to April 30th

Back by popular demand, we will be offering a tasty Mid-Week Meal of the Day for only £9.95. Available lunchtime, Monday to Friday throughout April. This is always a popular offer, so ensure to get your bookings in.

Next is half term. Half term = Hungry kids! It's all about the children between:

April 1st to April 14th

As a family run pub, we know how to keep your little ones happy. This half term we will be offering children a **FREE** dessert with their main meal! Happy children = Happy Parents. Booking are highly recommended for these 2 weeks.

Last, (but by no means least) we will be celebrating:

St George's Day – Tuesday 23rd April

We're celebrating all things English on this day, including delicious and traditional English specials. The pub will be decorated to commemorate this special day, in great Castle Inn style. Bookings are recommended

Wishing a wonderful April, and we look forward to seeing you soon, from the team at The Castle Inn.

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New Love it Local!

New Love it Local cards are now in stock at £6.00.
10% off items in our Garden Barn.

Garden Barn / Mini Garden Centre

- Loads more plants arriving each week from our trusted suppliers.
- Our well-stocked Garden Barn is still impressing those that haven't ventured in yet – have you been in?

Farm Shop

- As always, we have fantastic giftware, local spirits, wines & groceries galore!
- Big focus on the very best local produce.
- Expansion of lines with the camping season approaching.
- We have a wide range of gardening goods new lines and sale items available.
- Our impressive range of toys & treats is proving popular amongst the little ones...and grown-ups too!
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CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for APRIL 2024

Please check timings and other details with the information available elsewhere in this magazine or with the organisers.

If you know about any forthcoming events please let us know.

4	April	Thursday	8 pm	Gardening Club talk on Stoker's visit to Costa Rica – Corfe Castle Village Hall
5	April	Friday	7 pm	Church Knowle Village Ceilidh with supper – Church Knowle Village Hall
6	April	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning - Corfe Castle Village Hall
6	April	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup and Pud Community Lunch – Corfe Castle Village Hall
8	April	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
9	April	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Furzebrook Village Hall
11	April	Thursday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Patient Participation Group talk on Aneurysms – Corfe Castle Club
12	April	Friday	7.30 pm	Keilidh – Kimmeridge Village Hall at Etches collection.
12	April	Friday	6.30 pm	St Edwards Ladies fashion show and pop up shop – Corfe Castle Village hall
13	April	Saturday	6 pm	Library Charity quiz night - Corfe Castle village hall
19	April	Friday	1 – 3 pm	Citizens Advice bus in Village Hall car park.
19	April	Friday	7.30 pm	The Hound of the Baskervilles – The Mowlem, Swanage
20	April	Saturday	10 am – 12 midday	Aquarius Annual Spring Fayre – Corfe Castle Village Hall

All details are correct as at publishing date, but please check with the organization involved before attending any events.

2	May	Thursday		Local Council Elections
9	May	Thursday	8 pm	Gardening Club 'Salvias and Scented plants, a talk by the Head Gardener of Carey's Secret Garden.
20	May	Monday	7 pm	Annual Parish Meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
25	May – 9 June			Purbeck Art Weeks
27	May	Monday		May Fayre in the Castle
18	June	Tuesday	11 am	Gardening Club visit to Carey's Secret Garden.

More Useful Phone Numbers

Power and electrical - Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks:
0800 0727282 (free phone land line) or 0345 072 1905 (free phone mobile contracts or local rate for pay as you go)

Western Power Distribution:
0800 365900 (free phone land line and mobiles)

Water - Wessex Water:
03456004600 (free from most land lines or local charges apply dependant on the land line or mobile provider)

Gas - Transco - Gas Emergency:
0800 111999 (free phone, mobile phone charged as per the local provider rate)

Roads and highways - Highways England (including incidents A35, A37 and A31):

0300 1235000 (local call rate or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependant on the provider)

Dorset Council (including incidents on the Dorset Council highway):
01305 221000 (10p per minute from a land line or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependent upon the provider)

Flooding - Environment Agency - Flood Line:
0345 9881188 (calls are charged depending on the callers service provider and where there call is made).

Dorset Council out of hours Emergency Contact Number – 01929 556561

Dorset Council Self Service Portal. This portal can be used to report anything to do with Dorset Council and to request services and information from the council. The web address for the Dorset Council is also below.

<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/en>

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>

Reporting non injury collisions or near misses

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/road-safety>

Anti-Social Behaviour 01305 762439 email ASB@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Church of England

St Aldhelm's Benefice

Contact Details for St Aldhelm's Benefice

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Curate Nick Webb 07866 546162 fulloflifegardens@googlemail.com


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Benefice Administrator: St George's Church, Langton Matravers

BH19 3HZ 01929 427822 office@purbeckbenefice.plus.com

Enquiries for Baptisms / Weddings / Funerals / Banns - contact Benefice Office and for the Corfe Valley parishes contact the Church Wardens

www.purbeckhillsbenefice.wordpress.com

 [St Aldhelm Benefice](#)
 [@StAldhelm](#)

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109 John Lindsay 481498

Visit St Edwards Website - <http://stedwardscorfecastle.co.uk/>

The Rev Anne Bond writes

Who's an April fool, then? Me? You? All of us? The more ridiculous the joke, the more we enjoy it so long as we personally are not the butt of it. I don't know if that long-ago report on TV and in the newspapers about the spaghetti harvest in Italy is still remembered, but that was an excellent April Fool joke, being impersonal, very funny (descriptions of spaghetti ripening on the trees, having to be unwound from intrusive twigs and the knots straightened out) and so beautifully broadcast it seemed absolutely plausible to those unfamiliar with Italian cooking - which, way back into the last century, was most of us.

Nowadays about the only cuisine that might still be strange to us is probably that of the yeti.

Which brings me to the phrase: ‘You are what you *eat*.’
 Hmm. I suspect a cross-section of me would only show time-layers of chocolate biscuits. (Embarrassing).

You are what you *think*?

Methinks that has the potential to be even more embarrassing.

You are what you *wear*? Well ... sometimes. Thinking back, I once possessed, and was very fond of, a pyjama-like sunsuit that made me look exactly like Andy Pandy, a puppet on children’s TV in the 1950s.

You are what you *believe*? Now, that’s more like it.

I *believed* I looked irresistible dressed in my Andy Pandy outfit, I enjoyed wearing it, it gave me confidence, it was a bit of fun ... and then, unwisely, I manoeuvred several mirrors in order to admire myself from the back and gave myself a shock: all-in-one trousers-and-tops are not ideal wear for those designed with a lot to sit upon. Andy Pandy was despatched to the Age Concern Charity Shop.

But while I *believed* I looked attractive in it, I may even have done so, so convinced was I in my belief.

There are many accounts of people who, for one reason or another, take wrong turns in life and acquire habits harmful to themselves and others - drugs, drink, crime and cruelty just about sums them up. Once on the downward path it is extraordinarily difficult to extricate oneself. What is needed is something to *believe in* that is more powerful than the habit; and, very often, it is belief in God Almighty and his representative on earth Jesus Christ working through the activity of the Holy Spirit in people’s lives, that comes to the rescue.

Despair is a terrible feeling incorporating helplessness, powerlessness, and the inevitability of failure. It makes you feel trapped, with nowhere to turn for help. In those circumstances, when there seems to be no one *outside* willing and able to help – the only place left to go is *inside* ... *inside* to your own self. When Moses asked God his name, God replied ‘I AM’. (Exodus 3:14) I AM is how we refer to ourselves. It follows that our own unique ‘I AM’ is the inborn link between us and God Almighty, whether we believe in God or not. In your imagination, ask this remarkable reality within you for help, as if you were talking to someone - and see what happens. Weep, if you feel like it, wail, cry out in anguish, shout, bellow with rage or whisper in shy prayer - but direct it to God.

More often than not, help comes to you from *outside* once you have set *inside* going. I don’t understand how it works; I just know that it does.

With love, Anne

Bible Readings – April 2024

7 th April	Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31
14 th April	Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48
21 st April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
28 th April	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8
5 th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17

Services in April 2024

Sunday 7th April	Second Sunday of Easter
Church Knowle 10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th April	Third Sunday of Easter
Steeple 9.30am	Holy Communion
Corfe Castle 10.30am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 17th April	
Langton 7 pm	Licensing of Rev Lindy Cameron by Bishop Karen.

Sunday 21st April

Langton 10.30am

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Benefice Communion
Welcome service for Rev
Lindy Cameron and Patronal
Festival of St George.

Harmans Cross 6 pm

Evening Prayer

Sunday 28th April

Corfe Castle 10.30 am

Kingston 11.15 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion
Holy Communion

Rev Lindy Cameron

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Lindy Cameron as she becomes Associate Pioneer Priest in the St Aldhelm Benefice. Lindy will live in the Rectory in Langton Matravers and work throughout the Purbeck Hills and Corfe Valley churches. The service of Installation will be conducted by the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne in St George's Church at 7pm on Wednesday 17th April. Please come along to the service and offer Lindy your welcome and support.

St. Edward's, King & Martyr church, Corfe Castle

REVISION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL FOR 2024

The Electoral Roll revision is completed during the two weeks prior to a Church APCM which in Corfe Castle this year will be April 28th. Any additions, removal or address changes etc. need therefore to be with me by Saturday April 13th please.

Joy Carter 480925



Any Questions?

Do come and hear Rev Canon Richard Bartlett

"Christian Mission in 21st century Britain –

Swanage Methodist Church, High Street, Swanage

On Tuesday 30th April

Doors open at 6.30pm (coffee/tea) presentation from 7pm

In his talk the Rev Canon Richard Bartlett will consider the challenges in communicating faith in a changing world.

Richard Bartlett is currently based in the benefice of West Purbeck and is the Parish Vicar at Holy Rood, Wool. In his previous role as a missionary in Brazil with USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) and as Director of Mission Engagement at USPG based in central London, he has gained much experience on the subject.

Do join us and hear what Rev Bartlett has to share - he is a lively speaker - we look forward to welcoming you.

Further information can be obtained from David Williams:

d.stephen.w1@gmail.com

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CORFE CASTLE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

GOOD MAN OR GOD MAN?

We have just celebrated Easter and despite the chocolate eggs and the Easter bunnies, the real heart of Easter centres on the life changing effect of the death and resurrection of one solitary man, Jesus Christ. Does it really matter whether we believe He was not only fully human but fully divine? I believe it does matter, in fact I would go so far as to say it is a matter of life and death, what you believe about Jesus.

The whole Easter message is about a Just God dealing with the death penalty that hangs over every human being-not just physical death but eternal death.

Why was Jesus crucified? The bible gives the reason. It was not for His own wrongs, but for the wrongs of others that He died. We have all broken God's laws, we have all lied, cheated, blasphemed and stolen (even taking a pencil from work is stealing) We have been greedy selfish, and proud. If we are honest, we know that sin deserves to be punished.

However, because God loves us, He devised a plan that would involve someone else being punished in the place of people like us. That someone was God's only Son, the Lord Jesus who never sinned, yet willingly became a substitute for others.

The Bible says '*whilst we were still sinners, Christ died for us*' Romans 5:8

What Jesus Christ was willing to go through on the cross will either repel you, or it will draw you to Him in sorrow for your sin and with complete trust, '*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved*' Acts 16:31.

The power that raised Jesus from the dead three days after His Crucifixion, is the same power that can save your soul and guarantee you a home in heaven. Think about this question – '**Jesus – good man or God man?**' If He remains just a good man, you may be inspired to try to do better, but no one has ever been saved through good works. You and I cannot register enough bonus points to merit a place in God's heaven. True Christianity is not a mere religion. It's a living abiding relationship with Jesus.

COFFEE & CRAFT MORNINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.30am-12pm

Whether you're an expert at crafts, or have never done any before, why not come along and try. We have people here that will be able to get you started, or just come and have a look whilst having a nice cup of coffee. Crafts include, Book Folding, Diamond Art, Pebble Painting, Knitting and Card Making. We are also knitting babies bonnets and booties for the babies in Ukraine.

We would love you to join us...

You can be assured of a warm welcome

<p>APRIL SERVICES Sunday 14th & 28th at 3pm</p> <p>COFFEE & CRAFT MORNING Every Wed. 10.30 - 12pm</p>	<p>Celia Taylor (Church Secretary) Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk Mob. 07908807115</p>
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What's On at Harmans Cross Village Hall

Movie Nights – doors and bar open at 7pm, admission just £5

Reviews and trailers can be found on the Movie Nights section of our website at <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights/>

Our next screenings are:

Tuesday 9 April – My Sailor, My Love

Tuesday 14 April - Napoleon

Coffee Junction – in the small meeting room from 10.30am

Thursday 4 and 18 April, and 16 and 30 May. Coffee Junction has had to give way to Polling Day for the local elections on Thursday 2 May.

HXVH Church – 3rd Sunday at 6pm

Next HX services are Sunday 21 April and Sunday 19 May

Booking the Hall

A reminder to anyone interested in booking the Hall that our new Bookings Guru is Kelly King. There's loads of information available on the 'Make a Booking' section of our website and you can check availability using the online calendar which is always kept up to date. Kelly can be contacted on either 07384 848 419 or email at bookings@harmanscrosshall.co.uk.

Alison and the HXVH Committee



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FREE QUOTATIONS & ADVICE

Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club.

I hope by the time you read this we will have had some relief from the constant rain, and we are able to get into our gardens to plant and sow.

We had some sad news last month when we learnt of the passing of Ron Gibson followed shortly after by dear Stella. They were founding members of the Gardening Club and many will have very personal memories of this very special couple. We send our condolences to their family.

In March we had a fabulous session with two great speakers. Sharon Warden gave us an incredibly informative talk about the vital importance of Seed Banks and Seed Swaps. We learnt so much about the need for Seed Banks to preserve genetic diversity for the future. We hope to be more involved in the Corfe Seed Bank in the future and to do our bit locally. Sharon was followed by our own Lucy Saunders and she astounded us with her knowledge of growing vegetables, her successes and failures and the incredible variety of vegetables she has grown. We will be experimenting with some of her lesser known varieties.

THURSDAY 4TH APRIL . 7.30 coffee. 8pm - Gerry and Deborah Stoker will be giving an illustrated talk on their visit to the wonderful Costa Rica, which should be fascinating.

CHANGE OF DATE. Please note that the MAY meeting will NOT take place on the first Thursday of the month as the Village Hall will be being used for the local elections.

We will be meeting on the 9TH MAY in the hall instead.

THURSDAY 9th MAY. 7.30 coffee 8pm – ‘Salvias and Scented plants, a talk by the Head Gardener of Carey’s Secret Garden. We will also have a Plant Sale at this meeting.

There will be no meeting in the hall in June as we have arranged a group visit on TUESDAY 18TH. June . 11AM CAREY’S SECRET GARDEN. 11.30AM COMPLIMENTARY TALK BY ONE OF THE GARDENING TEAM – APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR. More information to follow by e-mail.

If you are interested in gardens and gardening and would like to join a friendly local group please get in touch with chris on 01929 480095 or 07815 058880 or cclarkecorfe@gmail.com.

Meetings usually take place in the Village Hall, Corfe Castle, starting at 7.30 pm for coffee and starting the programme at 8pm. Non-members are welcome to join us for a small fee if they are interested in a particular talk. We also arrange visits to a variety of wonderful gardens and have social get togethers, plant sales, seed swaps and Open Gardens.

Chris Clarke

Carole and Terry say farewell and thank you

Thank you to the Village for your support over the last 9 years. We have had an absolutely fantastic time here and will miss everyone, Thanks to all the staff who have worked with us and putting up with Terry’s humour! We were so lucky to have the opportunity to be the custodians of the Village shop and enjoy the rich history of Corfe Castle and to have served the local community.

We also send a massive thank you for the pictures the village gave us! We have so many memories of this amazing place and we will never forget you all.

We now pass the baton to Carl & Sarah and their children; we wish them the very best and know they will enjoy being here as much as we did.

Carole & Terry Birnie



Become an embedded digital champion

The Embedded Digital Champion project is in the evaluating and reporting phase, so we are not offering training at the moment. If you have any questions or need further information, email edc@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

If you work or volunteer in a role where you help Dorset residents, you can sign up for embedded digital champion training to help customers access your services online.

We offer free embedded digital training to anyone in Dorset who works directly with residents.

The training is online and typically takes either 2.5 hours or 4 hours. You can choose whether you'd prefer to split the training over 1 or 2 weeks, depending on your level of digital confidence.

We also offer bespoke training to organisations (with groups of 15 or more

What you'll learn

Your learning will be based on the [Essential Digital Skills Framework](#) which covers these topics:

- exploring the barriers to getting online
- communication tools – such as WhatsApp and email
- using the internet to troubleshoot
- online safety
- accessibility tools
- looking at case studies to put into practice all the skills explored



Digi champion at work

Who the training is for

The training is suitable for anyone who works with Dorset residents and can help them become more confident with digital skills.

For example:

- library staff might show someone how to renew a book online rather than coming into the library to do it
- a housing officer might help them set up an account to apply for social housing

You need to be:

- motivated to help others
- willing and understand the need to build rapport with residents
- keen to promote the benefits of having digital skills
- a digital enthusiast who is keen to learn and keep up to date themselves

- a good communicator and active listener
- trusted and patient

You do not need to be an expert in all things digital.

What you'll get from the training

You'll get:

- confidence to help others
- improved digital skills

- job/volunteer fulfilment and recognition from colleagues
- to meet new people in an online community - working across Dorset
- customers/clients who engage with your services online and reduce your workloads as they become more digitally confident and independent
- raised awareness of digital support available in Dorset and useful online resources

More information

If you have any questions or need further information, email us at edc@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Bin Collections

We are sorry the bin collection columns were mixed up last month. The correct ones, taken from the Dorset Council website, are below. We think these cover most of Corfe and the surrounding areas – that is BH20 5E and 5H postcodes.

The standard collection day is Wednesday.

	Recycling and Food	Rubbish and Food
April 2024	3, 17	10, 24
May 2024	1, 15, 29	8, 22
June 2024	12, 26	5, 19
July 2024	10, 24	3, 17, 31
August 2024	7, 21	14, 28
September 2024	4, 18	11, 25
October 2024	2, 16, 30	9, 23

David's Trek to Petra for Julia's House

Nov 2-9, 2024

Have you bought your **Rock Quiz** yet? It's only £1, and if you complete it you stand a chance of winning a nice cash prize!

Buy your Quiz at **The Sweet Shop**, the **Village Stores**, or the **Community Library**, or at **Village Hall Coffee Mornings**, the **Aquarius Spring Fair** on Saturday April 20th, or the **May Fair** in the Castle on Monday May 27th. My thanks go to the various shopkeepers and managers of those venues and occasions.

There will also be tickets for the Champagne Draw (20p each), Purbeck Geology Post Cards (20p), and Rock cakes (50p).

Any donations are welcome. My on-line donations page is www.justgiving.com/page/david-kemp-1694853078368, but I am very happy to accept cheques or cash, or I can give you my bank details if you'd prefer to donate direct to my account.

Julia's House Children's Hospice appreciates your support!

David Kemp, 7 Colletts Close, Corfe Castle, 01929 480007
davimukem@aol.com

New Partnership Launched to Help Residents who Fear Losing their

Home



Dorset Council and national charities Shelter and Citizens Advice have joined forces for the first time to prevent homelessness in the county.

The new partnership is supporting Dorset residents who are experiencing a range of housing

issues by providing a free, confidential and non-judgemental one-stop-shop for anyone with housing cost concerns.

Experts can assist with many areas of housing, such as giving legal and debt advice, help finding a new home due to eviction and in some circumstances facilitate financial assistance to enable residents to remain in their accommodation.

The Housing Advice Line is open to anyone who:

- has a mortgage
- rents privately
- has a social landlord or
- are landlords themselves.

The service is also open to lettings agents, so they can share information with landlords and their clients.

When people call the Housing Advice Line on 01305 221000, their enquiry will be triaged and passed on to the most relevant team or organisation to progress.

The collaboration was formed to make it easier for people to access help if they have concerns or worries about losing their home, by having only one point of contact to get help.

Every local authority has a statutory duty to provide advice to everyone who is experiencing housing issues. Our data from 2023 shows we:

- took approximately 8,000 calls on housing issues via our Housing phone line.
- answered more than 25,000 emails about housing related topics.
- managed around 350 referrals from professionals – from both our internal and external partners.
- took more than 4,000 enquiries through our dedicated online portal – a rise of 6% from 2022.

Residents can also access the Housing Advice service by emailing housinghelp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or visiting the webpage [Are you struggling with housing costs or worried about losing your home? - Dorset Council](#) for more information.

Dorset Council continues to work with a range of partners to offer support with the cost of living challenge including access to food, housing and energy support. Information on all help available visit dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help.

Contact Information - Donna Atkins - donna.atkins@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Citizens Advice – Here for Local Residents

With the on-going cost of living crisis, many people are increasingly worried about how they are going to pay bills, heat their home and put food on the table.

Citizens Advice in East Dorset and Purbeck would like to remind residents to

seek help early on and that we are here to offer free advice and support.

Experienced advisers are available to provide support about a wide range of issues including, debt, energy advice, employment, benefits and housing. There is a range of support available particularly to low income households which many residents may not know about.

Advice is provided through multiple channels including telephone, email, video conferencing and face to face from our offices in Wareham and Wimborne and from outreach services including Swanage and Herston. Home visits are also offered to those more vulnerable people who are unable to access these services.

Drop-in Locations

Local residents can call into one of the drop-in sessions at the following locations. Advice is free and no appointment is necessary:

- Swanage Library - Wednesday 10am-12pm (except first Wednesday of the month)
- Herston Village Hall, Swanage – Monday 10am-2pm
- Wareham Citizens Advice – Tuesday & Thursday, 10am-12pm
- Lytchett Matravers Library - Friday 10am-12noon
- Lytchett Minster & Upton Town Council – Tuesday 10am-12pm

For general advice and support call the **Dorset Adviceline freephone 0800 144 8848 (Textphone: 0800 144 8884)**, 10am-4pm weekdays or visit www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk

citizens advice East Dorset & Purbeck

3rd Friday 1pm-3pm

Our Advice Bus is stopping at.. Corfe Castle Village Hall Car Park

Third Friday of the month 1pm-3pm: 15th March, 19th April, 17th May & 21st June

Speak to our friendly advisers about a range of issues including benefits, debt and money, employment, energy, water schemes, family, housing, legal and more.

Check our website for more information www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk

Advice Bus

FRI 19th APRIL 2024 TICKET PRICE: £23
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Pioneer view

Dear friends,

Spring has finally arrived. Daffodils and Snowdrops seem to be everywhere you look. The cold dark Winter months are behind us. There are signs of clear blue skies poking through the winter mists as the challenges we face begin to bite, such as the cost of living, high mortgage rates, more over we are faced with significant global challenges. We live in challenging times with all these uncertainties on the horizon, I am reminded of the words of the song "You will never walk alone"

**When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of a storm
There's a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark
Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone
Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone**

These words always resonate with me, and the message is simple, hope is always there if we search for it. So, let us, together, walk through these uncertain times.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that my team and I are committed to travelling with you and look forward to welcoming you to our activities and events. Things may look quite different on the other side, but hope will carry us through.

A quote to ponder as we emerge from the cold dark winter months:
"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

Desmond Tutu

Go well.

Peter

PurbeckParkys

My name is David Gynes, I am a volunteer with Parkinson's UK and I have Parkinson's. Shortly after I was diagnosed I heard about an exercise class run by a neuro physiotherapist. I joined the class, made new friends and we shared our dismay that there was no support this side of the big towns. So we decided to start a support group, PurbeckParkys. We meet monthly, the next meeting is on April 17th at The Village Inn, Ulwell.

The group functions under the aegis of Parkinson's UK, the National charity and research hub.

We are a Parkinson's café, which means we meet for social interaction, a beverage, and to share information. We exist for Parkys, their families and carers.

World Parkinson's day is held on April 11th this year. And we would like your help and support on that day please.

So what is Parkinson's? It used to be called Parkinson's disease but we now realise that it is many "diseases" under one umbrella. It is a neurological disorder in which certain brain cells die off steadily, and most people diagnosed with Parkinson's have actually had it for years beforehand. The cell destruction is usually quite advanced by the time the visible symptoms including tremor, stumbling and shaking become obvious. It manifests with over 40 recognised symptoms and it affects people very differently. Some of us have no motor symptoms, others great pain, others rigidity and others mental disorder - and all possible combinations of those and other issues.

And why World Parkinson's Day? Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological disorder in terms of diagnosis worldwide. It is also probably the least understood, and certainly among the lowest, if not the lowest, among the life changing illnesses, in terms of government expenditure on research, treatment and support. (Last year the charity Parkinson's UK raised and spent more than twice the amount on research projects than did the UK Government.)

On World Parkinson's day we are striving to bring the size of the problem and the needs of people living with the condition to the widest possible audience. To educate and dispel myths – and - of course, raise money for more research into its causes and possible cure and prevention. [Sadly, among the myths we know that some cultures see the tremors and uncontrolled body movements as

a sign of demonic possession and the person with Parkinson's is, at best, ostracised and at worst, killed.]

Parkinson's UK have asked all their members and friends to turn the world BLUE on April 11th.

So please look out for blue balloons, banners and bakery, buildings lit blue. Any support you can give will be gratefully received and any money will be put to very good use.

If you have ideas of how you could help, or any questions, please contact me via email david.gynes@parkinsons-uk.goassemble.com For information about Parkinson's please visit <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk>

If you suspect that you, or anyone you care about, has Parkinson's please don't delay getting it checked. While there is currently no cure, early intervention can help to slow the onset and relieve or reduce the symptoms.

Remember; Parkinson's may be a pain in the proverbial, but it is not a death sentence.

[The views expressed herein are entirely mine and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Parkinson's UK.]

David



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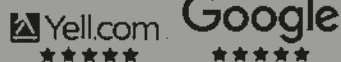


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Blashenwell Farm



1947 pencil & crayon sketch by AEH Miller

Although the current farmhouse was built sometime in the 18th century, the actual settlement is much older. It was one of the scattered Saxon farmsteads that existed in Purbeck and is referred to as 'Blechenwelle' in a Saxon charter of 955 A.D. when King Eadwig granted his minister, Whitsige, some land which would eventually pass to the Abbess of Shaftesbury. The last Abbess was Elizabeth, and she held this land until 1539 when she surrendered the Abbey to the King's Commissioner.

The Saxon name refers to a place where cloth was bleached – a spring by the bleaching enclosure. The natural colour of linen is brown so to produce a white cloth some form of lye (urine or wood ashes) was needed to soak the cloth. The cloth was then dried outside in the sunshine and then washed. It was



a long process which made the cloth expensive.

The spring rises to the south of the farm, and then flows by the farmhouse northwards to the SW side of Corfe Common occasionally causing flooding where

the old ford lies. In 1926, a culvert and bridge were constructed to prevent this happening. It still floods.

The site predates the Saxons. A building existed here in Roman times, maybe even some sort of dwelling before that as artefacts have been found here dating back to the Stone Age. Blashenwell has been occupied for a very, very long time. Evidence was found in a rubbish tip which dated the original people who lived here to the early Neolithic period (c.4100 - c.2,500 BC). They seem to have made flint knives living principally on wild pig, deer and limpets.



Mesolithic flints found at Blashenwell.

On the dissolution, the manor of Kingston was given to the Duke of Somerset, Edward Seymour, and it then passed to his son, the Earl of Hertford. He sold it to William Pitt in 1612. Blashenwell then passed down the Pitt line before being purchased by John Scott, the Earl of Eldon, in 1837.

Sometime after 1166, a survey for the Manor of Kingston noted that Fuca and Adelinus held 1½ hides (about 180 acres) and gave up one workday for ploughing to the Abbess of Shaftesbury as Lord of the Manor. It mentions a ford existed here (was that the one by The Common?). By the 1800s, it had become a dairy farm holding a herd of between 60-77 dairy cows.



The farmhouse & outbuildings, circa 1840s, showing the Spring.

The Rambling Gardener

Welcome to April sun and showers, though hopefully no gales, as everything is getting ready for summer. It is such fun watching the birds courting or busy feeding their young, but if a nest is found then be careful not to disturb them. I have lots of nest boxes that can be seen from the house, and the bird feeders are always busy, from small blue tits to bigger woodpeckers and doves. It is expensive buying the bird food, but they eat many greenfly, slugs, snails and other harmful insects and benefit my garden.

It has been a very, very wet spring so far this year, but we still need to be thoughtful about saving water in the house and by using moisture meters to avoid over-watering. We also need to prevent the heavy rains from washing soil into the sea by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulches, and allowing water to drain into the soil with less use of impermeable substances like concrete and asphalt – there are porous substitutes available now. An inch of compost can be made in a year, but it takes 1000 years to make an inch of the soil that we need to grow our crops.

I am so looking forward to April as it heralds springtime when I can sit and wonder at nature, still so much still to learn. In remembering my life, and looking at old photos I can see how things are evolving. I have seen so many changes (as I am now a ripe old four score years and ten) and I see nature is changing; evolution never stops, especially with humans affecting everything. There are fewer flocks of small birds like the linnet (or twite) and wheatears, and the whitethroat is not singing sweetly in the hedges at Knitson anymore. However, there seem to be more big bumblebees, we have developed more and more beautiful flowers for our gardens, and I have seen more wrens than normal in my garden this year.

Back to our gardening: flowers cheer us up and so are important, vegetables are needed for health and are far tastier and nutritious picked just before eating. If you love all your plants, they will love you back. In April most seeds can be sown direct into the soil, or sown in the house to go out when it is warmer. Annuals, like our salad vegetables and petunias, will give food or flowers this year and the biennials, like foxgloves and most cabbages, next year. This is a good time to plant potatoes and divide things that are too crowded. Weed the things you don't need; it is easy with a sharp slide hoe and you can leave the uprooted weed as a mulch. I do pick up bits of convolvulus and ground ivy as they smother other plants if left as they can regrow from small bits of root. Grey leaved plants evaporate less water so they are good for hot sunny places, and ferns like shady borders. Choosing plants that like where they are can save a lot of time and trouble.

I usually choose old varieties of fruit, shrubs and vegetables, but this year I am looking at new varieties that do better in the changing weather. These will, I hope, give me more food and longer colour with less work once established. I am looking at the long fruiting strawberries and small quick fruiting nut trees. I have got a walnut that I am told will crop in 2 years, and I have seen that there are lots of fruits that do well in pots. I have planted irises that flower from May to November, and by putting some gravel under them they do well even in the wet. They only need the leaves tidying up and removal of old corms every few years to look beautiful.

How we garden changes all the time. The less we do the better the plants are and we can have time to enjoy ourselves. There are lots of new ideas: water butts which can be covered with creepers on fencing, or even buried under the lawn, small lawn areas planted with wild flowers or low growing thyme, planting three trees in only 10 square metres. Many ideas can be tried and if they don't work learn and try new ideas!

I hope that you enjoy April and that I see you at my N.G.S open days on the 30th and 31st of March and the 1st of April. I am happy to help you in your garden, and if anyone is interested in a cooking class here, please do ask.

Rachel (telephone 01929 421681)

'April Showers Bring Forth May Flowers'

We've certainly had plenty of rain, so let's celebrate some (hopefully) sunnier weather with pretty new florals!



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Kimmeridge News

Weather!

The torrential rain that we have had in March was certainly dramatic in Kimmeridge with the village street turning into a muddy river! The rain has also caused lots of potholes to appear (re-appear?) in the roads leading to Kimmeridge. The tally of burst tyres has not been a happy one and although temporary repairs have now been made to some of the potholes, there is doubt about how long these repairs will last.

Etches Collection

The museum has been closed since 19th February for a major re-fit in the display gallery. This all re-opens on 25th March and should be well worth visiting. It has meant that we haven't had traffic chaos for the last few weeks, but I suspect that may change with the Easter holidays. If you are visiting, please try and car share or park down at the Bay and walk back.

Kimmeridge Keilidh

Our next Barn Dance is on Friday April 12th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Live music from Arish Mel with caller Teresa Williams. No Bar, so bring your own drinks & nibbles! Tickets on the door £7.50 for adults, £2.50 for children. All profits go to support Kimmeridge Village Hall & The Etches Collection.

Steve & Helen Earwicker



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- **Ballett** – Miranda Hindson telephone 07919441836
miballet@gmail.com
- **Short Mat Bowls @ 14:00**
bowlingbarbara2023@outlook.com
- **Shotokan Karate** – www.warehamskc.co.uk

TUESDAY

- **Short Mat Bowls @ 14:00** –
bowlingbarbara2023@outlook.com
- **Pilates** – Alex Moore telephone 07536103364
almoore1@live.co.uk

WEDNESDAY

- **Say so Drama 10:30 – 12.00** Adults with learning difficulties
- Emma 07725942609
- **Yoga** - Pam Steele – 01929 556714
steelepamela08@gmail.com

THURSDAY

- **Shotokan Karate** www.warehamskc.co.uk

FRIDAY

- **Weekly Health Qigong Fitness 9.30 & 10.45 am** – Penny
Youssef 07969925502
- **Short Mat Bowls @ 14:00** –
bowlingbarbara2023@outlook.com

SUNDAY

- **Purbeck Antiques** Last Sunday of each month – 01929
761398

Church Knowle Parish Council meetings take place at Furzebrook Village Hall February, April, June, August, October and December 2024 (2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6.30).

January, March, May, July, September, November 2024 meetings will be held at Church Knowle Village Hall (2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6.30)



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- Domestic and Family expenses
- Education and Training

For further information please contact:
The Clerk to the Trustees,
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The Corfe Valley News is a non-profit making organisation run entirely by volunteers. We therefore rely on advertisers, organisations and societies to contribute to the costs of production. We are also greatly helped by the donations made by individuals each year. Thank you to those who have already done this. You may like to know that donations can be made by BACS payment: the Sort Code and Account numbers are provided below. You can make your donation anonymously if you prefer but it would help if you could enter 'Donation' in the reference field.

As the Corfe Valley News is run by volunteers the main overhead is the cost of printing, and particularly the cost of paper, which is rising all the time. We have not increased our advertising charges since December 2018 but the recent increase in paper prices has forced us to review our charges. The new rates shown below will be effective from the 1st September 2022.

Organisations and societies that make a yearly contribution to production costs will in future receive a breakdown of the actual costs of their articles and reports. We hope that where possible you will try to increase your contributions in line with these actual costs.

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep us viable by their contributions.

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Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
MONDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning	Springwell Close
Each	2.30 - 4.30	Whist and tea	Springwell Close
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Village Hall
TUESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	9.15 – 10.45am	& 11am – 12 Yoga	Langton Scout Hut
Each	9.30 - 11.30	Intermediate yoga	Swanage - 477169
Each	10.30-noon	Parent & Child Group	C C Village Hall
Each	6.15-7.45pm	Brownies (term-time)	C C Village Hall
Each	6.30 – 7.30pm	Adult Ballroom Dance	C C Village Hall Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7.30pm	CK parish Council	Odd months Furzebrook VH; even CK
WEDNESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	9.30am- noon	Intermediate yoga	Kimmeridge 477169
Each	9.45am-12.45	Wool Workshop	C.C. Village Hall
Each	7-9pm	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
Each	8.30	Poker	Corfe Castle Club
THURSDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00 - 11.30am	Busy Bees	CC Primary School
3rd	11.30am	Probus Club	Mortons Manor
3rd	7 pm	CC Environment Gp	Mortons Manor
Each	6.30 – 8.00 pm	Yoga (439041)	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall
FRIDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Classes	Furzebrook Studios
Each	8.30pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club
SATURDAY			
1st	10.30am	Village Coffee Morning	C C Village Hall
SUNDAY			
Each	1.00pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club

Please send any alterations to this list to the Editor, at the address in the front. Whilst care is taken to establish our advertisers are bona fide, readers are advised to take their own precautions before entering into any agreement