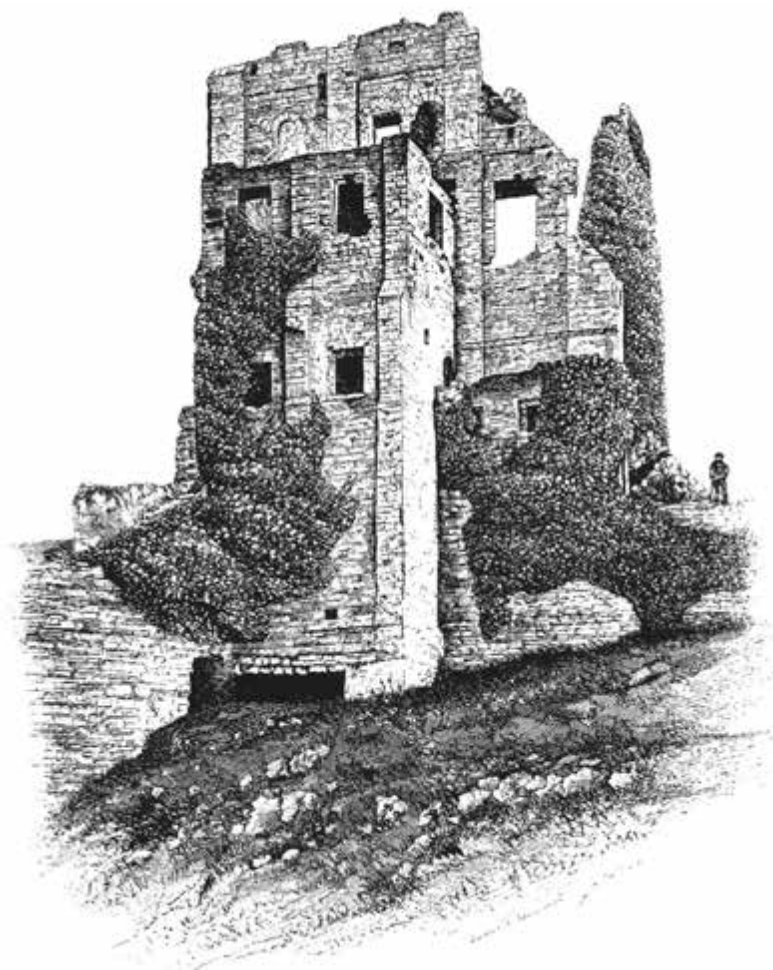


DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

AQUARIUS CORFE CASTLE WOMEN IN TOUCH	TERESA NEAL	556041
BADMINTON	CHRISTINE KEMP	480007
BUSY BEES	SAM COLE	481631
CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES	STEFF ROBINSON	07584079401
CHURCH KNOWLE FRIENDS OF ST PETERS	DEBBIE EVANS	07879473693
CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH CLERK	ANDREW PARSONS	208215
CHURCH KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL	JONATHAN EVANS	07880780677
CHURCH KNOWLE READING ROOM BOOKINGS	ANGELA BOON	07890646455
EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	CELIA TAYLOR	07908807115
CORFE CASTLE CHARITY	MANDY MEAKER	480873
CORFE CASTLE CLUB	BAR STEWARD (CHUBBY)	480591
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST	SUE LOSEBY	07739873989
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY		480760
CORFE CASTLE CE PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL	Mr R STONER (HEADTEACHER)	480428
CORFE CASTLE FOOTBALL CLUB	STEVE NORMAN	07971986093
CORFE CASTLE GARDENING CLUB	CHRIS CLARKE	480095
CORFE CASTLE RINGERS	JOHN BEAUCHAMP	480915
CORFE CASTLE SURGERY	Dr MARK LEPPER	480441
CRAZY 4 CORFE	DENISE FULLER	07736858132
CORFE CASTLE LATIN AMERICAN & BALLROOM	DONNA DEBELIUS	07518 056149
CORFE CASTLE LINE DANCE	DONNA DEBELIUS	07518 056149
CORFE CASTLE PARISH CLERK	SARAH FORWOOD	07986880999
CORFE CASTLE TOWN TRUST	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
CORFE CASTLE TOWN HALL BOOKINGS	JOHN LINDSAY	481498
CORFE CASTLE YOUTH CLUB	DONNA BICKERSTAFF	07814013747
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 THE SURGERY	KATHY MORRIS	425890
FURZEBROOK HALL BOOKINGS	TINA BEST	07935068881
GOD'S ACRE CLERK	SARAH FORWOOD	07986880999
KIMMERIDGE VILLAGE HALL	OFFICE	270000
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
MARGARET GREEN ANIMAL RESCUE	HEAD OFFICE	480474
MILLENNIUM PAVILION BOOKINGS	PAUL JOBLING	07808793855
NATIONAL TRUST	PURBECK OFFICE	450002
PARISH CHURCHES		208578
POTTERY IN PURBECK	RACHEL FOOKS	480455
PROBUS CLUB	TONY NOTT	07541303941
PURBECK ASS'N of the NATIONAL TRUST	LES WRIGHT	552872
PURBECK CHESS CLUB	STEVE PEIRSON	552504
PURBECK GARDENING CLUB	CYRIL HARRISON	552105
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	GEOFF VARNEY	480591
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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



JULY 2026

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

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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 531 July 2026

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Past editors

John Parsons 1982-85
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 keep being promised warmer weather, but it never comes. It always seems to go further north leaving us with overcast and grey skies.

Mike Brett has monitored and checked our accounts for many years. He is now moving away, and the job will be taken on by Barry Wilson. Thank you Mike for all you have done and thank you Barry for taking this task on.

We also welcome a new assistant editor, Maria Fischer. Thank you for joining us, Maria.

For technical reasons we are changing our email address. Our new address is corfevalleynews@gmail.com . Please use this address for any correspondence in the future as well as for sending in copy.

Talking of money, next month (August) we will send out the envelopes for personal contributions. As I am sure everyone knows we raise money by charging for advertisements, receiving contributions from organisations and charities and from personal contributions in the envelopes. No one working on the magazine gets paid, although we obviously pay for printing, but that is the only cost. There will be more about this next month.

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 – Ben Wilson	07767 398627

Corfe Valley News

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The front cover is a sketch of the Castle Keep by Thomas Bond dated 1883

JUNE FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday 8th June 2026 in the village hall with a full agenda covering local finance, planning matters, and updates from partner organisations.

Public Voice:

One resident asked whether the council would host an open meeting about the proposed Community Land Trust housing development at Tabbitts Hill, Harmans Cross. Councillors confirmed that public meetings will be arranged in both Harmans Cross and Corfe Castle once a planning application is submitted and more details are available.

Report from Dorset Councillor:

A written report was provided by the Dorset Councillor, touching on several issues affecting the wider Purbeck area, including the Harmans Cross CLT proposals, the consultation on the future of St George's Primary School, and upcoming changes to the Studland Ferry ticketing system. He also noted the approval of funding for the Swanage seafront restoration project.

Report from National Trust:

The National Trust reported that the major conservation project at Corfe Castle is nearing completion, with contractors expected to leave by mid-July. Residents can also look forward to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performing at the castle on 24th, 25th and 26th July, with music expected until 10pm.

Planning Applications:

Two planning applications were considered. Councillors raised no objection to a new drystone wall at 42 East Street, though they recommended the use of Purbeck stone to match local character and all practicable work to be carried out from within the garden and that the public footpath is closed only when active work is taking place. A proposal for four new electricity poles near Battlemead also received no objection.

The meeting concluded with a confidential session, where councillors received an update on a potential new plot of land for affordable rental homes presented at a recent Community Land Trust meeting

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, ideas, or want to get involved, reach out to the Clerk or your local Councillors. See you next month!

Next Council Meeting – Monday 13th July 2026, at 7pm in the Corfe Castle Village Hall, Bill Carter Room. To start the meeting is a public session, so please come and join us and have your say.

Parish Council contact details: Clerk: Sarah Forwood

Email: clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk,

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC,

Website: www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

A black rectangular advertisement for Quarr Logs. The text is in a light green, sans-serif font. At the top, 'Quarr Logs' is in a larger font. Below it, 'Firewood For Sale' is centered. Then, 'Nets, Bulk bags or Loose tipper loads.' and 'Hardwood, Softwood or Mixed' are listed. 'Kiln dried and Barn dried' is at the bottom of the text block. A large phone number '07540845705' and the website 'www.quarrlogs.co.uk' are prominently displayed. In the bottom right corner, there is a small red and white logo that says 'READY TO BURN' and 'Quarr Logs'.

Stephen Silcock

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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



Corfe Castle CE Primary School & Pre-School

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26



August is on the horizon, bringing with it the end of another academic year. It has been another year of growth in confidence, academic achievement, self-understanding and discovery. It is always a joy to see how children develop over the course of a year, and how each adult plays their part in contributing to that growth.

We may be a small school, but our staff ensure that every child is noticed, respected and cared for while in our care. Every child is known by name and is a valued part of the Corfe Castle CE Primary School and Pre-School community.

I would like to thank our staff, parents, governors and other stakeholders for their continued positive engagement with, and support of, the school. Your contribution is invaluable as we continue our journey of providing the very best opportunities and experiences for our young people.

A special thank you must go to our PTFA, who organised a wonderful Summer Fair last month. The event raised valuable funds that help to support school trips, learning resources, Year 6 leavers' hoodies and many other opportunities for our children.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for their continued hard work, dedication and support. The PTFA contributes in so many ways to the lives of our children, our school community and the wider local community. I am also personally grateful for the encouragement and support they provide to me in my role as Headteacher. Their commitment and generosity are greatly appreciated by us all.



For more information, please contact the school office on 01929 480428.

Join our Pre-school!

Spaces available for 2 to 4 year olds with up to 30 hours government funding available.

Call or email us today to find out more.
Corfecastle.office@coastalpartnership.co.uk
01929 480 428



From all the team at Corfe Castle CE Primary School and Pre-School we thank you for your continued support.

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Multi Award winning **Double Act** drama group
is creating a brand new adaptation of

THE CAT AND THE CANARY

Performances on November 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st

Director Dougal Dixon's inspired new adaptation of the original 1922 play by John Willard is taking shape and we are off and running! A great cast that actually includes that rare ingredient of new men! Most of the stunning sound effects have already been created. The stage is designed and major props are well underway. Now for the serious business of learning the action and lines!

This is the classic melodrama, with all the cliches of an estranged dysfunctional family meeting up for the reading of a will at midnight in an old dark house with a monster on the loose!

What could possibly go wrong?

Rehearsals take place on Mondays at 7pm in Corfe Castle Village Hall. If you fancy a new hobby & want to join a safe flourishing company – we can always do with more technical help back stage with costumes, make-up, props, sets, lights and sound – to make the magic happen! Just come along and join us or ask Peter for further details.

Peter (chairman – 07551 183465) or
email - doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com
*New members of all ages and abilities,
on or off stage, are always welcome!*



Calling all Corfe Castle parish residents! We need your help!

Dorset Council is introducing a **Housing Needs Survey** across the parishes of Corfe Castle and Worth Matravers for the proposed Tabbitt's Hill Lane project of affordable rented housing.

The Corfe Castle Community Land Trust (CLT) would really appreciate you completing a survey. This survey is a critical step towards the design of the project as it supports the assessment of:

1. what the housing need is i.e. the number and size of affordable rented houses needed by both parishes
2. the level of support in the community for the affordable rented housing project.

The digital survey will be open for 3 weeks from 22nd June - 12th July 2026. A small number of hard copies will be available for those unable to use a digital format. Please contact: corfecastlecommunitylandtrust@gmail.com if you require a hard copy version.

If you'd like some assistance in completing the survey then please do come along to one of the drop in sessions being held in the parish:

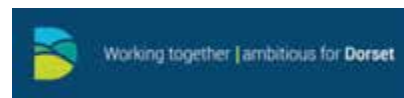
Event 1: 25th June 2026 at 2-4pm, Bill Carter Room, Corfe Castle Village Hall

Event 2: 1st July 2026 at 6.30-8pm, Sports Pavilion, Corfe Castle.

Residents should be aware that completing the Housing Needs Survey does not place them on the Dorset Council Housing Register. Anyone wishing to be considered for affordable housing through the Housing Register must complete a separate application process with Dorset Council.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/housing/register-for-housing>

The QR code will be distributed on Notice Board posters and leaflets throughout the parish.



Have your say on new rules for dogs in public places

Dorset residents, visitors and businesses are being invited to share their views on the rules for dogs in public spaces, including beaches and green spaces.

Dorset Council has launched a consultation on a proposed Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). A PSPO is a legal tool councils can use to help keep public places safe and enjoyable for everyone by setting clear rules on things like dog fouling, where dogs can go, and when they need to be on a lead.

The current dog PSPO has been in place since January 2024 and is due to expire at the end of this year. The new order would come into force on 1 January 2027 and remain in place for three years.

The consultation gives people the chance to comment on:

- Where dogs should or should not be allowed
- Seasonal or time-limited restrictions, including on beaches
- Lead length and when dogs should be kept on a lead

The aim is to balance responsible dog walking with protecting places used by children, families and people taking part in activities such as sports. Dog fouling is not only unpleasant but can also pose health risks.

Cllr Matt Bell, Dorset Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention & Communities said:

"Most dog owners in Dorset are responsible and take pride in looking after the places they enjoy. This consultation is about making sure our shared spaces work well for everyone, dog owners, families, residents and visitors.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible so we can get the balance right and put fair, clear rules in place that protect public health while still supporting responsible dog walking."

The consultation is open until 7 August and is available online at <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/c-e/dog-related-pspo>

Paper copies will also be available in Dorset libraries or on request by calling 01305 221000

The final recommendations will be considered by Dorset Council's Place and Resources Overview Committee and Cabinet later this year.



SUMMER FETE

**ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH
CORFE CASTLE**

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST
Noon until 4:00 PM

- Refreshments
- Cake Stall
- Childrens Games
- Stalls
- Bouncy Castle
- Raffle
- ... and Much More

Please Bring Cash

Proceeds towards the maintenance of the church fabric

Corfe Castle Surgery / Patient Participation Group

I would like to thank all those who kindly completed our questionnaire which we did in conjunction with the Corfe Surgery during the month of May . Our main aims were to attract new PPG members and importantly to find out if the Surgery is offering acceptable access times to the Practice population. I am pleased to say that results have been positive with some very constructive and helpful comments received. As expected , patients are very pleased overall with the Surgery and the exceptional service received from the dedicated team. (I only received one patient who refused to complete the questionnaire as he was not happy but his comments were valid and mattered greatly to him so they were noted.)

The full results will be discussed with the Surgery and the PPG members at our next meeting in early July and will be reported at a later date but for now I would like to record the very complimentary comments received about the Reception team who do their best in often difficult situations; the Surgery is getting much busier so organising us all is becoming more challenging for the team and for us as patients . Confidentiality at the reception desk was also noted several times.

Patients have also asked for a cover outside the prescription collection point - something mentioned before so we will discuss this again.

My thanks to my PPG committee members who helped to collect the information and to the Surgery team with whom we have a very good working relationship allowing us to be the 'critical friend' to our surgery.

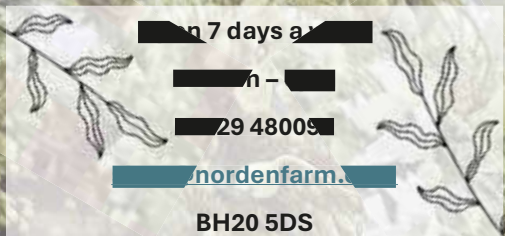
Please do join us at the Corfe Library on Thursday June 25th at 2pm when we will be joining Caroline from the *Friendly Food Club* to talk about their work locally , Healthy eating (a subject requested by a Corfe resident)and the work of the PPG and the Surgery . We will be pleased to see you .

And please do continue to contact the PPG through the surgery if there is anything you would like us to raise with Dr Lepper and his the team.

Kind regards
Maggie Hardy , PPG Chair

Norden Shop

& MINI GARDEN CENTRE



What's new...

DandyHay Yarns – Our very own yarns from our own sheep and milled in Rampisham Hill Mill, Beaminster. These are perfect for various woollen crafts

Flowers - We have a stunning new selection of flowers and vegetable plants, perfect for all your gardening needs

Burnt Blossom – One of our new local suppliers, supplying us with various candles, wax melts, hand creams and more!

Garden Barn / Mini Garden Centre

- Various plants arriving each week from our trusted suppliers
- Our well stocked Garden Barn is full of impressive garden ornaments, plant pots and more.

Shop

- As always, we have fantastic giftware, local spirits, wines & groceries galore!
- We are heavily focused on the best locally sourced produce.
- 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!
- We have stock from local small businesses such as Bella&Evie (Jewellery), Tradpots Pottery, and Burnt Blossom (Home fragrances).

Delivery

- Order by 5pm on Monday to receive your delivery on Tuesday (£5 fee)
- All barn, Pet or Garden supplies are limited to a maximum of 10 bags/bales per delivery. Kerbside delivery.
- Check our website or give us a call – the team will be happy to help.



CORFE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Soup 'n' Pud

**A choice of 2 soups
and puds with custard**
Corfe Castle Village Hall
Saturday July 4th '26
12.30– 1.45pm

Come and join local friends for a simple, healthy, filling and sustainable

Free Lunch

This venture is provided by volunteers, on a not-for-profit basis, in a friendly environment for local residents to increase community spirit. If you wish to make a donation, either of food or money please feel free but it is not obligatory.

Well our June lunch was a real treat being served from the enlarged and refurbished kitchen!! What luxury to have such a clean, empty and useable space with a lovely manageable cooker and an all singing all dancing dishwasher which we actually mastered at the first attempt!! Thank you Corfe Castle Village Hall Committee for pushing forward with this amazing plan. Hopefully the new modern kitchen will attract more large scale users to the hall, helping to pay off the loan needed to kick start the work.

Soup 'n' Pud provided some of the new equipment to help us make more efficient use of the kitchen and want to start the fund-raising in appreciation of its value with:-

A Celebratory Supper of Eastern Promise for the New Kitchen at

Corfe Castle Village Hall on Saturday 1st August 2026, 6pm for 6.30pm

Free drink of bubbly & BYO 3 Courses and raffle

Tickets £25 available from Village Stores, Gill, Sue and Chris

July 4th will be a normal Soup 'n' Pud but there will not be one on August 1st with the evening supper instead. We hope you will join us!

We are always very thankful for the help and support we get from our volunteers, without whom we would be unable to function and The Village Bakery for donating to us the bread rolls

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE SOUP 'N' PUD A TRY?

Nature updates from the National Trust



National
Trust

Bumper year for butterflies?

We've seen a welcome influx of butterflies this year – including huge numbers of painted ladies. These migrants travel to the UK all the way from North Africa. They can cover up to 100 miles per day at 30mph and even fly through the night. Look out for them across the heaths and coastal grasslands. Thistles and nettles are some of their favourite food plants – why not leave a patch of them in your garden and create your own wildlife-haven?



*Painted Lady Butterfly
courtesy Mike Wenham*

This painted lady on red valerian was snapped by Worth Matravers resident, Mike Wenham. When we put his photos on our Facebook page (National Trust Purbeck Countryside), the post received over 2,000 'likes' – making it one of

our most popular stories ever!

Be tick aware

We usually spread the love for all creatures, but there are some to be cautious of. Ticks are tiny spider-like parasites that latch onto animals (including us) to feed on blood.

In Purbeck, we have lots of deer – which are major carriers of ticks. To keep safe while enjoying our wonderful outdoors:

- Stay on clearly defined paths and avoid long grass
- Wear long trousers and socks
- Use insect repellent
- Check yourself (and pets) regularly for ticks



*A tick. Photo: Centres for
Disease Control and
Prevention.*

If you've been bitten or have recently spent time outdoors and developed an unusual rash or other symptoms, contact your GP. Some tick bites can result in an infection called Lyme Disease so early awareness matters. Find out more here:

<https://www.lymeresourcecentre.com/about-ticks>

If you have any queries about wildlife or how we are looking after the Corfe Commons and

Purbeck Heaths, email us on purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust

News from the Castle



National
Trust

By the end of July, the major phases of the conservation works should be complete, with a small masonry team then spending August on smaller tumbles around the Keep. Throughout the project, we've really enjoyed getting to know parts of the castle not normally accessible, and are grateful to the hardy masons who've worked throughout the seasons to get the job done.

If there was a roof to raise, we have no doubt the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) would manage it. For the first time, the BSO are coming to the castle for a series of outdoor performances in July, and we'll be lighting the castle for the occasion.

Corfe Castle school sports day – 8 July

One of our favourite events of the calendar!

Food & Drink Festival – 11 and 12 July, 10am-4pm

Local producers, street food and live music in the Outer Bailey.

BSO at Corfe Castle – 24, 25 and 26, July 7.30-9.30pm

Three special evenings with the castle lit for the occasion. West End to Hollywood, Smash Hits 80s, and Curious Creatures & Adventurous Animals.

Summer of Play – 25 July onwards, 10am-4.30pm daily

Archery, slingshots and den building for younger visitors, running daily through to the end of August.

Summer special offer – 25 July to 31 August

Visitors are offered 20% off admission post 2.30pm during the school summer holidays. Entry is still free for National Trust members, and Corfe Castle residents.



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Church Knowle Parish Council

The June meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 6:30pm. It was attended by three members of the Council (Cllr Newns in the chair), 2 members of the public and Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson. The quorum for a Parish Council meeting is three.

The Parish Council was pleased to welcome a new member, Peter Thompsett, who was voted on unanimously. There are now two vacancies on the council which has a full strength of nine and any interested parishioners can apply to clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk.

The Playing Field has had its annual professional inspection and there were some advisory and maintenance measures that will be implemented, but there are no safety failures.

Speed Limits

The feasibility of introducing a speed limit on the Furzebrook Road is actively being explored by Dorset Council and people are encouraged to report near misses and dangerous traffic incidents on this road to the Dorset Council Highways portal on its website.

Planning

The application to replace the shed at Rose Cottage (P/FUL/2026/02553) was approved unanimously.

The Corfe River

The Corfe River Association which includes bodies with control of land along the riverbank and an interest in the river, including the Church Knowle Parish Council, will meet regularly. The discharge of untreated sewage into the river is one of its major concerns.

The meeting finished at 8:04 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Church Knowle Village Hall at 6:30 on 14th July 2026.

Wareham Men's Shed

A drive to raise £200,000 has been launched by Wareham's Men's Shed as it tries to secure its future by having its own community workshop.

The Sheddars have been granted planning permission by Dorset Council to erect a 20m x 10m building in the grounds of Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club off Bestwall Road, Wareham.

If they can raise enough money for the build, it will mean an end to the need to rent premises, which runs the risk of tenancy agreements being terminated. And it will ensure they can maintain the Shed's twin aims of providing a haven for lonely, disadvantaged or retired men while making a huge variety of items in wood for the wider community.



Wareham's Sheddars with a children's climbing wall made for Stoborough Primary School

Chairman Harold Forbes said: "The cost for a charity like ours is daunting. But it will be more than worth it if we can carry on serving Wareham and district as it has come to expect while continuing to provide a meeting place for men that has been shown to improve mental health and wellbeing.

"We would love to build the workshop ourselves and have many of the skills and tools needed. But the price of materials has

skyrocketed and we also have to consider things we cannot do such as footings and core plumbing, so we'll have to pay for a job lot.

"Given our reputation in the area, we are quietly hoping that a benefactor or sponsor will step forward. But if that doesn't happen we will be pursuing charitable grants and launching a crowdfunding appeal."

In 2024 the Sheddars successfully fought off an eviction attempt by Care Dorset, which housed them at the Purbeck Connect centre in Sandford Lane, Wareham. They were saved by a public outcry. But fearing the writing was on the wall, they moved out a year later and are now in temporary accommodation at Lenctenbury Farm outside the town.

Mr Forbes, who was recently honoured with a Dorset High Sheriff's Award for outstanding service to the community, said: "We also need a new home – and more room – as our membership is steadily increasing, not least because we are

in the process of forming a new women's section. Let's hope we can make it all happen."

The Shed's scheme has the support of Wareham Town Council. Dorset's planning officer, referring to the overwhelming public backing for the application, stated: "The comments confirm that the proposals would result in community benefits and support for members attending the facility."

The Sheddars have recorded their own song, Here For You, to showcase the group. You can find it at youtu.be/TPhdPDAIQRE

If you can help, contact warehamshed@gmail.com.



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News from The Castle

After a wet & windy June, it's finally starting to feel like summer. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for event updates, as we start to prepare for the summer holidays. Let's see what updates we have for July below:

Thursday 23rd July – No Bookings Taken

From Thursday 23rd July, we will no longer be taking bookings for the summer holidays. We have seating inside the restaurant, a covered patio area with heaters and a very large garden with views of the Swanage railway so you can catch a glimpse of the steam train. So, pop on in and let us accommodate you. Bookings will re-open from September.

Chef Required

As we come into our busy season, we are on the hunt for a chef on a part time basis. Experience is required, as the applicant will be working alone on some shifts, and supporting our head chef when required. If you have chef experience, and fancy being part of a small but fun team, please pop into the pub, or give us a call on 01929 480208.

Friday Nights are Fish Nights

Summer is all about our fish nights, offering mussels, oysters, crab & seabass on a regular basis from as local as we can get.

From all the team at The Castle Inn, have a fabulous July.

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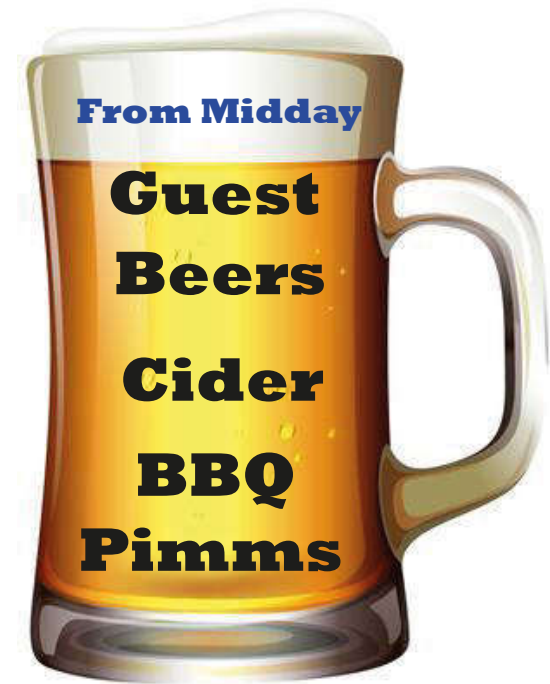
w a l x d o r s e t . c o . u k



Corfe Castle Club

Mini Beer Festival

Saturday 18th July 2026



Live Music – Feverstreet

Free Entry

Everyone Welcome

70 East St, Corfe Castle BH20 5EQ

SWANAGE RAILWAY MUSEUM
CORFE CASTLE

Do you have any spare time during the week or at weekends?

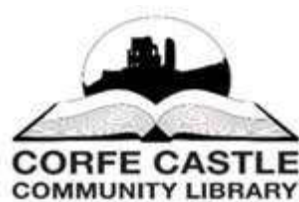
Why not join the team at Swanage Railway Museum, based at Corfe Castle station as part of the front of house team?

Shifts are 10-4 and can be split. It's a lovely location to work, telling the history of Swanage Railway. You don't need any railway knowledge, just enthusiasm and a smile.

See our website swanagerailwaymuseum.co.uk
or email corfe.museum@swanagerailway.co.uk

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News from the Library



The **Summer Reading Challenge** “Read to the Beat” is from 24th July until 12th September. The theme this year is music, and we are holding a FREE “Shake, Rattle and Rap” session for children aged 4 to 11. Children will be able to make musical instruments and then make music! This will be held on Tuesday 4th August at 3pm hosted by Amy from Sound Craft. Please contact us for further details.

The **Horrible History Trail** of Corfe Castle fundraising event will start on Wednesday 29th July and run until 26th August. The trail map will be available from the library during opening hours and every Wednesday morning from 10.30am we will be running a special “History Story Session” to set you on your way. Questions and activities will take the participants around the village ending at Sandy Hills Arts where there will be FREE activities from 2pm until 4pm. The main event will take place on Sunday 9th August when Martin Brown, the illustrator of the Horrible History books, will host a talk in the morning from 11am until 12pm and from 2pm until 4pm he will host a drawing workshop at Sandy Hills Arts. Tickets for the 9th of August will be available nearer the time.

Our children's corner is a place for young readers to explore, imagine, and enjoy stories of every kind.

Children can borrow up to 20 books at any one time, so there's always plenty to read and share.

There are no fines for late returns, we just ask that books come back when you're finished so others can enjoy them too.

If a book gets damaged, simply hand it in - it will be replaced with a fresh copy.

We want reading to be fun, easy and worry-free for every child who visits the library.

We also have a selection of books for teenagers; you are welcome to come and explore the range of books we have. If you require a specific title or author, we can order these for you.

We have a quiet corner in the library with computer access and a comfy chair. As a library member, you can use the computer free of charge or if you are not a member, please feel free to bring your own laptop and use our wi-fi free of charge.

There are no talks in July and August but there will be a talk in September 2026. Details to follow.

Library Opening Hours

Monday 3pm - 5pm

Wednesday 10am - 12pm and 3pm - 5pm

Friday 3pm - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 12pm

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Wytch Farm

Originally part of the Manor of Rollington

Close to the mouth of the Corfe River lies Wytch Farm on the southern side of Poole Bay. Nowadays, the area is noted for the large oil gathering station leased from the Rempstone Estate by Perenco. Oil is a valuable commodity but there was another precious mineral here – salt. This low-lying area was regularly flooded with sea water thus providing the ideal environment to extract salt by boiling the seawater until it evaporated leaving the salt crystals. This was a valuable commodity in medieval times as it was used as a preservative for meat and fish for the winter months. Wytch gave an annual provision of salt to Cerne Abbey as the Abbot owned the manor of Rempstone until the dissolution.



OS 1887 map showing the Cuckoo Pen and Saltings.



The Cuckoo Pen by Wytch Farm today.

What is a Cuckoo Pen? No one knows why it was called this. Whether it had something to do with cuckolding or imprisoning an actual cuckoo is lost in the mysteries of time but the word 'Wytch' is easier to define as it comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Wic', indicating a salt-making site. Dr. Derek Pitman from Bournemouth University has recorded radiocarbon dates showing the site was being used in the 10th/11th century before the Norman conquest.

At the dissolution of Cerne Abbey, the land passed to Thomas Goodwin, a speculator on monastic lands. He died in 1566 and it is not known who purchased the property but, by 1585, a Mr. Ashely is shown on Treswell's map. Through his daughter's marriage, it came into the Uvedale family. Their daughter, Elizabeth Uvedale, married William Okeden in 1599 and part of the marriage settlement included the two tenements at 'Weech' (the farm and the passage house).

A new dwelling house was erected by the tenant at the farm in 1706. The tenant had also agreed to provide some widgeon, teal and mallards every December to Mr. Okeden. 50 years later the farm was still in good repair and in 1757 it was purchased by John Calcraft becoming part of the Rempstone Estate.



The farm in 1772 as drawn by Samuel Donne.
Interestingly, the Cuckoo Pen is not shown.

By early 1782, the Estate was having difficulty finding a new tenant as the farm also looked after the water meadows between Scotland Farm and Sharford Bridge which had been left in a 'shocking condition' according to the estate steward. The tenant claimed he did not have to look after them and struggled to find his lease to prove his case. It was also discovered that he had stolen some of the fences to repair his own farm. The steward reckoned it would cost £100 to repair everything. Thereafter, the estate carefully made sure that any tenant knew exactly what was expected of him regarding the farm and land ... even down to providing a dog yearly for John Calcraft.

Louise Haywood



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We were entertained by Dr Burroughs at the June meeting. He has a dry sense of humour and even let us handle the glass items he bought along. Some pieces were very beautiful and fortunately no breakages! We learnt about different glass making processes and he had examples from as early as 3000 years BC. An enjoyable and informative talk.

Future Programme of Speakers

Tuesday 3rd July: 'Life in Hatton Garden' with John Hatcher
Diamonds and precious stones are the order of the day at this prestigious location and John will talk about his long career in the industry.

Tuesday 4th August: Good food, fun and games at the Annual Summer BBQ

We are a friendly group so please come along and join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 2pm for an interesting talk followed by a cuppa and a chat. We have regular groups who meet each month.

Walkers Group: 3rd Monday at various locations.

Strollers Group: 2nd Tuesday at Collets Close

Aquarius Book Group: Meet 3pm on Wednesday every six weeks.

Lunch Club: Meet 4th Thursday at 12:30 monthly at various locations.

Contact: 2008aquariussladies@gmail.com for more information.



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Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

The VH coffee morning in June raised £152.20 for VH funds. Many thanks to all our volunteers and to those attending.

The June 100 club draw took place at the coffee morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 92, with member 55 getting second prize £10 and member 26 winning the third prize £5. If you would like to join the many villagers who support their local village hall in this way please contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

We offer a large amount of secure storage space, currently all occupied. For news on future availability please contact Judith Jenkins on 01929 480216.

regular weekly events:

Monday mornings	Purbeck Dance
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 mornings	Surgery Keep Fit
Thursday evenings	Cubs
Thursday evenings	Alcoholics Anonymous
Friday mornings	Pilates

regular monthly events:

1st Saturday morning	VH Coffee Morning
1st Saturday lunchtime	Soup 'n Pudd
1st Sunday all day	Cameo Antiques Fair
1st Tuesday afternoon	Aquarius
1st Thursday evening	Gardening Club
2nd Monday evening	Parish Council
4th Wednesday afternoon	U3A Scrabble

volunteers needed

The fence alongside the patio on the south side of the village hall requires some remedial work. If you have always wanted to support the work of the VH (but perhaps without wanting to make a regular commitment), and if you are up for a few hours of physical work, please contact David on 07590 352219. We are hoping to get a working party together on this on a mutually convenient date some time in the next couple of months.

a special celebratory evening meal

As will no doubt be flagged up elsewhere in this edition of the CVN, on Saturday 1st August (6pm for 6.30pm) the Soup 'n' Pudd team is putting on a '**Celebratory Supper of Eastern Promise**' in aid of the VH kitchen and to raise funds to help repay the loan from the CC Charity. There will be no lunch time S 'n' P that day.

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

The Man Who Ran the World and Still Couldn't Switch Off

July does something to all of us. The pressure to enjoy it. The diary that somehow got fuller, not emptier. The people, wonderful, exhausting people, arriving from everywhere, needing things, asking things, being things. The version of summer you imagined in February looking nothing like the one currently happening in your kitchen.

Marcus Aurelius knew the feeling. He just had the words for it.

"You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realise this, and you will find strength." — Marcus Aurelius

He wrote that nearly two thousand years ago, under considerably more pressure than most of us will ever know. And yet it reads like something a wise friend might say to you right now, quietly, over a cup of tea that's gone cold because you forgot to drink it.

That's the thing about Stoic philosophy. It doesn't ask you to be less human. It doesn't ask you to stop feeling frustrated, overwhelmed, or quietly furious that the summer isn't going the way you planned. It simply asks you to notice the difference between the things pulling at you that you can actually change, and the vast, exhausting, majority that you cannot.

Think about what genuinely drains you on a difficult day. Rarely is it the big things. More often it's the accumulation, the comment that landed wrong, the plan someone cancelled, the sense that everything requires more effort than it should. The Stoics called this *getting tangled in externals*, spending your energy on outcomes that were never fully yours to determine.

The practice, and it is a practice, not a revelation, is simply to ask: is this mine to carry? Often the honest answer is no. The traffic, other people's moods, the weather, the news, the noise, these are not yours. What is yours is your response. Your next decision. The quality of attention you bring to what is actually in front of you, right now, rather than the mental weight of everything that might go wrong by Friday.

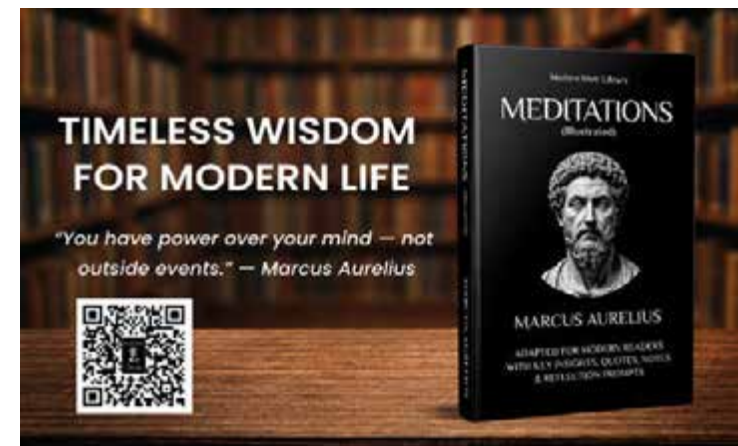
That one shift, small, quiet, made fresh each time, changes the texture of a day more than almost anything else.

Stoicism also has something to say about the people who test us. Not the dramatic enemies, but the ordinary, daily friction of lives lived alongside other people. Marcus wrote about this too, with the patience of someone who had clearly thought about it for a very long time: we are made for each other, he believed. Difficult people are not interruptions to the life you're trying to live. They are part of it. Meeting them with steadiness rather than reaction is not weakness, it is, quietly, the harder and more powerful choice.

And then there is time. The Stoics were acutely, almost uncomfortably aware of it. Not in a morbid way, but in the way that makes you put the phone down and actually look at the people across the table. This moment, this exact, ordinary, slightly chaotic July moment, will not come back. The question they kept asking, and that Marcus kept asking himself in his most private pages, was simply: am I here for it? Fully. Actually here.

You don't need to become a philosopher. You don't need to restructure your life or retreat from the world to find this useful. You just need, on the hard days, something to hold onto. A way of looking at things that steadies you without pretending everything is fine.

That's what Stoicism offers. Not answers. Not calm. Just a clearer way of seeing, and the quiet, persistent reminder that how you meet your life is always, still, yours to choose.





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THREE PARISHES FETE CHURCH KNOWLE

Sat 1st Aug

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Church Knowle, BH20 5NG

Admission £3, children £1, under 2 free.

2pm start .

Proceeds for the Three Parish Churches of
Church Knowle, Kimmeridge and Steeple.

grand draw + ice cream + brass band + books

Cake stall + tug of war + games + grocery stall + skittles

old curiosity + dress shop + bric-a-brac + coconut shy + skittles

CORFE VALLEY NEWS

1	July	Wednesday	6.30 – 8 pm
3	July	Tuesday	2 pm
4	July	Saturday	10.15 am
4	July	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm
11 & 12	July	Sat / Sun	10 am – 4 pm
13	July	Monday	7.00 pm
14	July	Tuesday	6.30 pm
18	July	Saturday	12 noon
24	July	Friday	7.30 pm
24, 25, 26	July	Fri – Sun	7.30 – 9.30 pm
31	July	Friday	6 pm start

CALENDAR for JULY 2026

C L T drop in about Housing Needs Survey – Corfe Sports Pavilion
Aquarius “Life in Hatton Garden” with John Hatcher - Corfe Castle Village Hall
Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
Soup n’ pud Community lunch - Corfe Castle Village Hall
Food and Drink Festival in the Castle
Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting - Corfe Castle Village Hall
Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Church Knowle Village Hall
Corfe Castle Club Beer Festival
Kimmeridge Keilidh – Kimmeridge Village Hall at the Etches collection
BSO ay Corfe Castle in the Castle
Pimms Top of the Tower – St James Church Kingston

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

1	August	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
1	August	Saturday	2 pm	3 Parishes Fete in Grounds of Old Rectory Church Knowle
1	August	Saturday	6 for 6.30 pm	Eastern Promise Celebratory Dinner – Corfe Castle Village Hall
4	August	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius Annual Summer BBQ
11	August	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council – Furzebrook Village Hall
15	August	Saturday	12 noon – 4 pm	Saint Edwards Fete – St Edwards Church Lawns
20	August	Thursday		Kimmeridge Play in the Bay “King Arthur and the Holy Fail”
7	September	Monday	7.00 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting - Corfe Castle Village Hall
20	September	Sunday		Purbeck Marathon
3	October	Saturday	1 – 5 pm	Kingston Food Festival – Kingston Church
18 – 21	November			Double Act – The Cat and the Canary

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

Rector Richard and Louise White **revrichardwhite@outlook.com**
revlouisewhite@outlook.com
01929 208578

Associate Priest Nick Webb 07866 546162
fulloflifegardens@googlemail.com

Pioneer Associate Priest – Lindy Cameron 01929 208469
revlindyjane@gmail.com

Enquiries for Baptisms / Weddings / Funerals / Banns

For Kingston contact the Parish Administrator

admin@staldhelm-purback.org 01929 427822

For Corfe and the Valley Churches please contact Lynette McCallum
lynetterees21@yahoo.co.uk

www.staldhempurbeck.wordpress.com

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109 Jeremy McCallum 480389

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

Revd Richard writes:-

Have you seen the new signs under the stained glass windows in St Edwards? Each one explains the bible story that is depicted in that window and has a very brief ‘moment to reflect’. Here is the text and image for one of them to give a taster, though obviously without sunlight streaming through stunning coloured glass. Do pop in and enjoy them. You could even make it a twenty minute mini retreat.

The Calming of the Storm

Jesus and his disciples have pushed out from shore in their boat. Jesus, exhausted, has fallen asleep in the stern.



Suddenly a fierce squall sweeps across the water. Waves break over the sides. The disciples, some of them experienced fishermen who know exactly how dangerous this is, wake Jesus in a panic: 'Don't you care that we are perishing?'

Jesus speaks, 'Peace. Be still.' The wind drops. The water is calm. He turns to his disciples and asks: 'Why were you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' They are left asking one another, with awe: 'Who is this, that even the wind and the waves obey him?'

A moment to reflect...

Is there a storm in your life right now - fear, grief, uncertainty? You are welcome to sit quietly and bring it to the one who speaks peace into chaos.

Services in July 2026

Sunday 5th July

Corfe Castle – 10.30am

Holy Communion

Sunday 12th July

Steeple – 9.30am

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Kingston – 10.30 am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Communion

Informal worship

Sunday 19th July

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Holy Communion

Harmans Cross 6 pm

Evening Worship

Sunday 26th July

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am,

Kingston – 11.30 am

Morning Worship

Holy Communion

There are also services every week in Langton Matravers and Worth Matravers. Information at www.staldhelm-purbeck.org

Daily 2 min audio reflections at www.afewwords.co.uk

Bible Readings – July 2026

Sunday 5th July

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday 12th July

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday 19th July

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday 26th July

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

St Edwards Fete Saturday August 15th

We are busy planning the fete which will be held on Saturday 15th August, from 12 until 4pm.

Following on from the success of the change of day to a Saturday last year, we hope that more people from the village might be able to be involved. If you would like to help in any way - providing cakes, joining the team who put up the marquee a day or two before the fete, helping on a stall, - anything would be much appreciated. We will be raising money for our much-loved church - especially important this year as we need to raise the money for a new heating system and repairs to the church ceiling. Please contact dawn.lindsay11@gmail.com or phone 481498

Many thanks

Dawn

**The St Edward's Church fete will take place on Saturday 15th August
from 12 noon until 4pm**

**This is our major fund raiser of the year and we need your help please to
make it a resounding success!**

We are looking for donations to the following stalls – anything you can give either before the fete or before 11.00 am on the 15th would be much appreciated.

If you are able to help, please contact the following stallholders.

Books 	Penelope Smith 01929 480109 smithpenelope52@gmail.com Chris Finch 01929 480630 chrishelenfinch@aol.com	A wide variety of books would be appreciated please, but no cookery books or reference books
Bric a brac 	Karen Spooner 01929 480378	Any good quality 2 nd hand items
Raffle 	Bottles of wine, spirits, local foods will be much appreciated. Donations will be made into special hampers. Dawn Lindsay dawn.lindsay11@gmail.com 01929 481498	Hampers will be made up from donations – themed hampers eg Summer drinks/local produce/days out/a day at the seaside etc
Cake stall (cakes on the day please) 	Dawn Lindsay dawn.lindsay11@gmail.com	Any cakes much appreciated – also any jams, honey, plants or cut flowers

Refreshments (cakes on the day please) 	Helen Finch 01929 480630 chrishelenfinch@aol.com	All types of cakes. Tray bakes particularly appreciated
Chocolate Tombola 	Viv and Holly Gilmour Cox 01929 481682 01929 477245	Bars or packets of chocolate please
Bottles of wine 	Jenny Pink jennypink@yahoo.com Dawn Lindsay 01929 481498 dawn.lindsay11@gmail.com	Full bottles of wine
Children's toys and games 	Gillie Humphries 01929 480219 Nigelgillian78@gmail.com	Children's games, books and toys
Tombola gifts (new) 	Dawn Lindsay dawn.lindsay11@googlemail.com 01929 481498	Anything from toiletries to drinks, gifts to toys, biscuits to bottles!
Accessories 	Jill Revans Jill.revans@icloud.com	Jewellery, scarves, anything pretty

CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

This July, Why Not Pray for Our Village?

As July brings longer days, community events, and time spent outdoors, many of us find ourselves appreciating the place we call home. Whether you've lived here for years or have only recently arrived, our village is more than a collection of houses and roads—it's a community of people, families, hopes, and stories.

But alongside the good things, we also see challenges. Some people are struggling with loneliness. Others are facing financial pressures, illness, family difficulties, or uncertainty about the future. Life can be rewarding, but it can also be hard.

Even if you wouldn't describe yourself as religious, have you ever considered praying for your village?

Prayer is often misunderstood. Some think it is only for churchgoers or those who are certain about their faith. Yet many people, especially during difficult times, find themselves looking beyond themselves and asking whether there might be a God who hears and cares.

The Christian faith teaches that God is not distant or uninterested in our lives. The Bible tells us that God loves people and desires good for communities as well as individuals. Christians believe that prayer can bring comfort, wisdom, peace, and hope because it connects us with the God who created us. You don't need special words or religious experience to pray. Prayer can simply be an honest conversation with God.

This month, why not take a moment to pray for our village? You might pray for:

- *Families and relationships to be strengthened
- *Those who are lonely to find friendship and support
- *People who are ill to receive healing and encouragement
- *Children and young people to flourish
- *Local schools, businesses, and community groups
- *Peace, kindness, and unity among neighbours

If you've never prayed before, you could begin with a simple prayer like this:

"God, if You are there, thank You for our village and the people who live here. Please bless our community. Help those who are struggling, comfort

those who are hurting, and bring hope where it is needed. Help us to care for one another and make our village a place of kindness and peace. And if You are real, please help me to know You better. Amen."

So, this July, as you enjoy the summer season, perhaps take a few moments to pray for our village, and maybe for yourself as well. You may discover that God is nearer than you think.

Coffee Morning

Each Wednesday 10.30am – 12.30pm

Celia Taylor (Church Secretary)

Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk

July - Sunday Services -12th – 19th – 26th



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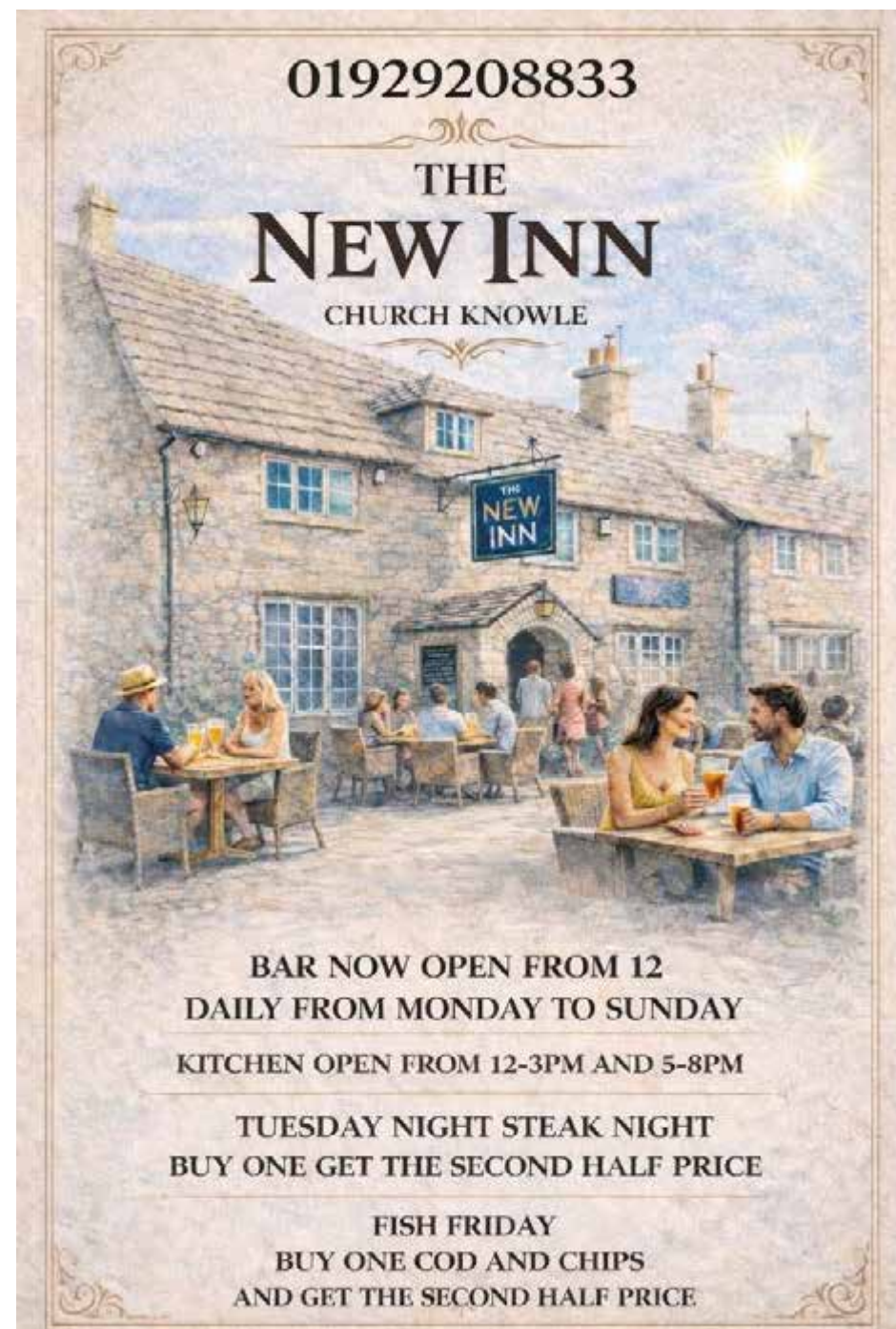
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Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

Well, June hit us with everything the British Summer likes to throw at us but it certainly made the garden grow! What a fantastic year for roses and bumper crops of veggies! I hope July gives you the chance to really enjoy your garden with friends and family after all your efforts.

In June we didn't meet in the village hall but at the end of May we did take part in the Corfe Castle Village May Fair with a plant stall in the castle grounds. Our thanks to Claire, Joy and their team of helpers who braved the sizzling temperature and to all our members who provided a wonderful display of plants raised from seeds, cuttings and division from their gardens. We raised £260, enough to help towards the costs of yet more excellent speakers in the autumn. In June we were very lucky to visit the wonderful Encombe Estate at the kind invitation of James and Arabella Gaggero, following the fascinating talk given by the Head Gardener Simon Hansford at our May meeting. More information about this will be in the August notes.

There will also be a report about our visit to Mapperton where we will have a guided tour of the House and a tour of the Gardens with the Head Gardener on 2nd July.

The club enjoys our speakers and events during the spring, autumn and winter but it is a bonus to be able to visit some very special gardens during the summer.

We will meet again in September. Watch this space for news of our September meeting and the programme for the autumn.

Happy Gardening!!!

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, cclarkecorfe@gmail.com. We love to welcome new members.

Meetings, with interesting talks and speakers, plant sales, seed swaps and social events usually take place in the Village Hall, Corfe Castle, from 7.45 pm for coffee and starting the programme at 8pm. Subscriptions for the year are £15 per person. Non-members are welcome to join us for £3 if they are interested in a particular talk.

Chris Clarke

For the Committee.

Garden Openings in aid of the National Garden Scheme.

Visit a garden to support the National Garden Scheme!

In 2025 this largely voluntary organisation raised over **£3,875,000** to support nursing and healthcare charities. My mother Rachel Helfer has opened her garden at **Knitson Old Farmhouse** for decades and last year, as my garden is very different from my mother's, I was encouraged to open mine at **The Stables, Knitson** at the same time. This worked successfully in 2025 and we are going to repeat again this year with one entrance cost (which all goes to NGS) covering both gardens at the same venue. The gardens are very different, although with same soil and climate there are many cross overs. Ample parking in field, with separate field available for picnics. Homemade light Refreshments provided by Swanage WI team.

Opening dates: July 29th and 30th (12-5)

Entrance £8 for both gardens. Between Swanage and Corfe at Knitson BH20 5JB.

What3words: currently.accordian.panicking

Visits can be made at other times by appointment.

We both look forward to welcoming you. Becca Charron (07553877947) and Rachel Helfer

PurbeckParkys Support Group

A HUGE "Thank You" to the ladies of the Harmony Rocks Choir and their helpers and supporters. They have just donated £600.00 to PurbeckParkys as a result of the super afternoon of "Songs and Scones" they organised at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Swanage on the 10th of June.

We shall spend it wisely on the projects we have in mind to try to make life better for people who are living with Parkinson's in our area. Watch this space for details of another concert later in the year.

If you have Parkinson's come and meet us at the Cricket Club in Swanage on the third Wednesday of every month or contact me,

David Gynes: david.gynes@parkinsons-uk.goassemble.com

coordinator PurbeckParkys

Free digital advice sessions in Swanage

Do you know someone who needs help with their digital device? Do you or a friend have a technical issue you'd like solved? Want to learn more about online services such as booking GP appointments or applying for benefits online? Then Dorset Council's volunteer digital champions are ready to help you in Swanage Library.

They hold bookable face-to-face sessions at Swanage Library on Mondays from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. To book an appointment go into the library or call the Digital Hotline on 01305 221048.

with. jhmgreaves@yahoo.co.uk.



Corfe Crafters

Wednesday 9.00am to 12 midday

Contact Cheryl - 07745242511



Dorset Button Dance Programme

Date	Day	Time	Place
1/07/26	Wednesday	8.00pm	Oak at Dewlish
8/07/26	Wednesday	8.00pm	Greyhound Winterborne Kingston
15/07/26	Wednesday	8.00pm	Square & Compass – Worth Matravers
22/07/26	Wednesday	8.00pm	Ship in Wool Hobos
29/07/26	Wednesday	8.00pm	Antelope Hazelbury Bryan
5/08/26	Wednesday	8.00pm	Lulworth Cove Festus
12/08/26	Wednesday	8.00pm	Square & Compass - Worth Matravers
19/08/26	Wednesday	7.30pm	Swanage Sea Front
26/08/26	Wednesday	7.30pm	Bankes Arms – Studland

Dorset Buttons Morris Dancers

This year we are raising money for the charity



Contact <http://www.brm.org.uk/DorsetButtonsMorris/>

The Purbeck Marathonn Sunday September 20th 2026, Swanage.

The Purbeck Marathon & The Purbeck 16 Mile races are back after a 5-year pause.

Our races are a celebration of the Dorset countryside and community... Run by volunteers and raising funds for local charities, we run through nature, along stunning coastal path and rolling hills, past castle ruins and history at every turn, with friendly faces cheering you on to a superb achievement.

Join us and enjoy one of England's most scenic trails.

www.thepurbeckmarathon.co.uk

St Edwards Fete Saturday August 15th

We are busy planning the fete which will be held on Saturday 15th August, from 12 until 4pm.

Following on from the success of the change of day to a Saturday last year, we hope that more people from the village might be able to be involved. If you would like to help in any way - providing cakes, joining the team who put up the marquee a day or two before the fete, helping on a stall, - anything would be much appreciated. We will be raising money for our much-loved church - especially important this year as we need to raise the money for a new heating system and repairs to the church ceiling. Please contact dawn.lindsay11@gmail.com or phone 481498

Many thanks.

Dawn

At James's Church, Kingston

31st July at St James's Church, Kingston .

Pimms up the Tower.

6pm Start with 3 sessions for Pimms and canapes.

Tel Peter Boyce to book a place on 07713 326624 or email

peter29boyce@yahoo.co.uk

The recent Purbeck Art Weeks made me realise just how many talented local artists and craftspeople we have in the shop and gallery.

Whether you're a regular customer, or here on holiday, do pop down and see what's new. As well as art featuring the area, we've plenty of cards and souvenirs too.

We also have two lovely art books: 'Sketches of the Dorset Coast by Lisa Layton' features drawings overlaid with watercolour, and has a wonderful 'holiday memories' feel - cards also available. And we have signed copies of 'The Jurassic Coast an Artist's Journey' by Marc Todd, with his stylised images of local landmarks – originals for sale too.



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BREAD WINNER!

Richard Bertinet is widely celebrated as a master artisan baker, writing several books and founding a top-rated cookery school. Richard will be appearing at the Scott Arms, showcasing his trademark 'slap and fold' technique and answering your questions. In addition, Richard and the expert distillers at Gloriette Artisan Gin in Corfe Castle have created a signature gin and there will be tastings and cocktails throughout the day.

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The Rambling Gardener

July is here already, time flies and now the days will be getting shorter. As I get older it is easier as I cannot keep enjoying the day for so long as when I was young. I remember when I was young, I used to run to the beach every day for a swim and never seem to find it cold. July was also the time for making hay; everything was done with a big shire horse and it was such fun getting rides on the hay wagon as it came into a small field where it was carefully made into a rick then thatched to keep it dry until it was needed. That was in the 1940s; today things are so very different.

So, jobs for July. To have fresh food, which is very important for good health. I keep sowing peas, beans, radish, beetroot, lettuce. Actually, I don't bother about lettuce as I just eat nasturtiums which come up everywhere so I just use a few, and the others can be pulled up and left as a mulch. If you have not got squash plants, look in plant centres for some plants. Some are bush (compact) and others trail away. The squash can grow to different sizes and ripen at different times throughout the winter. I had a big squash edible in May, finally I used it so I could get seeds to sow this summer. Apples, pears and plums need thinning now for a better crop

My daughter cuts down on the frequency she waters. She digs a hole double the depth needed, covers the bottom with newspaper or cardboard, put compost on top then the plant on top. Then water well. This is mainly used for broad beans, runner beans, tomato and courgette, good for perennials as well. This year her outside tomatoes were watered early May at planting, 10 days later, then mid-June, they are very robust and healthy. A lot of people plant too shallowly; checking soil line on plant before planting is a good guide.

Dorchester is planning another phase, 4,000 new homes to the North. Yet again new homes being planned in possible flood areas. All the concrete of homes and driveways adding to faster run off. I really hope all this is taken into consideration.



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SWANAGE RAILWAY SECURES CHARITABLE STATUS IN LANDMARK 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Swanage Railway is delighted to announce that it has officially been granted charitable status by the Charity Commission - marking one of the most significant milestones in the heritage line's history and securing a stronger, more sustainable future for the organisation.

The announcement is made even more special as it comes during the Swanage Railway's 50th anniversary year. As the Swanage Railway celebrates five decades since volunteers first came together to preserve and restore the branch line, achieving charitable status represents a fitting tribute to the vision, determination and dedication of everyone who has played a part in its remarkable story. It not only honours the achievements of the past 50 years but also provides a secure foundation for the next 50 years of heritage, education and community benefit.

The decision follows many months of planning, consultation and hard work by trustees, directors, staff and volunteers who have worked together to create a new charitable structure that better reflects the Swanage Railway's educational, heritage and community objectives.

The move to charitable status recognises that the Swanage Railway is far more than a transport attraction. As one of the country's leading heritage railways, the Swanage Railway preserves and interprets nationally significant railway heritage, delivers educational programmes for schools and community groups, provides volunteering opportunities for hundreds of people and contributes significantly to the local economy across Purbeck and Dorset. The new charity structure will help safeguard these activities for future generations while opening up greater opportunities to access grant funding and charitable support, enabling the Swanage Railway to invest further in its heritage assets, learning programmes and community engagement.

Abbie King, Chief Executive Officer of the Swanage Railway, said: "This is a truly historic day for the Swanage Railway. To receive charitable status in our 50th anniversary year feels incredibly special. It's a wonderful tribute to the generations of volunteers, staff and supporters whose passion and commitment have rebuilt and sustained this railway over the last five decades.



*Swanage station first restoration
day 14 Feb 1976 courtesy
Andrew PM Wright*

"As we celebrate everything that has been achieved, we are also looking firmly to the future.



*Swanage station
disused 1975 Courtesy
Andrew PM Wright*

supplies of coffee, tea and biscuits when the days were long and the paperwork seemed never-ending. Those small acts of kindness meant more than you know and perfectly reflect the spirit that has carried the Railway through its first 50 years and will continue to carry it into the next 50."

Ben Ford, Chair of the Swanage Railway, said: "This is a transformational moment for the Swanage Railway. Charitable status reflects what the Railway has become over the last 50 years – a heritage, education and community organisation with a national reputation and a deep commitment to preserving the past while serving the public today. We are excited about the opportunities this creates and look forward to continuing to work with our volunteers, members, partners and supporters as we begin this new chapter."

The transition to charitable status follows overwhelming support from members for the creation of a single charitable organisation, bringing together the Swanage Railway's heritage, educational and operational activities under one clear charitable purpose. The Swanage Railway's vision remains "to be a leading heritage railway preserving history while offering memorable experiences that educate, inspire and contribute to the local economy."

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Kimmeridge News

Kimmeridge Keilidh Friday 24th July

Our next Kimmeridge Keilidh (Barn Dance!) is on 24th July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall at The Etches Collection. Music from Arish Mel & caller Teresa Williams. Tickets on the door £7.50 adults, £2.50 under 16s. No Bar – bring your own drinks & nibbles! All profits from these dances are shared between the Etches Collection and the Village.

We then take a break until the autumn – restarting on 23rd October.

Play in the Bay – Thurs 20th August

This year's Kimmeridge Play in the Bay is *King Arthur & The Holy Fail* performed by a group, new to Kimmeridge, the Three Inch Fools.

Arthurian Legend meets Monty Python as The Three Inch Fools return with an epic quest of improbable proportions in their latest historic comedy - In a land of daring quests, dashing knights, and endless jousting, there lived a would-be hero waiting in the wings who went by the name of Arthur. When Camelot is rocked to its core by a tragic (and frankly improbable) incident involving a large table of an undisclosed shape, Arthur is thrust into the quest of a lifetime. Will he bravely battle through blistering cold and scorching fire to save his beloved realm, or will he crumble as fate refuses to cooperate? Destiny awaits, chivalry calls, and the quest to end all quests begins. Saddle up – things are about to get legendary! Time to get the date in your diary! More details at <https://artsreach.co.uk/event/tif-king-arthur>

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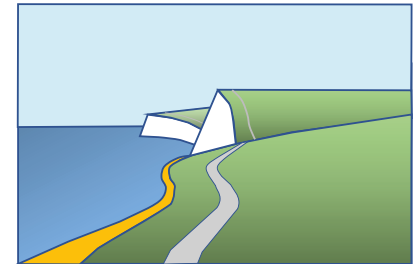
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Friday evening
31st July



2 time slots - 6pm or 7pm

Canapes at ground level, glass of Pimms at top

Soft drinks available

Please wear sensible shoes for climbing

Very safe with a 1.3m wall at top level

Event will be rescheduled in event of bad weather

£10 min suggested donation to St James Church,
cash or card afterwards

Contact Peter Boyce to book your tickets
peter29boyce@yahoo.co.uk

THE STEADFAST RECTOR OF CORFE

Among the memorials in our Church is a small marble tablet dedicated to Dr Nicholas Gibbon D.D., with the inscription "In hope and expectation of the First Resurrection." I have always been intrigued about this Clergyman's life as he was Rector at the stormiest time of our Parish's history.

He was a true son of Dorset, being born at Poole in 1605. He was entered to Queens College, Oxford, in his 17th year and after his ordination and a short period of curacy, he was given the living of Sevenoaks, in Kent, in 1639. He was presented to the Rectorship of Corfe in 1642 but already the shadow of Civil War interrupted the even tenor of life and he was unable to take up the appointment for 19 years. The first siege of the Castle commenced in 1643 and for the next few years the village became a Roundhead stronghold. A battery of cannon were mounted in front of the church, horses were stabled inside and the roof and organ-pipes stripped to make ammunition. A form of worship was carried on in the village and a Presbyterian Minister, Robert Hunt, was appointed by the Rebels. These temporary clerics were known as "Intruders". Attendance at church was made compulsory and we read that under Hunt there were 400 communicants. Lady Bankes had, of course, her own Chaplain in the Castle.

Nicholas Gibbon stayed loyal to his King and was heavily fined in 1645. Then in 1647 when the Civil War was over and King Charles imprisoned on the Isle of Wight, the King sent for him to discuss religious matters and to seek his consolation and advice. This was a red rag to a bull as far as the Kentish Commissioners were concerned and Gibbon was summarily dismissed from his living. He was in a desperate situation with a wife and eleven children to support. For a time his friends helped him but the Royalist sympathizers were heavily taxed and, as help ceased, he had to rent a small plot of land and plough it himself. When he could not afford the rent and had to sell his animals he took employment as an agricultural labourer at the age of 55. We are told he worked throughout the day and studied at night. The Commissioners were intrigued about his manner of living and sent for him. He displayed his calloused and work-worn hands to them, saying:

"Malem Callum in manu quam in conscientia" ("I prefer blemishes on my hands rather than on my conscience."). A biographer called this "a spirited and noble reply" to his deriders. Then they offered him a living if he would sign a Covenant denying the supremacy of the King. Gibbon remained completely steadfast and refused to compromise his Oath of Ordination.

In 1661 the long trials of the Gibbon family came to an end. The King had come into his own and Nicholas Bishop confirmed him in the living of St Edward's.

He was now an old man and, although a stipend of £140 a year made him comparatively wealthy, he must have been horrified at the state of the little Town. Owing to the destruction of the Castle, roads were blocked, many houses in ruins and the Church a veritable pig-sty. The patrons of the Church, the Bankes family, had lost much through their loyalty to the King and could only help Church and villagers with a little cash. Undoubtedly, as the principal resident, Gibbon had to toil ceaselessly to bring order out of chaos.

He died at the age of 91, in every way a "Grand Old Man". We read that he was buried by the wall of the South Aisle in our little churchyard. When you are next in St Edward's spare a thought for a gallant little Rector who triumphed over adversity for a large part of his life and steadfastly refused to betray his Oath of Ordination. He was the complete antithesis of the Vicar of Bray.

Paul Randall



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REGULAR EVENTS AT THE HALL

Monday

- Ballet – Miranda Hindson telephone 07919441836 6pm – 8pm
mjballet@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
- Walking Netball 10 – 12 am
- Pilates – Alex Moore telephone 07536103364 almoore1@live.co.uk
- Sandford and Wareham WI contact susiedean42@gmail.com

Wednesday

- Model Railway Group peter.c.hollins@gmail.com
- Art classes/courses 10.30am – 12.30pm - info@earth-art.org.uk.
07720353454

Thursday

- Shotokan Karate www.warehamskc.co.uk
- Art classes/courses 10.30am – 12.30pm - info@earth-art.org.uk.
07720353454

Friday

- Weekly Health Qigong Fitness 9.30 & 10.30 am – Penny Youssef
07969925502
- Short Mat Bowls @ 14:00 – bowlingbarbara2023@outlook.com

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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Grants and "no-interest" loans are available to help with the costs of travel, books, equipment and living expenses

The Trustees of the Corfe Castle Charity will consider applications for assistance from people living within the Parish of Corfe Castle (which includes Kingston).

The Trustees will also consider applications for assistance in connection with the following :

- Sickness and disability
- Domestic and Family expenses
- Grants to organisations

For further information please contact:

The Clerk to the Trustees,

Mrs. Mandy Meaker

2 Battlemead

Corfe Castle BH20 5ER

Tel: 01929 480873



Church Knowle Village Hall

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* **Minimum hire charge of £40.** Additional charges may apply

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Postal Address:

Karen Spooner, Meadowside, 129 East Street, Corfe Castle, Dorset BH20 5EG

Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

MONDAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2nd	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Village Hall
TUESDAY			
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	C C Village Hall
		Ballroom Dance	Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
2nd	7.30pm	CK parish Council	Odd months Furzebrook
WEDNESDAY			
Each	9.30am- noon	Intermediate yoga	Kimmeridge 477169
Each	9.00am - 12	Corfe crafters	CC VH
Term time,	5.30- 6.45pm s	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
THURSDAY			
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	www.purbeckyoga.co.uk	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall
FRIDAY			
Each	9.30am	Pilates & Stretch	CC Village Hall £10
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