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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



DECEMBER 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 536 December 2026

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

Please send items for publication by 5 pm on the **15th** of the preceding month**.** All contributions can be left at 55 East Street or at The Post Office, Corfe Castle.
Preferably items should be e-mailed to **corfevalleynews@gmail.com**
Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue

Editorial

December has crept into Purbeck with rain and frost on the fields, a nip in the air that finds every gap in your scarf, and darkness arriving so early that tea-time feels like midnight. Still, there is a good deal to love about it. The low sun slides along the Purbeck Hills like a spotlight on a stage, the sea off Swanage Bay turns a steely, glittering grey, and every village window seems to glow a little warmer than usual.

As 2026 draws to a close, we raise a mug (of something hot, naturally) to the year gone by. There were gatherings and grumbles, triumphs and the odd muddy Wellington mishap, and above all the small kindnesses that make this corner of Dorset what it is. Check in on a neighbour, share a mince pie, and let someone go first at the village shop. It costs nothing and means rather a lot.

With Christmas now thundering towards us, the villages are twinkling with carol services, markets and lights strung up with varying degrees of success. Wherever you find yourself this festive season, we wish you a merry, peaceful and thoroughly cosy Christmas, and promise plenty more local news, gossip and good cheer in the new year.

Last chance our **Draw Purbeck competition** is closing on the 15th Dec. We're looking for black and white drawings of local places and people, with the best entries published and the winning image may feature on a future cover. Full details are on page 41.

Please remember to use our new email - corfevalleynews@gmail.com in all communications with the CVN. The tiscali account is now closed.

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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NOVEMBER CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begin to drop, thoughts across the parish are turning to winter preparations, Christmas celebrations and keeping our community safe through the colder months. Fittingly, many of the topics discussed at November's Parish Council meeting centred on flooding resilience, parking , affordable housing and plans to brighten the village during the festive season.

Traffic Regulation Orders Update

Resident's concerns over parking restrictions and the ongoing Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposals were discussed in detail. Councillors explained that proposals include extending seasonal parking restrictions outside Why Jewellers from March to October and extending double yellow lines at the entrance to West Street to improve pedestrian safety. After discussion with Dorset council the Council agreed to the dropping of a proposed no loading ban by the churchyard in West street.

The Council had several representations asking for a double yellow line all the way up West Street. However there were no consultations on this when the proposed TRO was first discussed and therefore this idea could not be included in the current proposal. It can be revisited at a later stage when the impact of the current proposal is looked at.

Report from Dorset Councillor:

A significant topic was the proposed Wessex Devolution Deal, which would bring together Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Somerset and Wiltshire under a new Mayoral Strategic Authority by 2028. Councillors discussed the opportunities this could bring, alongside concerns about ensuring local voices continue to be heard in decision-making.

Members also received an update on Dorset Council's parking review proposals. Potential changes include moving Purbeck Park to an hourly charging system and converting West Street car park from a long-stay facility to a shorter-stay car park with a maximum stay of four hours.The half hour 70p band would also be eliminated. Councillors highlighted the importance of clear signage and maintaining convenient parking options for residents, visitors and local businesses. The Dorset proposals will be the subject of public consultation in December.

Flooding and Community Resilience

With winter approaching, flooding preparedness remains a priority. Councillors received updates on local resilience planning and discussed ongoing concerns relating to drainage and ditch maintenance, particularly in East Street.

The Council continues to seek clarification from Dorset Council and other agencies regarding maintenance responsibilities and support available during periods of severe weather. Councillors welcomed further updates expected in the coming weeks, particularly on local resilience arrangements for Purbeck.

BT Openreach systems in Kingston

Kingston had been cut off from telephone and broadband for nearly two weeks from 25 October and BT Openreach hadn't appeared to treat this as an emergency. The Council agreed to write to the MP saying these incidents should be treated as urgent in the same way as other utilities are.

Updates from the National Trust

The National Trust reported that three new pairs of beavers will be released into the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve this winter. Public information events will be held in Furzebrook on 22nd November and Corfe Castle on 23rd November between 12:30 – 6:30pm.

The National Trust highlighted the valuable role beavers can play in slowing water flow through the landscape, helping to reduce the impact of flash flooding.

There was plenty of festive cheer in the National Trust update. The Trust will once again support the village Christmas celebrations, including hosting Santa in the tea rooms when the Christmas lights are switched on.

The castle will also be open for special Christmas light evenings in December, and residents will be pleased to hear that Corfe Castle itself will be illuminated on New Year's Eve.

Christmas and New Year Plans

With festive decorations now appearing around the village with thanks to the Corfe Castle Christmas Festivities Committee, whose hard work helps make the village look so welcoming and magical at this time of year.

Discussions are also taking place to explore whether the church can be lit as part of the celebrations, creating an even more spectacular backdrop for the village over the festive period.

Please Keep Our Pavements Clear

The Parish Council is encouraging residents and visitors to think carefully about where they park, following ongoing concerns about vehicles obstructing pavements.

Pavement parking can create real difficulties for pedestrians, particularly parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users, people with mobility challenges, and those with visual impairments. In some cases, blocked pavements can force people into the road, creating an unnecessary safety risk.

To help raise awareness, councillors may, when they observe a vehicle parked on the pavement, place a polite notice on the vehicle and take a photograph to record the issue. The aim is not to penalise drivers, but to encourage considerate parking and help keep our streets safe and accessible for everyone.

The Council would also like to remind residents that the area between a property's frontage and any double yellow lines remains part of the public highway. Although Dorset Council has granted community dispensation allowing vehicles to park in certain locations, these areas do not form part of residents' private parking spaces and remain highway land.

By parking thoughtfully and keeping pavements clear, we can all play a part in making our villages safer and more accessible for everyone.

Affordable Housing Remains on the Agenda

The Council reaffirmed its long-standing support for additional affordable rented housing within the parish while making clear that it will carefully consider any future planning application on its merits following full public consultation.

Congratulations to the Clerk

The Council congratulated the Parish Clerk Sarah Forwood on successfully achieving the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), a nationally recognised qualification for local council officers. The achievement also enables the Council to retain eligibility for the General Power of Competence.

Planning Matters

Several listed building and maintenance applications within the parish received no objection from the Council. However, councillors strongly objected to proposals to remove two healthy trees at the Bankes Arms Hotel, encouraging local residents to make their views known through the planning process.

Next Council Meeting - Monday 14th December 2026, at 7pm in the Corfe Castle Village Hall, Bill Carter Room. To start the meeting is a public half hour, so please come and join us and have your say.

Parish Council contact details: Clerk: Sarah Forwood,
Telephone: 07986 880999,

Email: clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk,
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC,
Website: www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Church Knowle Parish Council

The November meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 6:30pm. It was attended by five members of the Council (Cllr Newns in the chair) and 8 members of the public.

The Margaret Green Animal Sanctuary

The public discussion period reflected community-wide opposition to the proposed kennelling of dogs at the Sanctuary. There is potential for considerable noise nuisance for residents - as before - which was resolved through the Courts and the relocation of dogs to more appropriate sites.

It was broadly observed that the Margaret Green Sanctuary is a valued part of the Church Knowle community and a good neighbour. All would like to see it continue and there were no complaints about its present operation.

Vacancies on Parish Council

There are still 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 Parish Wall Map

The Parish has a stock of these available at £10 each. They are on display in the Village Halls and on the website (www.churchknowle pc.gov.uk) on the front page. Dimensions are 600x420mm and they are printed in full colour on heavy good quality paper. These may be obtained from the Clerk (clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk) and can be posted (additional £7) or picked up at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Playing Field

A litter bin will be installed at the entrance to the playing field for dog walkers to deposit their dog waste bags. This will also serve as a general litter bin and will be emptied regularly.

The equipment in the playing field will be painted and treated with preservatives to prolong its life and make it smart. Any components that need replacing will be replaced. Tenders will be sought for this work and a schedule of works and guide to tendering will be on the website under tenders.

Planning

Two planning applications were considered:

- P/FUL/2026/05189 Woodsmoke, Cedar Barn, Grange Road. Change of use to Photographic and design studio with cafe. The Council resolved to approve the application with conditions - P/TRT/2026/5819 & 5189 The Old Rectory, Church Knowle. Tree maintenance work at the Old Rectory. The Council resolved to approve the application.

Highways

There have been serious problems in the past with off road vehicles misusing the unmade-up byways on the Ridge. While it is legal to use these paths for access, vehicles leaving the byway can cause damage to scheduled ancient monuments - which is a criminal offence - and to protected nature Reserves. All misuse will be reported to the rural crimes team.

The Corfe River

The National Trust is proposing releasing beavers into tributaries within Purbeck Heath and there will be a public consultation at Furzebrook Village Hall on 22nd November (10.30am - 2.30pm).

The New Inn

Everyone is encouraged to go in for a warm welcome and some seasonal cheer and support this essential social hub in the community.

The meeting finished at 8:25 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Church Knowle Village Hall at 6:30 on 9th December 2026. As this is the Christmas meeting with refreshment and mince pies available after the meeting it was resolved to alternate this between Furzebrook and Church Knowle.



Corfe Castle CE Primary School & Pre-School

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." Romans 15:13

December is always a special and busy time in school as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. We have lots of Christmas events planned and look forward to sharing this joyful season with our children, families and wider community.

We recently held our first Game On Café in school on a Sunday, welcoming our parent community for games, refreshments and an opportunity to spend time together. It was wonderful to bring everyone together in this way.

As we journey towards Christmas, we look forward to our Carols, Nativity Services and other festive events. We are also delighted to be joining St Edward's Church on Sunday 13th December for the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, an important occasion in our Christmas celebrations.

Our School Playground

Alongside our Christmas preparations, we are turning our attention to our school playground. It has certainly seen better days, and we are keen to invest time, energy and resources into creating a more welcoming and enjoyable outdoor space for our children.

As I am sure you can appreciate, school funds are limited, and any support would make a real difference. If there are any local charities, organisations or community groups who would like to support our children and contribute towards this project, please do get in touch with us. We would be delighted to discuss opportunities to work together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.



With Christmas fast approaching, please do share our Holiday Club provision, which will run on Monday 21st December – Wednesday 23rd December this year.



Join our Pre-schoolshool!
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



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www.double-act.org.uk

By the time you read this our production of

THE CAT AND THE CANARY

will have been another roaring success and thoroughly entertained all those lucky enough to have witnessed it! So well done to first time director Dougal, all the cast and the great team that helped build the stage & create the show. Once Christmas & the New Year are over our attentions will turn to next years meetings, activities and productions. These will include a brand new Murder Walk during July & August (will it be wet or dry?) and our main show

Pygmalion

on November 18th, 19th & 20th 2027.

Meetings normally take place every first Monday of the month 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!

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Email:compassandcrew@gmail.com

CORFE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Soup 'n' Pud

A choice of 2 soups and puds with custard

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Saturday December 5th '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 4th Anniversary has been and gone and we had a record number of diners – 67 in all. So Soup 'n' Pud continues to go from strength to strength! Now we are looking forward to the festive season and beyond. We always welcome new people and new ideas.
We used our curiously shaped, donated squash to make a tasty Squash and Red Pepper Soup. We also had a lovely Mushroom Soup followed by the ever popular Crumble and a Pineapple Upside Down Cake and are now planning our December treats. As usual we encourage you to wear your Christmas jumpers or other decorations but it is not essential to get us all in the festive mood.
Looking ahead we would like to give you advance warning that our January lunch will be on January 9th not the expected January 2nd. We thought it might be a bit close to the New Year celebrations and it also keeps us in line with the Village Hall Coffee Morning which happens just before us.
We are 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.
We look forward to welcoming regulars and new folk alike on Saturday December 5th and wish everyone, especially our diners and volunteers a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

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

8, West Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5HD
Phone - 01929 480449
Email - contact@thefoxinncorfecastle.com

OUR WINTER DEALS

Monday – Friday, 12pm – 5pm

Homemade Pie and Chips / Traditional Fish and Chips
with a FREE dessert

Sunday Evening Roast

Buy one get one free on our roast dinners every Sunday evening from 6 – 8pm, through to the end of March.
Booking advised!

Apres Ski Night

Friday 11th December from 7pm. Join us for some alpine fun!

Boxing Day Brunch

We will be serving breakfast from 10am until 12pm on Boxing Day, with our Winter menu then starting at 12pm.

New Year's Eve

Join us again to see in the new year with live music from Alex Hedley as well as The Big Fat Fox Quiz of the Year!
£10 a team (max 6 people). Prizes throughout the night!
Optional meat and cheese boards available to graze on whilst you enjoy the evening

JANUARY SPECIAL

Join us in the new year and enjoy our January Special - Monday to Thursday, from 5.30pm, treat yourself to a starter and main for just £20!

CORFE CASTLE

JANUARY SPECIALS

Treat yourself to a Starter and Main for £20, Monday to Thursday in January from 5.30pm

STARTERS

Homemade 'Soup of the Day' VGN, GFA

Creamy Granarolo breaded brie wedge and cranberry sauce GF, V

Asian inspired cauliflower, spring onion and chilli GF, VGN, DF

Ardennes Pate, toast and spiced tomato chutney GFA

MAINS

Traditional fish and chips, tartare sauce, mushy peas GF, DF

Steak Frites, peppercorn sauce GF, DF

Tomato and basil Pappardelle, green pepper, spring onion, confit Isle of Wight tomato VGN, GFA
Add tofu or chorizo £4

10 oz Tomahawk pork chop, fondue leeks, rainbow carrots and whole grain mustard sauce GF (£5 supplement)

DESSERT (an extra £5)

Fox Inn Apple Crumble with icecream or custard GF, Vegan Available / DFA

2 scoops of Marshfield's Ice Cream GF
(chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, mint choc chip, honeycomb, Vegan vanilla)

Hot Drink and A Mini Dessert –
Mini Chocolate Brownie (contains nuts) / Lemon Drizzle Cake with Ice Cream

If you have any special dietary requirements or allergies, please speak to a member of the team before ordering your food and drinks.

GF – Gluten Free GFA – Gluten Free Available V – Vegetarian VGN – Vegan
DF – Dairy Free



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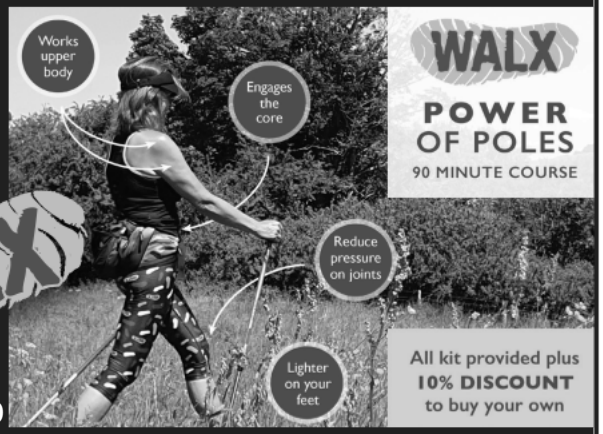

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Corfe Castle Surgery

Thank you to all of our patients, PPG volunteers and of course staff for their support during our Saturday flu clinic in October. It has been another successful flu campaign, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

With Christmas just around the corner, I wanted to confirm this year's opening hours as follows; Please make sure that you have enough medication for the festive season!

Monday 21st December 8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 22nd December 8.30am- 6.30pm
Wednesday 23rd December 8.30am -6.30pm
Thursday 24th December 8.30am – 6.30pm
Friday 25th December **CLOSED**
Call 111 for medication or urgent medical problems

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th **CLOSED**

Monday 28th December **CLOSED**
Call 111 for medication or urgent medical problems

Tuesday 29th December 8.30am- 6.30pm
Wednesday 30th December 8.30am -6.30pm
Thursday 31st December 8.30am -6.30pm
Friday 1st January 2027 **CLOSED**
Call 111 for medication or urgent medical problems

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We appreciate your support of the whole practice team.

Please contact us with any queries.

Kerry Norman
Practice Manager

Maggie Hardy
PPG Chair



BANKES ARMS

CORFE CASTLE

Village pub & dining with rooms

NEWS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FROM THE BANKES

The Festive period is upon us once again. Don't miss the switch on of the Christmas lights on 5th December. Join us at the bar or in front of the fire. We'll have plenty of mulled wine & cider, mince pies & sausage rolls.

Christmas Party

Don't forget to book your party with us.
Whether it's colleagues, friends or family, our Festive Menu has something delicious waiting just for you. Book now, the diary is filling up!!

Christmas Movie & Music Quiz

hosted by our Quizmaster Zac. **Tuesday 15th December, 7pm start**.
Enjoy buttermilk fried chicken in a basket with corn, slaw, fries & gravy.
(please order when reserving your table)

Boxing Day Brunch

Fed up of cooking? Let us take care of you. We'll be serving a delicious brunch with light bites, breakfast & traditional pub classics. **12noon - 6pm**.

New Year's Eve

See in the New Year at the Bankes. Enjoy a good old knees-up where you can eat, drink & chat with your friends & family and enjoy some nostalgic tunes. We're serving some tasty small plates which you can share or keep all to yourself. Open till late.

New Years Day Brunch

'Hair of the dog time' Enjoy a Bloody Mary and blow the cobwebs away. Sit down to a light bite or fill up on our brunch classics or a comforting, traditional roast dinner. (and lots more) **12noon – 6pm.**

All our menus are online, feel free to call in, or call 01929 288188

From us all at the Bankes Arms, we would like to thank you all for your support & we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2027!

BANKES ARMS CORFE CASTLE
info@bankesarmshotel.co.uk
01929 288188
www.bankesarmshotel.co.uk

BANKES ARMS

CORFE CASTLE

VILLAGE PUB & DINING WITH ROOMS

FESTIVE PARTY MENU

Our kitchen team create these dishes using produce that we aim to source locally wherever possible. We are proud to support our local suppliers.

Starters

Celeriac, white onion & cider soup, crème fraiche, hazelnuts, apple reduction.

Hot smoked salmon pate, horseradish, fennel, beetroot, focaccia.

Braised ox cheek, carrot, parsnip, vanilla, watercress.

Sage gnocchi, roasted garlic, squash, pecorino, pumpkin seeds.

Main

Brined & roasted turkey crown, cranberry & orange compote, sage & apple stuffing, pigs in blankets, turkey gravy.

Chicken supreme, pommes puree, leeks, wild mushrooms, cauliflower.

South coast cod, potato terrine, brown shrimp, fennel, miso beurre blanc.

Celeriac & artichoke cassoulet, braised white onion, pommes puree, kale.

Dessert

Dark chocolate tart, Dorset sea salt, chocolate brittle, crème fraiche.

Burnt apple parfait, poached pear, almonds, white chocolate.

Christmas pudding, brandy custard, sweet cranberry compote.

West Country cheeses, apple chutney, grapes, quince, sourdough crackers (supp £5)

Tea/Coffee & warm mince pie £4.50
Two Course £32/Three Course £39

Please inform a member of staff regarding any allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements before placing your order.
For tables of 8 and above discretionary service charge of 12.5% will be added to your bill. Please inform a member of the team if you would like it to be removed. A deposit of £15pp will be required at the time of booking.

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Aquarius
Corfe Castle Women in Touch

At the November meeting, a most enjoyable afternoon was spent with Vanessa doing chair exercises. Lovely background music and some challenging little exercises for the brain as well. We improved our posture, balance and coordination and were rewarded with a well earned cuppa and biscuit.

Future Programme of Speakers
Tuesday 1st December:
Christmas Crafting, Games and festive cream tea

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: 2008aquariusladies@gmail.com for more information.

Corfe Castle Village Hall CIO, in association with **Artsreach**, is pleased to present:

Budapest Café Orchestra

A welcome return of the hugely talented gypsy-style quartet, who last played here in Corfe Castle in 2018. Eminent violinist Christian Garrick is joined by guitarist Adrian Zolotuhin, accordianist Eddie Hessian and double bassist Kelly Cantelan.

They use their roots in classical / jazz music to influence their performance of Balkan folk tunes, with Brahms, Mahler and maybe a bit of ELO thrown in. Expect to see four great musicians showing off their talent and having fun! I'm hoping Adrian will get his Saz or perhaps his Domra out.

Light refreshments will be available.

"The fiery vivacity and awe-inspiring musicianship of the finest purveyors of Eastern European gypsy music this side of a Lada scrap heap will leave you with a grin on your face and rhythm in your feet..."

Saturday December 12th 2026 at 7.30pm

Tickets (£13 adult, £6 u18) available from www.artsreach.co.uk, the Village Stores or David on 07590 352219



Purbeck arts choir

POULENC
Gloria

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Fantasia on Christmas Carols

CHILCOTT
On Christmas Night

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER AT 6.30PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWANAGE

Soprano: GRACE LOVELASS Organ: SIMON LOLE

with David Fawcett and The Choristers of St Mary's Church

Conductor: JOHN WATKINS

Tickets: £12 in advance from Corbens or enquiries purbeckchoir@gmail.com

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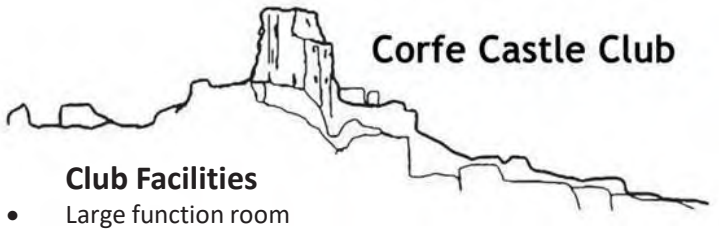
www.purbeckartschoir.org.uk



Club Facilities

- Large function room
- Free Wi-Fi, Pool Table, Dartboards and Table Games
- Garden with seating and 2 Boules Pitches
- Large screen TV for showing major sporting and other key events. We also have: sky sports
- Chubby's rolls & pies
- Families welcome

Opening Times

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

Weekly Events

Poker Night:	Wed 7.30pm
One Card Bingo:	Fri 8.30pm
Meat Draw:	Sat evening
One Card Bingo:	Sun 1.00pm

Forthcoming Events

Sat 12th Dec – 7.30pm
Members Christmas Draw
(Please check the Club notice boards and Facebook for future events)

Membership application forms are available from the Club Steward. Annual Membership is £10.
Local beers, ciders and lager at very reasonable prices.
Soft drinks, snacks, tea and coffee also available.

WINNER OF THE CAMRA SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CLUB OF THE YEAR 2025

CAMRA

Address: 70 East Street Telephone: 01929 480591

We are still home to the Corfe Castle branch of the Royal British Legion

Masons' Marks – Double U's.

Pottering around the village a few mason's marks can be seen engraved on bits of stone. There could be many more. I have no idea who the mystery engraver or engravers of this 'W' was.
There is a *'double U'* on top of the stone around the kissing gate leading from the West Hawes to Copper Bridge (not on the wooden gate).





The arrow shows the position of the mark. The wall on the right is now covered with brambles.





Another 'W' can be seen scratched onto the middle pillar of The Greyhound's porch facing east.





A third one is on the left jamb of the Museum's window.

So, your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to look for marks and send photos of them in to the Editor.

Louise Haywood

Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

The November coffee morning raised £135.31 for VH funds.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who work hard to set the room up, and also to all those attending.

The November 100 club draw took place at the coffee morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member *21,* with member *68* getting second prize £10 and member *87* winning the third prize £5. If you would like to join the many villagers who support their local village hall in this way contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

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

regular weekly events:

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	Chair Exercise
Thursday afternoons	Purbeck Dance
Thursday evenings	Cubs
Thursday evenings	Alcoholics Anonymous
Friday mornings	Pilates

regular monthly events:

1st Saturday morning	VH Coffee Morning
1st Saturday lunchtime	Soup 'n Pud
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

VH Coffee Mornings

We recognise the value of these as a way of maintaining links with friends and neighbours. We are looking at ways to re-invigorate the format of the coffee mornings, introducing more variety whilst retaining the community spirit.

One idea is occasionally to feature a guest table, for selling craft, handiwork or homemade produce. This would be complimentary, although a donation to the VH would be appreciated. **Do you know of anyone who might be interested in being such a guest? Maybe you??** If so please let one of the VH volunteeers know.

Another idea is for an occasional "car boot sale", Watch this space!

What is certain is that the first VH coffee morning will be on **Saturday 9th January**, not the usual "first Saturday of the month". Soup 'n Pud will also be on 9th Jan..

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

CHRISTMAS BINGO BONANZA!

SUPPORTING ST EDWARD'S CHURCH

CORFE CASTLE

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 6.30 FOR 7PM at

The Bill Carter Room, **Corfe Castle Village Hall**

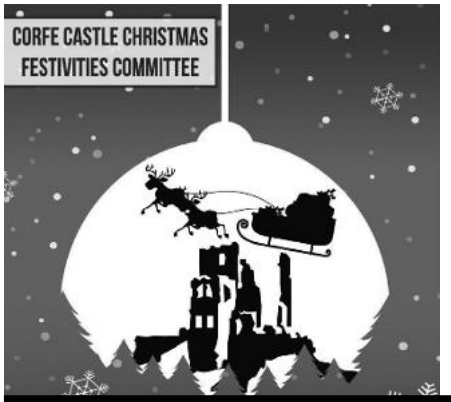
£10 includes Bingo Books, **Christmas Prizes!**

and a free glass of Mulled Wine & Mince Pie

There will be a Raffle!

Funds raised will go towards the upkeep of St Edward's Church

Tickets: Elizabeth 07703 387189



We are pleased to announce the date for this year's switch on of the Christmas lights:
Saturday 5th December 2026

The lights will be switched on at 5pm with refreshments available from around 4pm. This will be followed by…
…THE ARRIVAL OF FATHER CHRISTMAS

The arrival of Father Christmas through the square will be followed by the distribution of gifts at a magical event inside the National Trust Tea Room BY TICKET ONLY.

This event will only be advertised in the CVN to avoid crowd problems and we respectfully request that you do not share details on social media

Please note!

As a local organisation we focus on local schoolchildren (up to end of year 6, i.e. up to 12 years of age), their younger siblings, plus children, grandchildren, etc., who are visiting our local residents.

- If you have a child at Corfe Castle School or Pre-school, tickets for your family will be made available by the school… NO NEED TO CONTACT US.
- If you require tickets, for local child(ren) who attend school elsewhere or if you live in the village and have child visitors, please email ccfestivities@gmail.com with your name, address, number of tickets and age of children. *Only if you do not have email, and cannot ask someone to email on your behalf, as a last resort send a text to 07584 079401*.

A small number of leftover tickets may be available on the night

WE ALWAYS WELCOME OFFERS OF HELP WITH MARSHALLING AND OTHER DUTIES. If you would like to help, please email ccfestivities@gmail.com

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NACE

The Castle Inn



63 East Street, Corfe Castle BH20 5EE

Call 01929 480208 **www.castleinn.co.uk**

News from The Castle

We are in the last month of 2026 – it's gone so fast, and we cannot believe Christmas is round the corner. Our Christmas Menu is now live, so get those parties booked in! See below what's on offer:

Christmas Menu now Available

Get those Christmas parties booked in, sit back and relax with friends, family or co-workers and enjoy our cosy country pub with our delicious Christmas menu. 2 course menu from £23.95pp or 3 course menu from £29.95pp. Pop inside for more details.

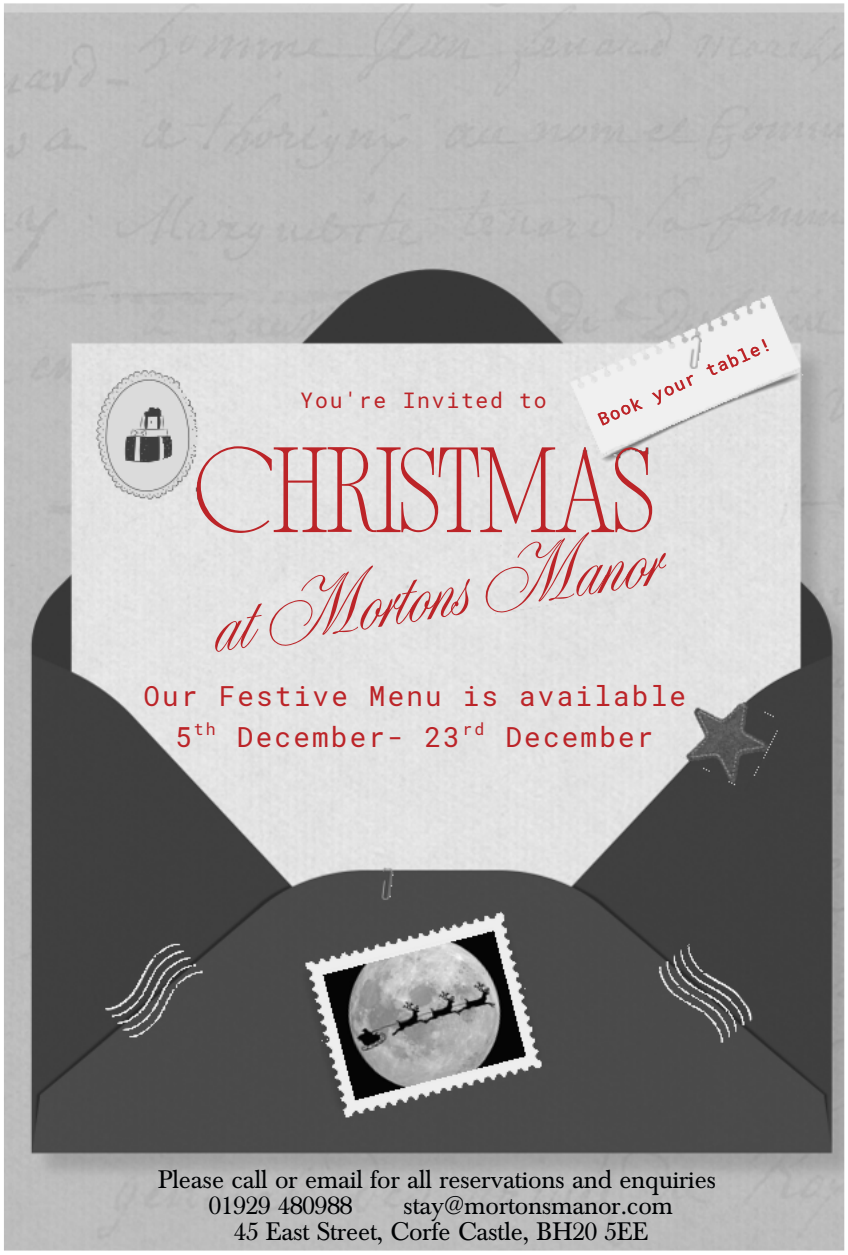
Festive Diary

Thursday 24th December is our Christmas Eve suppers. Served from 12-2:30pm & 5:30 – 8:30pm.
Friday 25th December – Pub is closed for family celebrations.
Saturday 26th December is Boxing day lunches & festive fun from 12-5pm.

NYE Around the World in 7 Courses!

Our favourite night of the year is back! 7 new countries, 7 new costumes for Mike, and a night to remember. Set menu for £49.95pp, you won't be disappointed! Get your table booked today.

From the team at The Castle Inn, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Mortons Manor Festive Dinner Menu

Available for Lunch £42 (2 courses) or £52 (3 courses)
Dinner £62.50

HOMEMADE BREAD
Flavoured butter

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE & WILD MUSHROOM SOUP
Cheese Beignet

MISO GLAZED PRAWNS
Celeriac, wasabi & apple remoulade

BLACK FIG CARPACCIO
Feta, orange, pomegranate & candied walnut salad, maple & aged balsamic dressing

CHICKEN, HAZELNUT & TARRAGON BALLONTINE
Bacon jam & sourdough crisps

BLOOD ORANGE & PROSECCO MIMOSA GRANITÉ
served only with Dinner

ROAST BREAST OF TURKEY
Pistachio & apricot stuffing, duck fat roasted potatoes, smoked bacon chipolatas, maple glazed parsnips, braised red cabbage, carrot & swede purée, Brussels sprouts, turkey & sage jus, cranberry & orange sauce

CONFIT OF DUCK LEG
Puy coriander & tomato lentils, ginger & sesame bok choi & crispy rice noodles

BLACK GARLIC CRUMB SEABASS
Confit of roasted root vegetables, winter greens & beetroot dressing

ROAST BUTTERNUT SQUASH
Sage, chestnut & wild mushroom risotto

CHESTNUT CAKE
Pumpkin spiced ice cream

TANZANIAN DARK CHOCOLATE & ORANGE DELICE
Sesame crisp, coffee sorbet

ROASTED SPICED PEAR
Almond, orange curd, crystallised ginger & croissant ice cream

STEAMED CHRISTMAS PUDDING
Cranberry & nut granola, brandy sauce

Coffee or Tea with Mini Mince Pie
£4.95



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DRAW PURBECK

Draw Purbeck Places — CVN Local Drawing Competition

We're inviting local artists of all ages and abilities to pick up their pencil, charcoal, or pen and capture the spirit of Purbeck in black and white.

The CVN is a long-standing admirer of P R Gross, whose drawings frequently appear on the cover and would like to find more talent amongst its readership.



THE BRIEF

Black and white drawings only!
Places — landscapes, coastline, countryside, or buildings (nature, built, or both)

WHY ENTER

Shortlisted entries will be published in the Corfe Valley News, with the very best in the running to feature as a future cover image.
Depending on interest, we may host a small exhibition for up-and-coming local artists. Is it you?

HOW TO ENTER

- Deadline: 15. December 2026
- Submit by email to corfevalleynews@gmail.com
- Subject“DRAW PURBECK PLACES”
- Format: Jpg or pdf - original available upon request
- Include your name, a short bio, inspiration and what the drawing is showing
- Eligibility: Open to all artists living in or connected to Purbeck
- A selection will be published in the January edition

We are looking forward to your submissions!
Stephen and Maria

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2026

3. - 5. December			Emmanuel Baptist Church	Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival
4. December	Friday	6.30pm	Corfe Castle Village Hall	Christmas Bingo Bonanza!
4. December	Friday		Kingston Country Courtyard	80s & 90s Christmas Party,
5. December	Saturday	12.30pm	Corfe Castle Village Hall	Soup'n'Pud
5. December	Saturday	2.30pm	Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage	Christmas Tree Festival
5. December	Saturday	2pm	All Saints Church, Swanage	Singing for Christmas with Harmony Rocks Choir
5. December	Saturday	6.30pm	St Mary's Church, Swanage	Purbeck Arts Choir
5. December	Saturday		Kingston Country Courtyard	80s & 90s Christmas Party,
6. December	Sunday	4pm	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Lights of Love
7. December	Monday	7pm	Kimmeridge Village Hall	Kimmeridge Bingo Night
8. December	Tuesday	6.30pm	Church Knowle Village Hall	Church Knowle Parish Council
12. December	Saturday	12pm	Sandy Hill Arts	Winter Wassail
12. December	Saturday	7.30pm	Corfe Castle Club	Members Christmas Draw
12. December	Saturday	7.30pm	Corfe Castle Village Hall	Budapest Café Orchestra
12. December	Saturday	7.30pm	St Mary's Church Swanage	Belvedere Singers
13. December	Sunday	10am	Norden Farm Shop	Noel at Norden
13. December	Sunday	4pm	Chapel on the Green	A fresh look at the Christmas Story
14. December	Monday	7pm	Corfe Castle Village Hall	Corfe Castle Parish Council
20. December	Sunday	4pm	Chapel on the Green	Carols by Candlelight
24. December	Thursday	6pm	Kimmeridge Church	Traditional Christmas Eve Service
27. December	Sunday	10.30am	Chapel on the Green	Morning Service

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

8. January	Friday	6.30pm	Church Knowle Village Hall	Church Knowle Parish Council
9. January	Saturday		Corfe Castle Village Hall	VH coffee morning & Soup'n'Pud
14. January	Monday	6.30pm	Corfe Castle Village Hall	Corfe Castle Parish Council

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.staldhelmpurbeck.wordpress.com

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109 Jeremy McCallum 480389

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

Revd Louise writes,

December - the month we love or hate, or perhaps both! We approach it perhaps with a mixture of apprehension and excitement, or maybe dread and mounting stress! It is a strange month for vicars: a highlight in the year as well as a time of intense busyness, as it is for many in the hospitality trade and caring professions as well. I love December, but know it is also a battle for me to keep perspective and not come under the needless stress of perfectionistic expectations!

In December we approach the darkest time in the Northern Hemisphere, heading towards the shortest day on 21st December. It is a time of stark beauty as well as cold and apparent barrenness in the natural world.

Advent, literally meaning "arrival" or "coming", which this year started on 29th November, encourages us as Christians to think about and prepare for the coming of Christ. This is both remembering when He came to earth as a baby, in humble circumstances born to a very ordinary family, and when He will come again, at the end of time, to make all things new in our world, and put all things right.

At Advent, when we are experiencing the increased darkness around us, we remind ourselves of the coming of Jesus, who called himself the Light of the World. The light that enables us to see things clearly as they are, the light that brings hope as we see what is promised to us by the God who loves us. The light which changes our world and infuses it with meaning and hope. May we each know Christ coming to us to bring us light this Advent.

Services in December 2026

Sunday 6th December	
Corfe Castle – 10.30am	Holy Communion
Saturday 12th December	
Church Knowle – 6 pm	Carols and Readings
Sunday 13th December	
Kingston – 1030 am	Informal Carol Service
Corfe Castle – 10.30 am	Lessons and Carols
Sunday 20th December	
Corfe Castle – 4 pm Harmans Cross – 6 pm	Christmas Service
Thursday 24th December	**Christmas Eve**
Corfe Castle – 4 pm,	Christingle (children are welcome to come dressed as a nativity character)
Kimmeridge – 6 pm	Carol Service
Corfe Castle – 11.30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Friday 25th December	**Christmas Day**
Steeple – 9.30	Christmas Holy Communion
Corfe Castle - 11 am	Christmas Holy Communion

Sunday 27th December	
Langton Matravers – 9.45 am	Combined Service

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

Bible Readings – December 2026

Sunday 6th December	Second Sunday of Advent 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8
Sunday 13th December	Third Sunday of Advent 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28
Sunday 20th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
Sunday 27th December	First Sunday after Christmas Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18

Darkness to Light

St James's Kingston November 29th 6.00 pm

The customary Advent Service from "Darkness to Light", will be held at St James's Kingston on Sunday 29th November. This service marks the beginning of Advent; a time to pause and prepare for the birth of Jesus. The service starts in darkness before the church is filled by candlelight. Traditional Advent readings and music used reflect this season before the onset of Christmas, giving us a chance for us to momentarily step back from all the madness that Christmas has become to think about what it is truly about: the hope of Light in the midst of the Darkness in our world.

If you would like to help with mulled wine, mince pies, lighting candles please let me know, or please just come, pause and listen to the message of hope and anticipation.
Rev Louise White, Becca Charron 07553877947

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH

Corfe Castle

FUNDRAISING POTTERY DAY

Clay, coffee & cake!

SATURDAY 13 MARCH

Session 1: 10am – 1pm

Session 2: 2pm – 5pm

CORFE CASTLE VILLAGE HALL

£55 PER PERSON

Only 15 places per session!



- *Throw a bowl on the wheel*
- *Make a creative toast / letter rack*
- *Decorate a plate*

All three pieces will be glazed and fired.
All materials provided.

For tickets, contact Dawn Lindsay on

07768616239

A great Christmas gift!

The New Inn

CHURCH KNOWLE



12th December

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

12-3pm

£5 A TICKET

BOOKINGS ONLY

Kids entertainment and a visit and gift from Santa

Christmas Day

25th December

Bar open 12-3pm

Boxing Day

26th December

12-7pm

With entertainment with

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COURTYARD

News from the Courtyard

We're thrilled to share that Kingston Country Courtyard has won three Dorset Tourism Awards this year, Bronze in Regenerative Tourism, Bronze in Business Events and Silver in Weddings!



Last Chance to book - Festive Parties

Celebrate with our 80s & 90s Christmas Party, three-course dinner & DJ on Friday 4th December priced at £42.50pp, or kick up your heels at Boots & Baubles line dancing on Saturday 5th December priced at £12.50pp.

Last Chance to book - Comedy Evening



A little wit, a lot of laughter and a brilliant night out! Join us on the 11th December where three talented comedians take to the stage for an evening of feel-good entertainment. Priced at £20pp.

Last Chance to book - NYE



Welcome 2027 in style with an evening featuring a seven-course gourmet dinner, live DJ, dancing and finishing with a midnight countdown in the beautiful surroundings of Kingston Country Courtyard. Priced at £81 for local residents.

New Menu At Sawmill

Come and join us to dine in the Sawmill restaurant for our new menu. Full of local flavor and ingredients. Available for lunch or dinner 7 days a week.

THE SAWMILL
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ENQUIRIES@KINGSTONCOUNTRYCOURTYARD.COM

Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club



With winter very much with us and Christmas approaching, beautiful wreaths are appearing on our front doors and we are busy cutting the wonderful variety of evergreen leaves and glowing berries to decorate our homes, which soon become full of the glorious scents of Christmas.
Sadly Simon Goldsack, who had been booked for our November meeting, had to cancel but we are always resourceful and we enjoyed a great, informal evening, talking about our growing year and what we do with our excess crops.

It was fascinating and extremely useful to hear what successes members had had in this very challenging year and what had suffered. Salvias and Verbenas were some of the stars of the borders and the success some members had had with their vegetables and fruit was amazing. There were certainly lessons to be learnt. Some members brought samples of chillies and peppers and pickled and fermented produce to taste. Lots of ideas! It was a very successful evening.
On 3rd. December we will be holding our Members' 'Bring and Share Christmas Supper' and further information will be sent out by e-mail. We are looking forward to seeing you all for a fun evening with some great games and, as always, a delicious feast.

We don't have a meeting in January but will start again in the hall on 4th February. More information about our exciting programme for 2027 will be sent out by email shortly.
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 805210 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.
HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR! From all your Committee

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.



Corfe Crafters

Wednesday 9.00am to 12 midday

Contact Cheryl - 07745242511

Dorset Button Morris Dancers



Dorset Button Morris dancers are in great need of new dancers in order for us to continue beyond 2027. It would be a shame for this tradition to disappear from our local area after over 30 years of dancing and collecting over £50000 for local charities.



Our ladies side dance NW Morris and they practice every Wednesday during autumn and winter and our men's side practice most Sundays during autumn and winter.
Please contact jacky.noyce@sky.com for our ladies and geoffmetcalf960@yahoo.co.uk for our men's side.
Dorset Button Morris dancers have now finished their summer dancing and during the Wednesday dancing we collected £850 for Will does charity. We thank all that came to watch us and help us to collect this. Please come and watch us next year or better than that, come and join us.

#Will does
HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE WELLBEING

HARMONY ROCKS CHOIR

Remember remember 5th December for our Singing for Christmas concert at 2pm at All Saints Church Swanage. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping and come along to our Saturday afternoon concert to celebrate the joyous side to the festive season. There will also be a raffle in support of PurbeckParkys so you could win yourself a prize, and festive treats to follow. Tickets are £5.00 on sale at Swanage News, Station Road, Swanage or Sue Smith 01929 477148 and Anne Elford 01929 288325.
For those who know us - the snowballs have been packed, for the newcomers to our audience … (shh let them be surprised!).

Purbeck Youth Music and Christmas.

This year we shall have a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage. Our expanding Purbeck Youth Trad Folk Collective will be playing a new set of tunes on Saturday December 5th at 2.30 (violins, flute, guitar and singers) and in the morning from 10.30 instrumental players and singers will be performing solos. Please come and support the young musicians and the on - going work of Purbeck Youth Music as we bring opportunities to our primary school children to learn an instrument and have fun making music together.

Dilys Thomas (PYM Trustee)
Www.purbeckyouthmusic.org

Winter Wassail at Sandy Hill Arts

12 December 12-4pm

Winter Wassail at Sandy Hill Arts,

Christmas gifts made by our artists, music, mulled wine, food and drink by Feast and Flower and merriment.

Free entry. Find us next to Corfe Castle steam railway.

Wareham & Purbeck Vintage Ploughing Committee

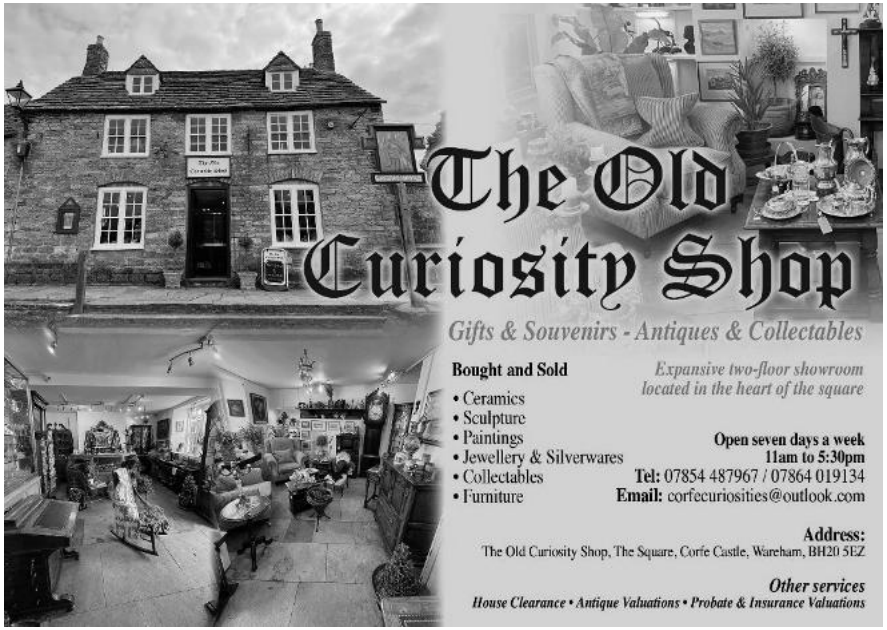
I am writing on behalf of the Wareham & Purbeck Vintage Ploughing Committee to thank everyone very much who attended and supported us this year.

Without your support our 50th Ploughing Match would not have been such a great success.
It is much appreciated by the committee and the charity

We had lots of spectators watching and also many enjoying the tractor and trailer rides.

We are able to give £2,500.00 to Julia's House Children's Hospice in Dorset. It is the most amount we have ever made making our 50th Ploughing match extra special this year.

Kind regards Helen Selby Committee Secretary







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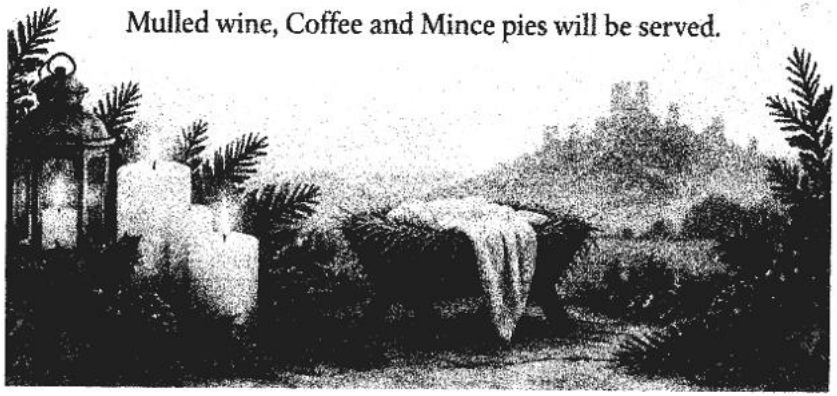
Good News of Great Joy!

Do join us for our Christmas Candle Lit Service
at Corfe Castle 'Chapel on the Green'
at 4PM on Sunday 20th December.

Mulled wine, Coffee and Mince pies will be served.



Chapel on the Green Corfe Castle

Christmas helps heal our forgetfulness and assists us in finding 'Home'.

DECEMBER – Occasions to Gather Together

Sunday 13th at 4pm	A fresh look at the Christmas Story
Sunday 20th at 4pm	Carols by Candlelight (see below)
Sunday 27th at 10.30am	Morning Service
Tuesdays at 10:30am	Experiencing 'House of Prayer'
Wednesdays at 10:30am	Coffee & Cake with Friends

Contact: Church Secretary via Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk, 07908 807 115

God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "My people have forgotten Me days without number" (2:32). Through Isaiah God said, "you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the Rock of your strength." (17:10). Through Zechariah - which means 'Remember God' - God said, "They shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live, together with their children, and they shall return" (10:9).

Let's face it – we humans forget really important things, however many reminders of all kinds we set in place. The daily pressures of life relentlessly pull our focus and limited resources away from what really matter in life: our families, friends and loved ones, those in need around us who we could help, and above, God who gives us life, breath and everything.

This Christmas, may we remember the awesome and wondrous 'reason for the season' - that angels and prophets were sent to declare to us: that **we are all deeply loved and valued** by our faithful Creator who has freely given His most precious gift, that we might live. Yes, let's open His Indescribable Gift, and then share His love, truth and grace with others.

For **unto us** a Child was born, **unto us** a Son was given; and the government is upon His shoulder. And His name is called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for **He will save His people from their sins**." … that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "**God with us**." (Matthew 1:21-23)

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is **born to you** this day in the city of David **a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord**. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

Oh Lord, **heal our forgetfulness we pray,** and help us return Home to You, the Giver of Light and Life. **Thank you that You have not forgotten us**.

John Hooper

Stephen Silcock

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Applications must be on a Landmark Trust application form and emailed to the Property Manager listed under the 'South West' housekeeper vacancies for Dunshay Manor.

The Landmark Trust is a charity that rescues historic places in danger of loss, restores them, and makes them available for self-catering holidays so they can be enjoyed by everyone and protected forever.


CHRISTMAS SALE
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11th, 12th and 13th December | 10.30am - 3.30pm
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Jane Elmer-Smith – Ceramics. Aline Johnson – Textiles & Glassware
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The Rambling Gardener

I look forward to December and Christmas and most of all the days getting longer and knowing that the new year is on its way. I'm not surprised that this was a time of celebration for the pagans years ago.

Summer 2026 showed us that we have no idea what weather we will get and lets hope that next summer will be easier. As I write the temperature has dropped to a more normal temperature, but we have seen an unusually large number of birds going south. Even hundreds of wood pigeons have been seen leaving; do they expect a very cold winter?

It's wonderful how sensitive animals are, and I have been interested in hearing about dogs being used to find lost people, and to give warning of cancer in people. We are all still learning so much about other creatures and appreciating them more. At the Chelsea Flower Show this year they made a special dog friendly garden because many of us have dogs as pets. One dog owner that I will miss is Monty Don, who is sadly leaving Gardeners World.

As always, there are jobs to do in the garden; but for most of us going outside is not really work, it is rejuvenating for me, and fun. The RHS magazine has an interesting article about how gardens can change lives positively, and one woman, from Cranbrook Prison, said, "Life led me into prison. Plants are leading me out of it." For many of us, for very different reasons, the garden is a place of enjoyment and freedom, a wonderful place to escape to.

In December, when you are in your garden, please carry on dead-heading, cutting back evergreens to keep them the right size for the garden, and growing food. Do continue or start to plant broad beans for an early spring crop, and lettuces, cress, mustard, pak choi and Mizuna for January and February eating. All these plants are hardy enough to sow under a cloche or in an unheated greenhouse, though they are best germinated inside. Suitable mixes of seed for winter greens and salad leaves can be bought from a big garden centre. I hope that you are enjoying winter brassicas, Swiss chard, carrots and more from your own garden as they taste so much better than supermarket vegetables. Hardwood and root cuttings can be taken now from plants that have survived this difficult year. For flowering plants do sow more love-in-the-mist and cornflower to give a long show and it is a good time to plant tulip bulbs. I am also looking out for drought resistant euphorbias.
As we approach Christmas you can cut decorative plants like pampas, old man's beard, other seed heads and holly. Berried holly stems can be stored in water in

a cool sheltered place, and the seed heads can be sprayed with hairspray to bind together if needed. If you would like to have help making some Christmas wreaths, I would love to have company when I make mine in the week leading up to Christmas.

Happy Christmas to everyone. Rachel Tel. No: 07388 871 248 Email: rjehelfer@gmail.com

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BREAKFASTS
2 *For* £20
MONDAY *TO* SUNDAY

Valid from 28th Septembr until 18th December 2026, *terms and conditions apply



LUNCH MENU
MONDAY *TO* SATURDAY
2 *course* 20.00
3 *course* 25.00

Valid from 18th November until 18th December *terms and conditions apply



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CLAVELLS FESTIVE MENU

18th November until 31st December

STARTERS

Smoked Salmon - Lemon & dill mayonnaise, beetroot salad & rustic bread *GF by request*

Spiced Parsnip Soup - Rustic bread *V GF & VG by request*

Prawn & Crab Cocktail - Marie Rose sauce, rustic bread & butter (£3 Supplement) *GF by request*

Duck & Orange Parfait - rustic bread, cornichons, dressed leaves & fig chutney *GF by request*

Wild Mushroom Risotto - Truffle oil & Italian Pecorino shavings *V GF & VG by request*

MAIN COURSES

Traditional Turkey - Cranberry stuffing, pigs in blankets, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, cranberry sauce & roast jus *GF by request*

Honey Glazed Gammon - Pigs in blankets, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, apple sauce & roast jus *GF by request*

Sea Bass Fillets - Crushed new potatoes, seasonal greens & champagne cream sauce (£3 Supplement) *GF by request*

Dorset Pork Fillet - Dauphinoise potatoes with a creamy apple & calvados sauce *GF*

Butternut Squash, Lentil & Almond Wellington - Roast potatoes & gravy *VG GF substitute by request*

Served with carrots, brussels sprouts, mashed swede, braised red cabbage, & garden greens

DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas Pudding - Brandy custard *V VG & GF by request*

Apple Tarte Tatin - Vanilla bean ice cream *V*

Chocolate & Orange Steamed Pudding - Vanilla bean ice cream *V VG by request*

Panettone Bread & Butter Pudding - Custard *V*

Mango & Passionfruit Cheesecake - Vanilla bean ice cream *V GF*

2 Courses £29.50 | 3 Courses £32.50

Available 18th November until 31st December Lunch times. Not available Christmas Day
(Please ask for other evenings for parties of 15 people or more)
Pre orders & a £5 deposit per head required

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FESTIVE BRUNCH

Available 18th November until 3rd January - 10am until 11.30
A Festive Cocktail Or Non Alcoholic Cocktail |
Breakfast | Tea or Coffee
20 per person

COCKTAILS

Bloody Mary | Bucks Fizz

NON ALCOHOLIC

Buckless Fizz (Ginger Beer & Orange Juice)

English Breakfast Tea | Earl Grey Tea | Specialty Teas | Cappuccino | Latte | Americano | Flat White

BREAKFAST

Full English - Two rashers of bacon, pork sausage, fried egg, grilled tomato, hash browns, baked beans & mushrooms. Served with malted grain or white toast & butter

Vegan Full English - Two Quorn™ sausages, grilled tomato, hash browns, baked beans, wilted spinach & mushrooms. Served with malted grain or white toast & butter *VE*
Add two fried eggs *V*

Avocado & Poached Eggs - Malted grain toast, avocado, two poached eggs, cherry tomatoes, balsamic glaze *V*

Eggs Royale - Toasted English muffin, smoked salmon, two poached eggs & hollandaise sauce

Crab Benedict - Toasted English muffin, white crab meat, two poached eggs, hollandaise sauce (2 supplement)

Pancakes with Bacon & Maple Syrup - 5 American-style pancakes, grilled bacon & maple syrup (*V available by request*)

CHILDREN'S FESTIVE BRUNCH

10 per person (Under 12s)

Apple Juice Or Orange Juice

Little Full English - Sausage, fried egg, bacon, hash brown, beans, toast & butter

Pancakes with Bacon & Maple Syrup - 3 American-style pancakes, grilled bacon & maple syrup

(V) Suitable for Vegetarians (VG) Suitable for Vegans (GF) Gluten Free. All meals may contain nuts or nut derivatives. All our food is prepared in a kitchen where nuts, gluten and other allergens are present and our menu descriptions do not include all ingredients. If you have a food allergy, please let us know before ordering. Full allergen information is available on request. A discretionary 12.5% service charge is added when dining in our restaurant. All gratuities are gratefully received and shared between our staff.

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AFTERNOON TEA

Available 18th November until 31st December
14.00 - 17.00

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Smoked salmon & dill mayonnaise
Coronation chicken
Ham & mustard mayonnaise
Egg mayonnaise

CANAPÉS

House pâté
Avocado & tomato bruschetta
Miniature pork pie with house chutney

SWEET TREATS

Scone, clotted cream & strawberry preserve
Iced Christmas fruit cake
Miniature mince pie
Selection of miniature cakes, pastries and tartlets

SELECTION OF DORSET TEAS & COFFEE

| 32.50 per person

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

| 5 deposit per person

Gluten free options available on special request

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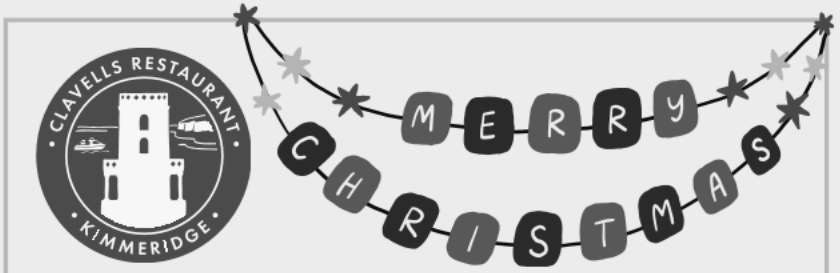

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Offer 2: **£50 Gift Voucher for just £40!***
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Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival - All welcome - December 3rd - 5th 2026

The Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival at Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Herston, is earlier this year and runs for three days from Thursday 3rd December to Saturday 5th December between 10am and 6pm each day. We have a busy schedule of performers coming to help us celebrate the real meaning of Christmas, when the Lord Jesus came to earth, as a baby, yet being worshipped by lowly shepherds as well as influential Wise Men.
On Thursday we have Harmony Rocks at 1.30, followed by Singing for Pleasure at 2.30 also Karen G at 3.30, just before St Marks School at 5pm. Friday we will hear the lovely chimes of Wareham handbells at 12.30, followed by the animated singers from across South Dorset called the Local Vocals starting at 1.30. In the afternoon the well-known Belvedere Singers will perform at 3.30pm and for their first time this year, Purbeck Youth Woodwind Ensemble will play at 5pm. On Saturday at 1.30 we welcome Allsort'd, who always bring such joy and enthusiasm to our Festival and finally the EBC singers will bring some new harmonies later in the afternoon at 3.30.

On Sunday 6th December there is a special remembrance service at 4pm called 'Lights of Love', at which people are invited to light a candle for loved ones who are no longer with us.



Trees will be set up and decorated invidually between 9am and 4pm on Wednesday 2nd December and we are then open to the public from Thursday 3rd Dec at 10am. Several pre-school groups will come and visit and have opportunity to hear the Christmas Story and visit a life size stable and families can dress up for photos.
and our welcoming café will also provide a range of home baked cakes and light lunches. There may also be an opportunity to vote for your favourite trees. Our theme this year is Favourite Christmas songs.
This is a non-profit making event, and any donations received will go to two nominated charities which this year are Allsort'd and the Swanage Lifeboats. Please do give generously to these very worthy causes. This year it is also possible to make card payments which should make it easier to donate. There will also be an opportunity to add names of loved ones on the Tree of Remembrance, which will stand illuminated outside of Emmanuel Baptist Church throughout December.

This whole event is designed to help prepare our hearts and encourage us all to discover more about the real meaning of Christmas and how we can find peace through Jesus in these troubled times. Do bring your friends, family and neighbours along to this very special event. A warm welcome awaits you in every sense. ***Judy, Janet and team***

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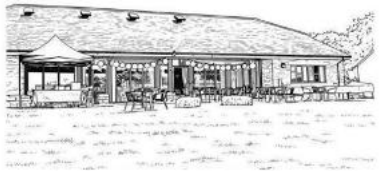

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Kimmeridge News



Major General Sir Michael Hobbs KCVO CBE

On 12th November the funeral of Sir Michael Hobbs was held in Kimmeridge. The church was packed and the funeral service was livestreamed to the Etches Collection where many more could appreciate the beautiful ceremony. There were representatives from the many organisations Sir Michael had helped lead: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Outward Bound, Military Knights of Windsor, and the Grenadier Guards, who's musicians played a very moving Last Post & Reveille before leading the coffin out for burial. Sir Michael was instrumental in the successful building of the Etches Collection & Village Hall and was a much-loved friend of Kimmeridge. It was lovely that the village & museum were well represented at what was a celebration of a great life.

Kimmeridge Bingo Night 7th December

Eyes down for the Purbeck wide famous Kimmeridge Christmas Prize Bingo - no expense spared here - you get reusable cards to play on, house and line prizes, two raffles and not forgetting the pièce de résistance - our very own Patrick Ward calling in his finest designer gear!

You don't need to be a bingo fan, just a fan of having a great evening of laughter with the possibility of going home with something you never knew you needed.

Free Teas/Coffees/Squash available in the break, if you want anything stronger then BYO - Bring your own refreshments for whilst playing.

The proceeds from this event fund the Children's Christmas party in Kimmeridge for Children from Kimmeridge, Bradle and Blackmanston along with maintaining our superb village playground.

What better way to spend a cold December Monday evening???????.

In order to make this event the huge success it always is we rely on prize and raffle donations. (There will be a prize raffle and a hamper raffle)

Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7.00pm!

Kimmeridge Keilidh – Friday 11th December

Our next Kimmeridge Keilidh (Barn Dance!) is on 11th Dec at 7:30pm in the Village Hall at The Etches Collection. Music from Arish Mel, caller Teresa Williams & seasonal entertainment! Tickets on the door £7.50 adults, £2.50 under 16s. No Bar – bring your own drinks & mince pies! All profits from these dances are shared between the Etches Collection and the Village.

Christmas Eve in Kimmeridge Church

Our traditional Christmas Eve Service will be back at the usual time of 6pm on Christmas Eve. Come and join us for traditional Carols & Readings.

Steve & Helen Earwicker

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2026 –a year of notable natural numbers.





It goes without saying (so I will) that every year is different, but looking back on the year that will soon be ending I think I can safely say that it was a most unusual year in terms of the weather and, perhaps not unrelated to that, in terms of some of the wildlife sightings and goings on in the garden.

What with Christmas almost upon us, here - in a *Twelve Days of Christmas* countdown style - is a list in descending rather than chronological order of some of the more notable natural numbers that I recorded this year.

- ♥ Uncounted (sorry) numbers of migrant Painted Ladies and Clouded Yellow butterflies flitting about the garden or countryside.
- ♥ 182mm of rain in January – thirty days and nights without stopping.
- ♥ 156 mm of rain in February – now sixty days and nights without stopping.
- ♥ 150 quinces on my quince tree – an unprecedented bumper crop.
- ♥ 70 days without rain from early June until mid-August.
- ♥ 32 degrees Celsius on several days in June and July. Too darn hot!
- ♥ 30 siskins on the seed feeders – they scared off all the goldfinches.
- ♥ 12 sightings of white-tailed eagles flying over Corfe Castle.
- ♥ 10 glossy ibises on Wareham water meadows.
- ♥ 4 striped hawkmoths and lots of other migrant moths in the summer.
- ♥ One puffling – the first puffin chick seen in Purbeck this Millenium!
- ♥ And no rain at all in July – the first month I have recorded not one drop of rain.

There were though more than just twelve notable natural events that were weather related. During the period of freezing weather in early January, 15

Bean geese and 40 white-fronted geese all the way from the Arctic tundra turned up at East Holme and at Ridge. Then at the end of the month, Corfe Castle was "cut off" when Storm Chandra hit and the river overflowed its banks. In February legions of ladybirds appeared suddenly followed in the spring by legions of their larvae to attack the armies of aphids. In the heat of the summer, the exotic Campsis trumpet vine in my garden (a native of south-east USA) set seed and developed long bean like seedpods for the first time. Some like it hot!

To round off my attempt at a seasonal count-down I wanted, of course, to include a sighting of a partridge in a pear tree but unfortunately the only one I saw in Corfe was not in a pear tree, nor even in my quince tree, but bizarrely was making itself at home on the roof of my neighbour's house!

A year of notable nature events indeed. With a major El Nino event going on at the moment in the Pacific Ocean we might expect 2027 to be a year of even more notable natural numbers. Be prepared!

Merry Christmas **Richard Caldow**



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NOEL AT NORDEN
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This month's highlights

- A wide range of Christmas stock, perfect for gifts for any ages (and pets too!).
- Our potted Christmas trees are out and already selling, with our traditional cut trees arriving in time for you to pick up from December!
- As the evenings get colder, we have a range of logs and coal to help keep you warm and cosy throughout the winter months.
- A new large selection of indoor and outdoor plants, perfect to brighten up your home or add a little colour to your garden

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.
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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**
- **Wareham Walking Netball – Christine Morrison - 07854649666 or 781426 – Julia Tighe - 07729311550**
- **Pilates – Alex Moore telephone 07536103364 almoore1@live.co.uk**

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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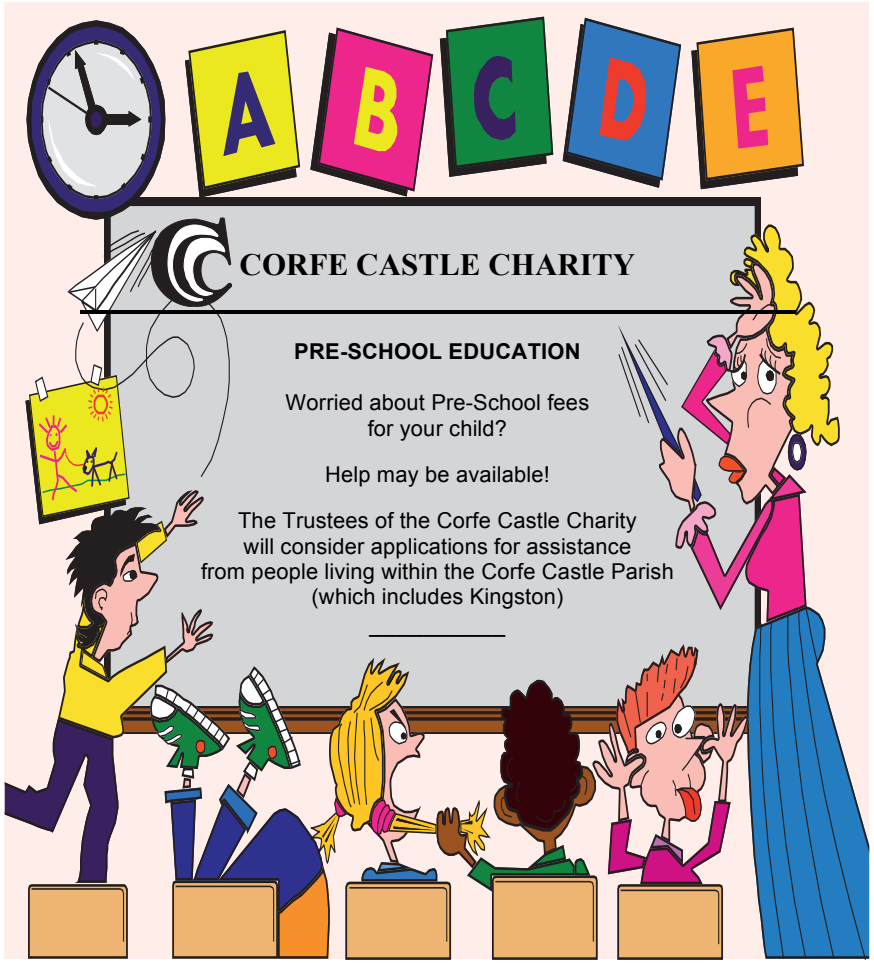

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- Education and Training
- Domestic and Family expenses
- Sickness and Disability
- Grants to organisations

For further information please contact:
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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 Ballroom Dance	C C Village Hall Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
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

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