

The Purbeck Gazette



January 2022
Issue no: 264

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Dawn Patrols To Scenery Vans Pg 17



The British On Indian Walls Pg 20-21



Aftermath Of Studland Fire Pg 34



Courageously Speaking Out Pg 12-13

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AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Editor's note...



Welcome to the January edition of your Purbeck Gazette! It's another new year - already! Time flies indeed - let's hope beyond hope that 2022 brings us all a better year and we begin to see a clear pathway towards living with this current pandemic - one of many mankind has faced through the generations.

Hopefully you had a few days off for Christmas, hats off to those hard-working folk in hospitality, those who continue to work hard whilst the rest of us enjoy a break. It's been a really tough year for hospitality with many businesses struggling to make ends meet. Remember to lend your support to local outlets in the quieter months of January and February - it may be the difference between a member of staff being kept on or not, so every penny spent locally is vitally important.

What a year we had in 2021! So much insecurity and concern, business owners struggling to keep going, distribution network nightmares, extreme staff shortages following the loss of many of our European workers and then, of course, a pandemic to top it all off. We can but hope that 2022 will offer-up a more palatable alternative and that we can move forwards towards some form of brighter and more stable future together.

Our New Year edition brings you another issue packed full of local news, views and events. Our columnists give you the chance to sit back and enjoy a spot of reading, whilst our advertisers attempt to gain your attention and encourage you 'round to their place' this January - go say hello! Our traders are generally a cheerful bunch and will welcome your custom!

If you read anything in this edition, please read pages 12 and 13.....

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See: www.purbeckgazette.com

The **DECEMBER 2021** edition has a **deadline** of 10th Nov.

The **JANUARY 2022** edition has a **deadline** of 8th Dec.

Public Notices & Information



Compiled by
National Coastwatch Institution, Swanage



Solar & Tidal Predictions - Jan '22

Peveril Ledge, Swanage

Date	HW	LW	HW	LW	HW	Moon / Tides	Sunrise	Sunset
01-Jan		01:41	07:07	14:11	19:39		08:09	16:13
02-Jan		02:33	08:01	15:02	20:30	NM	08:08	16:14
03-Jan		03:24	08:53	15:21	21:19		08:08	16:15
04-Jan		04:14	09:43	16:39	22:06	SP	08:08	16:16
05-Jan		05:02	10:31	17:26	22:53		08:08	16:17
06-Jan		05:49	11:19	18:13	23:39		08:08	16:19
07-Jan		06:37	12:08	19:00			08:07	16:20
08-Jan	00:27	07:28	12:59	19:51			08:07	16:21
09-Jan	01:16	08:23	13:52	20:49			08:06	16:23
10-Jan	02:09	09:26	14:50	21:52			08:06	16:24
11-Jan	03:09	10:33	15:57	22:55		NP	08:05	16:25
12-Jan	04:17	11:36	17:05	23:54			08:04	16:27
13-Jan	05:25	12:33	18:07				08:04	16:28
14-Jan		00:49	06:26	13:24	19:00		08:03	16:30
15-Jan		01:39	07:17	14:10	19:45		08:02	16:31
16-Jan		02:26	08:00	14:52	20:23		08:01	16:33
17-Jan		03:08	08:36	15:31	20:58	FM	08:01	16:34
18-Jan		03:47	09:10	16:07	21:30		08:00	16:36
19-Jan		04:23	09:42	16:41	22:00		07:59	16:37
20-Jan		04:57	10:13	17:15	22:31	SP	07:58	16:39
21-Jan		05:30	10:44	17:48	23:03		07:57	16:40
22-Jan		06:05	11:17	18:23	23:39		07:56	16:42
23-Jan		06:43	11:55	19:02			07:54	16:44
24-Jan	00:21	07:27	12:39	19:47			07:53	16:45
25-Jan	01:08	08:16	13:31	20:41			07:52	16:47
26-Jan	02:05	09:19	14:36	21:49		NP	07:51	16:49
27-Jan	03:17	10:39	16:05	23:14			07:50	16:51
28-Jan	04:43	11:59	17:31				07:48	16:52
29-Jan		00:29	06:00	13:06	18:40		07:47	16:54
30-Jan		01:33	07:07	14:04	19:39		07:45	16:56
31-Jan		02:29	08:07	14:56	20:31		07:44	16:57

NM = New Moon + FM = Full Moon + NP = Neap tides + SP = Spring Tides

All times are local

e80e

Swanage Town Council Meetings - JAN 2022

PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNCIL DIRECTLY FOR INFORMATION

Wareham Town Council Meetings - JAN 2022

PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNCIL DIRECTLY FOR INFORMATION

Dorset Council

For details of council meetings, councillors and decisions please use the web address: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/committees

Alternatively, if you use the old 'Dorsetforyou' address:

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/committees - you will be redirected to the same link called 'committee meetings and papers'.

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Looking down to Stair Hole and Lulworth Cove, by Richard Murgatroyd

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DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION IS NOON, 10th JAN

Your Letters

The clue is in the heading above - these are our readers' letters. They are NOT articles, they are letters. By you. Our readers. They are not our letters, they are yours - your letters. Simple!

Please send all letters to ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk with 'letter to the editor' in the email subject line. Please do not exceed 350 words. If handwritten, please ensure it is short and legible.

PLEASE DO NOT DUPLICATE LETTERS TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS - WE DO NOT PRINT MULTI-PUBLICATION LETTERS.
FEBRUARY deadline: noon, 10th JAN

As Hard as Finding A Girlfriend



Dear Readers,

When the time came for my booster Covid-19 vaccination I knew that there were going to be problems when I rang 119 and was offered an appointment at Poole Ferry Terminal. She said that I could look for some alternatives on the website.

Over the next fortnight I found booking an appointment almost as hard as finding a girl friend or a job. Places like Newport in the Isle of Wight appeared much closer than they are in reality. Boots in Bournemouth appeared every day but was always no longer available. Clicking on another centre resulted in 'page not found'. Ideally, I needed somewhere I could easily get back from by public transport if I had a reaction to the vaccination and Wareham seemed the obvious choice. Wareham only appeared once and then it was no longer available as soon as I clicked on.

Some of my friends went to the walk-in centre at Iford one Sunday. The centre was only offering 130 vaccinations and there was a huge queue. Two of my friends arrived early in the afternoon and got a vaccination around two hours later, some had to wait until 19:30 but my other friends just got turned away.

Another friend got an appointment at Ashley Road, Poole. She said that it was close to Branksome Station and I could get there by public transport. When it came on the website it said it was no longer available. I was about to give up when I tried for the tenth time in one day. Five appointments came up at Pharmacy 2U at Dorchester. I booked an appointment at 10:05 and then wondered how I was going to get there.

It was much easier than I anticipated. My Sat Nav told me that it would take fifty minutes, but I reached the nearby Trinity Street car park in forty-six minutes. There were plenty of parking spaces and there was a public toilet. They vaccinated me on time and after ten minutes they released me, and I was well enough to drive back home.

Yours sincerely, Robin Brasher, Swanage, by email

Natural Immunity Better?

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed David Hollister's latest rant in the December issue, but surely describing those who have concerns about an experimental medical procedure as 'arrogant' or 'stupid' is hardly guaranteed to reassure and encourage them?

The Prime Minister told us that the vaccines were safe and effective, and that two jabs were our passport to freedom. His promises, and the inflated claims of the pharmaceutical industry, now seem rather hollow; we know that the Pfizer Phase 3 trial results were falsified, that efficacy of the vaccines is waning rapidly so that we now need boosters, and 'freedom' seems as far away as ever.

Many nurses and care workers will have been infected with Covid and

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have recovered. Most doctors agree that natural immunity is much more effective than that induced by a vaccine; why do they need a 'jab'? It seems that many of those we clapped for and hailed as heroes last year are now to be scapegoated. Some may even lose their jobs because of their legitimate concerns.

We also know that the vaccines prevent neither infection nor transmission. They may help to prevent hospitalisation, but as far as I am aware no double-blind study has been done, so this remains conjecture. Indeed, the latest UK Health Security Agency data show that the rate of infection, hospitalisation, and fatality is currently higher among the vaccinated than the unvaccinated.

At the very least this should be cause for concern. Meanwhile the MHRA Yellow Card reporting system has recorded thousands of vaccine adverse effects, including deaths, yet no investigation has taken place. Dr Tess Lawrie (MBBCh, PhD), Head of the Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, has written twice to June Raine, the Head of the MHRA, saying that there is now more than enough evidence to declare the Covid-19 vaccines unsafe for humans. Is this arrogance, or mere stupidity?

I confess that I am confused, and I no longer know who to trust or what to believe. We need sound and impartial medical advice, following thorough and transparent scientific analysis of the results of the vaccinations so far, in order to assess the risks and benefits and make informed decisions. Pointing fingers and cheap insults are no substitute.

Yours, Mike Etherington, by email

Linking Lives Room Needed

Dear Gazette,

Wanted! Largish meeting room two mornings a week in the centre of Swanage with parking and easy access for those with limited mobility. Can any reader help?

As the number of regulars and 'drop ins' increases, Swanage Linking Lives are running out of space at 103 High Street, the room so kindly rented to us by the Methodist Church since May. We really enjoy being there and have made many new friends and contacts, but extra space would be marvellous.

By the time you read this we will have, hopefully, enjoyed a Christmas Day lunch, complete with crackers and live music at All Saints Hall. Great fun was had making the pudding on 'Stir Up Thursday' at the end of November when everyone present brought along an ingredient, including an old sixpence and a thimble for our Christmas pudding, which was stirred vigorously by all present.

We have been kindly and generously lent Newton Manor Hall for a Cheese and Wine party on New Year's Day, to celebrate our 'Linking' with the 'Good Neighbours' scheme. All welcome (12.30pm till 3pm) if you read this in time.

Please feel free to drop in and join us any Tuesday or Thursday 10am till 12 noon, or call us if you need the services of Good Neighbours. Volunteers for both schemes gladly welcomed!

Sarah M Bamber, Chair, Swanage Linking Lives, sarahmbamber@gmail.com

Blind Madness?

Dear Readers,

Everywhere in the United Kingdom, there are partially sighted and blind people. These people have been taking the brunt of those people who can see and should have more respect and commonsense for people that are less fortunate than themselves.

What I'm talking about is people parking on pavements, businesses that put advertising boards on the pavements, householders and tenants that allow shrubs and trees to grow out of the building parameters. Not to mention the estate agent boards that are far too close and sometimes cover part of the pavement. But most dangerous of all is the councils' and utility companies inability to properly fit securely, their temporary



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JANUARY 2022

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road work signage as the first gust of wind or a good kick lays them flat. Each household has their own responsibility for their rubbish bins, the pavement is only to be used as a last resort, you must make room on your own property boundaries.

Just a kind word of warning to all those people that are guilty of making it so difficult for blind people just to walk on the pavements, which sighted people take for granted. If you are one of the above-mentioned people you must be aware that you open yourself up to litigation from anybody who is injured due to your carelessness.

If you drive a lorry and you park it on the pavement, a blind person with a stick will not be able to detect if there is a vehicle parked on the pavement due to the fact of the height of the vehicle off the tarmac surface. Also be aware that the foundations for the pavements are a lot less than those under the road.

I have seen one lorry almost on its side due to this fact, no more than 100 yards from Swanage town centre. Let us clear the clutter of our pavements and make them accessible to everybody and I mean everybody. If you think your insurance will cover you think again, they do not cover for stupidity. Mr Leslie Ardern, Swanage, by email.

Credit So Deserved

Hello,

So, I just wanted to write to you to say, if someone hasn't already, that the guys who are from Swanage Army Link do a fantastic job for us locals of Swanage and surrounding areas.

Not only do they litter pick in the early hours of the morning when I'm driving out of Swanage, but they also cut back hedges and trees that overhang or otherwise potentially obscure the roads.

Now I see them out in horrible weather digging trenches and uncovering blocked drains all the way along the road from Valley Road up to Stoborough roundabout, on both sides of the roads too.

This benefits the drivers and road users so much as the rain and flood waters now have ways of draining off from the roads, stopping the users from aquaplaning and possibly having accidents.

So I just want to say a big thank you to the guys that do this job for us. They deserve so much credit for it.

Mark, by email (Ed's note - see page 17 of this month's edition Mark!)

Hedgehogs And Hibernation

Dear Editor,

As quickly as the year draws to an end, our hedgehogs scurry away and find a place to hibernate. The word hibernation is Latin for "to pass the winter". During hibernation extraordinary changes occur with the body of hedgehogs; breathing rates slow down, body temperatures drop, and the metabolic patterns slow to the colder environment.

Hedgehogs begin their hibernation process in mid-October to mid-November. However, it is possible that some hedgehogs may stay awake as late as Christmas should they have not managed to accumulate enough fat reserves prior to hibernating.

At the time of reading this, our hedgehogs will be in hibernation. So, I thought it might be useful to know how we can help hedgehogs when they re-emerge from hibernating and protect an endangered species.

Hedgehogs come out of hibernation between March and May. Emerging from hibernation is a dangerous moment in the hedgehog year, they have to reverse the body changes made during hibernation which is a slow and

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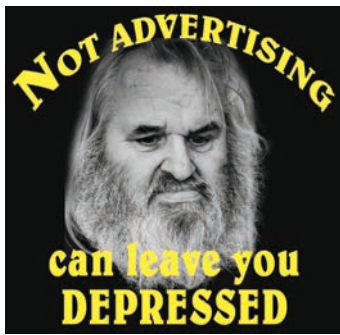

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energy-intensive process.

During hibernation a hog will have lost around 25% of their body weight and their first priority is to find food and water. On emerging they appear wobbly and disoriented which makes them vulnerable to predators. It is also the time gardeners are most active and can easily disturb a hibernating hog or injure a newly active one.

One of the things that can be done during winter is to make a hedgehog house, if you're no good at DIY they are sold in most garden centres and pet shops. Children love to get involved with conservation projects when given the opportunity. You could clear away any garden netting and anything else lying around that a hog might get tangled in.

Make sure you check your compost heap before digging it over, they are ideal haunts for hungry hogs and provide warmth. Check before you trim or cut back vegetation, it's all about commonsense really.

Finally, if you want to attract hedgehogs into your garden, set up a feeding station which is basically somewhere that a hog can find food and water on a regular basis.

Please don't give them milk because they are lactose intolerant, and it gives them diarrhoea. I use hedgehog food, but meat-based cat or dog good will do providing it does not contain fish. Putting out loads of food will not get you more hogs, better to start with a little and gradually increase depending on demand.

I remain Editor, yours faithfully,

Mike Fry, by email.

Box Target Beaten

Dear Editor,

Swanage and Purbeck Rotary is well known for its support of local community projects but also works hard to support international projects such as End Polio Now and Christmas Shoeboxes for youngsters in the Balkan countries.

This year, despite Covid, and thanks to wonderful support from local schools, Inner Wheel, individuals and Rotarians we have been able to beat our target of 300 boxes and send 314 boxes for distribution at Christmas time. Our amazing community has once again helped us to help others - thank you so much to everyone involved.

Maggie Hardy, International Committee Chair, Swanage & Purbeck Rotary

A Pleasure Raises Cash

Dear Nico,

Thanks to the generous shoppers at Swanage Market, busking with my accordion has generated over £1000 for local good causes in the last year.

The money thrown into my accordion case has totted up to the following donations since December 2020:

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance £455

Trevor Chadwick Memorial Fund £251

Swanage Ambulance Car Campaign £182

Friends of Swanage Cottage Hospital £90

Swanage Pier Trust £50

Total: £1028

I am very grateful to Bridget and her team in the fruit and vegetable section for suggesting I play my accordion in the first place and for their kindness since. I would also like to thank the Town Council for its support.

Mostly I'd like to thank the people who smile, wave, say hello, dance a jig or sing a song. It's a pleasure to play for you. I do my best with your requests.

When someone asked me to play Down by the Riverside I bashed out the tune.... but I got the joke in the end.

Janet Rees, Cauldron Barn Road, Swanage, by email.

Help Demand Local Plan Rethink

Dear Readers,

We, the Dorset CAN and Dorset CPRE DLP Campaign Team, are writing to seek your help and support in the Campaign for a re-think of the Dorset Local Plan.

We aim to launch the formal stage of the county-wide campaign on Wednesday, 12 January 2022, starting with the submission of an Open Letter to Dorset Council which calls for a re-think of the draft Local Plan.

Many of you will recall that the draft Local Plan was published in January 2021, for public consultation. Many Dorset CAN members and supporters were intensely troubled by the proposals in the draft Plan, particularly the idea that over 39,000 new dwellings should be built in the County during the seventeen years up to 2038. So, we put in hand a vigorous process of collecting ideas within Dorset CAN's growing network. With intense discussion and exchanges among us all, we prepared a hard-hitting response to the draft Plan. Our response, submitted in March, was supported by twenty organisations with a total membership of 3,500 people.

In the weeks following that submission, we found that many other organisations shared our concern about the Local Plan, and we decided to work with them to attack the Plan. During the summer, we had meetings with Dorset Council planners, undertook research to support our arguments, submitted questions to public meetings of Dorset Council and tried to make some impact on the Council's thinking. But the Dorset Council Cabinet members refused to meet us and gave 'stonewall' replies to our proposals for change.

We have therefore decided to mount a strong public campaign, aiming - through popular pressure - to persuade all the Dorset Council Councillors that the plan must be radically changed.

We have brought together many organisations into a Campaign Alliance and prepared a hard-hitting open letter to Dorset Council. We intend to generate a surge of public protest, through the Press and social media, starting on 13 January.

The success of this campaign will depend very much on the action of many thousands of Dorset Citizens, expressing their views through social media, through the Press and through direct contact with their ward Councillors of Dorset Council and to MPs and town or parish councils. Between now and the launch date in January, we will offer ideas on how this may be done. We ask you to prepare yourselves to contribute to this crucial campaign.

We look forward to working with you on this crucial campaign. We believe that a vigorous county-wide campaign, impelled by many organisations and their members, can secure a Local Plan which will protect our precious heritage, meet the real needs of Dorset people and contribute to implementing the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy

Giles Watts and Michael Dower for the DLP Campaign Team, by email.



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Steve Wheller receiving the award on behalf of Carpets Select

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Community Matters

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS...

Heads You Lose, Tails You Don't Win

by David Hollister

Well, here we all are! 2022! We've made it through nearly two years of Covid-19; some of us have survived uninfected but a growing number of my friends have contracted the disease and a few have sadly succumbed.

The Government insists on publishing the figures on a daily basis, despite the fact that Covid-19 is no longer the major cause of death in the UK. Maybe we should ask them to publish statistics regarding deaths from strokes, heart disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes, suicide, car accidents, etc. All of which continue to take their toll but seem to remain unreported.

The continued reluctance of a substantial minority of the population to wear masks, self-isolate, self-test or even acknowledge their personal responsibility to others during this pandemic, is one reason why it will still be with us for Christmases and New Years to come.

We have to learn to live with it just as we now accept the common cold, influenza, and all those other diseases. But on the 'upside'.....since I've been wearing masks and self-isolating I haven't had a single cold!

For many, many years the imposing building formerly known as 'Oldfeld' and latterly 'Harrow House' has dominated the view of north Swanage. Sadly, I'm presuming that for economic reasons as well as Covid and Brexit, the business closed down and the 800-odd students whose presence became an accepted part of Swanage and its economy, have gone. The dome has been deflated.

The building stands as a sad reminder of better days gone by, but has now been put up for re-development by Westcoast developments based in Poole who, at the time of writing, don't seem to have anything online I can find other than 'error establishing a database connection'.

Their current publicity material suggests that they are proposing to obtain permission to change the building to residential use, including around forty houses and fifty apartments in a 'very high-quality Georgian style'. They seek the redevelopment of the 'entire site' which suggests to me that the old red-brick building and all its outbuildings will have to go.

They organised a public exhibition on 17th December at the Mowlem and had they taken the trouble to publicise this meeting in the Purbeck Gazette, they would doubtless have reached more of the people who are directly concerned. However, as the land is privately owned, they have no legal obligation whatsoever to discuss it with the general public.

They confirm that they are putting up a website which should have gone live on the day of the meeting, at www.harrowhouse.clplanning.co.uk, so if you couldn't get to the meeting, please take the time to look at the website.

This is one of the largest developments in Swanage for many years and could potentially provide part of the answer to our housing shortage, so please don't campaign for the 'status quo' and to keep this building for 'heritage' reasons and leave the developers in limbo for years of argument; look what happened to the Grammar School, which was left to rot - and which is only now is bringing more homes, some of which may well be 'affordable'.....

So - what will come first? New homes or the necessary infrastructure? Heads you lose; tails you don't win.....

I'm told that there were more than sixteen ambulances queuing outside

Poole A&E recently. The DCCG's solution? Close Poole A&E. Meanwhile over at Bournemouth, one patient described waiting ten hours to be treated at the RBH and was also told that there would be a six-hour wait for an ambulance. So, when I'm driving and an ambulance comes up behind me with its lights and horns going, I find myself wondering - what's the hurry? Racing flat out to join a queue?

I know that the NHS is something of a 'sacred cow' and that it's wonderful, I mustn't say anything nasty about it, but honestly? Look at it! Doctors and nurses leaving en-masse, those who remain become totally frazzled whilst too few of them try to treat too many patients.

Look at the 'bed blocking' problem because they can't discharge the elderly without a proper 'care package' to be set up by not enough carers in not enough care homes. Yet the Government insists that there will be 50,000 more nurses (along with the 20,000 additional police officers and 5000 more lorry drivers). Where are these recruits hiding now? They don't exist, Boris, and sooner or later you will realise that flapping your mouth just doesn't solve the problem.

How many more nurses and infrastructure workers would we have, had it not been for Brexit, which has turned the UK from a place where people would flock to for work, into a place where they are made to feel unwelcome and as a result, now choose not to bring their talents?

So - what will come first? New workers or the homes for them to live in? Heads you lose; tails you don't win.....

OK. Christmas is over. By the time you read this, New Year will be upon us and we may have a long and painful journey into the spring. Many more businesses will be closing their doors altogether, simply unable to sustain themselves through lack of staffing, reams of Government and HMRC regulations with which they need to comply to avoid 'penalties'.

As I walked the streets of Dorchester recently, I was horrified to find so many 'old favourites' gone; Swanage and Wareham are going to have to work hard and tighten their belts to avoid the same fate.

But tighten them they might, retail has been dealt a body-blow in the pandemic, as more and more people discover shopping online - which in the lockdowns was often the only way to get what they need.

The 'High Street' is no longer a haven of friendly and useful independent retailers - although there are a few left - ; we have chains, charity shops, shops selling 'memorabilia' and 'heritage items', loaded to the gunwales with enthusiastically priced stuff that other people have rejected or sold in desperation.

So - the social and economic benefits of the High Street, or the convenience of 'click and collect'?

Heads you lose; tails you don't win.....



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SWANAGE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place on
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at 7.30pm
at The Royal British Legion Club

All members are welcome to attend



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Working Together, Supporting The Community

As from January 2022 two well established Swanage groups are going to work together to improve the support that they give to the community. Purbeck Good Neighbours and Swanage Linking Lives feel that the services they offer will fit very well together.

Swanage Linking Lives is a befriending service aimed at anyone who finds themselves requiring some extra friendship and support and this is provided through regular visits, emails or telephone calls. We match volunteers with those who are referred to us and all volunteers are carefully selected, trained and vetted.

The Place of Welcome has reopened in the Methodist Rooms at 103, High Street, Swanage. Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am till 12 noon. Coffee, tea, cake, conversation, laughter, advice, knitting, dominoes all available. Everyone welcome. Their contact number is: 07495 534171.

Purbeck Good Neighbours have been operating for the last ten years with volunteers helping older and disabled people with one-off tasks that need an extra helping hand to complete. The sort of things they do are small repair jobs, taking rubbish to the tip, retuning TVs, moving furniture, help setting up mobile phones and many more diverse jobs. They only ask for a minimum donation of £2.00 to help cover expenses.

Please note the Purbeck Good Neighbour contact number has now changed: 07726 458346 (see advert on right)



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- Move some Furniture - Remove Rubbish
- Re-tune TV or Help with Mobile Phone
- Small Repair Jobs

Just give us a call!
07726 458346

All we ask is a minimum donation of £2.00

Purbeck Good Neighbours

Working with Swanage Linking Lives



Swanage And Purbeck Rotary Christmas Round-Up



On 4th December 2021 the Swanage Christmas Market made a welcome return after a Covid-enforced absence in 2020.

Despite a less-than-positive weather forecast, Station Road saw stallholders arriving before first light to set up ready for the day and by the 10am official start time, the road was full of stalls selling everything from meat products to mulled cider to goods manufactured from recycled single-use plastic.

Fortunately the strong winds that had been forecast didn't materialise and with a blue sky above, the crowds came, eager to stock up on their festive goods. They were accompanied during the day by local singers including Karen Grant, Kelp! and the Wareham Wailers who took to the 'stage' in Mermond Place.

There was plenty to satisfy those hungry and thirsty, with a variety of food outlets including Crab Apple Catering, the Boozy Bus and the Rotary Barbecue, which was so popular that it had sold out by 1:30pm!

There were children's rides to keep the children entertained and Santa was obviously also in attendance to hear what they all wanted for Christmas.

By the time the market officially closed at 4pm, all the traders agreed it had been a good day and a welcome return of a favourite early Christmas



event. Swanage and Purbeck Rotary would like to thank all the traders who attended, all those who helped during the day and, above all, everyone who came along to make it such a good day.

Pictures: top left, a busy Station Road during the market, above: Kelp Shanty Singers entertain the crowds, below: Swanage's immediate past-Mayor, Bonza, volunteers to man a Rotary stall during the market.



Youth And Community Foundation Supported

Presentation to Purbeck Youth and Community Foundation

Using surplus funds raised and donated by former Wareham Town Mayor Dina Brooks, a cheque for £600 has been presented by the defunct Wareham Music Festival Committee to the Purbeck Youth and Community Foundation (PYCF).

The Foundation's Secretary and Fundraiser, Joyce Spiller, together with Youth Volunteer, Alan Horton, were delighted to receive a cheque for £600 from Music Festival Chairman Rod Curtis.

Joyce said, "PYCF are running youth clubs across Wareham, Wool and Corfe and outreach in other areas. We go into local schools and undertake some focused work with young people for Dorset Council. The pandemic has made our services even more vital, alongside making us constantly adapt to changing circumstances.

"As a small local charity, we are so grateful for local support to keep us running. We know life is not easy for many young people and with such support we can enable services that keep them safe, improve their wellbeing and give informal learning and fun with access to qualified workers and well-trained volunteers."

It's not all about young people, Rod learned. The handover took place at the Thursday morning session of the 'Not So Youth' group for adults over fifty at the Purbeck Youth and Community Centre, behind Purbeck



School, run by Alan Horton. There is also a women's group which meets on Mondays. All information on PYCF activities offered may be found on its website www.pycf.org.uk or at office@pycf.org.uk tel: 01929 552934 and on Facebook.

Rod Curtis

Picture: Presentation to Joyce Spiller and Alan Horton

Residents Can Get Help With Essential Costs



Residents in need, including vulnerable families, will receive help with the cost of food and heating and other essentials this winter. Dorset Council has been awarded £2,294,941 from the Government's Household Support Fund which has been set up to help vulnerable households across the country in need of financial support.

Some of the money allocated to the council will be used to make sure children who receive free school meals during term time will have food vouchers over the Christmas, February half term and Easter school holidays. Information about food vouchers will be shared with families direct from their school.

One-off winter energy vouchers of £200 will also be made available to households in receipt of Universal Credit with limited capability for work or, earnings below the free school meals and free prescription threshold. To find out more and apply for a winter energy voucher go to www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/winter-energy-voucher

At least 50% of the Household Support Fund will be used to support vulnerable families with children in Dorset. In addition to food and winter energy vouchers, other targeted emergency local assistance will be available including support for care leavers, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and people using food banks.

Cllr Andrew Parry, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Early Help said: "The knock-on effects of the pandemic continue to place huge pressures on people, and we know many of our residents will be finding it hard to make ends meet, particularly at this time of year.

"This funding aims to help those who are struggling to pay for food, heating, and other essential household costs. We're working with our Dorset Together partners to make sure this help will reach those most in need this winter."

Find out more about how to apply for free school meals at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals

More information about access to food, financial advice and help with isolation is available at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reaching-out

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Closing date for registrations is 8th January 2022 and collections will take place between 8th – 14th January 2022.



Charity Registration No: 1120193



Purbeck Local Plan Consults

Dorset Council is opening a further, limited, consultation on two revised policies of the Purbeck Local Plan. Consultation began on 6 December and will continue for seven weeks until 24th January.

This consultation will be specifically about some further changes to policies for Green Belt release (Policy V2) and a holiday park at Morden (policy I5 -Morden Holiday Park and Strategic Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)). People who have previously made a response to the Purbeck Local Plan during the consultations will be notified about this consultation, but anyone who is interested in the changes which we are suggesting can respond if they wish.

Cllr David Walsh, Dorset Council Portfolio holder for Planning, said: "When the consultation closes next year, we will share copies of all the responses and the consultation response document with the Inspector, who will then decide on how to proceed."

Copies of consultation documents will be available to view in local libraries and online through the council's website at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/purbeck-local-plan/purbeck-local-plan. The consultation closes on Monday 24 January 2022. Any late responses received after the closing date will not be referred to the Inspector for consideration.

Representations on the changes to Policies I5 and V2 must be made on the required form. Responses can be made online, by e-mailing completed forms which can be found at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/purbeck-local-plan/purbeck-local-plan to the council at planningpolicy@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or on paper forms addressed to Purbeck Local Plan Proposed Further Main Modifications Consultation, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ.



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How Racism Is Affecting Those Living And Working In Purbeck

What Are The Real Effects Of Being Discriminated Against?

Many Purbeckians know of The Black Swan in Swanage's High Street. An ancient inn brought lovingly into the 21st century by co-owners, Eric and Darren. Both are well-known and respected in Swanage and both are responsible for the running of a highly acclaimed establishment which is often booked-up for weeks in advance and enjoys an outstanding reputation.

All good then, yes? Sadly not – the undoubted success of the Black Swan's latest incarnation has been achieved despite one of the owners battling an insidious and toxic mix of racism and discrimination. It's hugely disappointing to find that these issues are still prevalent, causing deep distress and emotional trauma to those on the receiving end of the thoughtless and more importantly, downright unacceptable actions and words of the ignorant amongst us.

Below, co-owner and chef of the Black Swan, Eric Olinet (pictured whilst giving a display at one of Swanage's popular annual Fish Festivals), describes his personal experiences since the Brexit vote and explains in detail the emotional impact of being a French man running one of Purbeck's best loved pubs.....



Over the course of the last five years, I have been told: "Here will never be your home, that's why I voted Brexit", "If you'd been in this country longer...", and plenty more belittling and invalidating examples. I don't know how many times someone has started their sentence with "In this country" but rarely at these moments are other people or colleagues witness to it. People have spoken to me deliberately slowly, loudly and clearly so that I will "understand" the language I am fluent in; or looked to my friends and colleagues to simplify for me what's being explained or requested.

So, what has changed? I have lived and worked in the UK for thirty years speaking and understanding English, living in a liberal and diverse culture for which Britain is universally recognised. I have lived my life according to UK laws, standards, cultural and social niceties, paid my taxes, rented properties and contributed to the economy. I have always been employed; I am an employer and a business owner. So far, so good.

Before the 23rd June 2016, I believed that my life was the UK, I felt 'local' and had a true sense of belonging and now I am made to feel foreign. Not only is that different; it is sad. I didn't expect to experience discrimination, to feel like a stranger in an unwelcoming land. I never thought that I would consider other life plans; life seemed good, ordered and ticked along quite nicely.

Of course, I had come across the occasional person who made a comment, over-used a stereotype...all French people wear stripey tops and, when not sporting a string of onions, have a baguette firmly under their arm. Some people slowed down their pace of speech and annunciated more.

I believe it was banter or simply trying to be helpful. I know of other EU nationals who did have hostile experiences, but nothing like the past five years. I know of two nurses who were flirted with during daily bus journeys, with lots of laughs and chats for more than three years.

Come the 24th June 2016, they boarded the bus only to be told by the guys: "Get off the bus, you can f**k off back to where you come from

now" and no, it was not banter.

In this climate of "you are no longer welcome", what's the point of staying? This is a question many of my multinational friends have been asking. Sadly, for me personally, they have decided to leave the UK. If it is that attitudes haven't changed towards me then certainly, our perception, mine and my fellow European friends, of being 'welcome' has changed. So, are we all over-reacting or being over-sensitive?

When I repeat or report what has been said, I feel there is no will from companies, councils or private citizens to do anything about it. Regularly those who know me remind me it is a small minority of people who actively, consciously, or thoughtlessly make these statements, comments or actions; and it is - but it hurts!

However, it is not only what is said or done that is hurtful; the apprehension of simply making or receiving a phone call can be overwhelming. Wondering if I will be verbally abused, disregarded or just patronized shouldn't be a daily habit: I shouldn't always be in defense mode, it damages and diminishes my spirit.

If you haven't experienced racism or discrimination that is slow and insidious, it can be hard to explain. Having to question if some experience occurred because of your nationality, race, ethnicity or so on is stressful. It is this micro-aggressiveness during the past five years that has caused feelings of alienation, degeneration and belittlement.

It causes resentment, sleepless nights and invalidates my thoughts and feelings; all of which is bad for physical health too.

After the recent death of my dad in France, I am genuinely questioning whether I should or could stay. Will I be forever a second-class citizen now? How long before the next remark? When's the next time someone on the phone can't provide me with information but can give an immediate response to my English accented colleague?

Can I support this - and will it get worse?

For the last two months I have considered very seriously selling the pub....

Mr Eric Olinet, Chef/Co-owner of The Black Swan Inn, pictured.

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'Nobody Should Be Made To Feel Like A Second Class Citizen'

The Chief Officer Of Dorset Race Equality Council writes....

Chief Officer of Dorset Race Equality Council, Nathalie Sherring, is originally from France but has lived in and around Bournemouth for the last twenty years. Her background is in education but since being in the UK she has managed and led many community development projects and has developed a passion for this work and for equality.

Nathalie joined Dorset Race Equality Council in April 2015 as a Community Development Worker and took over the management of the organisation at the end of 2016. She is now its Chief Officer. We shared Eric's article (opposite) with Nathalie prior to publication and she was kind enough to pen an extremely open and honest accompanying article, detailing some of her own experiences facing discrimination in the UK and offering advice to those in the same position.

We are extremely grateful to Nathalie for her time and honesty and we urge anyone experiencing discrimination of any sort to report, report, report - it's only by reporting every single incident that we can begin to calculate just how widespread this issue is in our society and attempt to effectively tailor services to meet real demand and offer support to those affected.

I would like to say to Eric how sorry I am that he has experienced such prejudice and discrimination but would like to congratulate him for having the courage to write such a compelling article on his experience of hate incidents in Purbeck. It is very important that victims of racial discrimination and hate incidents, do report, and challenge them.

Incidents like Eric has reported are, sadly, far more common than many people realise but such behaviour is totally unacceptable and needs to stop. Nobody should be made to feel like a second-class citizen or have to endure racially motivated abuse. Tolerance and respect for our differences should be at the heart of any decent society.

Diversity is what makes an organisation/country successful and prosperous. It fosters tolerance, inclusion, and acceptance.

Nobody is superior or inferior to any other and we ALL have the right to be who we are and to live where we choose and how we choose, harmoniously and as law abiding citizens.

Unfortunately, the hostile immigration environment of the last few years seems to have become even more toxic since Brexit and now a minority seem to think that it is acceptable to make nasty comments about people's origins but it is NOT. It is discrimination and it should be challenged and appropriately dealt with.

Eric's story resonated with me, as I am myself originally from France. I decided to make the UK my home a very long time ago because, at the time, it felt a lot more liberal, and it felt like a country where I could achieve and do what I wanted and that felt really good to me.

However, unfortunately, that feeling has been eroded over the last few

years and yesterday, I was asked, for the first time, to justify my right to work in the UK. I felt bad and I felt undervalued and like a second-class citizen. I have always worked hard and contributed a lot to the UK economy. So, it felt wrong to be asked to justify myself. I hope that Eric will not decide to leave his pub and his home, but I would totally understand if he did. This has crossed my mind a few times too.

I would have thought that, by now, people would have realised that the British economy is heavily reliant on the contribution of non-native citizens and that the economy would fall apart without those people.

What can be done?

Hate incidents are usually derogatory comments that are made and directed at people because of their race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or any other protected characteristics. Any attempt to justify such comments as simply banter is fatuous. Continued exposure to hate incidents is harmful to the victim.

They need to be reported, challenged and appropriately dealt with. They can be reported to Dorset Police on 101 or by email. However, the Police might not be able to intervene, as, unfortunately, most of the time, the police would not have sufficient evidence to investigate and take the case to the Crown Prosecution Service.

If people do not want to report to the Police, they can report to Third Party Reporting Centres, which are organisations which will listen to individuals, report the incident to the Police on behalf of the individual either with the details or anonymously and signpost the victim to appropriate support services.

Dorset Race Equality Council is a Third Party Reporting Centre but the full list can be accessed on the Prejudice Free Dorset website at: <https://prejudicefreedorset.org/>

It is important to report any hate incident, even if it does not seem that important, because it gives an idea of the current situation to the local agencies that can, in turn, either develop appropriate services or invest in certain activities.

I would urge anybody to report any derogatory comment, even if it means reporting constantly, because until we know the extent of the issue, we will not be able to put the appropriate resources in place to put a stop to the problem and people will continue to feel like second-class citizens.

Dorset Race Equality Council

01202 392954

enquiries@dorsetrec.org.uk

www.dorsetrec.org.uk

Out Of The Blue



Happy New Year and welcome to January; holidays are over and it's back to work - not that we ever stopped!

As you can imagine the run-up to the holidays was busy. Talking of busy, I'm sure you all are, but if you can spare a minute, please use this link and have your say: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PurbeckEmail>, listening and

acting upon what you have had to say enables us to target both our resources and patrol.

So, what have we been up to?

Well, during the period 06 November - 09 December 21, we dealt with a total of 563 occurrences in Purbeck, of which 150 were recorded crimes resulting in 59 arrests. There were 129 occurrences of Road Traffic collisions.

Please take extra care on the roads at this time of the year. Light levels can be low, and temperatures can drop quickly, resulting in poor visibility, freezing fog and icy roads. This has caught a number of drivers out and kept us busy dealing with Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). Please reduce your speed and spacing between other vehicles. Ensure all your lights are clean, working correctly and all your windows are clear, this includes making sure they are fully demisted so you can properly see out of them before starting your journey, no matter how short.



Partners And Communities Together

You can get all the latest information on road conditions on England's motorways and trunk roads:

- Visit the Highways Agency website: www.highways.gov.uk/traffic
- Call the Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL): 0300 123 5000*
- Download the Highways Agency iPhone app or access the mobile website www.highways.gov.uk/mobile
- For information on weather conditions, consult the Met Office www.metoffice.gov.uk or listen to local radio broadcasts

For further information on driving in bad weather see The Highway Code: www.direct.gov.uk/motoring

Please come along to our meet the team events at, dates and locations can be found on the website, we'd love to see you there!

Purbeck Neighbourhood Policing Team

Wareham Town Council Update

Julie, our Gazette correspondent, details the goings on in recent council meetings.....



News from Wareham Town Council meeting at the end of November

The Wareham Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by Dorset Council (DC). DC is currently running consultations on an annual residents' survey which closes on 14th January, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) closes 13th January and Libraries closes 7th January. One of the PSPOs seeks to reduce the risk of fire in Wareham Forest by allowing a fine to be levied for possession and refusal to surrender items such as barbecues, Chinese lanterns or fireworks in the area.

A bric-a-brac sale in the Corn Exchange raised £150 for the Mayor's charities, 1st Wareham Scout Group and Wareham Guides. Santa's elves hoped to set up a grotto for their boss in Wareham Museum. Earlier in the year 1st Sandford Cubs brushed up their local knowledge in the same venue.

Our Town Clerk had attended the National Conference of the Society of Local Clerks where a recurring theme was community engagement, so

keep an eye on the notice boards, and, if you have access, the Council's website. Thanks to the assiduity of the Town Clerk and other staff, the Council hopes to rapidly rise through the levels of Quality in the Local Council Award Scheme leading to a badge on the Council's website and headed paper.

Plans are being made for Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on 2nd June 2022, including a beacon, an event in Howards Lane car park and special music. Any organizations which would like to participate should get in touch with the Council.

The Town Clerk was to meet with representatives of DC about using a DC grant of £20,000 to set up an office in the corner of the Corn Exchange for Town Council customer service and Tourist Information, possibly open – initially three hours a day Monday to Friday - by Easter 2022. The Corn Exchange would continue to be available for hire.

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Town Council, the next ones being on Tuesdays 18th January and 1st March, at 7pm in the Council Chamber. The Council's website is www.wareham-tc.gov.uk and the 'phone number of the office is 01929 553006.

Wareham Delights: 'Next Year You'll See Us From Space!'



Newly appointed Chair, Ian Davey (pictured, left), writes:

Wareham's Christmas parade was a great success, especially after so many challenges with insurance, Covid health and safety and so on. Bearing in mind, just like so many local events both in Wareham and Swanage, we rely entirely on amazing volunteers.

Colin Appleton, who has led as Chairman for so many years, has finally been able to take a step back as many of our senior volunteers can also now do, due to a fresh intake of enthusiastic and skilled

volunteers. Thank you so much to all of you who have stepped up and therefore allowed those who have carried the weight of organising for so long the time to have a well deserved rest! It's great to see some new faces and to know that our parade will go on for many years to come.

At 4pm the entertainment started with St. Marys handbells, followed by the Muddelcombe sped-up rendition of 'Snowy white'. Then we all enjoyed Emma from Top Notes singing 'Twelve Days of Christmas', helped along by the 1st Wareham Cubs and Scouts. Our local Town Cryers and Mayor joined us and there was a tree blessing given by Reverend Simon Everett, before we all joined in with the traditional Christmas tree light up countdown.

Our Christmas Parade was, as always, a magnificent affair which delighted the gathered crowds, before Father Christmas appeared in his grotto where all the enthralled kiddies were given a free goodie bag. Our community has really done us proud with fundraisers and businesses helping us tremendously. I have taken over as Chair and I feel so positive that next year, Wareham will be so brightly lit up you will see us from space!

Pictures: All images other than that directly above (of Ian) are thanks to Sue Kemp Photography.





SWANWORTH QUARRY:

DORSET'S MAIN CRUSHED STONE QUARRY CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Swanworth Quarry in Worth Matravers, owned by Suttle Stone Quarries, is celebrating its **100th anniversary**. The quarry currently supplies approximately 50% of Dorset's required crushed stone to the area, which is used as a sub-base for construction schemes, rock armour on sea defence works, gabions and decorative chippings. Suttle Stone Quarries is a division of the Suttles group of companies, employing some 120 staff locally, with 55 of those employed at Suttle Stone Quarries.



KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Although the quarry has changed hands over the years, four generations of the Samways family have worked at the quarry since 1921. Carly (3rd generation) and her daughter Lauren (4th generation) currently work in the quarry's weighbridge office.

Carly said "My family has worked at the quarry for 100 years - the quarry is in our family's blood! I love working here. It has seen a few changes over the years, although when Suttles took it over in 2011, they woke it up again. It is a real privilege to work here."

ABOUT THE QUARRY OWNERS

The Suttle family has worked in the natural stone and quarrying business on the Isle of Purbeck since the 1920s, before purchasing the Swanworth Quarry in 2011. Suttles is a family-run ethical business with sustainability at the core of its values. Suttles is working towards becoming carbon neutral and has already made many investments in the business that reduce its CO2 emissions by around 60 tonnes per year, including investing in electric and hybrid vehicles and plant, and installing a solar panel system that powers the quarry's workshop and crusher.



Suttles' Director, John Suttle added "As well as supplying around 50% of Dorset's crushed stone, we are also keen to support community and charity initiatives, too. For example, we donated materials for the extension at Corfe Village Hall, as well as stone sub-base for Dorset Wildlife Trust's 'Greengage' project. Suttles also sponsors and helps to organise the annual 'Big Night Out', a local night of clubbing for people with learning disabilities, attended by over 400 people from around Dorset."

John goes on to say "The quarry plays an important role locally; it boosts the local economy and employment levels, it significantly minimises the carbon footprint of Dorset's crushed stone market (compared to bringing in stone from other areas) and keeps aggregate costs lower for local businesses and residents. We are very proud of the quarry's 100 year history and we are currently in planning for the next phase of operations."

Read more here:



Suttles
www.suttles.co.uk

Wear Your Hair To Show You Care!



After the huge success of last year, MYTIME Young Carers is back again with weird and wonderful hairstyles for its national Hair2Care campaign. The Dorset-based charity supporting children and young people caring for family members, is on a mission to make sure the 700,000 young carers in the UK get the appreciation they so deserve.

On February 18th, MYTIME is again asking people to do something different with their hair to show they care, the bolder the better!

Thousands of children across the UK are young carers, meaning they are responsible for looking after a family member who has a disability, illness, mental health condition or who misuses substances, often at great personal cost. MYTIME supports carers as young as five years old, who may be carrying out anything from cooking to doing laundry to physically helping a parent get up and dressed every morning. The responsibility of caring for another person often means these young people miss out on hobbies, seeing friends and other social activities their peers may take for granted.

Penelope Day, Fundraising Director at MYTIME Young Carers, commented: 'We know that young carers provide invaluable support to their families, but lots of people don't realise how much they really do, because it happens behind closed doors. Lots of young carers can feel isolated, invisible and lonely because they don't have much time to see friends or because they don't feel they can talk about their responsibilities. So, we launched Hair2Care to give young people a day all about them, to show them that people see what they do and appreciate their hard work. And what better way to do that and make sure young carers are seen, than with the brightest, boldest hairstyles possible!'

Last year, MYTIME's Hair2Care campaign saw thousands of people across the country doing whacky and wonderful things with their hair, from mohawks to coloured wigs, all to shine a light on the work young carers do day in and day out. The campaign made national news and even got the attention of celebrity hairdresser Lee Stafford and EastEnders actor Scott Maslen, who both got involved.

This year, Hair2Care is back and MYTIME plans for it to be bigger than ever. The charity is encouraging everyone at schools, offices, hairdressers, or anywhere else to get involved and share their hairstyles on social media with the #hair2care.

Penelope continues: 'The last Hair2Care day was fantastic, we had gravity-defying cola bottle ponytails, glittered beards, and every hair colour in the rainbow! We can't wait to see what happens this time! The message for 2022 really is, be bold. Maybe even go bald, like MYTIME's trustee chair did last year when he shaved his head. Anything goes! It's all to raise awareness for these wonderful young carers.'

To get involved in the Hair2Care campaign, simply share a photo of your hair on February 18th on social media with #hair2care and donate to MYTIME if you can.

Donations can be made via text: to donate £1, text HAIR to 70201; to donate £5, text HAIR to 70970 or to donate £10, text HAIR to 70191.

To find out more about MYTIME Young Carers, visit <https://www.mytimeyoungcarers.org/>

Pictured: top left: MYTIME's Trustee Chair went bald last year for Hair2Care. Right - why not wear a coloured wig?

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From Dawn Patrols To Scenery Vans...



Frank Roberts writes....(pictured, above)

It's always a pleasure to pop in to see the Editor. I enjoy our chats, which I find both grounding and inspirational.

Recently I was asked by Nico what I had planned for the New Year, and she encouraged me to set my plans.

Swanage Army Link.

Our recent Link with the British Army started in the early 1980s and during the past four decades members of the Royal Corps of Signals have supported both Swanage and the Railway.

In recognition of our close association, The Liberty of Swanage was bestowed on 11th (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment in July 2005.

Soon afterwards, Swanage Army Link was formed to support any event in Purbeck which raises the profile of the Armed Forces - in line with the Government's Armed Forces Covenant.

Such events have included soldiers working at Herston Halt, fundraising for local charities including for Heroes Haven and of course, Remembrance. In the New Year we will start to plan the 40th Anniversary of Swanage Army Link.



the new access steps, and in 2009 they assisted the construction of the new concrete platform. As military visits have reduced, Team Herston was formed to look after the assets at this location. At Easter we will formally launch a new Herston Community Halt initiative, in the hope of encouraging locals, veterans and off duty HM Forces personnel to support this community facility. We have already gained half a dozen new recruits, all of whom live locally in Swanage.

The Scenery Van.

This is our 100-year-old wooden bodied van, used by soldiers and Team Herston when working at Herston Halt. In February we will commence some major body work so the van can be used to present the story of Swanage Army Link and the Purbeck Radar Trust.

If you are able to assist in any of these ventures, please contact: Frank@hertsoncross.co.uk



Certa Cito



Dawn Patrols.

Visits by soldiers have reduced in recent years due to military cutbacks. To keep us focused between events, some energetic veterans and civilians have been removing litter from the A351 between Swanage and Wareham since spring 2016.

This work, which is not for the faint hearted, has seen us up in the small hours to continue our safety work removing vegetation - to improve sightlines for drivers so they can see pedestrians, cyclists and deer. We will continue to clear drains and grips, report faults and issues to Dorset Council, and will soon be cleaning road-signs.

Litter Free Purbeck.

In 2016 three of us formed a new group to address littering, and my, how things have moved on in the years since! We now have half a dozen teams across Purbeck, and two in Swanage!

Next year Swanage Landers will continue to meet on the fourth Saturday of each month, also working with Swanage Beach Buddies during our fortnightly 1400hrs Thursday combined meets.

Herston Community Halt.

I have been supporting this small station since 1983. In 2004 soldiers built



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Sport



Above: A dolphin joins the SSRC Women

Fishy Farewell To The Season For Swanage Sea Rowing Club

Gig rowing is a year-round sport, but it isn't the same all year. During the summer months the five gigs; three wooden racing boats and two GRP (glass reinforced plastic) are in regular use. Most evenings see several outings, with Juniors' training on Mondays, women training on Wednesdays and men on Thursdays, while at weekends all of these squads take to the water again, as well as a substantial and growing number of social rowers.

Before the pandemic struck there were also open sessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays, when anyone who was interested in having a trial session could turn up and have a go. Even though the last two years have restricted some activities, in particular competitions, the outdoor nature of the sport has made it possible to continue much of the normal routine by applying strict Covid protocols.

The two GRP gigs, Tilly Whim and Dancing Ledge, are kept on the water for ease of use, only being brought ashore when strong winds, especially easterlies, are forecast. However, everything changes once the clocks have been put back in October, as it becomes too dark to row safely in the evenings. A women's training crew set out for their final evening session of the year, feeling sad that it would be months before they would be able to do so again, when, to their delight a dolphin popped up beside them and followed the gig, playing around their oars. Instead of feeling down, they returned from their outing elated, reinforcing the fact that sea rowing is good for the spirit as well as the body.

Rowing definitely becomes more problematic in the winter months, as the boats need to be kept ashore most of the time and have to be launched and recovered for every outing. The usual launching spot is alongside the Stone Quay, but since the installation of the concrete storm defences, this has been impossible. Thanks to our friends at Swanage Sailing Club launching takes place from Buck Shore, weather permitting.

SSRC's trustees are always looking for ways to improve the club's facilities and are currently reviewing the fleet, some of which are beginning to show their age, needing a lot of expensive maintenance to keep them afloat. One of the options they are considering is the purchase of a different kind of gig, a smaller version with only four oars, a traditional type which has recently been revived by second-generation Cornish gig builder, Patrick Bird, who has loaned the club a prototype to try out.

The advantage of a smaller boat would be easier launching and lighter oars for younger and weaker crews, and more flexibility on numbers. The downside is that a smaller boat is less able to cope with rougher seas, which the big six-oared boats can handle with ease. The boat is called Oar-dacity (followers of rowing will know that oarsmen have a fondness for oar-based puns!) and is currently on trial in Swanage.

If you are interested in joining SSRC on the water, regardless of your age or experience, check out www.swanagesearowingclub.org.uk or Facebook Swanage Sea Rowing Club for more information. Learn to Row courses are held regularly throughout the year.



Above: Sport Prototype 4-oared gig on its first Swanage outing

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our body moving and blood pumping can do wonders for our wellbeing, yet many of us don't complete the recommended thirty minutes per day, five days per week target. Do you?

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Instead of struggling alone, you could be talking to an advisor or coach from LiveWell Dorset who will help you make a plan – and encourage you to stick to it! Options include coaching sessions, activities and tools to target activity and weight loss vouchers for local slimming groups.

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New Year can leave us feeling sluggish and flat – physically and mentally. We might start out filled with good intentions of going on a health kick but finding the motivation is another story. Let 2022 be the year when you make #YourMove! We know that getting



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The Passing British On Indian Walls

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Above: Within the Pink City - Ilay reads for a while whilst Gazette Editor, Nico Johnson, wanders around Jantar Mantar Observatory, Jaipur, 2015. Photo NJ.

The first painted havelis (merchant mansions) I came across when cycling through desert Rajasthan, in 1972, were in little Taranagar town, near the state's northern border. Much of the painting was of decorative, abstract or floral designs, the occasional animal, but there were many figurative subjects, usually mixing confusing Hindu religious figures with unknown Indian heroes.

I was still weak on Hindu deities and could recognize few notable Indians, apart from Gandhi and Nehru, and none of the mythical ones. Easier to cope with were the regular portraits of British monarchs, particularly Edward VII (1901-10) and his son, George V (1910-36), their faces and reigns familiar from school days. Monarchs were functional, helping to date the buildings they adorned. In imperial days it was easy for Indian painters to find their likeness since they featured on postage stamps, coins, in newspapers, on 'loyal' prints and even on textile labels. It was tactful for a merchant patron commissioning his haveli to include them. Occasionally the elderly Queen Victoria (1837-1901) looked sternly down. There was even a single William IV, unrecognizable without his caption, but that was elsewhere in Rajasthan.

Gradually the gods, rulers and heroes fell into place, learned from locals – the uneducated knew best – and occasional captioned paintings. Literacy was uncommon amongst the mason-painters. I retained a soft spot for pictures of my compatriots. Apart from crowned heads, identifiable European individuals were rare but, from the late 1700s onwards, generic



Above: A European mercenary is depicted in a memorial chhatra dated 1776. Approaching a temple, he wears a hat and has a musket on his shoulder.



Above: In 1831, Col. Lockett and Lieut. Boileau surveyed Shekhawati in Rajasthan. A contemporary haveli mural shows them taking tea in front of their tent.

ones were commonplace, set apart from local folk by their costume. In place of turbans, they wore hats, were clad in trousers and 18th century foreign mercenaries, valued for their infantry skills, always carried a musket. They were shown among turbaned troops in paintings of battles or in royal processions.

The first European mercenary to feature on Shekhawati walls was Walter Reinhard, a German or Austrian who, defecting from an East India Company army, joined other deserters in serving local rulers. Faced with increasingly frail Mughal emperors, provincial armies were contesting with each other for territory.

Under one ruler, Reinhard supervised the slaughter sixty British prisoners in Patna before, in 1767, serving another raja, led his infantry into a major Rajasthani battle. Known locally as Samru the Frank, he was depicted in the memorial chhatris (cupolas) of his dead opponents and is the first European to be named in murals. He is probably the hatted man shown in a 1776 Churu chhatra. His widow, Begum Samru, long outlived him as an important figure in early 19th century Delhi society.

New rulers, the British were often shown accompanied by a dog or, as known drinkers, holding a glass or a bottle. Unlike Indian gentry, they sat in elegant chairs. Most had uniforms, as did the vast majority of local troops in a British-officered Indian Army.

It took a while to identify two British officers painted in a recessed panel of an 1830s haveli in Ramgarh. Only when writing *Rajasthan: Exploring Painted Shekhawati* did I realize they were Col. Lockett and Lieut. Boileau who, along with Rabu and I, later travellers through the region, became the principal characters in that book. They camped at Ramgarh in 1831. Lockett, wearing coat and hat, uses spectacles to consult one of his reference books.

Boileau, younger and slimmer, is smart in scarlet: his line has died out, but one of his brother's Dorset descendants assisted my research. In front of their tent, the artist has laid the table with those mysterious



Above: As part of reprisals after the 'Mutiny' of 1857, rebellious soldiers of the East India Company were shot from cannon. Mural on a temple wall.



Above: Painted in a haveli room, a probable Princess Alexandra looks determinedly ahead as a couple frolic on the adjoining wall.

utensils Europeans required for meals. Historically interesting, I took many photographs of the painting; soon afterwards it disappeared under mauve acrylic!

In a picture on a temple wall uniformed troops man a battery of cannon which faces scarlet-clad soldiers apparently lying down. The artist had a clear idea of his subjects but they often puzzle a modern observer. I got there in the end. The temple was built in 1860, shortly after the Mutiny/ First War of Independence. This mural shows the retribution, when British forces captured many rebellious (or often innocent) Indian troops and shot them off the mouths of cannon.

By the late 19th century mass-produced imported prints had become a rich source of inspiration for mural painters. When decorating his haveli, in 1898, the merchant must have suggested sex and royals as suitable décor. The accurately drawn royalty, including an elderly Queen Victoria and Princess Alexandra, were either traced or copied using a grid. Next to them the artist could happily execute freehand his erotic panels, which these ladies modestly ignore. Lakshmi, Goddess of Wealth, appropriately stands by Queen Victoria. Increasingly through the 19th century, British women joined their husbands and in later murals are frequently painted in cars and, more rarely, on bicycles.

The artists were generous in satire which, briefly newsworthy, has lost its meaning. One faded panel combines a smartly-clad gentleman, a rabbit and a woman. Only recently, when sorting photographs, did I look at this image more carefully and understand. It was inspired by the Abdication crisis of 1936. The man is Edward VIII, the woman Mrs Simpson for whom he renounced the throne and the third party is no rabbit but a donkey, which, in India, often represents lust.

Increasingly powerful through the 19th century, British rule in India faded after WW I. The empire was weakening. A Briton had founded the Indian Congress Party with the aim of promoting limited self-government but soon all limits were too many. It became increasingly clear that self-government was bound to progress beyond all limitations. Rising Indian political figures began to appear on the painted walls, reflecting the progress towards freedom.

A 1930s picture in the semi-privacy of a haveli courtyard shows the goddess Mother India standing beside George V, king emperor, on a map of the subcontinent. He hands her a rolled document: this must be Freedom! It



Above: Ladies accompanied by their British Bulldog go for a drive in the early 1900s.



Above: Edward VIII painted around 1936. With him are his beloved Mrs Simpson - and the donkey of lust, which carried him out of the royal picture.

was only his son, George VI, and the post-war Labour Government who actually granted that freedom. Around them are posed famous Freedom Fighters and a knot of hatted British officials. The humour hasn't vanished: above the door to a stairway – jina – is a portrait of Jinnah, the Muslim League leader.

There is a final painting relating to the close of that imperial escapade. 'Quit India!' had become a popular anti-British slogan. On the façade of a haveli, Mother India, tricolor in hand, appears in triumph on the Indian map. In the bottom left-hand corner, a meek little Briton, still wearing his hat and bent under the weight of a knapsack, is obediently quitting India.



Above: Independence: Mother India, with a spinning wheel and a planned national flag, presides over a Briton evicted from India!



Above: Standing high above Jaipur city, which is shrouded in the mist below, Ilay Cooper in his beloved India. Photo NJ.



National Coastwatch

Eyes along the coast



View From the Lookout

It hardly seems a year ago that I was writing the first “View from the Lookout” of 2021. With the restrictions that were in place at the time, we were unable to offer our New Year refreshments. I’m happy to say that weather and the current Covid situation permitting, both Swanage and St Alban’s Head will be offering refreshments over the New Year period. At St Alban’s, we will be ‘opening the hatch’ to serve intrepid walkers with tea, coffee, and cakes on 1 – 3 January while the Swanage Lookout will be offering tea, cakes and our legendary mulled wine and minced pies on 1 January. It’s even rumoured that both stations will have a supply of doggy treats for our four-legged visitors!

One of the joys of being a watchkeeper is the feeling of camaraderie it brings. You really feel like you are an essential part of the wider maritime community. This community extends from other watchkeepers to other water users and to the rest of the search and rescue community, such as the Coastguard and the RNLI. This was brought home to me recently in an incident I was involved with.

In late November last year, the morning watch team picked up a “Pan Pan” message on our VHF radio. “Pan Pan” is used for urgent situations that are not life-threatening but where assistance is needed. It’s often considered to be the stage before a “Mayday” message, which means that life is at risk.

The vessel in question was on passage from Plymouth to the Solent and had a very difficult overnight sail. The crew had experienced issues with their sails getting jammed and their auxiliary engine was running out of fuel. The wind blowing a consistent force 7 from the north, with gusts of force 9, and the sea was becoming increasingly rough. Fatigue was starting to set in, and the vessel’s crew rightly issued their “Pan Pan” asking for assistance.

Plotting the yacht’s position using the latitude and longitude that the crew had broadcast, our watchkeepers realised that that the vessel, Aeolian Dream, was about two miles east of the Peveril Point Lookout and was visible through the Lookout’s binoculars. The team made a quick telephone call to the Solent Coastguard control room to inform them that we had the vessel under observation. Solent passed this onto the yacht. They then broadcast a message to ask if there were any vessels in the vicinity who could help.

The emergency call came in just before our shift change and the new watchkeepers were quickly briefed about the situation before taking over the observation role.

Very quickly the Coastguard received a reply from another yacht, Team Shepherd, saying that they were willing to help if they could. They gave their position as about six miles northeast from Aeolian Dream and estimated it would take them around thirty minutes to rendezvous with the casualty. As well as keeping an eye on Aeolian Dream, we were able to pick up Team Shepherd on our radar and were able to track their progress across Poole Bay.

One of the Swanage Lifeboat crew was working in the boathouse and had been following the incident on their radio. Hearing that we had the



vessels under observation he popped up to the Lookout to assess the situation but before he could contact the Coastguard, the lifeboat was paged to attend a “Mayday” call for an incident at Dancing Ledge.

As both the inshore and all-weather lifeboats raced across Durlston Bay, we were able to see Team Shepherd making contact with Aeolian Dream. A tow was established and both vessels started to make slow progress towards the shelter of Poole Harbour.

It was obvious from the radio messages that we were picking up between the two yachts and Solent Coastguard that the skipper of Team Shepherd was an extremely competent and well-prepared sailor. Not only had he offered to go to the assistance of another vessel, but he also knew his own vessel intimately, even down to the maximum revolutions his auxiliary engine could take, and the breaking strain of the tow ropes he was using. He even thought to change radio channels while communicating to the crew on Aeolian Dream, thus keeping the emergency channel, Channel 16, free.

The “Mayday” call for the lifeboat had a satisfactory conclusion and, after dropping their casualty at the Sandbanks jetty where an ambulance was waiting, the lifeboat crew took over the tow to assist Aeolian Dream to a mooring in Poole Harbour.

With New Year’s resolutions fresh in our minds, we could take a leaf out of Team Shepherd’s skipper’s book to make sure our vessels are well prepared, that our skills are up to scratch and that we know who to call and what to do in an emergency. What could have turned into a serious incident turned out to be, what could best be described, as a situation.

To the skipper of Team Shepherd and his crew, well done to you all. If you’re ever at Peveril Point, you’re welcome to pop in for a cup of tea! This is St Alban’s Head NCI and Swanage NCI, listening on channel 65 and wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. Here’s to calm seas, favourable winds, good visibility, and sunny days. NCI out.

Photos: Top left: Watchkeeper keeping lookout over Swanage Bay, top right: Plotting a position on the nautical charts, below: Responding to a call on our Channel 65 radio



Motoring

'Bus Back Better' Bid Submitted By Dorset Council

Dorset Council has submitted its bid for the Government's Bus Back Better £3 billion fund to revitalise the nation's bus services. In March the Government launched Bus Back Better, a new National Bus Strategy for England with aims to rejuvenate local bus services by making them:

- More attractive for passengers
- More affordable
- Easier to understand and use
- Faster and more reliable
- Greener

This strategy requires each authority to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to coordinate services and future investment through either an Enhanced Partnership (EP) or Franchise approach.

Dorset Council has developed their BSIP by working closely with local bus operators, community and business voices, bus passengers, and the voluntary and health transport sectors. This BSIP is an ambitious plan. It focuses on revitalising the local bus network, reversing the decline in local bus passenger use and to have more buses, to more places and operating for longer periods of the day.

The key aims of the BSIP are:

- To significantly increase the number of people using local buses across Dorset
- To increase daily services with a mix of fixed and flexible services across rural and urban areas of Dorset
- To develop a range of on-demand public transport services delivered by a mix of operators by identifying gaps in the current local bus network
- To continue to protect Dorset's environment by moving to a decarbonised local bus fleet
- Create and maintain a comprehensive network of travel options to link up communities and reduce rural isolation.

Cllr Ray Bryan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, said: "This plan is just the start. To get people to use the bus we must have a long-term plan and a guarantee of long-term Government funding for at least five years so that we can change people's views and build their confidence to use the bus."

Cllr. Noc Lacey-Clarke, The Cabinet Lead for Environment, Travel and Harbours, said: "We are keen to develop a bus strategy that is available to everyone, with particular attention on access to training, education and work."

Once the BSIP is submitted the council will wait for an announcement from Government on whether they will be awarded money from the fund and how much. Once the amount is known then an amended BSIP and action plan will take the plans forward.

The BSIP can be viewed at: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/transport-planning/bus-service-improvement-plan>

Comments, suggestions, and ideas can be emailed to: busbackbetter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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2013/13 Ford Fiesta Zetec 1.0 EcoBoost, Petrol, Manual, 1.0L, 5-dr, hatchback, Blue Candy, service history, Zero Tax, Air Conditioning, PAS, Anti-lock Brake System with Brake Assist, Air Bag, Front Passenger Airbag Deactivation, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Service History, CD Player, MP3 Connectivity, Bluetooth, Hill Start Assist, Height/Reach Adjust Steering Wheel, 61,360 miles..... £5,995

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We wish you all a Prosperous New Year!

From The Kitchen Garden...



Leek & Potato Soup

By Regula
Wright,
Godlingston
Manor Kitchen
Garden

January has arrived and with it, dull and flat light. When I check the black Aberdeen Angus cows every morning, they really hardly show up when sheltering under a dense, dark hedge under a laden sky.

There's no sparkle, all colour has faded from the landscape. I quite like this toned down scenery, I find it restful, how nature just gets on with it quietly, there's no need to chivy it along with busy activity.

The new leaf buds are still closely shut on most trees around me and the purple sprouting broccoli shows no sign of any florets just yet. But ever so quietly the season marches on, repeating year after year.

I enjoy the cyclical rhythm of the growing year and can feel rather smug when leaning right into it and getting prepared. In fact, I would be quite lost without it.

However, this repetition also frustrates me when I can't get certain jobs done when needed and then I start feeling the pressure of running behind and playing catch up and before I know it, another year has passed.

So, now with the Kitchen Garden nearly empty of veg and flowers, there couldn't be a better time to really look at the areas that work and those that do not - I have quite a few of those and I need to re-design some areas because when done properly, work can flow and the day runs so much smoother and is easier on the knees.

I definitely need a bigger, more practical preparing and packing area, preferably under a roof. I'm planning to get my hives moved to the garden this winter, so I need a safe place where the bees don't get in the way of work, machinery or upset other animals, but are also safe from itchy cows looking for a scratch post, gusty winds barrelling in from the west, nosy dogs and drippy trees.

Easy access would be good too. I'm so looking forward to observing the bees throughout the year and hopefully will take you with me on this exciting new adventure in these pages.

Seasonal vegetables in January are either of the storage type (roots) or if still in the ground, hardy and quite weatherproof. So, with this in mind, a Leek and Potato Soup is the perfect seasonal dish.

LEEK AND POTATO SOUP

Ingredients:

60g butter
2 large leeks, thinly sliced
1 onion

750g potatoes, cut into 1.5 cm cubes

100g oats

2 cloves garlic, crushed

400ml chicken/veg stock

400ml milk

ground pepper

ground nutmeg

salt to taste

Method:

Melt butter in a large pan cook onions and leeks for 3 minutes.

Add potatoes and continue to cook until potatoes are golden brown

Stir in oats, cook for 1 minute.

Add garlic, cook 1 more minute

Reduce heat, stir in stock and milk

Simmer for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender and soup thickens

Season to taste with salt, pepper and ground nutmeg

Serve with thick slices of buttered bread.

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Business Matters



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New Year's Resolutions

Why not make it your New Year's Resolution for 2022 to review your finances? It doesn't have to be an onerous task or a lengthy commitment, just setting aside a couple of hours could make all the difference to your day-to-day financial situation and your long-term plans. The sorts of areas you could look at are:

What is my income and expenditure?

Income is probably known, but expenditure may come as a surprise. Sometimes the discipline of writing down everything you spend can help you realise what you are spending and where you can potentially cut down on day-to-day spending if you need or want to do so.

Can I make savings on my bills, such as cutting out unnecessary charges or unused commitments and can I lower the cost of necessities such as utilities or insurance while still maintaining the service that I require? Have I any expensive loans or credit card debt which could be moved onto lower rates?

Can I set aside some monies each month for things that I need to pay for such as car expenses, household repairs and replacements and also luxuries like holidays?

If you are self-employed, are you setting aside monies for your tax bill?

What is my current financial position?

What is my cash position? If I have an excess of cash over what I feel is a good buffer, are there better places that I could invest some of those monies?

What are my current financial assets and are my investments working efficiently? Do I need professional help managing my finances?

Am I using the Tax allowances?

The current ISA allowance is £20,000 and investments and cash in ISAs are free of Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax. The Personal Savings Allowance for interest income is £1,000 for basic rate taxpayers, £500 for higher rate taxpayers and nil for an additional rate taxpayer. Within these allowances, any interest income is tax free. The Dividend Allowance is £2,000 regardless of an individual's tax rate and dividends totalling less than £2,000 are tax free. Appropriate use of these allowances can help you ensure that your assets are as tax efficient as possible and you may need to seek professional help for assistance with this.

I hope that gives you some inspiration. Now I have just got to practice what I preach!

With best wishes for 2022.

Please note that tax treatment depends on the specific circumstances of each individual and may be subject to change in the future.

Kate Spurling, Investment Manager, Redmayne Bentley, Tel: 01202 714 450 kate.spurling@redmayne.co.uk

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Self Employment Change of Basis Period

If you are self employed or in partnership with a financial year end other than 31st March or 5th April there is an important change coming in 2024.

The current basis period is being changed to a tax year basis and you will no longer be able to use a different date.

This will require you to consider utilising any overlap relief you have and timing of when to make this change will raise possible opportunities to minimise your tax position.

This change is part of the government's move to Making Tax Digital for Income Self Assessment (ITSA) which will affect all self employed and property owners with turnover in excess of £10,000.

This will be mandatory from April 2024.

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Remote, Hybrid Or Office? The Future Of Work



Is the 9-5 office now a rare breed? Remote, hybrid or in the office – which will win? Are we heading towards virtual offices, with holographic colleagues?

Technology revolutions can bring major changes to the ways we live and work. It can reshape cities and communities – just look at the effect that the arrival of the

steam engine had on the economy of many towns and cities in the early 1900s.

The impact the pandemic has had on the way many of us work has been enormous. For many of us, our homes became our workplace and the commute became a process of putting on a pair of slippers and walking across to the kitchen or the makeshift office.

While the situation is still developing in terms of Covid-19 and the return to offices, some of the changes brought about by the pandemic are likely to result in long-term changes to the way many of us work. Necessity, they say, is the mother of invention. Many of the things organisations and employers had said couldn't be done, suddenly became possible.

Connected technology became one of the saviours of the pandemic. While some of the essential technologies for remote working – such as broadband, 4G, video conferencing and cloud – were around before the pandemic, it took a crisis to get the most out of these tools.

A hybrid model of combining office and home working – using technology – now seems most likely to be the new reality for a lot of organisations.

For many traditional office-based employers, the Monday to Friday, 9-5 office is probably now a thing of the past. The model of everyone commuting in at the same time to sit at their own desk – among rows of colleagues – is likely to disappear. Instead, people will come to the office for specific reasons, such as team meetings, brainstorming sessions and to socialise with colleagues. The hybrid workplace will change to accommodate this, with more flexible office spaces to help colleagues collaborate and work more effectively.

While home working has highlighted many benefits – like avoiding the dreaded commute and spending more time with family – it doesn't work for everyone.

One of the things exposed by the pandemic is that there is a gulf between people who have houses and places to work in a house, and those who don't. Many younger people have struggled working in shared houses, having to share many essentials, including broadband bandwidth. Younger people tend to value offices more, while also being the most vocal about wanting to choose where and when they work. The professional development of those working from home cannot be forgotten about, particularly for new or junior members of teams.

With technology facilitating such a huge shift away from the traditional idea of an office, might the next step be colleagues meeting in virtual offices? If you believe the predictions of some of the tech giants, we will all be living and working in the virtual 'metaverse' in ten years' time.

Again, current technology is starting to evolve to create 'phygital' meetings – combining physical and digital environments. The future hybrid could involve sitting around a real table with holographic colleagues around you.

For those who miss the social interaction of an office, but love the freedom of remote working, it could be another interesting solution.

But will it convince everyone? Who will manage and run these virtual 'metaverse' spaces? People are increasingly asking questions of the big tech companies in relation to areas like data privacy and wellbeing. What we've learnt from this global experiment in remote and hybrid working is that there is not going to be one way of working that suits everyone in every organisation. In this transition period, there's a great opportunity to experiment and learn.

We're likely to see many versions of hybrid developing over the coming years. The important thing will be making sure we don't revert back to some of the negatives of pre-pandemic work practices. In that way, we can look at reinventing work to benefit people, productivity, and the planet.

The train may have been a significant factor in changing the ways of working in the 1900s, but digital technologies are now providing the steam for a new workplace revolution.

Written by Dr Nicola Millard, Principal Innovation Partner at BT

Money, Money, Money!



When you divorce or end a civil partnership the issue that can cause the most difficulty and misunderstanding is how to sort out your finances. As Consultant Solicitor Tracey Parsons explains.

The thorny issue of money can turn what was an amicable separation, into something far from that, if professional advice is not sought at an early stage.

So what needs to be sorted out?

The assets of the marriage fall into the following main categories:

- Property
- Savings/Investments
- Pensions

How are they valued?

The value of property can be ascertained by an Estate Agent Valuation. Deduct any outstanding mortgage and estimated costs of sale and the balance will be what there is to distribute.

Savings and investments are relatively easily valued by reference to statements or the most recent share price.

Pensions are a different kettle of fish. The first step is to obtain a Cash Equivalent Transfer Value. This is a cash value placed on the pension benefits, which can be transferred to an alternative scheme. However, pensions are complex and other questions will need to be asked to ascertain what the CETV represents; it is a defined benefit or a defined contribution (money purchase) scheme?

An expert report from an Actuary may be necessary to calculate how any pension will be apportioned as part of the financial settlement on divorce.

What about debts?

It is crucial to account for each spouse's debt, which will need to be deducted from the assets when calculating the overall financial position.

If the debt was incurred for the benefit of the family, it is likely, no matter whether it was taken out in one name or joint names, that both parties will be responsible for it.

If one spouse has incurred significant debt and has had the sole benefit of it the Court may consider that person should be responsible for it, this could include funding expensive hobbies etc. If one party brought significant debt to the marriage it is more likely they will be responsible for it.

How are financial settlements in divorce calculated?

Section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 sets out the checklist of factors that need to be considered.

The factors include:

Income and earning capacity of the parties

The financial needs and responsibilities of the parties

The standard of living enjoyed by the couple

The age of each of the parties and the length of the marriage

Whether either has any mental or physical disability

The contribution of the parties

The conduct of the parties

The loss of a benefit because of the divorce

Depending on the circumstances of the case some factors may be given more weight than others, one compelling consideration will be the needs of any children.

Tracey is an accredited Family Law solicitor and mediator. For more information, contact Tracey on 01305 216209 tracey.parsons@battens.co.uk



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The Stats Say We Feel Safe In Our Communities - Do You?

96% of Dorset residents state they feel safe in their communities, according to the 2020/21 Community Safety Survey, which was completed by Dorset residents earlier this year.

There has been a significant improvement in how the public views the police, with an average of 79% of respondents feeling that Dorset Police is doing a good job, which is an increase from the previous year at 55%. There was also a rise in public confidence to 79%, an 11% improvement in the last year.

Furthermore, 77% of respondents stated that they feel relations between people and the police in their neighbourhood is good, a 19% increase in the last year.

When asked if Dorset Police is 'doing a good job', respondents from all county areas responded positively and reported an overall increase. For example, East Dorset reached 88%, an increase of 24% from the previous year.

In the survey, a series of questions were asked as statements to help understand how respondents felt about Dorset Police. All ten statements saw an increase, with a few standing out. There was a 24% increase to 83% of responses stating that Dorset Police 'provides you with the information you need'. Additionally, there was a rise of 15% to 70% of respondents who felt they could rely on the police. Respondents who agreed that the police would 'treat you with respect' increased by 4% to 89%.

Some residents reported they thought crime had gone up in their local area. Many of them stated that reporting in the media has caused them to believe that crime has increased or that they know someone who has experienced crime.

Whilst these reasons are valid and understandable, overall crime across Dorset has been reduced by 6.0%, according to the recent report from the Office for National Statistics, with Dorset remaining one of the safest counties in the country. The report showed the total number of crimes reported reduced from 51,997 to 48,873 over the twelve months to the end of June 2021, reducing 4.0 crimes per 1,000 of the population.

The latest figures show that compared to the national data, Dorset has delivered a reduction in violence against the person offences – a reduction of 1.9% in Dorset compared to an increase nationally of 8%.

Violence with injury dropped by 7%, compared to the national average which was down by 3.7%. Victim Based Crime saw a reduction from 46,116 to 42,972, a decrease of 6.8%.

The survey results show a steady climb in public confidence in Dorset Police over the 2020/21 surveying period. This feedback from Dorset residents is particularly encouraging, considering officers and staff have continued to work through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, government restrictions and various lockdowns.

Deputy Chief Constable Sam de Reya said: "We are very proud of our officers and staff, who have worked closely with our partners to keep the people of Dorset safe and reduce crime and disorder.

"The Force takes all reported crimes seriously and listens to the concerns and views of our communities. We are committed to working closely with partners to address problem areas, including issues with and reports of anti-social behaviour.

"Over the past year, the Force has recruited over sixty officers and will continue to add this new talent with more officers recruited over the coming months. This recruitment shows our continued commitment to providing outstanding service to the people of Dorset.

"The Force continues to work with partners to keep our county safe and support and safeguard the most vulnerable in our communities. This commitment builds upon our culture of continuous improvement as we aim to provide efficient and effective services for Dorset, maintain confidence and develop positive relationships with the people of Dorset."

Police and Crime Commissioner David Sidwick said: "I am grateful to everyone who took time to complete the survey. It's really important that we are in touch with the communities we serve and that the voice of residents is heard loud and clear when it comes to community safety."

"The statistics speak for themselves and I am really pleased that so many residents say they feel safe in our county, but there is still more to be done, more to be achieved.

"My police and crime plan sets out a road map for how my vision of Dorset becoming the safest county is to be achieved and I will work tirelessly to realise that vision on behalf of the people I serve."

Natural Matters

Resolve

By John Garner



I've never been much of one for New Year's Resolutions. Those I've attempted in the past have inevitably ended in failure. There seem to be two types. Physical and mental. The physical have been things such as to train to compete in a certain event or become fitter at some particular sport or pastime.

All very worthy, but often when endless January eventually succeeds into February, the slightest opportunity to abandon is generously accepted. Then there are the resolutions played out in the mind. Platitudes such as be a better friend, or make sure to contact family more often, remember the kids' birthdays this year, you know the sort of thing. Or watch less TV, read more, drink less, eat more healthy food...

These are all fine in their way. You can't deny they all carry validity. If you decide your resolution was to eat more crap, or drink more wine, or watch endless boxsets and leave the Waterstones Christmas book voucher in the back of the drawer then you might, rightly, garner some criticism. Notwithstanding that these are all much more achievable than the opposite, there is an implicit feeling that a resolution should be for you, and in some cases society's, greater good.

If we leave aside the question of the enjoyment you might get from eating take-aways five nights a week (and the advantages are there to be seen) your resolution, should you choose to take one on, should probably be a fairly humble and attainable one.

However, you may well be able to justify the five take-aways a week as saving you time and energy spent preparing food, saving the planet by not wasting precious resources cooking your food when the take-away restaurant can do this more efficiently or helping to kick start the ailing economy, by supporting local businesses. It sounds like the sort of gibber that a government press secretary might dream up and in just the same manner, everyone will see through the flimsy list of excuses right from the start.

Maybe you could eat less crap food. Or watch a little less mindless television, or occasionally say no to opening that second bottle of wine. Why does a resolution always have to go from one extreme to the other? Is this the reason they are doomed to failure? As mentioned before, most gyms rely on January for over three quarters of their yearly revenue.

When you go from 100 to zero immediately in a car, you've usually crashed. There'll be an air bag to save your life and a recuperation period. No such support when you give up everything you love on the first of January and put your body through something so alien to its existence in the previous eleven and a half months that you'll feel like a crash test dummy after a day's work.

Detoxes, abstinence, fitness regimes...all very well, but guaranteed to cause unprecedented levels of depression in the depths of winter when you really need the exact opposite of misery. You need cheering up. Christmas and New Year are over and unless you work in Downing Street, you probably won't have had anything like a Christmas party or celebration for the second year running. It's as cold and dark as a press secretary's smile and your motivation is at rock bottom.

However, perhaps there is a third way. A new New Year's resolution could be an old one re-imagined. Teachers were criticised for years for being too involved in delivering their lessons to students and the magic

ticket was to 'enable' students to 'facilitate their own learning' by being a 'guide from the side rather than a sage from the stage'.

They are now being told that they are the teachers (who knew?!) and that the most effective way for the students to learn is by receiving the relevant information required to pass exams from the expert (or teacher) and they should refrain from sitting in the cheap seats at the side of the classroom smoking a cigar with their feet on the desk, while the students plough through reams of perplexing information and get back in front of the students and actually teach them. A place where they should have been all along. I know.

It's a revolutionary idea but believe me, not as bizarre as some of the other half-baked bollocks that's been suggested and unaccountably acted upon in the last few decades. Look up brain gym - the amount that was spent on it - and the complete lack of evidence or data to back up the claims.

I digress. This year's mini resolution is to do the following. I am going to continue to partake in my regular walks. But rather than charging round to say I've got some fresh air, I'm going to slow them down and take in the surroundings more.

My inspiration is the 'Winter Walks' series on TV where someone is given a small camera and heads off on a short walk and describes what they're seeing and what they're feeling. It's therapeutic viewing and therefore I'm sure will make for a therapeutic resolution. Not earth shattering. I'm not going to run a dozen marathons in a dozen days or anything like that. But it's definitely achievable.

Happy New Year.

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Could Puffins Vanish From Our Coastline?



Britain's Puffins, which are among the nation's best-loved birds, could largely disappear as a result of climate change over the coming years, new research reveals.

A study from the British Trust for Ornithology, published on 4 November 2021, indicates that the UK's Puffin population could plunge by as much as 90% by 2050 because of changes in the marine environment caused by rising temperatures, if global warming is not checked.

"This could represent a loss of over a million birds," said BTO CEO, Professor Juliet Vickery. "There is a very real chance that our grandchildren may never know what it is like to see a Puffin in Britain and Ireland."

With their comical gait and brilliantly coloured breeding season bills, Puffins are among the most popular sights in the UK's coastal nature reserves, such as the Farne Islands off the coast of Northumberland, where they can be observed at close quarters. But increasing water temperatures are having a

negative impact on sandeel numbers in British waters, the small fish which are their main prey species – meaning that the breeding productivity of the Puffins themselves is being adversely affected.

According to the BTO report, this is also affecting other seabirds, such as Kittiwake; in all, eleven of our twenty breeding seabird species are regarded as being highly vulnerable to future climate change. The seabird numbers that the UK holds are internationally important. "If we are to hold onto our important bird populations then we need governments to make the right decisions for nature and the climate at COP26, and to invest in real action towards meeting these commitments.

"We will also need to continue to monitor the results of our actions – to evaluate what works and what doesn't." Professor Vickery said. Dr James Pearce-Higgins, Director of Science at BTO and author of the report, said: "This new analysis reveals that, overall, one in five UK bird species will be affected by climate change. It is not just our seabirds that will be impacted; we will lose some of our best-loved summer visitors too. Once familiar migrants, such as Cuckoo and Spotted Flycatcher, have already seen their breeding populations more than halved during the last twenty-five years."

He added: "Changing conditions here in the UK may have some impact, but the effects of changing weather patterns on the wintering grounds in Africa and along the migration routes used by these migrant birds may also be important. Projecting the future fortunes of these and other migrant birds is challenging given their complicated lives that cross continents. Securing their future will require international collaboration right along their flyway."

Importantly, the report highlights those species that could be impacted by attempts to mitigate climate change, such as increased development of offshore renewables and widespread tree planting on upland habitats.

Knowledge of bird numbers and distributions, gathered by BTO's network of 60,000 citizen scientists, can help to inform how and where these approaches can be used in ways that minimise any potentially damaging impacts on declining species.

The full report, *Climate Change and the UK's Birds*, can be read here www.bto.org/climate-change after the embargo is lifted.



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Gazette Gardening

Gardening to combat climate change

with Simon Goldsack



The Henge Garden at Holme

The Henge Garden at Holme (pictured left and below) contains over two thousand heathers and is most colourful in winter.

You can enjoy it for free until the end of February, so meet up with a friend, grab a hot drink from the Holme Farm Shop and have a lovely winter walk round the gardens at Holme. You may even be tempted by the lovely selection of heathers in the garden centre!



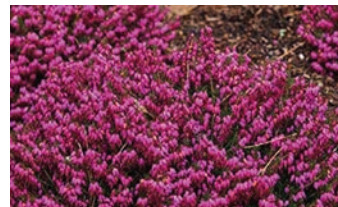
As our climate changes, your garden is playing a vital role in giving wildlife a home. An important factor in attracting wildlife to your garden is to provide shelter from predators and the elements, breeding sites so nature can perpetuate itself and finally, food sources so it can live and grow.

Winter can be harsh so as part of your garden mix, try and include some winter flowering plants to provide nectar for the few foraging insects that are out and about.

The humble winter flowering heather is a fantastic plant for doing just this. Here are six good reasons to plant winter heathers in your garden:

- They provide excellent colour and interest at a time when there is little colour elsewhere in the garden.
- They are native. Some gardeners, for reasons that are unclear to me, turn their noses up at heathers but what could be more sustainable than planting selected forms of a plant that grows wild in our locality?
- They are great for wildlife. Providing nectar in winter so that on warmer days foraging bees have a great food source and their ground covering foliage provides shelter and protection for insects.
- They suit many of our local soils. If you live to the north of the Purbeck Hills around Poole harbour, heather will grow naturally in most places. If you live to the south of them, winter flowering heathers will tolerate neutral soil as they tend to be more lime tolerant than other forms. If you are right on chalk or limestone, grow heathers in pots using ericaceous compost.
- Heathers are versatile. They look great en masse or in smaller numbers in mixed borders with the winter stems of dogwoods, grasses (especially blue fescue which is native to the Purbeck heaths), perennials such as Bergenia, and evergreen shrubs. They can also be grown in rockeries with alpine and even in tubs and hanging baskets as part of a mixed winter display.
- Heathers are easy to look after. If your soil is to their liking all they require is a little water in a heatwave and a light trim after flowering to keep them compact

Erica carnea varieties (below) come in all shades between these dark pink and pure white forms.




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Dorset Dive Club Wins Prestigious Royal Prize

Isle of Purbeck Sub-Aqua Club

The Isle of Purbeck Sub Aqua Club (IPSAC) has won the prestigious Duke of Cambridge Scuba Prize for 2021. Club members attended a presentation at Kensington palace on Tuesday 16 November, where they received the prize from British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) President HRH the Duke of Cambridge. The prize was awarded for their “Bumps in the Bay” geology project. The Duke of Cambridge Scuba Prize is awarded annually to the BSAC member or group of members for outstanding achievements in research in scuba diving.

Project team leader Chris Dunkerley said: “It was an honour and a privilege to receive the prize from His Royal Highness and is a real recognition of the effort the team has put in since the project started in 2019.”

The project involved conducting a diving investigation of mystery geological structures nicknamed the ‘Bumps in the Bay’. The diving was conducted in liaison with Professor Dan Bosence from Royal Holloway University.

Mr Dunkerley continued: “The idea for the project came about when some of the team attended a lecture by Professor Bosence, where he talked about these mystery structures. When he suggested the only way to understand how they were formed was for divers to take samples, we instantly offered to help. The “Bumps in the Bay” project was formed.”

Using detailed underwater sonar surveys, Professor Bosence identified a number of large circular structures in the Purbeck limestone which have not been seen on land in any of the coastal cliffs or quarries despite over a hundred years of geological research. The structures were 120m in

diameter and four to five miles offshore.

The team from IPSAC dived on selected sites to obtain seabed samples of the rock with the bumps. Once recovered the samples were analysed by the professor to look at their internal structure. The location of the sites could only be safely carried out around neap tides, with a tidal operational ‘window’ of around forty minutes a day. The team obtained funding support from the British Sub-Aqua Jubilee Trust.

The project was successful in that the seven initial hypotheses for the formation of the structures has been reduced to three and a preferred hypothesis identified (Tufa mounds for the technically inclined). Further diving is planned during 2022 to try and gather more information.

The award winners were accompanied by Mary Tetley, BSAC Chief Executive, Gavin Anthony, Chair of British Sub Aqua Jubilee Trust and BSAC Scientific Advisor, and Dr Oliver Firth, Trustee British Sub Aqua Jubilee Trust.

Photographs: top of page: IPSAC members receiving their prize from the Duke of Cambridge (credit Simon Rogerson) from left to right : Dr Oliver Firth, Trustee British Sub Aqua Jubilee Trust; Professor Dan Bosence (Project Science Advisor); Jeremy Goodall (IPSAC); Peter Mensikov (IPSAC); BSAC President HRH the Duke of Cambridge; Christopher Dunkerley (IPSAC); Stephan Spiriak, (IPSAC) Keith Coombs (IPSAC); Mary Tetley, BSAC Chief Executive; Nick Reed (IPSAC). Gavin Anthony, Chair of British Sub Aqua Trust and BSAC Scientific Advisor.

Historic PS Monarch Goes Eco

PS Monarch has been operating from Wareham Quay, providing trips on the river down to Poole Harbour, since 2014. She was the first paddle steamer to operate on the Frome since 1914.

Monarch was designed and constructed by Brian Waters, a retired marine engineer, at Rochester on the Medway in Kent. She was the last paddle steamer to be built in Britain, originally intended as a private venture. She entered service on the River Stour at Sandwich in 2004, becoming the world’s smallest commercial paddle steamer.

In 2008 she went to the Isle of Wight where she ran a passenger service on the Medina River for two years. From there she was sold to Morewelham Museum on the Tamar in Devon, where she appeared in an episode of the Edwardian Farm. She lay unused for two years until we purchased her and brought her to Wareham in 2012.

After a two-year refurbishment she entered service on the River Frome at Wareham supported by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, run on a non-profit making basis and crewed by volunteers.

Up until now she has been steam-powered, fired by oil (red diesel), the engine being an inclined compound specially built for her. Because of increasing aggression and obstruction at the quay in Wareham, particularly from one local boat owner, and a total lack of support from local council officers to enforce the bylaws to enable us to operate safely, we decided not to sail in 2021.



Subsequently, Monarch has been sold and the new owners are to convert her to electric propulsion and use her as a private yacht. Wareham has lost a unique and unusual attraction. There are only three paddle steamers operating in Britain, and she was one of them. Noel Donnelly

DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



Happy New Year from the Durlston Rangers
It's January now and the Rangers are busy,
With so much to do it's making us dizzy!
With Christmas behind us we prepare for the year,
And we're very excited to see you all here.

Starting January 12th – something not to miss
Dorset AONB will be presenting us this:
'Naturally Beautiful Dorset' – discover the landscape here
With stories from people who live and work near

On the 30th Jan is a rare treat from Katie,
With a talk from a ranger from 2 until 3,
Sharing her wildlife favourites from years at the park,
Book now to learn more about moths and Skylarks

Wildlife in January – there is still lots to see,
Including great views all crisp and frosty,
In hedgerows around early birdsong is heard,
From Song Thrush, Dunnock, Robin and Blackbird.

Leaves are beginning to emerge from the ground,
Making January a great time to have a look around,

A warm evening may provide Badgers and Pipistrelle Bats,
Or muddy walks, puddles (and a few cow pats!)

Are you looking to get active to start the new year?
Check out our website on ways to volunteer,
Work parties outside can cure January blues,
We might let you borrow some steel toe capped shoes.

The Durlston Shed is still doing some fantastic work,
With gardening, woodwork, and cake as a perk!
If indoors is your thing then volunteer at the shop,
Serving customers, greeting visitors – the work doesn't stop!

The Rangers are excited for a New Year at the Park,
Despite the cold weather and evenings being dark,
Whether you come as a visitor, bird-watcher or volunteer,
The Rangers would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

For more information on events and more visit our Durlston website!

Visit the Durlston website: <https://www.durlston.co.uk/>

Visit the Seventhwave website: <https://7eventhwave.com/>



Margaret Green Animal Rescue



Board your pets with us and save another!

If you are planning a staycation or trip away in 2022, why not book your pets in to board with us? Each of our centres has boarding facilities for cats, dogs or both and our experienced teams will ensure that your pet has a great holiday too.

With prices starting from £9 per night, it's a great opportunity to support

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the rescue animals in our care whilst giving you peace of mind that your pet is being well looked after. Please visit our website for more information and how to make a booking: <https://www.margaretgreenanimalrescue.org.uk/boarding.html>

Join the Team! We are recruiting Estates Maintenance Workers.

The role involves working within a team that is based at the Church Knowle Centre and looks after three sites and six shops. The work includes general repairs, proactive and reactive maintenance and fencing and grounds/buildings maintenance.

The position requires someone with a good level of skills in general maintenance, such as: plumbing, carpentry and basic electrics. It also requires experience of general grounds maintenance, including the use of strimmers, pedestrian mowers and ride-ons.

The role is 37.5 hours per week at £9.50/£10.50 an hour, dependent on experience. For further details, please contact david.dubois@mgar.org.uk

The Aftermath Of Studland Heath Fire



It's been truly heartwarming to see so many offers of help and support following the recent wildfire on Godlingston Heath - it just goes to show how much the wonderful Purbeck landscape means to so many people.

Although the fire itself was visible for miles around and looked dramatic enough to make national headlines, the good news is we can be cautiously optimistic about the prospects for recovery.

Wildfires are never welcome, but a combination of weather conditions and the time of year meant this one was less much less damaging than it might otherwise have been.

The hard work of our rangers in maintaining fire breaks meanwhile helped the brilliant Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service to limit its scope, while the conservation strategy embodied in the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR) makes nature itself more resilient.

A strong wind meant the fire moved quickly but did not burn deeply, so organic material in the topsoil, as well as hibernating creatures such as reptiles and insects, are likely to have survived.

A well-timed burst of heavy rain then helped bring the blaze under control.

Just over twenty hectares were affected in all. The fire is believed to have been caused accidentally and to have originated outside the NNR.

"While the land will take some years to recover fully, the impacted area represents less than one per cent of the Purbeck Heaths Super NNR," said David Brown, National Trust Landscape Partnership Manager.

"This illustrates the importance of conservation at a landscape scale to increase nature's resilience in the face of threats. This will become increasingly important as we face the challenges of climate change."

Formed in 2020, the Purbeck Heaths NNR includes internationally important lowland heath including Godlingston and neighbouring Studland Heath.

It is a mix of wet and dry heathland areas, important for specialist birds, reptiles and many specialist insects and other invertebrates.

It is managed by a partnership comprising the National Trust, Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Forestry England, Natural England, Rempstone Estate and the RSPB.

Jon Bish, National Trust

Extreme E Reveals Jurassic X Prix Legacy

Extreme E is supporting the National Trust for its Dorset Legacy Programme in an effort to improve biodiversity in the UK. The National Trust is a charity founded in 1895 to protect and conserve important landscapes, habitats and historic sites. As one of the largest landowners in the UK, almost 250,000 hectares and 780 miles of coastline fall under the Trust's protection and care to help people and nature thrive.

One such place is Purbeck Heaths in Dorset, where the National Trust has worked in partnership with six other landowners to create the UK's first 'super' National Nature Reserve. Spanning 8,231 acres, the reserve brings together eleven essential wildlife habitats and includes iconic reserves such as Hartland Moor, Arne, Brownsea Island and Studland and Godlingston Heaths.

In 2022, The National Trust is hoping to reintroduce beavers to Purbeck, in the wetlands at the heart of the Studland's dune system. This is just one of a number of projects across the reserve aimed to restore natural ecological processes and help this already special landscape become even richer in nature and more resilient to future threats such as climate change.

Alejandro Agag, Founder and CEO at Extreme E, said: "Through our Legacy Programme and the Jurassic X Prix, we aim to highlight the issues surrounding biodiversity in the UK. We are delighted that our work in Dorset will see us support the National Trust, who are planning to reintroduce beavers to the area.

"We have made it to the final race of the very first season, which will take place on MOD land at Bovington, and I think I speak for everyone at Extreme E when I say how proud I am of all that we've achieved this

year, both on and off the course, with support for important projects such as this. I'm excited to see what we can achieve alongside an organisation with such high standards of conservation and curatorial care which has been recognised throughout the world."

Biodiversity and well-functioning ecosystems are critical for human existence, economic prosperity, and a good quality of life. And yet, biodiversity is currently declining at a faster rate than at any time in human history. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, sitting in the bottom 10% globally and last among the G7 group of nations. Only 50.3% of biodiversity remains in the UK, with 15% cent of the species remaining said to be threatened with extinction.

David Brown, Landscape Partnership Manager at the National Trust, said: "Next year we hope to release three pairs of beavers in the wetlands around Little Sea, to improve the biodiversity of Studland's dune system and the surrounding area.

"Beavers are nature's water engineers. Once introduced they would open hundreds of hectares of wetlands that have been in ecological decline for decades, restoring freshwater fen and pool habitats for other wildlife. As they naturalise watercourses that have been canalised over the centuries, they would improve water quality and carbon storage while reducing flood risk."

Extreme E's support will enable the National Trust to install protective measures to ensure the beavers do not negatively impact local people, businesses or farmers, and to carry out engagement programmes with the local community. To learn more about Extreme E, visit - www.Extreme-E.com

Arts & Entertainment

Purbeck's Navy - Learn All About It!!

News from Corfe Castle Community Library

The series of talks organised by the library in Corfe Castle continues with: Friday January 21st 2022 at 2pm: Dr Phil Judkins: Purbeck's Navy and the AGM.

During the Second World War, cities, towns and villages organised 'warship weeks' to raise money to meet the cost of providing a particular naval ship. Once enough money had been raised for the ship, the local community would adopt it. Local organisations, women's institutes, churches and schools would also provide additional comforts for the crews of the ship they had adopted.

This was usually in the form of woollen socks, gloves and balaclavas. Children would often write letters and send cards to the crew. When possible, officers and men from the adopted ship would visit the local community, and to celebrate their visit, there would often be a parade.

Swanage adopted the Destroyer HMS Cattistock, which, from 1940 onwards, participated in convoy escorts, the raid on Dieppe and the D-Day landings, to name a few. Phil will talk about the 'Warship Weeks' scheme and the history of the ship itself. The talk will be preceded by our AGM which will be a maximum of ten minutes long.

The talk will be held in the village hall in Corfe in a Covid safe environment. Entry is free and all are welcome. It would be helpful if you could email us at: corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com so we know how many people to expect.

Corfe Castle Community Library Opening Hours are:

Monday 3pm -5pm

Wednesday 11am -12 noon and 3pm -5pm

Saturday 10am - 12 noon.

Martyn Jessop, Secretary of the Friends of Corfe Castle Community Library

P.A.W. Continues To Support Artists With Bursaries



We are thrilled that PAW will be back 'as usual' this year from 28 May - 12 June 2022, with a fantastic line up of open studios, exhibitions and events.

The much treasured PAW brochure will be back - so handy to carry around to help you decide which open studio to visit, find out where you can get a cup of tea, see a sculptor or potter at work (and even get your hands dirty), learn about collagraphic printing or what inspires an artist to paint, and choose which evening events to go to.

Rollington Barn will again be brimming over with art from Purbeck's talented artists and celebrating the creativity of our young artists. If you are an existing PAW artist, or a new one, living and working in Purbeck do

consider joining us in 2022 - the closing date for submitting your application is 31 January. If you would prefer to show your work at Rollington only and test the waters, then the opportunity is there. Do come and join us!

Our events will start with the full forces of the Gabrieli players and soloists on Saturday 28 May. A programme of varied events will follow.

Before then, the Festival Friends will enjoy a spring series of chamber music recitals in Langton, Creech Grange and Smedmore House as well as a concert at Encombe House during the Festival.

You can join the Friends at <https://www.purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk/about-paw/friends/>

You can follow the latest PAW news on our Facebook and Instagram, or visit our website at www.purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk

The Town House

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Happy New Year to all our lovely customers!
Let's hope that 2022 is a GOOD YEAR
at long last!!
Come and be delighted!
A warm welcome awaits!

MAY 28th to JUNE 12th 2022

APPLICATIONS

To all visual artists who live
or work in Purbeck

If you would like to take part in the Purbeck Art Weeks Festival 2022, why not join us? To find out more and how to apply, please go to our website or contact us at membership@purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk.

Closing date for applications is January 31st 2022.

BURSARIES

PAW bursaries are available to help and encourage artists, of any discipline, to take the next step in the development of their career. If you would like to find out more and how to apply please contact info@purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk.

www.purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk

Health & Beauty

Matron's Round Our Local Hospitals' Monthly Column



All the staff at Swanage Hospital would like to wish the readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

After almost two years of disruption to our lives we sometimes find our physical and mental health has been forgotten. Why not make one small change in 2022 to get both of these back on track?

Find an activity you enjoy and you are more likely to continue this long term.

Our physiotherapy department treat many conditions, but perhaps one of the most common problems they see involves tendons.



Tendons are the soft tissues that connect muscle to bone in order to make our skeletons move. Tendonopathy is the umbrella term used to describe a tendon dysfunction, previously termed tendonitis.

Your lifestyle choices all impact on the health of your body and mind.

Could you make a change to any of these areas of your life for 2022?

Smoking - could you cut down, or even quit altogether? For further help and advice call the free Smokefree National Helpline on 0300 123 1044.

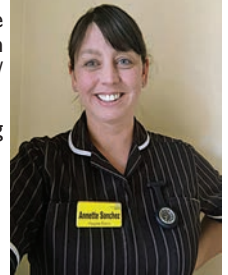
Alcohol - could you reduce your units per week? More information is available at: <http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/alcohol>

Diet - are you eating a balanced diet? The NHS website provides lots of information: <https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/Goodfoodhome.aspx> or get the Change4Life Be Food Smart app from iTunes or Google Play.

Exercise - could you be doing more of it? The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy has an Easy Exercise Guide at: <http://www.csp.org.uk/publications/easy-exercise-guide>

Remember - even a small change can make a big difference! But most of all, be kind to yourself.

**Until next time stay well,
Matron Annette Sanchez**



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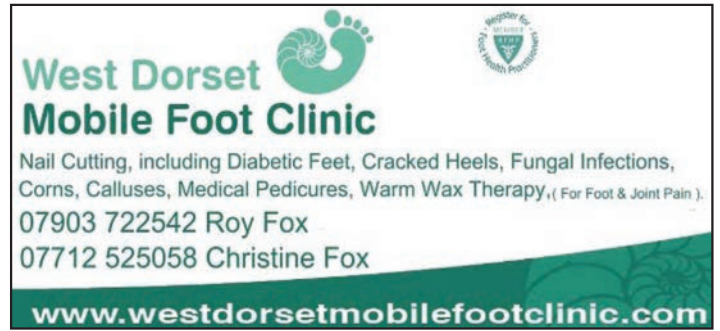
- * Stroke
- * Multiple sclerosis
- * Head injury
- * Parkinson's
- * Muscular dystrophy
- * Spinal cord injury
- * Balance problems
- * Dizziness
- * Mobility problems

Home Visits and Clinic Appointments
Swanage Therapy Centre and Corfe Castle

Please contact Holly Sizer, Chartered Physiotherapist
holly@dorsetneurophysio.co.uk



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www.westdorsetmobilefootclinic.com

Launch Of Swanage’s ‘Better Breathing’ Clinic



conditions, such as COPD and lung cancer. The clinic is very patient centred – it is about listening to each person’s journey and their individual experience of breathlessness and how it impacts their lives. The assessment is an opportunity for me to learn about what coping strategies the individual already uses and together we look at other ways to help such as breathing techniques, positions to ease breathlessness, and fan therapy.”

To access the service, patients need to be registered with a GP surgery. Any healthcare professional directly linked to your care can refer you to the Better Breathing Clinic. For further information you can call: 01202 708470 and ask to speak to our Better Breathing Team or visit Lewis-Manning’s website today.

Pictured: Pat Edmunds, Vicki Gray, Sally Churchill, Louise Hopley, David Dean, Jo Whale, Paddy Rideal.

About Lewis-Manning Hospice Care

Lewis-Manning Hospice Care is a charity established 29 years ago, providing extraordinary care to patients and their families facing a life-limiting illness across Poole, Purbeck and East Dorset. We offer a range of free hospice care services aimed at helping people to live well through their illness, closer to home.

These include:

- Day hospices, virtual and in person
- Creative arts & wellbeing support
- Lymphoedema clinic for cancer patients
- Better breathing clinic
- Bereavement & family support

Every year we support nearly 500 local people and we develop new services, based on patient need and identified gaps in the area. To do this we need to raise over £1.6m every year. Without these funds we could not exist.

Our important work increases people’s physical and social well-being, reduces isolation and loneliness, supports people to stay in their homes longer, and alleviates the huge pressures on family and carers.

Registered charity no. 1120193 lewis-manning.org.uk

A Better Breathing Clinic has been launched at Swanage Hospital, hosted by Lewis-Manning’s Respiratory Specialist Physiotherapist, Louise Hopley.

Director of Clinical Services, Jo Whale advised, “The hospice’s Better Breathing Clinic has previously only ever operated out of the hospice in Poole. As part of our current strategy to bring care ‘closer to home’, we have been expanding our services to hubs across the communities of Poole, East Dorset and Purbeck. We are delighted that this service is now being offered in the heart of the community in Swanage.”

Louise said, “The service will be run out of Swanage hospital, with regular appointments available to patients needing help and support with their life-limiting condition.

“Breathlessness can be frightening. We help people with respiratory

Save Our Ambulance Car Update

Dear Gazette Readers,
Save Our Ambulance Car - the Christmas Fair
 5,000 signatures would see our Ambulance Car petition debated at council - please help us get there!

The petition can be found by clicking on the green bar near the top of every page of our website <https://saveswanageambulancecar.org/> by googling ‘Dorset Council Save Swanage Ambulance Car’, or by clicking on this link if you’re viewing the Purbeck Gazette online: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/dorset-council-save-swanage-ambulance-car-1>

Thank you! Cllr Debby Monkhouse, Co ordinator, Save Our Ambulance Car Campaign

Pictured: members of the community rally to this emotive and important cause at the recent Christmas street market in Swanage.



FEBRUARY EDITION DEADLINE
NOON, 10th JAN

Blast From The Past!

This month, A Decade Ago...

Our January 2012 edition came out after Purbeck had received a smothering of snow and ice, which led to us putting a call out for those in the community who had experience or equipment which would be relevant in case of emergency.

Many wrote in, enabling us to compile a list of skilled people in Purbeck who could be called on in time of emergency to assist our services in closing roads, directing traffic, clearing roads/paths and if the worse came, assisting in rescues. This list of contacts was then passed to the authorities and emergency services and thankfully, as far as we know, they have not had to be called upon - as yet!



Our letters pages included what is now a letter of historical interest - beaming the 'eyesore' of a building at the Pierhead in Swanage (pictured, left). Reader, Robin Boulwood, penned a letter questioning what was happening with the building, situated in a prime spot near the sea. "Frankly, it's a bit of an eyesore in its present state and does not do this lovely town credit.

"Perhaps someone out there will come up with a reason as to what has gone wrong all these years?"

Now also for the past year another prime site, i.e.: the Mowlem bar and restaurant, is empty. Surely some organisation like Wetherspoons would find it an ideal location?"

The then-derelict Pierhead building had been creatively decorated by local artists, including Antonia Phillips, with various scenes painted on the walls. The building began to receive national acclaim for the original, artistic designs and for some years was somewhat of a local landmark - a 'must photograph' building in Swanage for those visiting. Fast forward a decade and the building has gone completely, with a newly built complex on the site.

Tony Speed and Angelika Seik wrote a short article asking if Corfe Castle library was worth fighting for. They wrote: "The people of Corfe Castle are up in arms again. This time they are fighting for the survival of their library. This fight has been going on for many years and their library had been threatened many times with closure. But many times the villagers fought this threat off successfully.

"Now Dorset County Council has made a final decision and pulled the rug from under our feet. If they have their way, the lights will be switched off next year, 2012, in September at the latest. However, a dedicated group of people in Corfe Castle are determined to do their best to keep the Library OPEN."

Today Corfe still has a library to be proud of - entirely thanks to the people of Corfe and their dedication to the provision of a library service.

Back in January 2012, Gazette editor, Nico Johnson, was still a regular attendee of the 'P.I.S.S. club', based in Wareham. Having attended their annual Christmas party in order to judge the all-important limerick competition, we reported back that the winner was Mr Tony Gepheart, who penned the lyrical, winning limerick: 'The Gazette sent along a young miss, to interview the members of P.I.S.S., she asked for their views, to print in the news, and rewarded each one with a kiss.' Tony was awarded



the prestigious Liverpool Hubcap Award (pictured, below left), which was provided to the club after being procured one dark night by the members of F.O.O.L.S. (the Fellowship Order Of Liverpooldian Simpletons), who hailed from Liverpool.....! Finally, Nico also judged the 'comb-playing' competition, with the award given to Hugh Elmes, for continuing to play 'with gusto in the face of illness'.

Ben Buxton published a fascinating article with us in January 2012, sharing the results of the Sandford Archeological Dig, which was part of the Sandford Heritage Project. An old road (now a footpath between Keyworth Drive and Station Rd, Holton Heath) was dug and it was discovered that the road was not, after all, a Roman road as previously thought. Ben wrote: "A team of volunteer diggers, many of them from Sandford, under the direction of local archaeologist Lilian Ladle MBE, dug up the road and found that there was no earlier road lurking underneath or nearby. We also found that the 18th century road was simply a sandy route through the heath; the banks and ditches alongside it were built as landscaping long after the road was abandoned!"

"Dig it! was scheduled to run for two weeks, but we finished on the Roman Road after a week, and spent the second week digging a medieval site at Holton Lee. We found pieces of broken pottery from jugs, jars and cooking vessels dating from about 1150-1225. The fragments looked as if they had been dumped as rubbish from a nearby house. Very little pottery from this period has been found in Dorset, so this was a significant discovery. Find out more on the project website, www.sandfordheritage.org"



Spotlight Event Diary

Diary Entries are FREE if your event is FREE. If you charge, then it's £5 plus VAT per entry, per month. DEADLINE for FEB is NOON 10th JAN

KEY: * = Start time not known or n/a; Ffi = for further information; Sw = Swanage; Wm = Wareham; VH = Village Hall, Telephone code 01929 unless otherwise stated.

JANUARY 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

Please call prior to attending events listed to ensure they are still on!

EVERY MONDAY

- 09.00 U3A Table Tennis Group meet at Harmans Cross VH.
 09.30 Under 2.5 years old group. Till 11am. at Parish Hall, Wm.
 09.45 Toddler Club URC, Sw. Till 11.15
 10.00 Table Tennis Club Methodist Ch. hall, High Street, Sw. All ages/abilities welcome. Steve: 424591, Malcolm: 427695
 13.00 Play and Learn at Wareham's Children's Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Till 2.45pm
 13.00 Under 1s and Tums at Chapel Lane, Swanage. Till 3pm
 14.00 Pins and Needles at Harmans Cross VH.
 14.00 Swanage Digital Champions. Support people in the community to use the internet and gain basic online skills. Booking essential on 01929 423485.
 14.00 Wareham Short Mat Bowls. Meet at Furzebrook Village Hall. New members welcome to come along and meet us!
 14.00 Swanage Disabled Club meet until 4pm. Meeting place All Saints Church Hall, Uwell, Sw. Transport available. Call Mrs Daphne Saville on 01929 425241 ffi.
 16.00 Colour Me Happy. Adult colouring session at Swanage Library. Drop in.
 16.45 Soccer Skills Sw FC First Sch chldn £1 Till 5.45. 425175
 18.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 7pm
 18.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 8.30pm.
 19.00 Swanage Youth Club. School year 10 and upwards. Till 9.30pm
 19.00 Whist. Come & join us at the Reading Room, Church Hill, Swanage. Ffi, call 07984 968733
 19.00 Purbeck Chess Club. Mortons House Hotel, Corfe Castle. Ffi, call Steve Peirson on 01929 552504.
 19.00 Wareham Choral Society meet Lady St.Mary Church, Wm. Till 9.30. New singers always welcome. Ffi: 01202 632678.
 19.30 Purbeck Village Quire rehearse at Wm URC Church. New/visiting singers (no audition necessary). String & wind players also welcome. Ffi: 288045 or 480737.
 19.30 Wareham Art Club Workshop at Wareham Parish Hall. Ffi: 553718.
 19.30 Wm Folk Dance Club Stoboro' VH. All welcome. 07749 853815. Email: warehamfolkdance@gmail.com
 19.30 Swanage Air Cadets meet at Air Training Corps HQ, Court Road, Sw. Cadets age 12+. Ffi: email: oc.2185@aircadets.mod.
 20.00 DARTS at the RBL Club, Sw.
 20.00 Herston Hall Management C'ttee Bingo

EVERY TUESDAY

- 09.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 10am
 09.30 Isle of Purbeck Arts Club. Painting and sketching. At the Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Rd, Sw. Till 1pm. Outdoors in summer. Ffi: Gina on 421689.
 09.30 Well Baby Clinic at Chapel Lane, Swanage. Till 11.30am.
 09.30 Kiddies Corner Mother & Toddler Group (term time only) No fee - donations welcome. Purbeck Gateway Church. 551415
 09.30 Wareham Art Club Workshop at Wareham Parish Hall. Ffi: 553718.
 10.00 First Steps Parent & Toddlers' Group. Swanage Methodist Church till 11.30am during term time. Ffi: Sylvia Garrett 425420, office hours.
 10.00 Men & Women's Mixed Walking Football Club at Swanage Football Club. Come and try! All levels welcome, even if you've never played before. Come and join in or just come along to watch a very friendly group of people playing football. Until 11.30am. Call Nick on: 07745 907509
 10.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 11.30am.
 10.00 Wareham Croquet Club meet at the Recreation Ground until 5pm. New members and visitors welcome. Call Tony on 01929 550190 or Lesley on 01929 553927 or email warehamgolfcroquetclub@hotmail.com
 10.00 Sandford Toddlers at Sandford Community Hall, till 11.30am.
 10.00 Short Tennis at Sw FC All ages & abilities £1.50 Till noon. 425175
 10.00 A Place Of Welcome at 103 High St. Sw. Friendly drop-in for everyone, providing a free cup of tea or coffee, a listening ear, conversation and basic information. Everyone welcome, whatever the circumstances. Until 12 noon.
 10.30 Adult Line Dance Class. FREE taster session at D'Urberville Centre, Wool. Till 11.30am with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadibelius@gogglemail.com
 10.30 Employment Hub at Swanage Library. Until 12.30pm. Book via Skills dn Learning on 01202 262300.
 10.30 Swanage Walking for Health Group starter walks (15-30mins). Start from the Mowlem Shelter on Swanage Seaford. Get back into the swing of things gently! Ffi: 481000
 10.30 Wareham Walkers. Convivial health walks for mainly older people, of up to two hours in and around Wareham, ending with coffee at a local tea room or pub. Ffi: www.wareham-walkers.org.uk or call 552933.
 11.30 New Adult Latin American & Ballroom Dance Class for beginners. FREE taster session at D'Urberville Centre, Wool. Till 12.30pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or

- email: donnadibelius@gogglemail.com
 12.00 Nature Tots (0-4yrs) at Bovington Memorial Hall Garden. Until 2pm.
 14.00 Wareham Short Mat Bowls. Meet at Furzebrook Village Hall. New members welcome to come along and meet us!
 14.00 Swanage Walking for Health Group. Walks of 60-90mins, various locations. Walks are very social, for a range of abilities. Walks start from car parks at Studland, Corfe, Arne, Durlston, Langton, Acton, Worth and Kingston. Ffi: 481000.
 14.00 Swanage Town Walk. Local historian takes walks lasting 90 minutes. Meet outside the Museum in the 'Square'. No charge but voluntary contributions welcome.
 14.00 Harman's Cross Village Hall Art Group Till 5
 18.00 Sw Youth Centre Girls' Night (Yr 8+) Till 10
 18.15 Sw Cricket Club Practice till 8.30pm
 18.30 Sw Bridge Club Mowlem Community Room. 421840
 19.00 Wareham Air Cadets meet at Air Training Corps HQ, St Martin's Lane, Wm. Cadets age 12+. Ffi: email: oc.2185@aircadets.mod.
 19.00 New Adult Line Dance Class. FREE taster session at Corfe Castle VH. Till 8pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadibelius@gogglemail.com
 19.00 Give Rugby A Try! FREE! at Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwall Rd, Wm. We're looking for new players, so come and have a go! Until 9pm. Over 18s only. Call John C. on: 07970 500357 Ffi.
 19.30 Swanage Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at Swanage Day Centre, High Street, Swanage. If you want help to stop drinking, you are welcome. Or call 01202 296000 for more details.
 19.30 Belvedere Singers rehearsal at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Sw. BH19 1AZ. Parking on-site. Till 9.30pm. All singers welcome! 425074.
 19.30 Women's Walking Football Club at Swanage Football Club. Come and try! All levels welcome, even if you've never played before. Come and join in or just come along to watch a very friendly group of people playing football. Until 9pm. Call Nick on: 07745 907509
 19.30 Sw & Langton Folk Dance Club Langton VH. Ffi: 421913
 20.00 Carey Hall, Wm Bingo
 EVERY WEDNESDAY
 09.00 St Mark's Toddlers Group, St Mark's Church, Swanage. Herston, Sw Till 11am
 09.45 Corfe Wool Workshop Corfe VH, East St. Members £1.50; non-members £2.50. Till 12.00. 427067
 10.00 Short tennis for adults at Swanage Football Club. All welcome. Equipment supplied. Till noon.
 10.00 Breast Feeding Group at Wareham's Children Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Offering peer support and breastfeeding counsellor advice. Till 12 noon. Ffi: 552864
 10.30 Adult Dance Classes. Modern Line dance. Until 11.30am. At St Edward's Church hall, Swanage. Ffi: 01202 243803 or see: www.purbeckdancestudio.co.uk
 10.30 Play and Learn at Kids of Wool (BH20 6DY) until 12 noon.
 10.30 Books and More - at Swanage Library. Reading & discussion group.
 13.00 Studland Toddler Group at Studland Village Hall until 2.30pm.
 14.00 Herston Senior Citizens meet Herston Hall, Jubilee Rd, Sw. All welcome
 14.00 Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation. Till 3pm. With Penny at the Mowlem Community Room, Sw. Ffi 07969925502
 14.30 Local Historian takes you on a town walk around Swanage, lasting 1 1/2 hours. No need to book, just turn up in the Swanage Museum in the Square, voluntary contributions welcome.
 15.00 Extend Exercise Class, now at Morton Village Hall. To improve strength, balance and flexibility. All welcome. Donations welcome. Ffi: 471490.
 16.15 Swanage Football Club U-7s Training til 5.15pm. £1. Ffi: 426346
 17.15 Swanage Football Club U-9s Training til 6.15pm. £1. Ffi: 426346
 18.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 7pm
 18.00 Swanage Youth Club. School years 7&8. Till 8.30pm
 18.30 Sw & Wm Hockey Club Junior (6-14yrs) Training, Wm Sports Centre. Until 7.30pm. Email: swanagewarehamhockey@outlook.com
 19.00 Wm Bridge Club at the Library, South St. 552046
 19.00 Swanage Depression Support group. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at the Lower Hall, Salvation Army, Kings Rd East, Sw. BH19 1ES, until 9pm. Ffi: Nick on: 07766352062 or email: nickviney@hotmail.com or call Mary on: 01929426896.
 19.00 Wareham Depression Support group. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at Not Just Sundaes, South Street, Wareham. BH20, until 9pm. Ffi: John: 01929556315 or 07871 727278 or email: johnoneil905@yahoo.co.uk
 19.00 Swanage Town Band meet for our weekly practice in the Council Chamber, Swanage Town Hall. New musicians warmly welcomed. Please call David Cook (musical Director) for further information on: 01929 422909.
 19.00 Give Rugby A Try! FREE! at Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwall Rd, Wm. We're looking for new players, so come and have a go! Until 9pm. Under 16s-18s only. Call John P. on: 07725 567541 Ffi.
 19.00 Purbeck Runners meet at Beach Gardens Pavilion, Sw.

- 19.30 Swanage Musical Theatre meet Swanage Bay View Complex Rehearsal Room. All welcome. Ffi: 426161
- 19.30 Sw & Wm Hockey Club (13+ years) Training, Wm Sports Centre. Till 9pm. Email: swanagewarehamhockey@outlook.com
- 20.00 Sw Youth Centre Club Night (Yr 9+) Till 10
- 20.15 Dorset Buttons Morris Practice. URC Hall, Wm. 423234/421130
- 20.30 Wm Swimming Club Adults. All standards + stroke improvement. Till 10
- 22.00 Sw Youth Centre Club Night (16+) Till 11.59
- EVERY THURSDAY**
- 08.30 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 9.30am.
- 09.00 Carey Crafters meet every Thursday at Carey Hall, Mistover Road, until 12.30pm (come anytime between). No age or gender restriction. All crafts welcome we have a wide variety! Come along and share your craft or learn a new one! Contact Donna on 07870 993311 or Helen on 07368 352737 ffi.
- 09.00 Swanage Painting Club. Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Rd, Sw. Friendly group. New members including beginners welcome. Till 1pm. Ffi: Jane on 01929 427078
- 09.30 Play and Learn at Chapel Lane, Swanage, till 11am.
- 09.30 Well Baby Clinic at Streche Road, Wareham, until 12 noon.
- 09.30 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 11am.
- 09.30 Sensory Play for under ones, at Bovington Centre until 10.30am
- 09.30 Adult Dance Classes. Latin American & Ballroom dance. Until 10.30am. At the Wareham Scout & Guide Hut, N. Bestwall Rd, Wareham. BH20 4HX. Ffi: 01202 243803 or see: www.purbeckdancestudio.co.uk
- 10.00 Wyvern Savings & Loan Credit Union opens until 12 noon at Not Just Sundaes, South Street, Wareham, opposite the Library. A secure place to save and loans available at fair rates. Call in for a cuppa and a chat, or call 01305 268444.
- 10.00 Wm Parent & Toddler Group During term Parish Hall, Quay Till 11.45. 556806
- 10.00 A Place Of Welcome at 103 High St. Sw. Friendly drop-in for everyone, providing a free cup of tea or coffee, a listening ear, conversation and basic information. Everyone welcome, whatever the circumstances. Until 12 noon.
- 10.00 Wool Country Market D'Urbeville Hall. Cakes, preserves, plants, crafts, vegetables. Coffee & biscuits available.
- 10.00 Tea, Coffee, Biscuits at Queensmead Hall, Sw. Till 11am. Adm 50p
- 10.00 Volunteer Centre Drop-In at Wareham Library till 12pm. Find out about volunteering to support community groups & charities.
- 10.00 Wareham Croquet Club meet at the Recreation Ground until 5pm. New members and visitors welcome. Call Tony on 01929 550190 or Lesley on 01929 553927 or email warehamgolfcroquetclub@hotmail.com
- 10.15 Chess at the Cafe Tratt, Lower High Street, Swanage (from 8th February 2018). Call in for a friendly game of chess and a chat. All welcome.
- 10.30 Mid-Week Market Morning Service URC, Church St, Wm. Prayer requests to Revd. Simon Franklin 556976
- 10.30 Woodworking with Bernard and Terry at the Purbeck Workshop in Wool. The Workshop provides craft activities free of charge to those touched by cancer - friends and family are welcome too. D'Urberville Centre, Collier's Lane, Wool. www.purbeckworkshop.org 07757 776907. www.purbeckworkshop.org Phone: 07794 479208
- 11.00 Sensory Play for 1-4yrs old at Bovington Centre, until 12 noon.
- 11.30 New Adult Line Dance Class. FREE taster session at Corfe Castle VH. Till 12.30pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadiebelius@gogglemail.com
- 13.30 Under 1 year olds at Wareham's Children's Centre, Streche Rd, Wm. Anti-natal mums welcome. Till 3pm. Ffi: 552864.
- 13.00 Wareham Area Men's Shed meets at Purbeck Connect, Sandford Lane, Wm. Ffi: call Chris on 554758, Harold on 792591 or Mike on 288045
- 13.30 Toddler Group. All Saints' Church, Sw. 423937. Till 3pm (Term times)
- 13.00 New Adult Latin American & Ballroom Dance Class for beginners. FREE taster session at Corfe Castle VH. Till 2pm with fully qualified instructor. All Covid-19 safety measures in place. Call Donna: 01202 243803 or email: donnadiebelius@gogglemail.com
- 14.00 Swanage Town Walk. Local historian takes walks lasting 90 minutes. Meet outside the Museum in the 'Square'. No charge but voluntary contributions welcome.
- 14.00 Wareham Happy Cafe. Friendly conversation, talks, activities and some fun to put a spring in your step! Everyone welcome. Held at the Not Just Sundaes Cafe in South Street, Wareham. BH20 4LU. From 5th March 2020 onwards. FREE. Until 3.30pm.
- 14.00 Studland Chair-based Exercise in the Village Hall, Studland. Ffi: Julie on 558139 or email: jbrad@uwclub.net
- 14.15 Sw Over-60s Meet in the Rectory Classroom, Swanage, Sw. All Welcome.
- 17.45 Swanage Youth Club. Learning Difficulties and disability (age 11-25) night. Till 7.30pm
- 18.00 Isle of Purbeck Arts Club. Weekly evening Art Group. Aimed at beginners, at Purbeck New Wave Gallery, 25 Commercial Rd, Sw. BH19 1DF. till 9pm.
- 18.15 Sw Cricket Club Practice till 9pm
- 18.30 Swanage Sea Rowing Club Circuit Training at Swanage Middle School. Ffi: 07776 201455
- 19.00 Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation. Till 8pm. With Penny at Furzebrook VH, Wm. Ffi 07969925502
- 19.00 Over 40s Men's Walking Football Club at Swanage Football Club. Come and try! All levels welcome, even if you've never played before. Come and join in or just come along to watch a very friendly group of people playing football. Until 8.30pm. Call Nick on: 07745 907509
- 19.00 Purbeck Gateway Club meets at Wareham Youth Centre until 9pm. Purbeck Gateway is a club for adults with learning difficulties. We meet during term time and have fun! All welcome. Ffi: Lew on 552173. Email: Lewisbell1@aol.com
- 19.15 Wm Town Band Brass & Woodwind players welcome. 551478/01202 242147
- 19.30 Short Mat Bowls in the Durbeville Hall, Wool. All standards welcome, till 9.30pm. Ffi: 552682
- 19.30 Purbeck Arts Choir meet for rehearsals, with conductor David Fawcett, at St Mary's School, Northbrook Road, Swanage. Sept-May. All welcome. For more information please phone Liz Roberts 01929 481419
- 19.30 Swanage Youth Club Youth Action (year 7 - sixth form). Till 9.30pm
- 20.00 Herston Hall OAP Committee Bingo Sw
- EVERY FRIDAY**
- 08.45 Coffee @ 112 - Drop In For Coffee! Catch up with friends at 112 High Street (United Reformed Church) in Sw. Cake and bacon butties. Fair trade stall. Donations for 'Besom in Purbeck' and church funds.
- 09.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 10am
- 09.30 Health Qigong: Fitness and relaxation. Till 10.30am. With Penny at Furzebrook VH, Wm. Ffi 07969925502
- 09.30 Wareham Area Men's Shed meets at Purbeck Connect, Sandford Lane, Wm. Ffi: call Chris on 554758, Harold on 792591 or Mike on 288045
- 09.30 Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group. Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage. Term time only. Until 11.30am. Ffi: Alex on 07904 412067.
- 10.00 Table Tennis Club Methodist Ch. hall, High Street, Sw. All ages/abilities welcome. Steve: 424591, Malcolm: 427695
- 10.30 Do you want to volunteer in Swanage? Meet the team at the Volunteer Bureau in Swanage Library! Until 12.30pm.
- 11.00 Swanage Library Rhyme Time, ages 0-4, until 11.30am.
- 11.00 Toddler Time For Under 5s And Carers. Wareham Library. Stories, songs and crafts. Every Friday, including school holidays. Ffi: 01929 556146
- 14.00 Wareham Short Mat Bowls. Meet at Furzebrook Village Hall. New members welcome to come along and meet us!
- 14.30 Short Mat Bowls at Durbeville Hall, Wool. Till 4.30pm. All standards welcome. Ffi: 552682.
- 18.00 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 8.30pm.
- 18.00 Purbeck War-Game & Model Club. Royal British Legion, Sw. 426096.
- 18.00 Sw Youth Centre Club 12-13 (Yr 7-9) Till 8
- 18.00 Purbeck Youth Choir at the United Reformed Church Hall, Sw. 8-18 years old. Till 7pm. Ffi: Jay Buckle on: 07947 866945
- 18.30 Sw Bridge Club Mowlem Community Room. 421840
- 19.00 Sw Youth Centre Seniors Club Night (Yr 9+) Till 9.30pm.
- 19.30 Informal Lesbian Social Group meets each Friday for fun, laughter and to make new friends. Ffi, contact Karen by email at: outinpurbeck@gmail.com
- 19.30 Short tennis for adults at Swanage Football Club. All welcome. Equipment supplied. Till 9.30pm. £3.
- 20.00 Sw Youth Centre Live Bands (as advertised) Till 10pm.
- 22.00 Sw Youth Centre Late Session (Yr 9+) till 11.59pm (members free)
- EVERY SATURDAY**
- 08.00 Purbeck Runners meet at the Mowlem, Sw. 4/5 mile run.
- 09.00 Sw CC U11 - U15 Practice till 10.30
- 09.30 Sw CC U9 & U10 Practice & Kwik Cricket till 10.30
- 10.00 Tea, coffee and home-made cakes in the Parish Hall on Wareham Quay during the Community Market. Till 2pm. Bric-a-Brac stall weekly. Christian bookstall most weeks. All welcome for a warm-up and a friendly chat.
- 11.00 Lego and Megablok Mayhem at Swanage Library, until 12 noon.
- 20.00 Herston OAP Committee Bingo at Herston Hall, Sw
- EVERY SUNDAY**
- 09.00 Purbeck Runners meet at the Mowlem, Sw. 8+ mile run.
- 10.00 Arts and Crafts Market at the Mowlem in Swanage. A wide range of local art for sale, including pottery, glass, cards, fabric and much more! To book your table, or for more information, call Tony on 01929 421321.
- 10.00 Give Rugby A Try! FREE! at Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwall Rd, Wm. We're looking for new players, so come and have a go! Until noon. Under 6s-16s only. Call Claire on: 07799 842225 Ffi.
- 10.30 Stoborough Emmanuel Baptist Church meet at Stoborough First School, Stoborough. All very welcome.
- 13.30 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Cardio Tennis taster. Till 2.30pm
- 14.30 Swanage Tennis Club at Beach Gardens, Sw. Free Matchplay taster session for prospective new members. First 3 sessions are free. Until 4.30pm.
- 19.00 Quiz Night with cash prizes at the Red Lion, High Street, Swanage. All welcome - come along and see if you can win the prize pot!
- 19.00 Alcoholics Anonymous Wareham. Until 8.15pm. Doors open at 6.30pm. Call 07855 536039 or email: warehamsunday@gmail.com for details of meeting location and so on.

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