

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



AUGUST 2026

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

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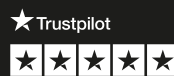
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Corfe Valley News

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 532 August 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@gmail.com

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

Editorial

As of late, we've been treated to glorious sunshine, and the puffins must be enjoying it just as much, busy raising their pufflings on the cliffs above Purbeck's shores. August brings the Isle to life, festivals, camping, and the steady hum of the holiday season, with plenty of guests from close and afar enjoying our precious corner of Dorset, whether at a local event or out exploring further afield. As ever, the weather does as it pleases, and we best make the most of it while it's here.

This also marks the first editorial put together with our new assistant editor, Maria Fischer, and we're delighted to have her on board.

Please be reminded to use corfevalleynews@gmail.com for any correspondence in the future as well as for sending in copy.

Talking of money, next month (September) 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 & Maria

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

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The cover picture is a sketch of St James Kingston
by Sheila Doyle-Stephens

JULY FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday 13th July 2026 in the village hall with the glorious sunshine bathing Corfe Castle in its best summer colours.

Report from Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson:

Consultation on the future of St George's (Langton Matravers) and St Mark's (Swanage) has been paused. Following strong pressure from parents, Langton Matravers Parish Council, Lloyd Hatton MP, and myself, the Coastal Learning Partnership has agreed to make no structural changes for two academic years. Falling pupil numbers remain a long-term challenge.

I continue to support Community Land Trust projects across Purbeck, maintaining communication between CLTs, Dorset Council, and residents. I am also advocating for the retention and enforcement of the Primary Residence Policy in the Dorset Local Plan and will be discussing both matters with Lloyd Hatton MP.

The Sandbanks Ferry has introduced ANPR and online-only payments. Concerns have been raised about paper ticket expiry and digital accessibility, and the Ferry Company has confirmed support is available at its offices for anyone needing help.

For the first time since 2019, Dorset Council has delivered an on-budget year, underspending by £169,000 against a £417 million budget. This reflects tighter financial controls and strong leadership, helping secure essential services such as road maintenance, waste collection, and care for vulnerable residents.

The council has invested £500,000 into the Cost of Living Support Grant for 2025/26, alongside national Household Support Fund money. This annual £500,000 investment will continue until at least 2029, supporting residents with housing, food, energy, and financial advice."

Report from National Trust:

Meanwhile, James Gould from the National Trust reported that the long-running conservation project at the Castle is just two weeks from completion, and despite the heat wave, visitor numbers are now picking up. The recent food festival was a hit, adding a splash of flavour to the village's sunny weekend. The Council thanked James the outgoing Operations Manager for "*all his help and support*". James is taking up another role with the Trust and is being replaced by Eoin McDowell.

Planning Matters:

Two applications were considered. Councillors raised no objections to Jenks Farm barn extension. The Council will continue supporting the application for the Cromwell Cottage summer house appeal and confirmed they would not withdraw their previous "no objection" comment.

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan

This is now out for consultation. The council supported the Plan and commented that further work is required by local Councils on a tourist and employment strategy for the Isle of Purbeck.

Community News & Events:

Councillors were encouraged to complete the Housing Needs Survey, and the Village Hall's Eastern Promise Meal on 1st August was noted, complete with the grand opening of the new kitchen.

Camp Bestival takes place on 30th July – 2nd August. Their traffic plans remain unchanged and the councillors will keep an eye on any disruption during the festival particularly on the morning of 3 August when festival goers leave.

Working Groups & Local Partnerships:

The Council reaffirmed its support for the Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation, approving the Memorandum of Understanding for funding the Youth Club. A heartfelt thank-you was also given to Crazy4Corfe for "*all the support they have given the village over the last 11 years*".

The Community Land Trust updated the Council on progress on the scheme at Harman's Cross. It will be a few months before the planning application will be considered by the Council.

The Council approved the draft proposals by Dorset Council for amended parking restrictions in East and West Street which were the subject of public consultation some time ago. The public notice of statutory consultation will then be published. The council supported objections to proposed changes to the National Coastguard service. The proposals have now been dropped.

Confidential Matters:

The meeting moved into a private session to discuss the Clerk's probation review which was good news for the Clerk! Sarah Forwood will continue to be the Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Burial Authority Clerk.

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

Next Council Meeting – Monday 14th September 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



The Corfe Castle Town Trust

will be taking a local history walk around the village and what it was like in the 14th & 15th centuries.

It will take place on

Saturday 8th & 22nd August at 10:00am

Meet by the entrance to the Town Hall in the churchyard

Donations welcome

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

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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!





Corfe Castle CE Primary School & Pre-School

"He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."

Psalm 23:2-3



Here we are in August, with a real sense of gratitude as we look back on another wonderful academic year. It has been a year filled with learning, laughter, resilience and achievement; we have so much to celebrate as a school community. As the summer holidays begin, we hope that every child and member of staff enjoys the opportunity to rest, recharge and make special memories with family and friends, returning in September refreshed and ready to embrace the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

We also say a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they take the next exciting step in their journey to secondary school. Watching them grow in confidence, kindness and independence has been a privilege; we could not be prouder of all they have achieved. Although they will be greatly missed, they leave behind a legacy of friendship, happy memories and wonderful examples for our younger children to follow. We wish each and every one of them every success as they begin this new chapter; we know they will continue to shine. They will always remain a cherished part of our school family and we look forward to hearing about all they accomplish in the years to come.

As we reach the end of another academic year, we also celebrate the completion of our second year with our Pre-School as an integral part of our school community. It has been wonderful to see how this partnership has continued to flourish, providing our youngest learners with a nurturing, stimulating and caring environment in which they can grow and thrive.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate team of practitioners whose unwavering commitment, enthusiasm and expertise support the learning, development and wellbeing of our youngest children every single day. Their care and encouragement lay the foundations for a lifelong love of learning and the positive impact they have on our children and families is immeasurable.

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.

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

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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

As we continue to deal with the hot weather, we just wanted to remind all patients that if on the day of your appointment the heat is too much for travelling to the practice, we can change certain appointments to telephone calls.

Please look out for family, friends and neighbours who may be more vulnerable in the heat and follow NHS guidance regarding how to stay cool, avoiding sun exposure in the hottest part of the day and staying in the shade where possible.

Although I have just talked about the heat, we are fast approaching flu season! We will start vaccinating from 1st October so please await your invitation to the practice for your appointment. The vaccines are ordered and we look forward to vaccinating you soon.

Finally, and on a less positive note, we have started to display figures on missed appointments for the previous month. We have noticed that the amount of wasted clinic hours has recently increased and we would like to remind patients to cancel appointments in good time if it is not needed so that we have the opportunity to offer the appointment to another patient.

Appointment stats:

May -71 'Did not attend'	14 and a half hours wasted clinic time
June - 72 'Did not attend'	15 and a half hours wasted clinic time

We appreciate your support of the whole practice team.

Please contact us with any queries.

Kerry Norman
Practice Manager



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What's new...

- We are now stocking our very own Norden Animals painting kits! For kids and adults to enjoy, you can now paint some of our most loved animals from Norden Campsite.
- Looking for something to keep the kids busy this summer? Come and have a look at our wide range of kid's toys!
- A new selection of Mead
- A wide range of barbeque food, perfect for the summer evenings, and we have Purbeck ice cream back for dessert!

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.



Celebratory Supper of Eastern Promise

For the

New Kitchen,

at

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Saturday 1st August 2026

6pm for 6.30pm

Free drink of bubbly & BYO

3 Courses with raffle

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



Nature updates from the National Trust

Puffling in Purbeck!

For the first time in decades, there has been a confirmed sighting of a puffin fledgling in Purbeck (known as a puffling). It was spotted in a rock crevice near Dancing Ledge by the volunteers who have been monitoring the puffins over the summer.



*Photo: Adult puffins,
Martin Shaw*

The sighting was the culmination of weeks of watching the adult birds courting, mating, nest building, and then carrying fish to their chicks. The project is being led by marine ornithologist, Dr Richard Caldow.

Pufflings are distinguished from the adult birds by their beaks, which are smaller and grey, without the iconic orange and blue colours. This puffling has now left the ledge and will stay alone far out at sea, before possibly returning to its birthplace in two years' time.

Peregrines at the castle

And more good news – we're very happy to report that at least two peregrine chicks successfully fledged at Corfe Castle this year. Peregrines are among the fastest animals on the planet, reaching speeds of up to 200 miles per hour when 'stooping' - diving down on their prey (usually feral pigeons and collared doves).

Peregrine populations in the UK neared extinction in the 1960s due to human persecution and pesticides in their food chain. However, improved legislation and protection have helped these magnificent birds. They historically lived on cliffs, but tall buildings such as the castle provide an ideal nesting place.



*Photo: Young peregrine,
Mike Hone*

Lighting up the hedgerows

Volunteers are reporting encouraging numbers of glow-worms this year. If you've not already seen them, good places to try are around Weston Farm in Worth Matravers, or Durlston Country Park – from dusk onwards.



*Photo: Glow-worm,
Mike Wenham*

We are hugely grateful to the volunteers who give up their time to monitor glow-worms and other species across Purbeck. You can help informally – and make a real contribution to science and conservation – by recording your glow-worm sightings on the iRecord database: <https://irecord.org.uk/>

Glow-worms have a fascinating life cycle. The larvae can live for up to three years, feeding on snails. The adult beetles only live for a few weeks and don't feed at all – all their energy is spent on mating. Although the eggs, larvae and adult males all glow, it's the adult females who shine the brightest.

Goat grazing on Purbeck Heaths

Goats are currently grazing on National Trust land on the Purbeck Heaths. This is part of a carefully-managed conservation grazing trial designed to help restore and maintain this important wetland habitat.

Due to warmer conditions, bog myrtle, a native but fast-growing species, has increasingly dominated parts of the heaths. This is affecting species that depend on these wetlands, including the rare southern damselfly.

The goats are being managed within a secure electric-fenced enclosure and the site is regularly monitored by the grazing contractor. Please don't approach or feed the goats and keep dogs on a short lead when near the grazing area.

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



*Photo: Southern damselfly,
Mark Singleton*

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust

News from the Castle



**National
Trust**

Even if you weren't able to join us, you may well have heard the sounds of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra drifting across the village recently. The castle was buzzing and particularly atmospheric. July also marked the end of the conservation works, after a three year, £2m project. A huge thank you to the conservators who somehow worked through every season on some of the castle's most exposed spots. We're now moving to a phase of near continuous conservation.

Events in August

Purbeck Film Festival: Outdoor Cinema, 28th and 29th August

Friday 28th, Paddington 2, and Saturday 29th, Wicked: For Good, both under the stars in the castle grounds.

Outdoor Theatre, 6th, 13th and 20th August

Illyria bring Pinocchio on the 6th and As You Like It on the 20th, with Quantum Theatre's Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny on the 13th.

Summer of Play, throughout August

Fun family activities throughout the castle, plus at weekends, interactive storytelling tours with the Keeper of the Castle.

Home and Hearth exhibition

Our Home and Hearth exhibition at Castle View is on every day through to 31st October, well worth a look if you haven't been yet. There'll be a volunteer on hand to chat through the artefacts on Tuesdays: 4th, 18th and 25th August, 11am to 3pm.



Image: Douzain coin from our Home and Hearth exhibition of finds from the castle

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Church Knowle Parish Council – July Meeting

The July meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 6:35pm. It was attended by six members of the Council (Cllr Gilbert in the chair), one member of the public and Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson.

Change of Designated Map – Footpath to Creech Barrow

We have received a request from the Dorset Council mapping department for evidence of footpath use of the path leading up to Creech Barrow, with a view to updating the definitive map. This application was commenced over 20 years ago by Rodney Legg and has been revived recently, why is not clear. Concern was raised by the Parish Council, which is familiar with the path, that there may be an attempt to redesignate this footpath into a bridleway to facilitate the passage of bicycles to add to the already extensive mountain biking trails in the area. The Council stated that there was no evidence or need that would support this right of way being anything but a footpath and has communicated this to Dorset Council. The Definitive Map Modification order has the reference T428 and details can be obtained from the Definitive Map Team at Dorset Council.

The Playing Field

The Playing Field opposite the Margaret Green Animal Sanctuary has passed its annual inspection but needs some maintenance work to keep it in good order and prevent avoidable deterioration. A schedule of works based on the report will be prepared and will go out to tender. This will be properly advertised but expressions of interest can be sent with the tender documents, when ready, to the clerk.

Tender for firewood

The dead sycamore in the cemetery has been felled and the wood cut into logs. Tenders for this wood are invited and may be sent by email to the clerk at clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk or by post to Church Knowle Parish Council, 2 Peveril Road, Swanage BH19 2DH. The wood may be inspected at the cemetery; there are several piles and it is all included. This will also be listed on the Parish Council website under “Tenders” and the cut-off date is the day before the next meeting so will be midnight on 10th August.

Vacancies on Parish Council

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. or can come along to the meeting, everyone is welcome.

The meeting finished at 7:53 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Furzebrook Village Hall at 6:30 on 11th August 2026.



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News from The Castle

Wow... What a glorious start we've had to the summer! If you've popped in to see us recently, you'll have noticed how beautiful the flowers are looking around the pub. As I write this 4 days before the World Cup Final, the biggest question is...did we bring it home? We have some great things lined up for the summer holidays – let's take a look...

Magic Mondays are back!!!

That's right, every Monday evening during the school holidays, our beloved magician is back to keep all the family entertained from 5pm. So come on in, make the most of the glorious weather in our pub garden & enjoy some magic.

Chef Required

We are still on the hunt for an experienced Chef to join our team on a part-time basis! Working alone & supporting our head chef, no 2 shifts are the same. Come & join our small, friendly team if this sounds like you. Either pop in or give us a call.

Bank Holiday German BBQ

We love a BBQ, so why not pop in and enjoy a German sausage or 2 with us over the August Bank Holiday. More details will be put on social media soon.

From all the team at The Castle Inn have a glorious August!

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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

md south coast

Corfe Castle Club

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Mon/Tues: 12.00 - 2.30pm & 6.00 - 8.00pm
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Saturday: All day 12.00 - 11.00pm
Sunday: All day 12.00 - 7.00pm

Weekly Events	Forthcoming Events
Poker Night: Wed 8.30pm One Card Bingo: Fri 8.30pm Meat Draw: Sat evening One Card Bingo: Sun 1.00pm	Sun 30th August— 2pm Singles Boules Knockout Competition

Membership application forms are available from the Club Steward. Annual Membership is £10.
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We are still home to the Corfe Castle branch of the Royal British Legion

News from the Library



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

The **Horrible History Trail of Corfe Castle** event will start on Saturday 25th July and run until 30th August. The trail maps will be available from the library during opening hours and from Sandy Hill Arts. Each Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 12 midday we will be running a special FREE “Horrible History Story Session” to set you on your way. Questions and activities will take the participants around the village ending at Sandy Hill Arts where there will be FREE art activities from 2pm until 4pm. The **main fundraising 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 Hill Arts. Tickets for the 9th of August are available online from Sandy Hill Arts website; <https://sandyhillarts.co.uk>

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

Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

The VH coffee morning in July raised £161.13 for VH funds.

Many thanks to all our volunteers and to those attending.

The July 100 club draw took place at the coffee morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 44, with member 70 getting second prize £10 and member 61 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 Pudding
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

Supper of Eastern Promise

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' Pudding team is putting on a '**Celebratory Supper of Eastern Promise**' in aid of extra equipment for 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@davidjatk.in.plus.com.
Alternatively ring David on 07590 352219.

Piss Poor

As one passes by Boar Mill and crosses the bridge up towards The Square, you will have noticed the long shed on your left. It was once Ford's Garage, named after George Ford of Woodyhide, who leased it in 1925. The shed was to be used as a coal shed and motor garage, and it had the first petrol pump in the village.



The former Ford's Garage beside Boar Mill.

It had been used for storage before becoming a garage. The photo below shows the store in the 1900s described as a tan yard and store; adjacent to the building were two outside WCs (shown in the circle) which literally hung over the Byle (the brook that runs down to Boar Mill).



Ford's Garage, with the village's first petrol pump.

Why was a tannery built here? To answer that, we need to go back to the 1770s when urgent help was needed for the parish's poor. Poverty continued through the 1780s and by 1796, the church's Vestry Meeting decided to create a workhouse in the village. Mr Bankes agreed to put as many of the parish's poor who could be 'comfortably lodged' into one of his houses – it's now called Uvedale House (then it was called 'The King's Arms') and the property was divided up into various apartments. By 1797, the Overseers of the poor had taken over the house, and it became known as 'The Poor House'.



The former tan yard and store; the outside WCs are circled.

It was hoped to find employment for the adults and apprenticeships for the children to provide an income for them. The Vestry Meeting also considered other options to raise funds and alighted on the idea of a tannery, possibly because the previous tenant of The King's Arms, Joseph Price, was a breeches maker whose son took over the family business. Breeches were made from animal skin with the hair removed by urine which also softened the hide. The hides would have been soaked in a vat containing salt, water, quicklime and, of course, urine. The poor in the Poor House, were a readily available source especially with the WC's right by the tannery. They would have been paid for this natural alkaline – hence the expression 'piss poor' as the term was coined when the destitute sold their urine for a few pennies to tanneries.

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John Hatcher gave us a very interesting talk about his life as a jeweller in London. He specialised in making medals and explained in detail how they were made. He had lots of anecdotes about his clients which included the Sultan of Brunei, Michael Jackson and members of the royal family. A lovely afternoon and of course there were lots of questions.

Future Programme of Speakers

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

Tuesday 1st September: Tangling with Tania (extreme doodling)

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.

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

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

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



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Purbeck puffins: 2026 News

In recent years, I have written articles for the CVN about how our little colony of puffins in Purbeck has been faring. This is the update for 2026, and an exciting update it is too!



A young Purbeck puffling peers from its nesting crevice in July 2026, — the first successfully reared chick recorded in the colony for several years Photo credit: Martin Shaw

Early in 2026 there was lots of media coverage of huge numbers of dead puffins washing up on the shores of the UK and mainland Europe following winter storms. So, our season began in March amid renewed fears for the future of our little colony of six birds. With so few puffins left in Purbeck, a single winter like that could wipe out the colony.

However, on 18th March, four puffins reappeared off the cliffs near Dancing Ledge. We still feared that two of our faithful

six had succumbed to the winter storms but, much to our relief, on 9th April, all six were seen together and already they had begun courting and mating. One week later, and puffins were seen carrying nesting material. It is likely that the puffins laid their eggs around mid-April.

Six weeks later, at the end of May, after a lot of lengthy cliff-top vigils by some of the keenest volunteers, we were rewarded by the sight of at least two pairs of puffins delivering fish to their newly-hatched chicks. Finally, after three years of waiting, I could award the boxes of *Chococo* chocolate fish that had been on offer since 2024 as prizes to the first volunteers to see and photograph puffins delivering fish (I did have to splash out and buy new boxes this year because the original ones had gone well past their BBE date). Everything comes to those who wait.

There then followed more weeks of patient but anxious cliff-top watches to see if the puffins would keep delivering fish for the whole six weeks it takes for the chicks to be ready to leave the safety of their nesting crevice and head out to

sea. On 5th July, about 38 days after the chicks were first fed, one pair at least were still feeding their chick. It was time to go on a puffling hunt! Because the only way to get a clear view of the puffin ledges is from the sea, we chartered a boat to sit at anchor off the cliff for several hours to watch and wait. Puffin watching is not for those who seek instant gratification.

Indeed, after four hours of seeing no puffins whatsoever, the crew was becoming restless if not quite mutinous. But just then an adult puffin appeared from inside the nesting crevice and took off. Then, a shout went up.

“**PUFFLING**”!!! Where the adult had appeared, another puffin could just be espied in the gloom of the crevice. Hesitantly, it came forward and showed itself; dusky faced and with a small, black, triangular bill instead of the big, bright, red, blue and yellow bill of an adult. This is what we had been hoping to see.

There was great excitement in the boat because this was the first puffling that any of us had ever seen and the first to be seen by anyone in Purbeck for a very long time. So, this year, after at least three years of total failure that we know of, and probably many years of failure before that, at least one pair of puffins finally managed to rear a chick to independence. Within a day or two, and under the cover of darkness, it will have flown off the ledge and headed out to the big wide ocean, alone.

This puffling will not come back to shore until it is at least two years old in 2028, and probably won't breed until it is at least four, in 2030. If it survives until then it might return to Purbeck to breed, but it's just as likely to go somewhere else. One puffling won't save this colony by itself, but it tells us that the Purbeck puffins can still lay fertile eggs, hatch them and, at least in some years, escape the attention of predators, and find enough food to rear a chick to independence. While there is life there is still hope.

Thanks to everyone who contributed puffin sightings in 2026 including: John Allen, Kathy Allen, Jo Atkinson, Steve Butler, Sue Haysom, Ella Hearne, Debs Kelly, Hilarie Lewis, Tim Marchant, Helen Schneider, Martin Shaw, Steve Turner and anyone else I might have forgotten. Also, thanks to Ben Cooke, Tom Clarke and Mark Singleton of the National Trust for organising the puffling hunt expedition and Phil Palmer and Geoff Marsh for providing and skippering the boat.

Richard Caldow

CORFE VALLEY NEWS

1	August	Saturday	10.15 am
1	August	Saturday	2 pm
1	August	Saturday	6 for 6.30 pm
4	August	Tuesday	2 pm
6	August	Thursday	pm
8	August	Saturday	10 am
11	August	Tuesday	6.30 pm
13	August	Thursday	pm
15	August	Saturday	12 noon – 4 pm
15	August – 4 September		
20	August	Thursday	
20	August	Thursday	pm
22	August	Saturday	10 am
22	August	Saturday	10 am – 5 pm
28 & 29 August		Friday & Saturday	pm

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

1	September	Tuesday	2 pm
3 – 6	September		
5	September	Saturday	10.15 am
5	September	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm
7	September	Monday	7.00 pm
8	September	Tuesday	6.30 pm
20	September	Sunday	
3	October	Saturday	1 – 5 pm
18 – 21 November			

CALENDAR for AUGUST 2026

Village Coffee Morning	Corfe Castle Village Hall
3 Parishes Fete in Grounds of Old Rectory Church	Knowle
Eastern Promise Celebratory Dinner	– Corfe Castle Village Hall
Aquarius Annual Summer BBQ	
Outdoor Theatre in the Castle	– Illyria performing Pinocchio
Local history walk around the village	– meet at the Town Hall
Church Knowle Parish Council	– Furzebrook Village Hall
Outdoor Theatre in the Castle	– Quantum Theatre performing Peter Rabbit
Saint Edwards Fete	– St Edwards Church Lawns
Purbeck Film Festival	in various locations
Kimmeridge Play in the Bay	“King Arthur and the Holy Grail”
Outdoor Theatre in the Castle	– Illyria performing As You Like It
Local history walk around the village	– meet at the Town Hall
Big Jurassic Birthday Bash celebrating 10 years of Etches Museum	at Kimmeridge
Purbeck Film Festival Outdoor Cinema	in the Castle

Aquarius – Tangling and Tania extreme doodling	– Corfe Castle Village Hall
Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival	at various locations
Village Coffee Morning	Corfe Castle Village Hall
Soup n’ pud Community lunch	- Corfe Castle Village Hall
Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting	- Corfe Castle Village Hall
Church Knowle Parish Council	– Church Knowle Village Hall
Purbeck Marathon	
Kingston Food Festival	– Kingston Church
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/>

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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-purbeck.org **01929 427822**

For Corfe and the Valley Churches please contact Lynette McCallum
lynettereas21@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://stedwardscofecastle.co.uk/>

Revd Louise writes,

So much change! The patterns of record-breaking heatwaves and weather events where climate change is becoming a tangible reality for us, and we perhaps begin to realise something of the impact it will make on our lives. Uncertainty on the World stage with unpredictability in world leaders and global threats. Our change of Prime Minister. And changes and uncertainties much closer to home, like those faced by the village school in Langton. Change seems to be our constant companion.

There is a hymn which I love to sing, "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father". One thing that will never change is the constant love and faithfulness of God, our Father. It is at times like this that I need to remind myself of his

constant love and the faithfulness that I can find in him. His unchangeable nature, and the fact that, whatever happens, I can always be sure of his goodness and the unending nature of his love towards us. I need that constant rock in my life, the assurance that he is with us through it all, and his goodness never changes towards us.

‘The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore, I will hope in him.”’ Lamentations 3:22-24

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds. Psalm 36:5

Services in August 2026

Sunday 2nd August

Corfe Castle – 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 9th August

Steeple – 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
Corfe Castle – 10.30 am Morning Worship
Kingston – 10.30 am Informal worship

Sunday 16th August

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd August

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am, Holy Communion
Kingston – 11.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th August

Church Knowle – 10.30 am Benefice 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 – August 2026

Sunday 2nd August

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday 9th August

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday 16th August

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Sunday 23rd August

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday 30th August

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

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



Castles, vineyards and secret gardens become cinemas in Dorset this summer

Purbeck Film Festival returns for its 30th year with open-air screenings across some of Purbeck's most extraordinary locations.

This summer the festival is transforming Dorset landmarks into open-air cinemas, choosing settings that don't just host a screening but change how it feels to watch one.

At Corfe Castle over the August Bank Holiday, audiences will watch films within the medieval ruins themselves, lit to reflect each title. Screenings include *Paddington 2* and *Wicked: For Good*, where marmalade orange, green and pink lighting will transform the ancient stonework. Visitors can also arrive by the Swanage Railway's popular Sunset Shuttle, making the journey itself part of the night out.

The Blue Pool provides a natural stage for *Labyrinth*, Jim Henson's cult fantasy, its wooded banks lending the film a genuinely otherworldly atmosphere. Nearby, Careys Secret Garden hosts *The Magic Faraway Tree* in a real woodland clearing, opening the family's enchanting, scented gardens to all.



Film display at Careys Secret Garden

The season opens on Saturday 15 August with a return to Langham Wine Estate, following last year's sell-out event. *The Blues Brothers* pairs its much-loved soundtrack with local wine in a setting that has quickly become a crowd favourite.

The festival closes at The Blue Pool with *The Devil Wears Prada 2*, one of the year's most talked-about feel-good films of the year.

Tickets and full details at purbeckfilm.com.

SUMMER SCREENING SERIES

Outdoor cinema at some of Purbeck's most iconic locations

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

THE BLUES BROTHERS Sat 15 th Aug 8.55pm Langham Wine Estate	15
THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE Fri 21 st Aug 8.45pm Careys Secret Garden	U
JAWS Sat 22 nd Aug 8.45pm Knoll House Hotel	12A
PADDINGTON 2 Fri 28 th Aug 8.30pm Corfe Castle	PG
WICKED: FOR GOOD Sat 29 th Aug 8.30pm Corfe Castle	PG
Arrive by steam train with Swanage Railway!	
LABYRINTH Fri 4 th Sept 8.00pm The Blue Pool	PG
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 Sat 5 th Sept 8.00pm The Blue Pool	12A

PURBECK FILM FESTIVAL

TICKETS & INFO
PURBECKFILM.COM

CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

A CHURCH ENCOURAGED BY PRAYER

To Our Amazing Village; Thank you for accepting the challenge last month to pray for Corfe.

'If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, THEN I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. NOW My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.'

2 Chronicles 7:14,15.

This is a powerful scriptural promise showing that answered prayers require four steps of faith: humility, active prayer, seeking God and repentance. When God's people fulfil these conditions, He promises to hear from heaven, forgive their sins, and bring healing to their lives and land.

God has heard our petitions and we are already seeing clear evidence that prayer works, as doors have opened and we have experienced positive breakthroughs. It demonstrates when a community unites in prayer, incredible strength and healing can follow.

The early church provides a beautiful example. They "devoted themselves...to prayer" (Acts 2:42), making prayer a central part of their fellowship. When challenges arose, they didn't rely on their own wisdom; instead, they gathered to pray. As a result, they were filled with boldness, unity, and joy as they shared the gospel.

A church encouraged by prayer is a church strengthened by God's presence. Prayer reminds us that our hope is not in human ability but in the Lord's faithfulness. It draws believers together, softens hearts, restores relationships, and creates an atmosphere where faith grows. Through prayer, burdens are shared, victories are celebrated, and lives are transformed. Prayer is the heartbeat of a healthy church. Before programs, strategies, or buildings, God calls His people to seek Him. Throughout Scripture, we see that when believers pray together, they experience God's guidance, strength, peace, and power.

May every congregation in Corfe Castle and the surrounding Villages continue to grow in prayer, not as a routine, but as a joyful relationship with God. As believers seek Him together, they will find renewed strength, deeper unity, and greater confidence to fulfil the mission Christ has entrusted to His church.

"Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of prayer and for inviting us into Your presence. Strengthen Your church as we seek You together. Unite us in love, fill us with wisdom, and empower us by Your Holy Spirit to serve

faithfully. Help us to trust You in every circumstance and to be a light in our communities. May our church always be encouraged through prayer and devoted to Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen."

We warmly invite you to join us for a special, informal outdoor prayer session outside the Chapel on Tuesday 4th August at 10:30am. We will gather in the fresh air to reflect, share fellowship, and pray for our Village and one another. Whether you are a regular churchgoer, haven't attended in years, or simply want a quiet moment to connect with the community, you are very welcome. Please come as you are-you are entirely free to participate or just sit, listen, and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

SUNDAY SERVICES AUGUST

9th 16th 23rd and 30th at 10.30am

Celia Taylor (Church Secretary)

07908 807115 / Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk

PRAYER MEETING

4th 11th 18th and 25th at 10.30am

COFFEE MORNING WITH CREAM TEAS

5th 12th 19th and 26th 10.30 – 12.30am



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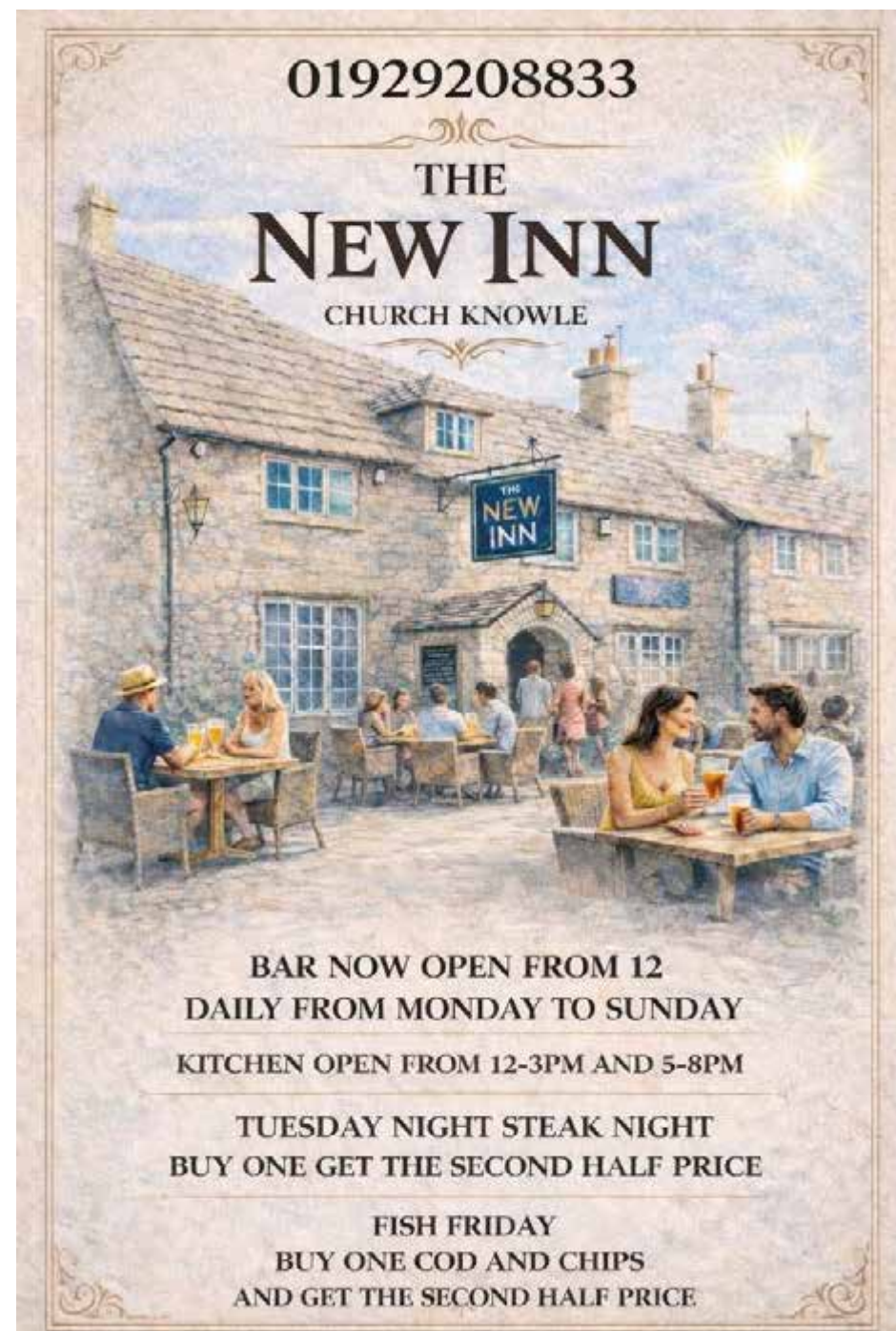
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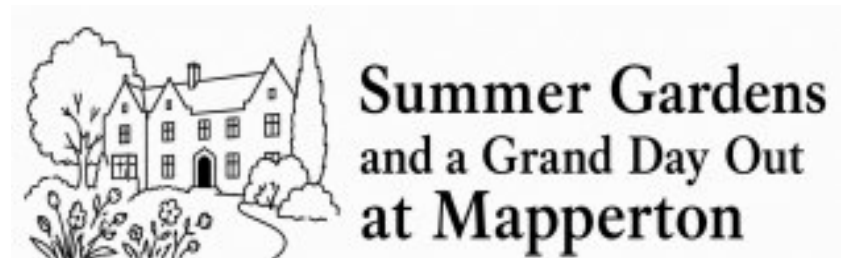
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Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club



Well, what a lovely month July was for those of you who love spending time on the beach and swimming in the sea! However, for us who love our plants and gardens it was a worrying month, with yet more high temperatures and a severe lack of rain!

The gardening club's second trip was to Mapperton near Beaminster. Did you know, the name Mapperton means, 'farmstead where maple trees grow'? We were given a warm welcome by the hospitality team and treated to complimentary tea, coffee and cold water throughout the day, which was much appreciated.

Peter our house guide, gave us an excellent 1 hour tour of the Grade I listed manor that dates back to the 11th century. It is the private home of Luke Montagu, 12th Earl of Sandwich and his wife Julie Montagu, Countess of Sandwich.

After a tasty lunch in the Coach House Café, a volunteer gardener then gave us a tour of the beautiful Grade II listed gardens. The Italianate Garden was first laid out in the 1920's and a wild garden in the 1950's. The Mapperton estate also includes rewilding initiatives known as the Mapperton Wildlands, focused on ecological restoration and biodiversity. After our tour we were able to wander at leisure and admire the planting and take refuge in the cool shade of the many mature trees, including a large, impressive specimen of the Paperbark Maple.

The gardening club doesn't meet in August but resumes meetings in the village hall on Thursday 3rd September. Our speaker at our September meeting will be Steve Candy, one of the gardeners who works at Kingston Lacy. His talk is entitled, 'Japanese Garden history and recreation'.

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.

Hazel Cemm For the Committee.

PurbeckParkys Support Group

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
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
2/09/26	Wednesday	7.30pm	Halfway Inn
9/09/26	Wednesday	7.30pm	Wareham Quay
12/09/26	Saturday	All day	Swanage Folk Festival

Dorset Buttons Morris Dancers
This year we are raising money for the charity



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

The Paul Cave Prize for Literature 2026.

Budding Dorset authors have until September 30 to enter The Paul Cave Prize for Literature 2026. There are already some excellent submissions from around the world.

Established in 2023 The Paul Cave Prize for Literature celebrates the English language and is an excellent platform for writers and poets to get their work read by a professional editor and published in a book. Winners receive feedback, cash prizes and copies of the book featuring their work.

Poetry, flash fiction, shorts stories, novelettes and even novellas can be entered.

The Paul Cave Writing Prizes are in memory of Paul Astley Cave-Browne-Cave (1917 to 2010), a hugely inspirational magazine and book publisher. In 1960 Paul founded *Hampshire the county magazine*, running it for over forty years. More information:

<https://tsaunderspubs.weebly.com/the-paul-cave-prize-for-literature.html>

The Purbeck Marathon 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.

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We have received the following message from Peter Cleverly

I'm doing some research into my family history and have stumbled across a member of my family who lived in Corfe castle village I think between 1989-2005 when she passed away, her name was Nancy Logue and a quick Google search led me to seeing her name mentioned in your millennium diary section of a newsletter from 2017. I was wondering if there is anything I can access that she may have contributed to that edition. Many thanks, Pete.

If anyone can help with any information about Nancy Logue please get in touch with the editor.

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 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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Gardening Through Heat and Drought

August is a summer month and one can make the most of it in so many ways: enjoy chasing butterflies, watch the young birds, and get out a magnifying glass to look at lichen and in mossy dark corners. I also go swimming early in the day and it feels so good after a swim.

In England we are so used to having all the water one wants by turning a tap on, but in July, for a week, we had no water for people or animals. It was a good wake up call; we must be a lot more careful about using water. So in the garden we need to only plant plants that do not require a lot of water. Here are a few that have done well here in the hot and dry July: hypericum hidcote can flower most of the year with bright yellow single flowers up to 7 foot high by a warm wall, the feijoa shrub is also doing well with gray leaves and small red flowers. Yarrow in pink, reds and white is very drought resistant, the hardy blue geraniums are good and agapanthus is a most attractive drought resistant plant once established. Fleshy leaved plants and plants with grey leaves are good at surviving in the dry.

Vegetables are what we need to feed us and they were difficult to grow with the very dry July weather. Do try new species, especially those that come from other countries where they do have dry summers like Tuscan kale, peppers and chillies. Squash and courgette are doing fairly well, with their leaves shading the ground, but they do need water and if you don't have it in water butts, I'm afraid one has to use mains water which can run out at Kniton!! Do water efficiently e.g. with milk cartons/bottles dug into the soil delivering water to the roots, and watering in the evenings to let the water get into the soil overnight. Deep rooted vegetables like legumes and roots are best and will love the heat. So in August do plant carrots, beetroots and beans for autumn harvests. Swiss chard is also a survivor and may survive and produce throughout even a dry summer and autumn.

This year there are a lot of butterflies and birds which I feed, and all need water every day. There is still a lot looking good so we must be grateful for what we have. I love to see people and talk to you about gardening. There's so much to learn one thinks one knows something but really we know so little about the world we live in. My garden and the stables garden are open for NGS on 29th and 30th of July hope to see you then. Rachel

rjehelfer@gmail.com 01929421681



We're delighted to announce that the full Programme of the **2026 Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival** is now live, and tickets are now on sale! From 3–6 September, **Artistic Director Natalie Clein** returns to her native Dorset with an outstanding international cast of musicians for four unforgettable days of music inspired by this year's theme,

The Sea.

Featuring Dame Imogen Cooper, Henning Kraggerud, Catrin Finch, Adrian Brendel and an outstanding international cast of musicians, alongside Artistic Director Natalie Clein, this year's festival explores the many ways

water shapes our lives and imaginations, from childhood memories and distant shores to flowing rivers, migration, myth and the inner storms of the human spirit.

Music, words and movement come together in programmes inspired by one of Dorset's greatest natural treasures: the sea itself. Expect passion, tenderness, and connection, both in the music and in the festival experience in the stunning historic venues of the Purbeck Isle.

Whether you're joining us for a single concert or the whole weekend, we can't wait to welcome you.

Book your tickets online or call 0333 666 3366 (booking fee applies). Make the most of the festival

A Festival Pass offers the best value if you're planning to attend several concerts. Friends, Angels and Patrons receive a discount on Festival. Passes and should already have received their booking password by email.

If you'd like reserved seating, why not become an Angel or Patron? If you're not yet a member, join today and enjoy your benefits straight away.

We very much hope you'll join us in Purbeck this September. If you have any questions, we'd be delighted to help, just email us at info@picmf.org.

Natalie Clein & the Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival Tea How to book your tickets

Tickets on sale now for all events through our website. If you prefer to book by phone, please call 0333 666 3366 (Mon-Fri 9am-7.30pm, Sat 10am-5pm) Please note booking fee applies



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Kimmeridge News

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! Tickets at <https://artsreach.co.uk/event/tif-king-arthur>

Big Jurassic Birthday Bash! Saturday 22nd August 10:00 – 5:00

Join us for a special *Destination Kimmeridge* event as we celebrate 10 incredible years of The Etches Collection Fossil Museum. This milestone is about much more than fossils, it's a celebration of Kimmeridge Village, Kimmeridge Bay, and the amazing community that makes this corner of Dorset so unique. From world-famous fossils and coastal conservation to local food, family activities, and hands-on experiences, this special event brings together everything that makes Kimmeridge unforgettable. Full details and tickets are available on the Etches Collection website: <https://www.theetchescollection.org/jurassicbirthday>

Kimmeridge Church

Two dates for your diary for services at Kimmeridge Church: Sunday 6th September at 4pm – a service of praise & thanksgiving with the chance to choose the hymns! Christmas Eve – back by popular demand, our traditional carols & lessons service will be at 6pm on Christmas Eve

Steve & Helen Earwicker

Hi from the tollgate,

In May I took down the bird feeders here at the toll hut in line with new guidelines from the RSPB to help stop the spread of Trichomonosis

particularly in finches during the breeding season.

I have in fact been pleasantly surprised by the number of birds still around and their breeding success, swallows and House martins are doing really well, so are both Green and Great spotted woodpeckers, long tailed, Blue & Great tits all have young feeding on the insects in the pine trees by the gate, Green & Gold finches also about in good numbers.

The Raptor population is also doing well, plenty of common Buzzard, sparrowhawk, kestrel and I have had great views of juvenile Peregrine, the White-Tailed sea Eagles are still relatively common (both adult and juvenile).

Most years I don't record yellowhammers during the summer but this year they have been present all year, and Ben Hole recorded corn bunting on 2 occasions on the coast path. We also have good numbers of Skylark, Whitethroat, Linnet and Blackcap.

Offshore has provided plenty of interest with Manx shearwaters flashing by, large flocks of gulls after the small fish and gannets and kittiwakes are regular visitors. Black headed and med gulls return to Kimmeridge after breeding in Poole harbour can you tell the difference??

Happy Birding – Cheers - Rose & Pat



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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
- Wareham Walking Netball – Christine Morrison - 07854649666 or 781426 – Julia Tighe - 07729311550
- 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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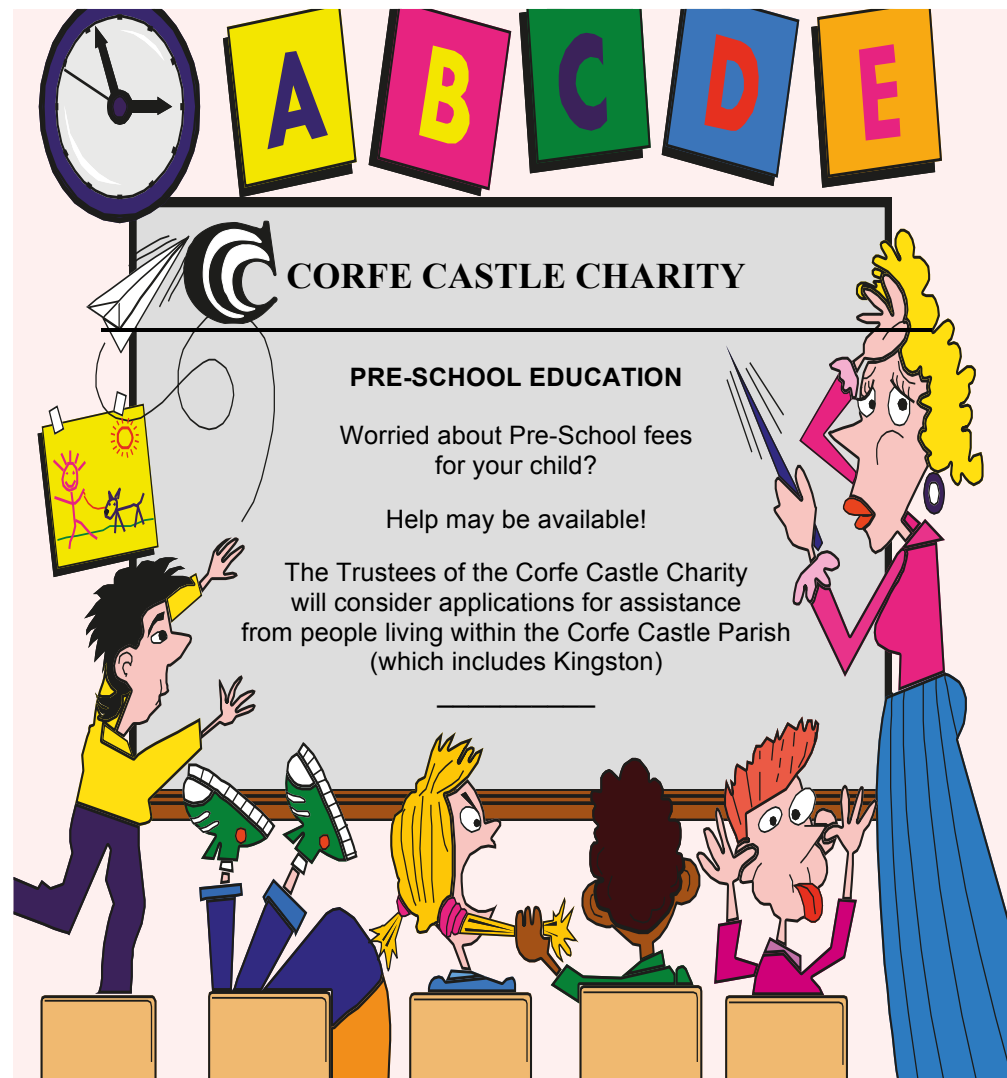
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The Trustees will also consider applications for assistance in connection with the following :

- Education and Training
- Domestic and Family expenses
- Sickness and Disability
- 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

Traditional Village Hall available for hire - £10 per hour *

Large Car Park – Close to the Church – PRS Licence - Wifi

All enquires – 07880 780677

or email – villagehall@churchknowle.com

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

Regular and long-term hires by negotiation

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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. Our current charging rates are shown below. We are also greatly helped by the donations made by individuals each year. We send out donation envelopes each spring. Donations can be made by BACS payment: the Sort Code and Account numbers are provided below.

	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
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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