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CORFE CASTLE CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL	AMY SCOTT (Head of school)	480428
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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



JANUARY 2021

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

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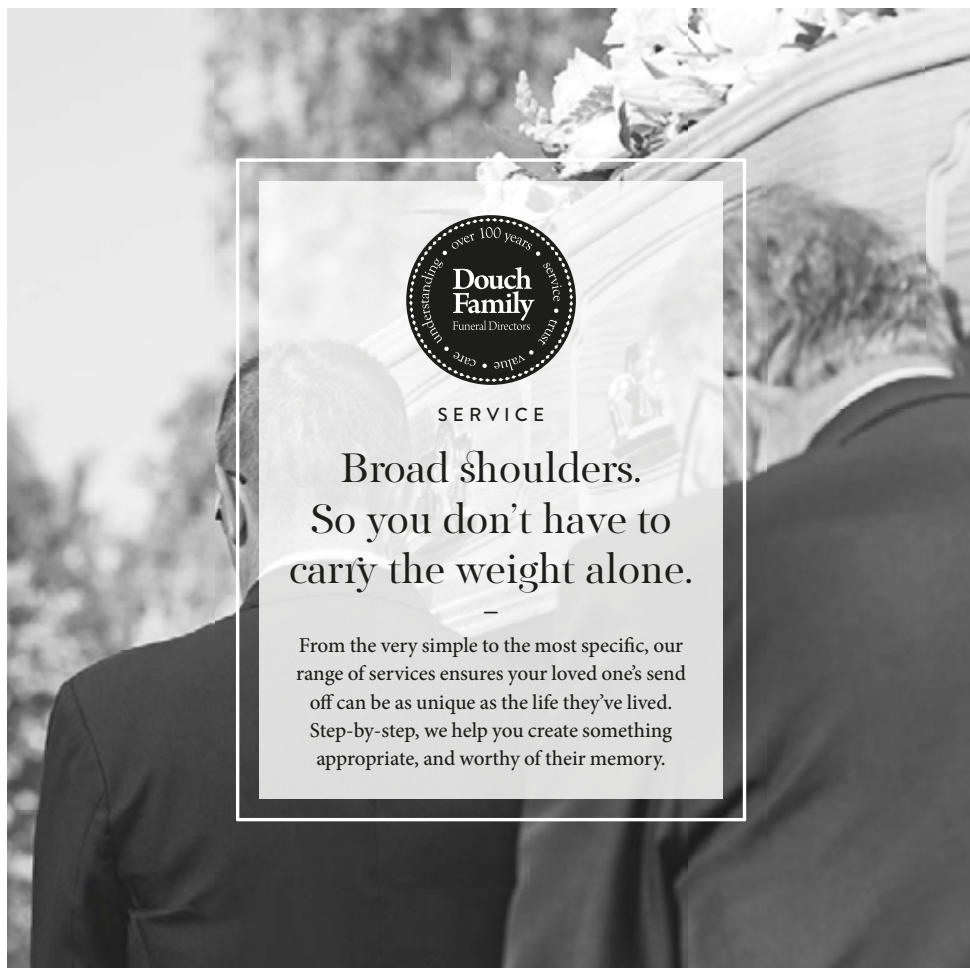
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Corfe Valley News

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 465 January 2021

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Geoff Marshall 1991-96
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Please send items for publication by 5 pm on the **15th** of the preceding month. All contributions can be left at 55 East Street or at The Post Office, Corfe Castle.

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

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

Editorial

In my December editorial I said it looked as though Covid rates were declining; how wrong I was, they are now rising frighteningly fast. It certainly now looks as though there may be another lockdown in January after many of us have had family get-togethers over Christmas.

Nevertheless there is good news, because the vaccine is soon going to be rolled out and hopefully will solve the problem and allow us all to get back to more normal lives.

Talking of more normal lives, there is a lot in this magazine about climate change and measures being taken to resolve some of the more disastrous issues. This is a subject which affects us all and I know the Parish Council would ask you to help them with what they are doing to both publicize the issue and to suggest solutions. Read the articles and see how you can help. Like Covid, climate change is something that is going to affect us all and it is no good putting your head in the sand.

Although there haven't been any of the usual celebrations this year we all wish everyone a very happy New Year, and just hope it will be better than 2020.

Stephen

Some useful Telephone Numbers

(there are more just after 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
Dorset CAB Advice Line: Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm	0800 144 8848
The Samaritans	01202 551999
Street Light Defect - SEC Contracting	0800 068 4145
Childline	0800 1111
Dorset Councilor – Cherry Brooks	07512897908

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The front cover is a sketch imagining Kimmeridge as in 1920
by Joan Bracchi

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

December at the Parish Council

Budget and Precept for 2021-2 Much of our meeting was devoted to a detailed look at the Parish Council budget for next year. The scope of the Council's responsibilities has grown considerably in the last two years. We took over the toilets and the residents' car park in West Street in 2019 and earlier this year God's Acre.

The draft budget proposes continuing the services we offer including the playground, grass cutting of the Sports Field, the youth club and keeping the pavements weed free. A major upgrade of the playground is proposed this coming year to be financed from our reserves. We propose an increase in the grant to God's Acre upkeep as the income has dropped and is less than the cost of maintenance. We are also considering the engagement of a Village Caretaker for a minimum of 5 hours a week to do small repairs and improvements and keep the Parish tidy. We will make a final decision on this proposal at the January meeting.

By tight budgeting with no addition to the reserves we hope we can finance this new service with an increase in our budget of 1.8%. The number of households paying Council tax has reduced so the headline increase would be 2.9%. If you would like to know more or have any comments please see our website or talk to the Clerk

On planning matters, the Council had no objections to the planning application for Kingston House, South Street, Kingston, Wareham BH20 5LQ, to demolish the existing garage and replace.

Update from the National Trust: "The 'Reset' programme for the Isle of Purbeck portfolio is 99.9% complete and we are happy to say that there have been no compulsory redundancies and are pushing on towards some degree of 'business as usual' with planning for 2021 across Corfe, Studland and the Countryside.

The Castle, tea-room, ticket office and shop all reopened on Thursday 3rd December in line with Government guidance. Castle View will only be open on the weekends with the exception of 19th Dec – 3rd Jan where it will be open every day (apart from 25th/26th Dec). We will be running a Winter Trail based around the theme of Peter Rabbit, this will be during the normal opening hours of 10am – 4pm, there will be no late-night evening events for public visitors."

Corfe Castle Parish Council Environmental Group is hosting a Peoples Assembly on the 5th January 2021 from 7.30pm via Zoom as the 20th January deadline is fast approaching to respond to Dorset Council's Strategy & Action Plan on the Climate &

Ecological Emergency. The Environmental group would encourage you to make your own individual response, however, please also join them at their Peoples Assembly where everyone's contribution will be heard & valued and all comments, opinions, ideas, fears & questions will be gathered & then submitted as part of a collective consultation response. The Assembly will be online via Zoom, but you can also join by phone Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83405860673>, Phone: 020 3901 7895 - when prompted enter ID 834 0586 0673, for more details head to the Environment Group page @ www.corfecastlepc.org.uk

The next Council meeting will be on the 11th January 2021 at 7pm via Zoom. The Council will confirm its budget and precept for 2021-2022. The Public is welcome to attend and participate in the public half hour at the start of the Council meeting. Details will be posted on the website & on Facebook by Tuesday 5th January 2021. For further information please contact the Clerk Michelle Harrington, e-mail Corfecastlepc@aol.com – 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ, or telephone 01202 670105. Full minutes of the meetings are available on the Website www.corfecastlepc.org.uk or a postal copy can be requested through the Clerk

Don't forget to follow us on **Facebook**, for all the latest updates at <https://www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC>

Finally, a Happy New Year from all your Parish Councillors and Clerk and let's hope that 2021 is full of joy and laughter.

Happy New Year!

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People's Assembly – Tuesday 5th January – 7.30pm

Here's our attempt at explaining the leaflet in this month's CVN in more detail:

The Parish Council Environmental Group:

Parish Councillors Josephine Parish & Rachel Fooks are the joint leads of this Parish Council working group which is open to members of the community. Currently there are 6 active core members including Tom Clarke, Nature Engagement Officer with the National Trust. Our group works subject to clear Terms of Reference – <https://www.corfecastlepc.org.uk/environment-group/terms-of-reference>

Our main function is to monitor, advise, engage & promote environmental matters. This is achieved by sharing ideas & expertise internally & sideways within the Parish, then within the wider network of Parish & Town Councils, then upwards with Dorset Council & Central Government. Our aim is to implement change which reduces our impact on the Environment as we strive to accomplish our ultimate aim of becoming Carbon Neutral.

The Topic:

Dorset Council have recently released their Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy – they need our help & to hear our voices. So, we've come together with the view that such an important topic deserves a People's Assembly. Quite simply, the People's Assembly will be an **open public meeting**, welcoming anyone that wishes to attend.

The Strategy is available at: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-strategy

Alternatively, contact Dorset Council on 01305 221000 or e-mail customerservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk to request a copy. For those in the community without online access, Dorset Council are encouraging people to visit their local library to use facilities to read the strategy &/or respond to the survey.

The People's Assembly:

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to talk with others in small, friendly groups about the Climate & Ecological Emergency & Dorset Council's response to it. If you haven't read the strategy (or parts of it), it's ok, you're still very welcome to attend & your thoughts & contributions will be equally valued.

Dorset Council's consultation is our chance to tell them what we think of their action plan.

- Does it reflect the urgency they say is needed?

- Is this an emergency response that will keep us our communities & environment safe & secure?
- What's missing?
- What changes do you want to make, or are prepared to make, personally & as a community (including Dorset Council), to achieve a zero-carbon Dorset?

Rather than being presented to for the entire evening, we'll hold a 5-minute presentation about the emergency & the Council's strategy before forming groups (of 6 to 8 per 'table') where you'll be able to fully participate & contribute (although if you'd prefer just to listen that's fine too). Each group will then feedback to all in attendance.

The Virtual Pub:

Once the main session above is finished, it'll be time to pour another drink, get comfortable & continue the conversation. Please do stay on for the Virtual Pub if you can, the atmosphere will be fun & energising - it's most likely to be where we come up with our best ideas & solutions!

How to join:

The Assembly will be online (via Zoom) but we're aiming to still create a 'Village Hall feeling' whilst using the wonder of Zoom to bring us together. You can join from any internet-enabled device. Alternatively, simply phone in if you'd prefer to listen & contribute that way - no video or internet required.

Date: Tuesday 5th January – 19:25 for a prompt 19:30 start

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83405860673>

Phone: 0203 901 7895. When prompted enter ID 834 0586 0673

What happens next?

Dorset Council need to hear our voices – showing support for their work on the Emergency & to add our ideas for possible improvements to the Strategy.

We'll be collecting everyone's comments, opinions, ideas, fears, & questions throughout the Assembly. We'll then put together a submission to the Dorset Council consultation from our Corfe Castle Environment Group. Everyone's contribution will be heard by Dorset Council.

Naturally, we'll also be actively encouraging everyone to make their own individual submission to the consultation – www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-strategy – we'll help if you're unsure how – just contact the Parish Council.

Finally, we hope that the topic & the Assembly itself might inspire you to join our group - increasing the pace & impact of our achievements in 2021 & beyond.

Please visit the Environment Group page @ www.corfecastlepc.org.uk for more information.

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible – Tuesday 5th January – 7.30pm. Thank you for reading!

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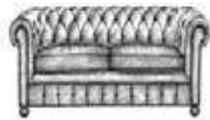
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You will probably have noticed if you have rung into the surgery or been in to collect prescriptions that we have a new receptionist, we welcome Melanie to the team and I can assure you that she will be trained to the high standard expected of Corfe Castle Surgery.

It is happy news all round this month as we announce that Dr Vicky Gunn will be on maternity leave from early 2021, with the expectation that she will be off for the remainder of 2021. Congratulations Vicky!

Moving forward, we would like to encourage as many of you as possible to order prescriptions via the Systmonline website. This is to continue trying to reduce the amount of paper prescriptions that we see and to free up the phone lines as much possible. If you able to access a computer, tablet or smart phone and you would like to try this, please speak to reception to obtain a user name and log-in and we can help you get started. It is a very safe and secure way to order prescriptions and instead of having to call the dispensary within the 2 hour window it can be ordered any time of day.

We wish you all a Happy New Year.

Kerry Norman Practice Manager

Patient Participation Group

We have said goodbye to 2020, an extraordinary year bringing many difficulties and some great hardship and loss but also moments of joy and special poignancy. We have been humbled by all the good we've seen (friends, neighbours, families, and volunteers helping in countless ways for months, not forgetting the surgery staff soldiering on with little time off). 2021 has finally arrived with new hope. Let's cautiously embrace the prospect of some normality returning during the year. As a PPG we shall be keen to develop our role and resume our activities as soon as we're advised it's safe to do so.

You may have seen the actor Michael Sheen talked movingly on TV about loneliness at Christmas. He asked us to reach out to someone we knew who was living on their own by calling them up for a chat or inviting them to go for a walk. This is, of course, what many people in our terrific community (e.g. Aquarius) have been doing for months. Christmas may have passed but what Michael Sheen said still holds true. January and February are dark, cold months when older people spend more time indoors so please let's carry on!

LiveWell Dorset, a local health-promoting organisation, is launching a New Year's initiative called Note to Self. It's not too late to take part. It invites us to move aside from the challenges of last year and make a fresh start by setting our own healthy- living goal for the year. It could be, e.g., to take a certain amount of exercise each week, to lose a specific amount of weight, to give up smoking or fix a target for drinking less. The idea is that you write a 'Note to Self' making a pledge. You can then register it with Livewell Dorset. They will send you tips and support to help you achieve your goal. If you'd like to contact them their phone numbers are 0800 840 1628 or 01305 233105. Their email address is livewelldorset.co.uk. Alternatively if you'd prefer to do it on your own then go for it! Good luck and we'd be delighted to have any success stories please (via the surgery or marysabbenclare@gmail.com).

Finally a gentle reminder to us all. If we have a booked phone appointment at the surgery please help them by being available to take the call at that time. Many thanks.



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Why is the Local Plan important?

The Dorset Council Local Plan sets out planning policies and allocations to meet the needs of the whole of the Dorset Council area until at least the year 2038. Once adopted, the Local

Plan, alongside any Neighbourhood Plans, will be the legal starting point in determining planning applications for the area. The papers and plan can be viewed at

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=6723#mgDocuments>

If there isn't a local plan in place then the ability for Dorset Council to influence the location and character of developments is limited.

Why is consultation important?

Planning affects the future of Dorset. The council wants to be sure that everybody can be involved in both the preparation of the Local Plan and decisions on planning applications.

Involvement of public and stakeholders through the plan making process is important, as it allows local knowledge and expertise to be gathered from a wide range of perspectives.

Who will be consulted?

The council is required to consult with a range of stakeholders including public bodies such as the Environment Agency and voluntary bodies such as local charities.

The council will continue to consult town and parish councils, who can provide a wealth of local knowledge and represent the concerns of local residents.

The Duty to Cooperate, a legal test that requires cooperation with neighbouring planning authorities, means that the council will be talking to neighbouring councils to ensure that all housing and employment needs have been met.

To ensure proposals are deliverable, the council will work with local landowners and the development industry, alongside infrastructure and service providers.

The council believes that all residents and businesses operating in the area should have the opportunity to be involved in the plan making process and they are therefore invited to comment on the draft local plan.

When will this happen?

The first Dorset Council Local Plan consultation will begin in January 2021 and will last for eight weeks. There will be a further opportunity to comment in late 2021 before the Plan is submitted for independent examination and adopted in 2023.

How you can have your say

The draft Dorset Council Local Plan will be available on the council's website at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-local-plan. During the consultation, there will be displays in libraries where you can borrow a hard copy of the plan. A dedicated phone line will be available for enquiries from Monday – Friday. The council will also be holding virtual webinars on key themes within the Local Plan for residents to discover and ask questions about proposals.

There is also a series of podcasts that have been developed to help people understand key local plan topics such as consultation, housing, the Green Belt and infrastructure (including roads and public transport). These are available via Spotify, iTunes and Anchor.

Cllr David Walsh, Dorset Council portfolio holder for planning, said:

“We are planning for Dorset's future, for the future of our residents. It is so important that we understand everyone's view on the draft Local Plan as much as we can.

“We are working closely with all our stakeholders, our own councillors and town and parish councils to make sure we reach all parts of Dorset.”

What will happen to the old local and neighbourhood plans?

The Draft Dorset Council Local Plan has used all the information gathered by the former borough and district councils. The Purbeck Local Plan is the only one that was at an advanced stage and, once it has completed a final consultation and been independently examined, it will form part of the Dorset area plan until the Dorset Council Local Plan is adopted. Neighbourhood plans will be used in conjunction with the overall Dorset Council Local Plan to inform planning decisions.



14 West Street, Wareham, Dorset
BH20 4JX

www.therexcinema.co.uk

THE REX CINEMA IS BACK!

The Rex Cinema in Wareham is thrilled to announce its doors will reopen after 9 months of closure on 17 December, with a live mini gala to celebrate the newly upgraded interior.



The Rex opened in 1921 with silent movies and has run continuously since then through the roaring '20s, depression of the '30s, Second World War, through tough times and good times until 20th March 2020 when it was forced to shut. It's believed to be one of the longest running independent cinemas in the country and it is the central

venue for the annual Purbeck Film Festival.


David Evans, Chair of the Rex commented, "At the Rex we always turn adversary into an opportunity, so we decided to refurbish the ground floor of the building to provide better disabled facilities, a new bar and new toilets, all in Art Deco style." Some 16,000 Victorian style tiles have been laid, so it is now ready for reopening and well prepared to celebrate the cinema's Centenary in 2021.



The Rex Cinema would like to acknowledge the kindness and generosity of all those who have made this refurbishment possible, including the BFI, The Talbot Village Trust, The Coop, Original Style Tiles, Sainsbury's, Rotary Club of Wareham, Wareham Lions and many other groups and individuals.



The community cinema is run by a charity and 47 unpaid enthusiastic volunteers who undertake the role of duty manager, projectionist, bar person and usher.



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The Castle Inn



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News from the Castle

Happy New Year everyone, from all of us, here at The Castle.

We hope that Santa remembered you and that you managed to avoid the naughty list!

Thank you all who came along for our amazing, socially distanced celebration on New Year's Eve ... What a Night!

January and winter weather it might be, but the fire's burning and its big smiles at The Castle, no blues in sight. ... So, if you need cheering up; pop in and enjoy the warm glow of the lights.

NEW: Wednesday nights are now pie and a pint nights. Delicious home-made pie meals plus a beer/wine or cider for only £10. This is proving so popular even though it's January and midweek it's still best to book!

By popular demand, Steak nights are back on Thursdays: 2 top quality steak meals for only £14, limited space please make sure you book ... Starting on January 7th 2021

Corfe Castle, again looked very beautiful this year, even in these difficult times, thanks to the hard work of the festivities committee. Congratulations to all of them.

Thank you to all the members of the CVN team who have worked relentlessly throughout the pandemic to keep us together via this amazing Parish publication. Well Done!

Corfe Castle Village Hall

100 club:

The December draw first prize of £20 was won by member 34, with member 83 getting second prize £10 and member 68 winning the third prize £4.50.

Profit from the 100 Club plays a significant part in supporting the everyday running costs of the Village Hall. With limited income from bookings currently, this support is even more valuable. If you would like to discuss becoming a 100 Club subscriber, please contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

general news:

Sadly the December coffee morning was cancelled as Dorset was in tier 2. If we revert to tier 1 then the January coffee morning will take place, but not until **Saturday 9th January**. Whilst we remain in tier 2 there will be no VH coffee mornings.

It is still okay for most if not all the booked activities who have submitted their Risk Assessments to take place at the hall. As a COVID-19 Secure building we can host more than 6 people so long as users can limit their social interactions with anyone they do not live with, do not visit or socialise in a group of more than 6 and continue to wear their face coverings at all times (except when eating or drinking). More than 6 people can take part in activities together – so long as social distancing is possible between households – 2m or 1m+ with extra precautions (face coverings & good hand hygiene).

Full details of all the extra conditions that have been necessary (including a Risk Assessment template which will be required for all bookings) are published on our website www.corfecastlevillagehall.co.uk

Please note however that this is a fluid situation in that guidelines and clarifications of them are subject to change at short notice,

The hall will also be available for one-off "occasional" bookings by members of the public. As usual you can do this by contacting Carole Speed by phoning 01929 480810, or by email to carolepspeed@gmail.com.

CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Telephone 480760

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY2.30 - 4.30 pm
TUESDAYClosed
WEDNESDAY.....11 – 12 am and 3 – 5 pm
THURSDAY.....Closed
FRIDAY.....Closed
SATURDAY.....10.00 - 12.00 am

For more details: Contact 01929 480760 - During opening hours

Renewals 01202 224311

Dorset receives grants of £763,900 from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund

We are delighted to announce that the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, hosted by Dorset Council, has received two of the first environmental projects awarded from the government's £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund, bringing a total of £763,900 for projects in Purbeck and West Dorset.

Dr Phil Stirling, the Dorset AONB Chairman explains: the Dorset AONB Team has led these two successful bids, bringing together a range of farmers and delivery partners including Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust and the RSPB. This is what the AONB does best – taking a strategic role to agree priorities for action and drawing in new resources to get vital 'on the ground' work done. This work will not only benefit wildlife but contribute to sustaining local enterprises. We are also delighted to be connecting with local communities and are pleased these projects will help support them in the challenging times they face during the continuing pandemic and beyond."



Purbeck heathland to benefit

In Purbeck, the Green Recovery Challenge Fund grant of £549,900 will build on the work of Wild Purbeck and will create a single

unit of 1,370 ha lowland heathland mosaic at the heart of the recently declared Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR) for grazing by cattle, ponies and pigs. This will recover nature by reintroducing lost ecological processes, creating a more dynamic, complex and better-connected suite of habitats; thereby recovering diversity and building resilience for some of Britain's most threatened species.

But the benefits aren't solely for wildlife – the funds will help restore the NNR's nature-rich landscape to the heart of the local community, reconnecting people and nature. The grazing unit will support local grazing businesses and quality sustainable meat producers; it will formalise links with local schools and community groups. The project will also bring tourism and

activity providers together with conservationists, to develop a sustainable ecotourism destination, harnessing the opportunity to make nature recovery an asset to the local and wider community.

Peter Robertson, RSPB Senior Sites Manager, Dorset Reserves, said: "We are delighted to be part of the partnership in Purbeck that will be receiving support from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The RSPB has been involved in Purbeck for over 50 years, helping restore the land for the benefit of both wildlife and people. Located in one of the most biodiverse parts of the UK, we look forward to this project helping deliver great things delivering even more joined up, bigger and better nature richer areas at a landscape scale and helping deliver the UK Government's ambitions to protect 30% of land by 2030."



Tracey Churcher, National Trust General Manager said: "This grant from the GRCF is going to help us put into action an ambitious plan for nature recovery in Purbeck. We want to create a landscape in

which nature is in the ascendency, and we will be making sure our local communities benefit from it, by providing better access to nature and by supporting local jobs in ecotourism."



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CORFE CASTLE DOES

**More and more people in Corfe Castle
are recycling their clothes.**

Clothes, shoes, bags, belts and linens can all be taken to clothing banks and charity shops.

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/recycle





HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

2020 was a tough year, to say the least, so we want to welcome in 2021 with open, optimistic arms!

With all the excitement of the vaccine, there is still so much uncertainty, but rest assured, as soon we are given the green light we will be back! Providing entertainment and a safe, friendly atmosphere for anyone wanting to take up a new hobby to come and join us – on or off the stage!

Welcome Back Social Quiz

Once we are all allowed to meet in reasonable numbers, safely, inside we will be hosting a fun family quiz night. Watch this space for info on when to dust off those cobwebs and get back out of the house!

Summer 2021 Murder Walk

As you all know, this unfortunately had to be cancelled last year – but fingers crossed we are all set to try again this year with our very popular Murder Mystery evenings set in the atmospheric grounds of Corfe Castle itself.

Our 'Main Event' - The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

This was due to be our November production last year. Although it had to be postponed we are still set with all of the 'behind the scenes' prep complete to tackle it this year! As with everything, this may be subject to change if cast numbers fall under restrictions. But this would be a great time to hear from you! We welcome suggestions for any smaller cast plays you may have read or seen elsewhere which you would love us to bring to life in the village, please get in touch!

Workshop

The NODA sponsored Theatre Skills Workshop that we had to cancel at the beginning of 'lockdown' will also be re-scheduled. We were all really looking forward to it, so we will make sure it will go ahead once safe to do so. It will be a fun day and would be a good way to get things back to normal, maybe even learn a new skill after lots of thinking time during the lockdown!

We will keep you updated with new dates and events as and when information becomes available. In the meantime, stay safe, follow the rules, and we hope to see you soon!

We are always open to new members so if you are interested in joining us please contact Mike (chairman - 01929 480323) or Cherry (secretary - 07972799300) or email info@double-act.org.uk



Happy New Year from all the Committee.

As I write this the first batch of Covid 19 vaccine is arriving in Purbeck. Hopefully, this is going to be the start of the end and gradually lead us back to normal life.

Dates of next meeting

- January 5th - Lorraine Love, *Our local Medical Herbalist*. **Lorraine Love is our local medical herbalist** and runs a shop called 'The Purbeck Apothecary'. Lorraine is a Member of the Unified Register of Herbal Practitioners. Her website states her aim is to help people to improve their health using herbs and nutrition. 'I live in the beautiful Isle of Purbeck in Dorset and am surrounded by many examples of our native herbs which our ancestors used extensively to take care of themselves. Hawthorn, Cleavers, Nettles, Chickweed, Dandelions, Marshmallow are just a few of the plants I use.'
- February 2nd - Will Sedgley-Bellows, *Home Computer Help for Members*
- March 3rd – AGM (with a fun activity!)

Our December meeting on zoom was a cheerful affair. Carole Lehman demonstrated how to make a Christmas garland. Hopefully, you can now see these decorating many doors in Corfe and beyond. The session was punctuated with the reading of poems and limericks which helped to encourage a festive mood.

Our members have been busy in other respects with the Strollers managing to get together to do a walk and one of our reading groups, Tertius, using zoom to carry on meeting. The sewing group also used zoom to keep in touch and discuss the creation of twiddle blankets for dementia sufferers.

Teresa is collecting stamps again and is hoping that this time of year will boost the collection. Stamps can be dropped into Chris Kemp's house, remember to leave a 1 cm border to all stamps. They are being collected to

support the charity SANDS who support parents with babies who have died from Sudden Infant Death.

To end, a Christmas offering from Denise Fuller

Christmas in Corfe Castle at night
Is usually full of cheer and festive light
There's Santa, mince pies and mulled wine
With everyone having a good time
But Covid Christmas is a very different sight

Mike Harriott Ltd

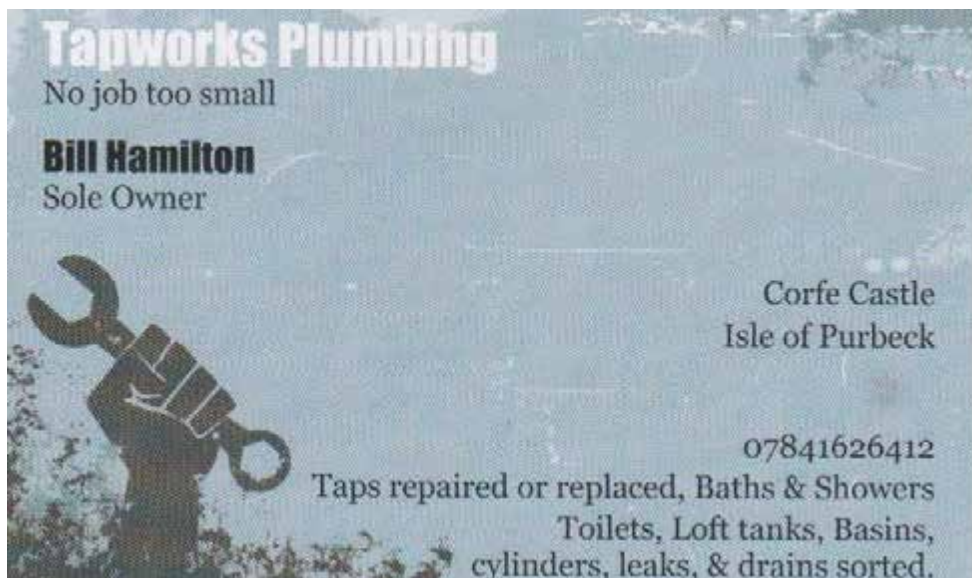
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Corfe Castle Club
(Covid Aware)

Happy New Year

Hopefully, by now, we have been able to open the Club for our members to enjoy fine ales and good company and leave the problems of 2020 behind. Our Committee are eager to get things back to normal with a full calendar of events.

Cheers!
Health & Happiness in 2021

Membership, 18 years and over, is available subject to Committee approval, 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

**Regional Club of The Year 2019
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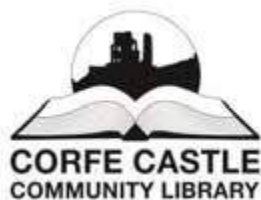


Address: 70 East Street. Telephone: 01929 480591

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

News from the Library

An afternoon of old films of Purbeck and its People



We haven't been able to run our usual 'Talks in the Library' since February last year, but we plan to hold a short (10 minute) AGM followed by a showing of some archive films of Purbeck (from the 1930's, 1940's and later) on Friday January 15th at 2.00pm in the village hall. This will be an opportunity to get together again and for conversation about the films afterwards too. It is also a chance to see the new projection equipment and big screen of the village hall in action!



To ensure that it is a Covid-safe event Covid precautions will be applied. You will need to wear a face mask and observe other precautions which will be explained on the day. Seating will be arranged in a socially distanced manner. The event is free and open to everyone but as space is limited we need to ask you to register either at the library (opening times below) or via email to corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com

Save the date! Friday 15th January at 2.00pm in the Village Hall
Old films of Purbeck and its People

Get Creative! '2020: A Writing and Photography Competition'

Last year was unlike any other. We are all aware of the negative aspects of 2020 but there were positives too. Acts of kindness between members of the village, the quiet of the Spring and early Summer had many effects not least our wildlife flourishing (for example the Peregrine falcons in the castle), discovering, or rediscovering, walks from our doorsteps, more time for gardening (and excellent growing conditions) made our gardens spectacular, the community adapted to support itself (even more than usual!).

We invite you to write some prose or a poem to reflect your more positive experiences, thoughts, and memories. The word limit is 1500 words (no minimum!). The winners will have the chance to have theirs *published in the Corfe Valley News!*

In addition, there will be a **photography competition**. We are looking for an image that expresses the same positive ethos as the writing competition. We also have an art category on the same theme for children who are 5 or under.

The categories and prizes (in vouchers) are as follows

Adults:	Writing	£20 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Young Person 12-18:	Writing	£20 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Children 6-11:	Writing	£10 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Children 5 and under:		£10 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Any Age	Photograph	£20 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)

We will hold an exhibition of all entries as soon as Covid regulations permit.

Closing date: 31st January.

Entries can be posted through the library letter box or handed in (in an envelope marked '**2020 Writing and Photography Competition**'). *Please include your name, the category you are submitting to, and contact details.* Or submit via email to corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com

Getting your Winter Reading Organised

The library will continue to be open for book collection through the Covid restrictions as follows

Wednesday:	11.00 – 12.00 a.m.
Saturdays:	10.00 – 12.00 a.m.

You can reserve up to ten items of your choice from a huge collection on the library catalogue (at www.librarieswest.org.uk). Alternatively, use our 'order and collect' service using forms available at the library. Or email us at corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com and we'll send you a form to print out.

For those who are staying at home, we are offering an '**order and delivery**' library service. Just call 01929 480760 on any Wednesday or Saturday morning between 10 and 12 for details.

If you don't yet have a library card, we can help you get one.

All books will have been quarantined and handled safely before collection.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Can we say a huge 'Thank You!' to all our friends and customers - 2020 was a difficult year for us all, and we do send our love, and hope you are all well.
We really appreciate your support, during the times we were open, as well as when we were closed to browsers.

It's hard to predict whether we will be open this month or not, but we can still post your orders, or you can collect – even if the shop's shut. We will keep you up-to-date with our opening times and services on the shop door, Social Media, and at www.seasonsgreen.co.uk - or ring and ask! New stock added regularly :)

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CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for JANUARY 2021

Please note that these events are mostly still tentative so please check timing and that it is actually taking place with the organisers.

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

31 Dec – 4 Jan	1pm Thurs 29 th – 8am Monday 4 th	Surgery closed for New Year
5 January	Tuesday Afternoon	Aquarius - The Purbeck Apothecary Corfe Castle Village Hall
5 January	Tuesday 7.30 pm	Peoples Assembly via Zoom see pages 8 & 9
11 January	Monday 7 pm	Virtual Parish Council meeting via Zoom
15 January	Friday 2 pm	Old Films of Purbeck and its People Corfe Castle Village Hall
31 January	Closing date for writing and photography competition.	

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

8 February	Monday 7 pm	Virtual Parish Council Meeting via Zoom
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West Street Cottages by P R Gross

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 EMERGENCY CARE SERVICE

If you become ill after your surgery has closed (between 6.30pm and 8 am Monday to Friday, over the weekend and Bank Holidays)

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111

If you need IMMEDIATE MEDICAL HELP You should dial 999 and ask for an Ambulance

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Church of England

St Aldhelm's Benefice

Contact Details for St Aldhelm's Benefice

Rector Ian Jackson 01929 480257

rectorsabpurbeck@gmail.com

Associate Minister James Mercer 01929 422454

james_staldhelm@icloud.com

Hon Assistant Priest Anne Bond 01929 480249 rev.anne@outlook.com

Curate Nick Webb 07866 546162 fulloflifegardens@googlemail.com

Benefice Office: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Benefice Administrator: Katie Curtis St George's Church, Langton Matravers BH19 3HZ 01929 427822 office@purbeckbenefice.plus.com

(NB Katie is currently working from home, but is contactable by email above during office hours)

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

www.purbeckhillsbenefice.wordpress.com

 [St Aldhelm Benefice](#)

 [@StAldhelm](#)

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109

John Lindsay 481498

Church Knowle, Kimmeridge, & Steeple

Contact Ian Jackson

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

The Reverend Anne Bond writes:

Here we are (hopefully having had a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas) at the beginning of a new year, full of wonder. What will it bring? Will it be

economic recovery? Will those of us who have been thrust into the depths of despair by business losses be restored to prosperity? Will the sick recover to live renewed lives? Will those of us afflicted by mental and emotional distress discover that life is worth living again? Above all, will everyday activity return to ‘normal’? That is, freedom of movement without fear of infectious disease, without fear we ourselves might unknowingly pass disease to a neighbour despite being symptomless?

I suspect many of us wonder if life will ever return to what was so familiar to us ‘before’.

One way to help us out of that kind of bottomless pit is to Count Our Blessings. Which perhaps is another way of saying ‘look on the bright side’, don’t dwell on the darkness.

At last, we have a vaccine. Even if it turns out to be less effective than initially anticipated, it is a good solid base from which more effective vaccines will be developed quickly. And if it is indeed what is hoped, we will be well on the way to stopping this dangerous virus in its tracks.

Also, 2020 has been a year of revelation. We have been shown how fragile life is, and how necessary person-to-person communication is to our well-being. We have had time to look, and see, and understand how our human actions affect the workings of the living planet that is our home. And not only ours: animal, vegetable and mineral, we stand or fall together. We are all one creation.

Do you remember that saying, ‘God helps those who help themselves’? It is true that it is not unknown for God to answer the prayer ‘Lord, save me’ by immediate and direct action. However, it is much more usual for God to nudge and push and direct people in the right direction, and for the ‘rescue’ to be the result of people themselves acting in direct response to the urging of the Holy Spirit, whether they realise it or not. In 2020 scientists have worked with out-of-this-world speed to create vaccines; most people internationally have followed with out-of-character willingness government guidelines on how to play their part in reducing infection; and movements such as Black Lives Matter have arisen, encouraging and reinforcing the conviction that All Lives Matter, generating a deep and genuine desire to ‘love our neighbours as ourselves’ and to regard as our neighbours everybody, everywhere. We humans are the children of God. Sometimes without knowing we are doing it, we respond to God because it is in us, in our very DNA; we do so in the same way that without conscious intention, we respond to elements of our parents in our make-up.

Now, in 2021, we can put into action what in 2020 we learnt: what needs to be done to restore our planet to the balance it had at creation. We hope and trust it will be with health and strength restored and a recovering economy world-wide. Many things may have to be done differently. Now is the time to think creatively, out-of-the-box, and for each of us to play our own tiny part towards forming a society that will be nearer to the Kingdom of God than we ever dreamed might be possible.

With love, Anne

Bible Readings - January 2021

Sunday 3 rd January	Epiphany Psalm 72: 10 – 15 Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 Ephesians 3: 1 – 12 Matthew 2: 1 – 12
Sunday 10 th January	Baptism of Christ Psalm 29 Genesis 1: 1 – 5 Acts 19: 1 – 7 Mark 1: 4 – 11
Sunday 17 th January	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany Psalm 139: 1 – 9 1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10 Revelation 5: 1 – 10 John 1: 43 – end
Sunday 24 th January	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany Psalm 128 Genesis 14: 17 – 20 Revelation 19: 6 – 10 John 2: 1 – 11
Sunday 31 st January	Presentation of Christ Psalm 24 Malachi 3: 1 – 5 Hebrews 2: 14 – end Luke 2: 22 – 40

Sunday 7th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

Psalm 104: 26 – end
Proverbs 8: 1; 22 – 31
Colossians 1: 15 – 20
John 1: 1 - 14

Services in the Benefice of St Aldhelm in January 2021

For the present, services will continue as they were before the November lockdown.

This means there will be Holy Communion at St Edward’s Corfe Castle on Sundays at 9am. At 10am on Sundays there is Prayer in the Morning at St George’s Langton and you can also participate in this service by zoom.

There are evening services in some of the Purbeck Hills parishes on some Sundays of the month. Please see the website, email circulation and posters for details of these and also for any changes that become necessary.

St Michaels Steeple

Steeple church is open once again for visitors and prayers on a daily basis.



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Corfe Castle Congregational Church

The start of each new year is a time to reflect on the past year and make our plans for the future. It holds a special encouragement, with a promise of new opportunities and the possibility to change our lives for the better.

So we should welcome in the new year by sending inspiring messages to our loved ones to mark this special time of year. Sharing a New Year blessing with friends is a beautiful way to let loved ones know that we are praying for them and to remind us all how the presence of God in our lives can give us strength and courage in this time of change. Given how challenging 2020 has been for us all with COVID-19, with illness, loss, uncertain employment and isolation, it feels especially important to express our hopes and dreams for better days ahead in 2021.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Wishing you all many blessings in the New Year.

Rob Taylor.

Celia Taylor (Church Secretary)

Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk

Mob. 07908807115



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Pioneer view

Dear Friends

I write this month's Pioneer view at the beginning of grief awareness week when many people may well pause and reflect on the loss of loved ones during what has been an exceedingly difficult 2020 for communities and family alike.

My team and I have witnessed this pain of grief and loss whilst supporting bereaved people through our befriending Scheme. What I notice as someone who has been offering support to many of these people is a sense of my own powerlessness, unable to take away the pain and make things better.

Many of the local people who have passed away during this time I have known and walked with through our groups and activities across Dorset. This feeling of powerlessness is important to engage with and acknowledge.

C.S. Lewis was someone who had been touched with grief and loss. He wrote this:

“Grief is like a long valley, a winding valley where any bend may reveal a totally new landscape.” C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observe

What I think C.S Lewis is getting at is that grief and loss is a journey, one that can appear to be endless. He describes it as a valley, often deep and dark at times. For many people this is a road less travelled. Their journey has been often compounded by the COVID 19 pandemic, leaving many bereaved families facing difficult challenges in what are incredibly unique circumstances.

The landscape is changing with the introduction of a vaccine, but this vaccine will not remove the feeling of loss for the families. For myself, I have embraced my own powerlessness, in doing so this has set me on a creative journey leaving with a question how we can respond compassionately as a charity.

I can confirm the Growing Compassionate Communities will be embarking on several projects this year that will seek to engage with this journey of grief and loss. This will include the creation of remembrance gardens and spaces in local communities.

We will remember them

Journey well this year

Peter



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Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

The Corfe Castle Gardening Club committee wishes all our members, and all in the catchment area of this super magazine,

A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND HORTICULTURALLY SATISFYING NEW YEAR.

I am not going into a recital of the woes of 2020, we each have our own, as well as the shared ones. (And I wouldn't dare mention Brexit).

Instead, I will express my opinion that having, and using, a growing space is proved to be good for the body, the mind, the soul and the environment. Half an acre – or a window box, or any size in between. It's good to see things grow, nurture their development, see them fruit/flower, set seeds and prepare to pass on their genes, all the while creating interest, beauty, curiosity and, sometimes, challenge.

Because I hold those views I sincerely hope that you will join/rejoin the CCGC next year at our AGM.

No Club meetings now, virtual or otherwise, until 4th March. Then, via Zoom, we shall hold the AGM (probably the shortest AGM you will ever attend!) and have a fun QUIZ. To take part you do not need to be called Alan, or Monty, or hold a degree in plant diseases. Just tune in and have some fun and maybe win one of our very worthwhile prizes. More details in the February issue of CVN.

Finally, *Thank You*, to all of you who have helped, encouraged, inspired and supported others throughout the pandemic thus far. We have seen so many acts of kindness among strangers; it has been like flashes of bright light breaking through in a long period of darkness. Gardeners look for and enjoy the fruits of their labours. I hope you will enjoy the fruits of yours, even if only in knowing you have made someone's life better and brighter for a while.

Stay watchful, stay safe.

David

Harman's Cross Movie Night

Owing to the coronavirus outbreak no films are being shown until further notice. Our website will be updated as and when we plan to resume.
(<https://www.harmancrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights>).

Langton Arthouse Cinema

Owing to the coronavirus outbreak no films will be shown until further notice. Our website will be updated as and when we plan to resume.
(www.LangtonArthouseCinema.co.uk).

Scam Warning

A warning to everyone in the area. Criminals have been attempting to obtain money from people by pretending to be police or bank officials. Remember the police and the banks will never ask you to transfer money to a new account or come to your door to collect a credit or debit card. Nor will they ever send you an email or text asking you to transfer money. If anyone does so they are a criminal and should be reported to the police.



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- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to food banks

Purbeck residents needing advice can phone Dorset Adviceline on freephone 0800 144 8848 (Textphone: 0800 144 8884), 10am-4pm weekdays to talk to an adviser. Alternatively, you can use our webform at www.purbeckadvice.org.uk for email or telephone call-back, and access a wealth of self-help advice online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

New drop-in has started at **Mill Lane, Wareham Office** - from **Tuesday October 20th, 12-2pm** on a first come, first served basis.

Wanted by private local purchaser.

Piece of growing land or similar with property/potential property including space for greenhouse/workshop/ studio. We are longing to return to Purbeck while we have vigour to make our home and community contribution there. Happy to discuss any genuine offers informally. gillianbathe@gmail.com



DORSET HOME LIBRARY SERVICE – DOORSTEP DELIVERIES

Although our much-loved Home Library Service had to be suspended due to the Coronavirus situation, we are now providing a temporary non-contact Doorstep Delivery Service to those that cannot easily get to their local library, either short term or long term. Our volunteers have strict safety guidelines and all necessary risk assessments have been carried out. Books are chosen by staff at each library, based on individual preferences, and made ready for our volunteers to pick up and deliver to our clients' front doors. The volunteers will not enter the house, and they will keep a safe distance at all times; they can also pick up books and return them to the library. This service is entirely free and is available across Dorset and BCP areas. We are keen to let more people know that it is available to them if they find themselves unable to get to the library. To find out more please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, on 01305 236666 or 07786 635154, or e-mail maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Royal British Legion - Branch News



We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who kindly supported this year's Poppy Fund Appeal. This fund enables the essential work of the RBL to support ex service personnel and their families.

Although Covid restrictions reduced our number of poppy tins to just 33, from normally about 50, you contributed the magnificent sum of £2,868.95, which has all gone to the Poppy Fund.

George Preston

Corfe Castle Commons Management Committee

The function of the Commons Committee is to act as a forum for the Rights' Holders to agree a basis for the management of grazing rights on the Common. It also considers any other matters relating to the management of the Common.

Vacancies have arisen for the following roles on this Committee:

Secretary/Treasurer - The prime responsibilities of the Secretary are to support the Chairman, prepare and Minute the business of the regular meetings (currently 2 a year) and the AGM. Additional routine tasks involve keeping files and procedures up-to-date and dealing with correspondence.

The task of Treasurer (also the responsibility of the Secretary) is to deal with banking and to keep the accounts, ready for audit and presentation at the AGM.

An annual honorarium is attached to this role.

Village Representative - the principal duties of this position are to be the key contact for people using the Common and report back to the Committee Meetings or direct to the Chair of the Commons Committee. This is a voluntary role.

For any additional information or to apply for these positions, please contact: Mark Singleton, Countryside Manager, Purbeck National Trust Land line 01929 452322, mobile 07811 651788, mark.singleton@nationaltrust.org.uk

1st CORFE CASTLE BROWNIES ROUNDING OFF A VERY DIFFERENT YEAR and LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021!

Brownies have continued each week since early in the first lockdown and although it has not been easy using Zoom and it is not to everyone's liking, it has kept us going and in touch. I know that many other Brownie Units across the country have not had any form of meeting since March! Having said that it was particularly nice seeing the girls for real at the few face to face meetings that we did manage this term.

Our 2 Virtual Sleepovers were especially good fun with whole families joining in. The one in the Summer holidays, based mainly on outdoor activities with the girls and leaders finding unusual places to sleep and last weekend with our Wintry Wonderland with lots of food related items!

Hopefully we will be able to meet up again properly in 2021. The Village Hall is booked for our return on Jan. 12th but we will not know till nearer the time what the Covid situation will be and therefore whether we will be able to use it or have to once again resort to Zoom. Here's hoping!!

I do however have to say that I am intending giving up running Brownies from

the end of March as I feel that after 33 years it is time someone younger took over. I would be happy to help in a supportive role but not as the main leader. If anyone knows of someone who would be prepared to take over I would be very pleased to hear from them. Hopefully by April with the vaccination in full swing and the days getting longer and brighter Brownies might be back to a more normal and so be easier to manage.

I do hope that Brownies will be able to continue in Corfe Castle after Easter but it really depends if an appropriate leader can be found. They will be given training and lots of helpful support from the Wareham and Wool District Commissioners and the Purbeck Division Commissioner.

All that remains is for me is to thank everyone locally for their continued support and to wish you all a very Happy New Year and a hope for a much safer next year.

Christine Kemp (Tel:- 01929 480007)

An Interesting Letter received by the Editor (Thank you Brian Johnson)

I lived in Purbeck from 1947 to 1962. My family arrived, from Liverpool, when my parents were engaged as butler and cook by Mrs Holland-Swan at Steeple Manor. Being a recent widow she decided that the winters were too lonely, at the Manor and in 1948 put it up for sale. This put my family on the horns of a dilemma. However, good fortune was with us and Dad and Mum were engaged as butler and cook by Colonel Bond at Morton's House. I think it was early in 1951 that the Colonel rented No 71 East Street to my family and Mum and Dad stayed there until the OAP bungalows were constructed in Springwell Close, West Street and were there until Dad died in 1985 and Mum in 2003 and they are now in God's Acre in West Street. I nearly forgot. I went to school with Barbara Chaffey whom you will know as Barbara Canning; I knew John very well, a very keen cyclist. Those were the days that you left school at 15 if you had failed the 11 Plus.

The article about Church Terrace in the Aug. CVN was very interesting. Michael Bond's article in the Sept. CVN was even more interesting. Living as my family did, at Morton's House, I knew Nanny Berwick very well as she was Nanny to Michael and Richard, small boys at the time. I knew Nanny's mother Mrs Berwick and she told me quite a lot about Corfe. In particular she remembered hearing the noise of the explosions from where a cutting was being made in East Hill for the railway line. Eddie Holland was certainly a well-known figure. I remember where he had his newsagent/sweet and tobacconists shop just one door to the left of the Greyhound; to describe it as small would be a gross understatement. I have always regarded myself and my family to have been very fortunate to have 'found' Purbeck and Corfe; what a

contrast to the City of Liverpool and the air raids We arrived at a time when little appeared to have changed from the pre-war life style. It was a delight and privilege to live there.

Brian Johnson

David's St Edward's Way Sponsored Walk – Progress Report

Fundraising for BBC Children in Need and Corfe Castle Village Hall

Supported by Double Act

As the song goes: 'Mud, mud, glorious mud!' A feature of our journey so far has been mud! Firm or sloppy, shallow or deep, almost black to almost white, well mixed with clay or cow dung – it has all been 'enjoyed', and got over/round/through. We have traversed river valleys and hill forts, wide flat tracks to steep narrow slippery paths, stiles of all descriptions and stages of decrepitude, numerous electric fences, and passed through or skirted many quaint villages with picturesque names. We've even walked right through a pheasant shoot - unscathed! The version of St Edward's Way we have been following is about 56 miles from Corfe Castle to Shaftesbury, and as each of the 13 sections is a round trip the total miles walked will be about 115. Thank goodness we haven't been carrying a coffin with the young King Edward's body in it, as the Saxons were in ~980AD!

I have been accompanied on every stage by a member or supporter of Double Act, ranging in age from 7 to 89, and there has only been one tumble (so far!). If Covid rules allow, the final stage will see a group of 4 of us reaching Shaftesbury Abbey, before trekking back up to Melbury Hill, hopefully before it gets dark, and before you read this.

I would like to say a big thank you to my fellow walkers – Alan, Ann, Barry, Bill, Chris, Deb, Eileen, Elmo (the hearing dog), Linda, and Teresa. Also, a massive thank you to everyone who has donated, and to those who have helped in any other way.

At the time of writing, there is just 1 section to complete, and the money raised through the Just Giving page as well as by all other means is at present a little over £1500, which will be enhanced by Gift Aid.

If you haven't got round to it yet, there is still time to donate! My Just Giving page will be open until Jan 17th (www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/david-kemp-3), but you can also use the sponsor form in the Village Stores, or pay me direct with cash or cheque or on-line.

David Kemp, 480007, davimukem@aol.com

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or Mjlballet@gmail.com
- **Short Mat Bowls**@ 14.00

TUESDAY

- **Whist Drive** – Eileen Cake 01929 552393 (**alternate Tuesdays @ 7.30pm**)
- **Short Mat Bowls** @ 14.00

WEDNESDAY

- **Say So Drama** – 10.30 – 12.00 with Emma for adults with learning disabilities – 07725 942609
- **Yoga** – Pam Steele - Tel 01929 556714
or pamsteeleyoga@googlemail.com
- **Ballet** – Miranda Hindson - Tel 07919441836
or Mjlballet@gmail.com

THURSDAY

- **Health Qigong**– Penny Youssef - Tel 07969925502
or pennyoussef1@gmail.com

FRIDAY

- **Short Mat Bowls** –@ 14.00
- **Zhineng Qigong**- Penny Youssef - Tel 07969 925502
or pennyoussef1@gmail.com

SUNDAY

- **Purbeck Antiques Collectors Fayre** – (Last Sunday of each month) phone Lesley 01929 425402

Kimmeridge News

A look back at a most extraordinary year for us all.

With the start of the first lockdown in March, Kimmeridge residents were active in supporting each other. Rose Clarke set up a WhatsApp group to coordinate volunteers and to act as a means of communication around the village & outlying farms. This was combined with Emma Vearncombe's use of the delivery service to Clavells as a way of ordering food & other essentials for villagers. Supplies were sorted by a team of volunteers and delivered to houses. For those missing their seafood, Nick Ford supplied fresh lobsters, crabs & fish to locals while his regular markets were sadly closed. The WhatsApp group was also used to share information on sightings of Red Kites & Swallows and for the exchange of books, videos & jigsaws in the Church porch!

Kimmeridge Church has been closed throughout apart from a very happy occasion when it was opened (after thorough cleaning!) for Shanade & Callum's wedding on 8th October. As I write we are planning the outdoor carols on Christmas Eve in Kimmeridge and the outdoor service at Steeple on Christmas morning.

Over the summer we were treated to a new venture by Clavells down at the bay with lovely Mexican food served from a vintage Citroen van – a real treat to brighten up the year. On the subject of food, Sue Pawson has started up making delicious sausages this autumn – I can vouch for them going down very well.

The Kimmeridge Coastguard Team remained very active throughout the year with a record number of rescue calls after the first lockdown was lifted and people flocked to the coast. We have welcomed Emily House & Lucy Jellis as new members of the Coastguard Team this autumn. We have also just heard that Ian Welsh and Martin Coward have been promoted to Station Officer & Deputy Station Officer for the Kimmeridge Team. Our congratulations go to them both.

The Etches Collection Fossil Museum opened again after the first lockdown and we have just heard the splendid news that a new species of Ichthyosaur has been named after our very own Steve Etches who found the specimen – its scientific name is "Thalassodraco etches" which roughly translates as "Etches Sea Dragon"!

Let us all hope for a happier and healthier year in 2021

Steve & Helen Earwicker (earwicker@btinternet.com)



Dorset Wildlife Trust
Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre,
Kimmeridge Bay, Wareham, BH20 5PE
Tel: 01929 481044
kimmeridge@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Marine wildlife highlights of 2020

As we begin 2021 filled with optimism, we've been reminiscing about some of the marine wildlife highlights of the past year. 2020 might not be remembered as a year with many stand-out highlights, however, whilst we all slowed down or stopped due to lockdowns and restrictions, it was very much business as usual for wildlife. Even during the midst of a pandemic, it was reassuring to see the natural world carrying on as normal and, in some cases, perhaps even thriving with fewer pressures from human activity.

2020 was a bumper year for sightings of marine giants in Dorset. We received reports of several different dolphin species with Bottlenose, Risso's and Short-beaked common dolphins all being spotted. A Humpback whale surprised some Lyme Bay fishermen when it appeared with a spectacular breach right beside their boat. A lucky spectator witnessed a Basking shark, the second largest fish in the ocean, swimming just metres from a Dorset beach. Whilst it is not unusual to see these gentle giants, Basking sharks are endangered, and sightings of this species in Dorset are now few and far between. Seals were spotted hauling out at new sites along the Dorset coast during the first lockdown. These charismatic marine mammals are susceptible to human disturbance, especially when they come ashore, so this demonstrates how they might have benefitted from the reduction in visitors to the coast. Another exciting highlight was the arrival of Bluefin tuna in late summer. These magnificent fish were once commonplace all round the coast, but they have been absent from Dorset waters for some time.

It's not all been about the megafauna either, there have some exciting finds amongst the more diminutive creatures in Kimmeridge Bay. Sea hares gathered en masse in the warm, shallow waters of the bay. There were further sightings of Furrowed crabs, recent newcomers to the area and colourful anemone shrimps, which live hidden amongst the stinging tentacles of snakelock anemones, were recorded by divers at a site near Kimmeridge for the first time this summer.

Unfortunately, a less welcome sight started to appear on beaches in the form of discarded face masks and gloves. A recent report by the Marine Conservation Society discovered that PPE waste was present on 30% of

beaches that were surveyed around the UK. Whilst health and safety is of paramount importance at the present time, we must ensure that such items are disposed of safely and responsibly for the benefit of wildlife.

We regret that The Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre is currently closed but we are looking forward to welcoming visitors back soon. Please visit our website for news and further information: www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk. For regular updates about the fascinating marine life that has been spotted in Kimmeridge Bay and along the Dorset coast, follow us on Twitter @DWTMarine

Sarah Hodgson

Coastal Centres Assistant

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Swanage Railway Wins Government Grant For Updated Feasibility Study Into Wareham Train Service

Swanage Railway volunteers have won a Government grant of up to £50,000 to pay for an updated feasibility study and business case aimed at reinstating a train service to reconnect Swanage and Corfe Castle with the main line at Wareham.

South Dorset MP Richard Drax has welcomed the awarding of the grant from the Department for Transport’s national ‘Restoring Your Railway Fund’ as “an important step to ensure our iconic railway sustains its place in our hearts and our livelihoods.”

The regular train service between Swanage and Wareham was controversially axed by British Rail in January, 1972, with six and a half miles of the single track line from Furzebrook to Corfe Castle and Swanage being lifted in just seven weeks that summer.

The Swanage Railway has been rebuilt from nothing since 1976 and in 2014 the heritage line was connected with the national railway system – near Worgret Junction, south of Wareham, on the main London to Weymouth line – thanks to an innovative signalling system linking the heritage line with Network Rail.



Swanage Railway chairman Gavin Johns said: “We’re delighted that a updated and detailed feasibility study and business case into our plans to operate train services from Swanage and Corfe Castle to the main line at Wareham have been successful in this round of funding for the Government’s ‘Restoring Your Railway Fund’.

“The grant will pay for a fully updated feasibility study, and we hope a positive business case, for a passenger train service between Swanage and Wareham once the Coronavirus pandemic is over,” added Mr Johns who is a volunteer signalman on the popular heritage line.

Swanage Railway Project Wareham director Mark Woolley explained: “We hope that the new feasibility study and business case – last carried out 12 years ago in 2008 – will be wide-ranging and fully take into account our existing award-winning heritage railway.

“We look forward to working closely with the Government and our stakeholders in the next stages of the ‘Restoring Your Railway’ process as we further develop our business case and plans for reinstating and running a train service from Swanage and Corfe Castle to the main line at Wareham.

“Funded by the Government grant, we hope that the outcome of the feasibility study and business case work will provide us with an updated way ahead on how to operate a sustainable train service to Wareham.



“We are also hopeful that the work will also help us identify potential sources of further funding to provide the necessary train servicing and maintenance facilities to achieve this,” added Mr Woolley who has been a dedicated Swanage Railway volunteer for more than 35 years.

During the summer of 2017, the Swanage Railway ran a 60 selected day trial diesel train service to Wareham which saw four trains a day operate from Swanage and Corfe Castle to the main line at Wareham.

The Swanage Railway always welcomes new volunteers so, for a chat, contact Swanage Railway volunteer co-ordinator Mike Whitwam on 01929 475212 or email iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk.

The pictures show the two heritage diesel multiple units (DMU) which have been restored and upgraded to main line standards and will be used for the service. Pictures are courtesy of Andrew P M Wright.

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Tu-who or not tu-who – that is the question.

Keen birders wanting to make a quick start on their list of species seen (or heard) each year can get ahead of the competition (some do take it very seriously) by opening the windows or door at

midnight on Hogmanay to listen out for Tawny owls hooting to each other – between the fireworks. Tawny owls can be heard calling at most times of year but especially in the Autumn when young birds disperse and try to set up home and in the late Winter as the breeding season approaches.

Tawny owls are the ones that make the classic “tu-whit tu-who” call which is in fact two birds calling to one another. The “tu-whit” is more often the female’s call and the male answers with a “tu-who”. Apparently, Shakespeare was (one of) the first to write down the Tawny owl’s call this way in Love’s Labour’s Lost. You learn something every day.

A couple of years ago the British Trust for Ornithology ran a citizen science project in which volunteers all over the country listened for Tawny owls for 20 minutes between sunset and midnight one night a week for each week from September to March. It turned out that if Tawny owls were present you had about a 50 (tu-who):50 (or not tu-who) chance of hearing one on any given night. But you could boost your chances to 90% (if an owl was there) if you listened under certain conditions, to wit - on a dry, moonlit, autumn evening, soon after sunset. This Winter they have been very vocal around my home.

Of course you hardly ever see Tawny owls because they are more strictly nocturnal than many other owls. You may catch sight of a silhouette against a darkening sky as they fly from tree to tree but to see one properly you have to chance upon its daytime roosting spot. However, you can sometimes see Barn owls hunting over meadows in the gloaming at dusk and dawn and in the Winter you can sometimes see Short-eared owls, most likely visitors from overseas, hunting in broad daylight. Little owls (which are not native to the UK) can be seen in their hidey-holes in daytime if you know where to look for them.

Owls are reputed to be wise, probably because their eyes face directly forwards and so, in that respect, appear like us in having a face. However, this does not reflect their wisdom but their mode of hunting. They have binocular vision, high

visual acuity, great night vision and acute hearing. They can also swivel their heads right around to locate noises made by their prey. Another peculiar owl feature is the softness of their feathers. If you ever find a mottled brown feather which feels like the smoothest velvet all over its upper surface, that will be an owl’s. Each feather has special barbs and fringes that help to reduce turbulence in the air flow over them and so deaden the noise of the flying bird to the point of total silence – handy when you have to take mice and voles by surprise.

Tawny owls have a very varied diet as Beatrix Potter knew. Squirrel Nutkin and his friends buttered up Old Brown with presents of 3 fat mice, a fine fat mole, 7 fat minnows (yes they do eat fish), 6 fat beetles, wild honey and a new laid egg. Old Brown also catches a squirrel but (spoiler alert) – Nutkin escapes.

If this comes out before the 1st of January 2021 – remember you could switch off the Hootenanny and go outside and do something less boring instead – listen out for the owls hooting at midnight. Happy New Year (when it comes).

Richard Caldow

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THE SPENDTHRIFT SQUIRE OF ENCOMBE by Paul Randall

The Pitts have been associated with Dorset since early times. Some were adventurers at the time of the Spanish Armada and obtained wealth by privateering. Thomas Pitt of Blandford St. Mary owned the biggest diamond then known and sold it to the King of France for £350,000. He was the Governor of Fort St. George. The Dorset branch were undoubtedly the wealthiest and owned two prime manor houses, Kingston Maurward and Encombe. The family had supplied Members of Parliament for Wareham since the time of Charles II.

William Morton Pitt was born in 1754 and it would be right to say “with a silver spoon in his mouth”. He divided his time between the two estates when he succeeded his father in 1787. He was a man of ambition and an inspired philanthropist, who spent his considerable fortune like water on a variety of development programmes. What he really needed was a good chartered accountant but they did not exist in those days. Encombe had been sold to the Pitts in 1734 on the bankruptcy of William Culliford. Seventy years later William Morton had to sell it to avoid a similar fate. It had been rebuilt in the style of Vanbrugh and was considered the most attractive of the Purbeck mansions. On one of his many visits to Weymouth King George III was shown over Kingston Maurward and in his usual repetitive style said to its owner, “Brick, brick, brick Mr. Pitt”. William Morton was so mortified that he had the house totally encased in stone at enormous expense. He was very generous to all his employees and commenced several undertakings to provide work for “the industrious poor”, namely basket weaving, rope-making and quarrying.

His principal claim to fame is that he was the architect of our National Census. He caused to be made in 1791 a complete record of the inhabitants of Corfe Castle, providing us with the most minute details. He showed this to his cousin, Prime Minister William Pitt, who was so impressed that our present Census was commenced in 1801. It would be true to say that there was not a project in Purbeck with which he was not connected, and during the threat of Napoleonic invasion he assisted in preparing the County’s defences. By 1807 he could no longer afford to run two estates and he reluctantly sold Encombe to Lord Eldon. However, he retained the Peverill Estate as he had conceived the idea of turning the little stone port of Swanage into a high-class holiday resort, a sort of mini Brighton. He put much of his fast dwindling capital into purchasing the Manor House which was to be a first class hotel. This sea-front mansion had been built by John Chapman in 1721 and was in the course of time to become the Royal Victoria Hotel. The prefix Royal Victoria was

added to commemorate the visit of Princess Victoria in 1833. Her son, King Edward VII was to stay there some 20 years later. Before the hotel was finally opened in 1825 Pitt added two wings and encased the whole building in Regency stucco. Pitt did his best to put Swanage on the map. He had an unfortunate investment in building houses “for the gentry to rent” in Seymer road and had to meet the loss. The hotel was not a great success and his debts accumulated.

He was an old and failing man when he was forced to sell Kingston Maurward in 1836. His 14 year old twin children were left with no inheritance when he was adjudged bankrupt. Everything had to be sold up and he died in poverty soon after. In his book, “The House of Pitt” Tresham Lever sums it up admirably, “All that is certain is that he was the ruin of his house. Encombe and Kingston had to be given up and thus the wealthiest member of his family sank into the obscurity of the landless middle-class”. Every time I pass Encombe, Kingston Maurward or the Royal Victoria I think about a great philanthropist who outran his means. He was a perfect English gentleman but wildly improvident.

(Acknowledgements to Messrs Lewer and Smale’s book “Swanage Past and Present”)

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Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
MONDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning	Springwell Close
Each	2.30 - 4.30	Whist and tea	Springwell Close
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Each	7 - 11pm	Chess Club (Sep - Apr)	Morton's House
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Town Hall
TUESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	9.15 – 10.45am	& 11am – 12 Yoga	Langton Scout Hut
Each	9.30 - 11.30	Intermediate yoga	Swanage - 477169
Each	10.30-noon	Parent & Child Group	C C Village Hall
Each	6.15-7.45pm	Brownies (term-time)	C C Village Hall
Each	6.30 – 7.30pm	Adult Latin American/ Ballroom Dance	C C Village Hall Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7.30pm	CK parish Council	Odd months Furzebrook VH; even CK
WEDNESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	9.30am- noon	Intermediate yoga	Kimmeridge 477169
Each	9.45am-12.45	Wool Workshop	C.C. Village Hall
Each	7-9pm	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
Each	8.30	Poker	Corfe Castle Club
THURSDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00 - 11.30am	Busy Bees	CC Primary School
3rd	11.30am	Probus Club	Mortons House
Each	6.00 - 8.00 pm	Intermediate yoga	Swanage - 477169
Each	6.30 – 8.00 pm	Yoga (439041)	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall
FRIDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Classes	Furzebrook Studios
Each	8.30pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club
SATURDAY			
1st	10.30am	Village Coffee Morning	C C Village Hall
SUNDAY			
Each	1.00pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club

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