

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust  
and Swanage Area Forum

# NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Welcome to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage Area Forum's April 2024 edition of their Newsletter.

This edition covers – as well as news and forthcoming events from many clubs, charities, societies and organisations in our local communities – a very important announcement

**We are pleased and proud to announce on page 2 the important news that in order to enhance local community services the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust has acquired on a 125 year lease the Swanage Day Centre and Children's Centre.**

Mel Norris

Trustee Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Chair of The Swanage Area Forum

[melvyn.norris@icloud.com](mailto:melvyn.norris@icloud.com), mobile: 07446 677924

find the newsletter at [www.sandpdt.org.uk](http://www.sandpdt.org.uk)

## DEADLINE

for contributions to the May/June 2024  
issue of the Newsletter

**MONDAY 15 APRIL 2024**



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662



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Development Trust

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## New Centre to Offer Health, Wellbeing and Care Services for Swanage

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March, Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust (SPDT) took on management of the Swanage Children's Centre and Day Centre from Dorset Council. The Trust will maintain existing services (including Care Dorset and a range of services for children and young people), while developing the site to offer an even wider range of health, care and wellbeing support for people in Swanage.

Over the next 6 months, work will start to develop the site and plans will be drawn up to improve facilities and create new, well equipped spaces for the local community to use. The site will not only be used as a new Family Hub with increased services for children and families, but will also offer increased Day Care services.

The Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust are made up of people from the Swanage community and currently support numerous smaller projects within the town and have been successfully managing the Youth Club, Herston Village Hall and the former Youth Centre, for several years.

Said Bob Foster, Chair of the SPDT, "We are delighted to be working with Dorset Council Children's Services and Adult Services in a partnership to maximise the use of the site for the benefit of the local Community. This is just the beginning, but over the next few years, we look forward to seeing this facility develop to offer new and improved services within the town."

**A Community Open Day is planned for 11 May** when everyone will be invited to tour the site and view and comment on our early ideas. It will also be an opportunity for you to give feedback and put forward your own thoughts.

SPDT will be providing regular updates on the progress on site, soon to be renamed, the "Focus Centre", with a particular focus on wellbeing, children and families and support for the local Community generally, including Swanage and surrounding villages.



The Children's Centre



The Day Centre



Bob Foster and Sue Younghusband, SPDT

I shared in our last news update that Swanage Food Bank had been given Notice to leave the Salvation Army Hall at the end of this March when the whole building will be closed and emptied. We have since been granted an extra week after Easter in order to make the actual move to Swanage URC, our new place of residence. We are extremely grateful to the Elders and church members of the URC for their welcome and for their making ready a back Hall in the building which is not currently used. Some structural alterations have been permitted, and these are being carried out by Pete Plowman and our own Ian Fleming who are busily ordering needed wood and sundries in readiness for erecting a shelving system. A big thankyou to them both.

**Swanage  
Food Bank**



We have spent a number of hours with the URC Elders / Trustees in agreeing the conditions of Swanage Food Bank's residence at Swanage URC, and we have been delighted by their welcome and sense of joint purpose in our providing food/drink for our clients in Swanage and district on 3 days of each week. Already, we have been issuing printed updates to current clients and to our Home Deliveries Team who collect what we have prepared at specified times ahead of their delivery. Again, we are grateful to all of them for their ongoing support and help.

The actual move will take place on the week after Easter Sunday with our use of the lorry and equipment provided by Purbeck Besom, We really are grateful to them for their willing assistance. We will have a large freezer and new fridge to be taken to Swanage URC as well as boxes of food and home commodities which we are gradually reducing as our moving date approaches. We will not be needing additional hand power, though we have had many extra offers of help for which we are grateful. So please do not come to assist unless already asked.

**We are expecting to be functioning as usual by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Swanage URC.** We are grateful to all who donate to us in Swanage supermarkets and for cash gifts. Recently, we received a huge donation of £1000 from Swanage Carnival committee, and this will be put to very good use. Smaller gifts are equally welcome, of course, So we thank you for your continuing support as we continue to work for the poor of Swanage and district.

*Pauline Werba (Chairperson)*

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## **Swanage Skatepark Community Project (SSCP) is beyond excited to announce the first Swanage Skatepark Community Day: 1st June 2024, 12-5pm.**

The event will be hosted by King Ramps of Bournemouth who will bring a 'pop-up skatepark street course' to fill the current empty space in Swanage Skatepark. King Ramps will provide skateboards and safety gear for anyone who doesn't have their own. Expect a fun packed day designed to bring the whole community together as SSCP begins to re-energise the park.

*"King ramps are really excited to be working with SSCP and the local community. We will be hosting workshops throughout the day as well as demonstrations with our King Ramps Pro team. We will also be holding contests throughout the day for Scooter, BMX and Skateboard. We can't wait to see everyone there!"* - Richie Inskip, King Ramps.

Thanks to funding from local charity #Willdoes, entry to the event, use of equipment and access to lessons is all FREE.

*"We hope to show just how valuable a resource the skatepark is and get everyone behind our long-term goal of raising funds for new ramps. The event will increase access to skateboarding with free beginner lessons for all age groups (adults are welcome too!) and guidance from coaches. It will be a fun day to make new connections, hone skills and be entertained by demos and competitions."* - James Woodford, SSCP.

*"In 2023, SSCP ran a user consultation. There were over 220 votes from people who wanted to see beginner lessons, pro riders and skate jams taking place in Swanage Skatepark. We're thrilled this event will be delivering the things our community want"* - James Woodford, SSCP.

The Community Day is important because it aims to improve social inclusion for teenagers and young people in Purbeck. The #Willdoes Community Bus will be at the event to provide a safe space for young people to meet and access information and support.

The Skatepark Community Day will take place on the closing weekend of a Crowdfunder Campaign set to launch in April 2024 to raise money for new ramps. If our community can raise £20k, Sport England will provide £10k in match funding. Any local businesses or individuals who see themselves being able to make a financial contribution are invited to get in touch with Heidi, SSCP Secretary at [swanageskatepark@gmail.com](mailto:swanageskatepark@gmail.com).

We hope to see you on Saturday 1st June at Swanage Skatepark, bring friends and family with you!





# Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

The success of the Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership (SCDP) project is due to two main factors;

- Community financial support
- A wonderful TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS

With 42 defibrillators now within SCDP and positioned across the local area, the roles of Defib Guardians and steering group members have become very important to ensure that the project remains sustainable and defibs are accessible and ready for use in emergency situations.

New volunteers are always welcome and we would be pleased to receive enquiries. We can be contacted by email: [info@swanagedefib.co.uk](mailto:info@swanagedefib.co.uk) or by visiting Corbens in Station Rd. Swanage

We are also keen to offer Defib familiarisation sessions for those who would like to know how to use a defib should you be presented with an emergency situation. Please do support the events which will be advertised widely.

We were delighted to see that the son of one of our founder SCDP members is supporting our work at the age of 3 and is already learning how to do cardiac compressions and clean a defib cabinet!

Maggie Hardy, SCDP



## M.U.S.I.C. CHARITY EVENTS

(Music Unlimited for Swanage Independent Charities)



**LIVE MUSIC: SWING EASY TOO**  
(4-piece band, vocalists) plus Guests

DATE	VENUE	START TIME (usually for 2 hours...)
Fri 05 Jan 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 30 Jan 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 02 Feb 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 06 Feb 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 13 Feb 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 01 Mar 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 05 Mar 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 19 March 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 05 Apr 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 09 Apr 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 30 April 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 03 May 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 07 May 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 21 May 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Tue 18 June 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 21 Jun 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30

\*\* VENUE FOR 4 DATES: **NEWTON MANOR HALL(170 High Street, Swanage)**  
ENTRANCE ON HIGH ST, OPP. COW LANE. **NOT THE MANOR !!** Tel: 07827-892893



## Swanage Bowling Club

### FREE "Have-A-Go" SESSIONS

## Sunday 5th & 12th May 2024

2 sessions on each day at 10am and 2pm  
*No need to pre-book. Just turn up!*

**Come and try this wonderful outdoor game!**  
Members will be on hand to assist.  
Bowls will be provided.

Please wear trainers/flat shoes/no heels.  
- Fresh Air - Stay active - Challenge yourself  
- Make new friends - Easy to learn, tricky to Master

**For more information contact: Barrie Tatman, Club Secretary**  
 ☎ 01929 421162 | 🌐 [www.swanagebowlingclub.org.uk](http://www.swanagebowlingclub.org.uk)  
 📺 [facebook.com/Swanagebowlingclub](https://www.facebook.com/Swanagebowlingclub)  
 📍 Entrances at Beach Gardens, Northbrook Road or Cauldon Ave, BH193 1PG



  
Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
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We continued to thrive in the year 2022 to 2023 and we've done so much and that is all down to the fantastic group of volunteers that attend Greengage every week.

We have managed to replant the old leylandii with a natural hedge and the majority of the plants are thriving; we are about to infill with new plants and weeding will continue to be vital this coming year. We have fully renovated all our plots, and they look the best they've ever looked. Our old raised beds have been cleared (thank you Town Council) and we will be having new ones soon. We now have a wonderful herb area, with many different species, and our bed with cut flowers has been very popular this year and people come in and pick them which is a wonderful link to community. Our wildflower garden looked lovely in spring and summer. developing year on year and Pete's pond is already colonised by allsorts of 'beasties' including newts and dragonflies!



We've had lots and lots of visitors. Many just pop in to have a chat, look at what we're doing, pick up plants and we've had our usual collection of veggie plants, annuals and perennials available for people who donate on a contribution basis and the income from these has been really helpful.

We were again invited to prepare the hanging baskets at Swanage Hospital. We also planted up the pots outside the hospital. These were very successful. We were also asked to help with planting outside the ambulance station. This is a job we expect to do this summer. We provided the town council with herbs on their displays - this is also a link we would like to see develop.

We were asked to host a garden session with Cubs and Beavers and these seemed to be very successful. This summer we hope to repeat them and do more if we can. At our Planet Purbeck open day we had

a good number attend and there was a friendly, positive atmosphere as there was at the other open days we have had throughout the year. The Rotary Club and the Town Council also continue to be very supportive of Greengage and we appreciate their generosity both financially and otherwise. We are making good progress in raising the funds we need for the toilet refurbishment and the new building.

Back at Greengage the greenhouse has been heavily used right through the year growing tomatoes, peppers, house plants, starting off bedding plants beans, veggie plants etc and it is an amazing resource for us all.

We have a fully functioning website up and running and this has proved to be a very successful venture. We also have our Facebook page, and we use 'Swanage Matters' to advertise events. We also have lovely new postcards to give out to interested people.

I am sorry I have missed so much but there just isn't room to mention everyone and all the things we've done, but probably the most important aspects of Greengage are the friendships and mutual support which have really developed in the project particularly over the last year. In my view this is the way we go forward encouraging others to come and see us and in developing a real resource for Swanage. What an amazing team of people you are and thank you for all you do to make Greengage Community Garden such a welcoming, positive and productive place...

In conclusion, the Christmas Fayre day raised over £800 and the wonderful Harmony Rocks choir donated £250 from their Christmas Concert to Greengage....Thank you everyone!

*Bob Walters Greengage Chair*







# HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

## What's On at Harmans Cross Village Hall

**Movie Nights** – doors and bar open at 7pm, admission just £5

Reviews and trailers can be found on the Movie Nights section of our website at <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights/>

Our next screenings are:

Tuesday 9 April – My Sailor, My Love

Tuesday 14 April - Napoleon

**Coffee Junction** – in the small meeting room from 10.30am

Thursday 4 and 18 April, and 16 and 30 May.

Coffee Junction has had to give way to Polling Day for the local elections on Thursday 2 May.

**HXVH Church** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6pm

Next HX services are Sunday 21 April and Sunday 19 May

## Booking the Hall

A reminder to anyone interested in booking the Hall that our new Bookings Guru is Kelly King. There's loads of information available on the 'Make a Booking' section of our website and you can check availability using the online calendar which is always kept up to date. Kelly can be contacted on either 07384 848 419 or email at [bookings@harmanscrosshall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@harmanscrosshall.co.uk).

*Alison and the HXVH Committee*

**Swanage JAZZ CLUB**  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT

**CHARLOTTE GLASSON**



**QUINTET**

**SAT 20 APRIL 7.30PM**  
**TICKETS £15\***

\*From

cheques to Swanage Jazz Associates at 22 Streche Rd, Swanage BH19 1NF or BACS details are available for easy payment.

**\*Full Ticket booking details:**  
Tel 01929 426127  
[melvyn.norris@icloud.com](mailto:melvyn.norris@icloud.com)

**AT HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL\***  
**SATURDAY 20th APRIL - 7.30PM**

Licenced Bar opens at 7pm  
Music starts at 7.30pm

Multi-instrumentalist/Composer Charlotte brings her 5 piece band to Swanage with her own unique brand of Jazz, playing music from the band's new album, *Cosmo's Cosmos*, which fuses Charlotte's favourite musical genres including New Orleans, Latin, Gypsy jazz, Ska, Calypso, swing, blues & contemporary jazz. The band featured in the lottery-funded film 'Jazz Live,' about the London Jazz Scene and have played at the Swanage Jazz Festival and the London Jazz Festival.

**Fred Lindop**

\*Harmans Cross Village Hall is in Haycrafts Lane, BH19 3EB, 2 miles outside Swanage. If coming from C.Castle, take a right turn opp. garage in centre of Harmans Cross village

**PLENTY OF PARKING ON SITE**

 Charity No: 1162662



You are invited to the  
**Swanage Jazz Club**

at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th April at  
The Children's Centre, Chapel Lane, High Street,  
Swanage

to listen to a fascinating talk with accompanying recordings given by  
HOWARD OLIVER on

### **"The Jazz Career of Billy Strayhorn"**

The first half of the talk is a short biography followed by listening to a series of some of Billy Strayhorn's most important compositions, including the amazing song "Lush Life". They have been selected to include a range of famous Jazz musicians, not only the Duke Ellington Band. The second half of the talk contains some of his more unusual works, including piano duets with Duke Ellington, some more musical pieces and also a jazz version of Tchaikovsky's "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy". It will also include one of the all-time favourite jazz recordings: John Coltrane and Duke Ellington playing "My Little Brown Book". One of the last pieces will be the moving piece "Blood Count" composed while Billy Strayhorn was terminally ill in hospital and only performed by the Duke Ellington Band after Billy Strayhorn's death at the age of 51 in 1967.





National  
Trust

## Updates from the National Trust

### Skirmish in the skies!



Photos: Pete Christie

There have been some spats and skirmishes in the skies over the castle over the last few weeks. Ravens nested at the castle for centuries, but when they moved out some years ago, peregrines moved in. Well, it seems the ravens are trying to make a comeback. They have been circling around the castle bringing nesting materials, but the peregrines have been divebombing them and trying to drive them away.

Although ravens are bigger, peregrines are formidable hunters and the fastest birds in the world (reaching over 200 miles per hour in a dive). It is highly unlikely that both birds will nest at the same site, so we'll have to wait to see who is victorious!

### Please don't pet the pigs

In April, the woolly pigs are again being released on the Purbeck Heaths 'super' National Nature Reserve (NNR). Grazing with cattle, ponies and pigs is crucial in ensuring that the diversity of wildlife across the heaths can thrive.

The pigs will roam the expanse of the NNR, rooting and digging in the soil which helps to break up compacted ground. This not only improves the soil structure, but it creates bare patches of soil, vital for rare species such as sand lizards and various invertebrates.

Pigs are intelligent and naturally curious, but we are asking people not to feed or pet them. This is because the pigs will begin to associate people with such attention – and will run up to anyone expecting to be fed. This can be alarming, especially if the pigs become more demanding. If you see the pigs, please:



Photo: Mark Singleton

- Always keep your distance.
- Keep your dog on a lead if you see them.
- Do not feed, call, or pet them.
- Keep walking and moving and they will ignore you.

The Purbeck Heaths NNR is managed by a partnership of seven organisations – RSPB, National Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Forestry England, Rempstone Estate, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and Natural England. Find out more here <https://purbeckheaths.org.uk>

### Follow us on Facebook

If you are interested in the nature and landscapes of Purbeck, why not follow our new Facebook page, National Trust Purbeck Countryside? There we are sharing stories and images of our amazing wildlife and habitats, what we are doing to protect and enhance them, and how you can help.

*Cathy Lewis, National Trust*

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**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®** is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. ... Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.



This is still a very unsettling time. It is stressful for many people in many new ways. Some people turn to alcohol to help them cope and get through it. This can be more of a danger than a help to some of us. If you think you have a problem with alcohol we can help:

**IF DRINK IS COSTING YOU MORE THAN MONEY then we can help you.**  
**Please telephone our free Helpline today: 0800 917 7650**

## Money Worries Advice

**“I’ve received my council tax bill and it’s increased. My income has stayed the same but everything else seems more expensive and I have hardly anything left over - how will I cope having to pay the increase?”**

Many of us are feeling overwhelmed as we see our basic bills and essential costs go up. You’re not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there’s support available.

First off, there are discounts available to some people depending on their circumstances. You can check your bill or contact your council to find out if you might be eligible for an automatic reduction to your council tax.

If you’re not getting a discount, you might still be entitled to one. It depends who lives in the property. So, if you’re the only adult in your home, you’ll get a 25% discount on your council tax bill.

When working out how many people live in a property, some people aren’t counted - they’re called ‘disregarded people’ and include under 18s, a student nurse or someone on an apprenticeship scheme and many more. Check the [government website](#) for more details. If everyone who lives in the property is disregarded, you will still receive a council tax bill, but it will have a 50% discount. However, if everyone in your home is a student or severely mentally impaired, you won’t pay any council tax.

Additionally, if someone has moved out, tell the council as this might change your eligibility. If you are entitled to a discount as a result, it will be valid from the date when the person moved out, even if you told the council after the event, and the reduction may be backdated.

If you think you might be eligible you should apply to your local council for a discount as soon as possible. You can find your [council's contact details on GOV.UK](#).

You mention that your income hasn’t increased. If you are on a low income you might be able to get your council tax reduced. If you get benefits or have other people living with you, this might affect how much your council tax is reduced by.

Your local council will ask you details about your income and your circumstances, so they can work out if you’re entitled to a council tax reduction. They will then calculate your new bill and tell you how much council tax you need to pay.

If you have other people living with you who are aged 18 or over, you might all be responsible for paying council tax. Only one of you needs to apply for a council tax reduction. The council will make a decision and reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay accordingly.

You may also be eligible for additional support if you’ve reached State Pension age which you can check on the government website [GOV.UK](#)

If you’re under State Pension age, the ‘working age rules’ apply and if you’ve reached State Pension age, it depends if you or your partner get certain benefits.

The working age rules still apply if you’ve reached State Pension age and you or your partner get:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support

If you’ve reached State Pension age and don’t get any of these benefits, the ‘pension age rules’ apply.

Even if none of the reduction criteria applies to you, your local council can still reduce your council tax bill or cancel it altogether, this is called ‘discretionary reduction’. They’ll normally only do this if you can show that you’re suffering severe hardship and can’t afford to pay council tax.

If you’re in this situation you should ask your local council for help. You’ll need to show them evidence of your circumstances. If your immigration status doesn’t let you claim public funds, you can still apply for a discretionary reduction. A discretionary reduction doesn’t count as public funds.

We know that times are incredibly tough and council tax is a priority bill so it’s important to keep in contact with your council if you can’t keep up payments. Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward, without judgement, working with you side by side.



## Advice Bus

**A reminder that the Advice Bus is at Swanage Market every Friday, 10am-12pm. It also calls at Corfe Castle Village Hall car park every third Friday of the month next on the 19th April, 17th May & 21st June.**

Advisers can offer advice on a number of different issues including: benefits, debt & money, employment, energy, family, housing and legal. If you’re struggling to pay your Wessex Water bills and if you’re on pension credit you may be entitled to additional help. Advice is free and confidential and you don’t need to book an appointment. Visit our website for our bus stop locations

[www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/advice-bus](http://www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/advice-bus)

**For more information about Citizens Advice services, including all of our outreaches, visit**

[www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk) to speak to an Adviser, call the Dorset Adviceline freephone on 0800 144 8848, 10am-4pm weekdays.





## Message from the Mayor of Swanage, Cllr Tina Foster

Spring is on its way and hopefully some warmer and drier days.

As we come to the end of our Town Councillors' term of office, we remain firmly focused on the future. This includes the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. An information pack is being put together to raise awareness about this work and will be made available online, at the Town Hall and the Library, in advance of the first public engagement sessions later in the Spring. We are also finalising the Car Parking Order which has caused some discussions, to which we have listened and made some amendments.

My consort and I attended the Rotary Silver Saturday event at the Emmanuel Baptist church and enjoyed a lovely tea, musical entertainment and happy company. Thank you to the Rotary for giving us the chance to talk to Swanage residents who have some fascinating memories to share.

I also went to the Mowlem for the airing of the BBC Any Questions. Swanage certainly had some excellent questions, and the audience were not afraid to show their reactions.

The Deputy Mayor and I, together with Councillor Avril Harris, spent an interesting day at a conference for Dorset Town and Parish Councillors recently. This was a very useful event which allowed us to hear about the similar problems facing other towns and parishes and provided an opportunity to ask questions of Dorset Councillors.

Please try and attend the many Committee meetings held at the Town Hall and let us know your views, positive and negative: we need your input.

And, however you cast your vote, please don't forget to take part in the local council elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. This is your chance to influence the make up of Swanage Town and Dorset Councils for the next five years.

*Cllr Tina Foster*



Rotary Silver Saturday event


## Singing for Pleasure

Every Thursday

2pm until 3.30pm



at Emmanuel  
Baptist Church

Swanage Dementia Friendly  
£2 per session which includes   
a drink and biscuit

# All Welcome



## Making Memories

**Dementia Friendly Café  
meeting at the Café Bar  
Mowlem Theatre, Swanage**



**from 10 am to 12 noon**

**on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month.**

Meeting friends socially over a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cake with occasional entertainment - a stimulating way to share memories and experiences with other people and their carers

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**May 7th  
May 21st  
June 4th  
June 18th  
July 2nd  
July 16th**



I'm pleased and relieved that the past 3 months have been really "quiet" in relation to news from the hospital, some reading this may think this strange but from my perspective it implies that no more services have been withdrawn back into the Acute Hospitals and the MIU has been "Open" at the advertised times!

The Stanley Purser ward has been fully occupied throughout the Winter months and, once again, the Community is fortunate to have staff working throughout the hospital who are committed to provide the best possible support and care for their patients.

The Friends Committee are hoping that the options for the reconfiguration of the Endoscopy Suite will soon be available, we can then work with Dorset Healthcare to develop the preferred plan to maximise the use of the available space.

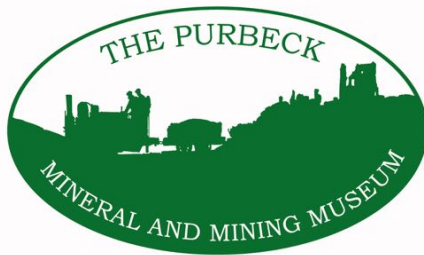
**We are starting to look forward to the Summer months and a date for your diary is the "not to be missed" Afternoon Tea in the Garden which will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

*Deirdre Selwyn, Chair, Friends of Swanage Hospital*



**FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL**

<https://www.friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk/>



## Local community gets a rare look behind the scenes at popular museum

Close community engagement is vital for any heritage organisation, especially one that is run entirely by volunteers. That's why special Open Days for local people were held recently by the Purbeck Mining Museum at Purbeck Park, adjacent to Norden railway station. And, judging by the high number of visitors,

there is a keen and enduring interest in this key feature of the Purbeck's cultural, economic and environmental heritage.

Over 400 enthusiastic visitors attended these first Open Days of the 2024 season, which were organised to coincide with the Community Weekend run by the Swanage Railway. As well as regular engine and wagon movements on the restored narrow-gauge clay railway, visitors had the chance to look behind the scenes in the Engine Shed and have guided tours around the museum. These included a visit to the underground clay tunnel where a former miner provided first-hand insight into what it was really like working down a clay mine in years gone by.

Many of the visitors were also able to recall and share interesting stories and experiences from their own family's connection with the Purbeck's clay mining industry. Such anecdotes and personal knowledge show how the industry has not only helped to shape the rich landscape we see today, but has also shaped the local economy and the history of so many families within the local community over the course of many centuries.

For many of those taking advantage of the Open Days, it was their first visit to the museum and they could see for themselves the huge range of skills, roles and ages of the volunteers – from front-of-house hosts and tour guides to engineering, ground maintenance and engine driving. Walkers on the footpath to Corfe Castle and passengers on the platform at Norden station on the Swanage Railway were also able to enjoy the narrow-gauge railway demonstrations throughout the Community Weekend.

**The Purbeck Mining Museum will be open to the public from 11am to 4pm during the Swanage Railway's special Victorian Weekend (22-24 March 2024) and will reopen for the 2024 season at Easter. Full details on opening times are available on the website - [www.purbeckminingmuseum.org](http://www.purbeckminingmuseum.org). And, anyone wishing to enquire about volunteer opportunities should send an email to [purbeckminingmuseum@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:purbeckminingmuseum@swanagerailway.co.uk).**



There were demonstrations of engine and wagon movements on the restored narrow-gauge clay railway at the Purbeck Mining Museum throughout the Community Weekend - Photos courtesy of Andrew PM Wright.



Local families had the opportunity to see the underground tunnel at the Purbeck Mining Museum throughout the Community Weekend - Photo courtesy of Andrew PM Wright.



**The Friends of Wareham Hospital** have supported the hospital for nearly 60 years and are proud to continue helping and promoting this busy unit which provides so many important out-patient services to the Purbeck Community:



Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening  
Anti-coagulation  
Art Therapy  
Audiology  
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)  
Children in Care health checks  
Chronic Fatigue Consultant Clinic  
Continence Service  
Dermatology  
Diabetes Dietician  
Diabetic Eye Screening  
Dietetics  
Early Intervention Mental Health  
Eating Disorder Service  
Enuresis (Health Visitor clinic)  
Heart Failure clinic  
Individual Placement and Support -Community Mental Health Team Adult Learning Disability support  
Leg Ulcer Service  
Memory Service  
Musculo -skeletal service  
Neuro developmental and Autism Consultation service (NDACS) Newborn baby health checks  
Newborn baby hearing screening  
Older People's Mental health  
Paediatrics  
Pain Service

Physiotherapy including women's health  
Podiatry & Biomechanics  
Psychology (adult)  
Psychosexual therapy  
Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
Purbeck Community Mental Health team  
REACH (drug & alcohol service)  
Speech and Language Therapy  
Spirometry  
Steps to Wellbeing  
Stoma Clinic  
Stroke Review

**Please help us to continue our support of these much needed services Charity No.252073**

*Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair*



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## Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society

[www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org](http://www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org)

We had a very successful and well-attended talk on the Civil War in Purbeck at the end of February, and are looking forward to our final talk of the winter season from Lilian Ladle, our eminent local archaeologist. This will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March Langton Village Hall at 7.30 (doors open 7pm.):

**‘Life, Death and Feasting : 7000 years of Occupation at Football Field, Worth Matravers’**

Lilian writes: *‘This small site on the northern edge of Worth Matravers gave evidence for an Early Neolithic enclosure, a Late Bronze Age roundhouse, a huge Midden area with evidence for feasting and trade activities, Iron Age and Roman settlement in the form of stone-built houses and barns and a significant cemetery dating to the 6/7th century CE. The associated finds of pottery, stone, metalwork and animal and human bone give real insights into the lives of the people who lived there.’*

There will be a short programme of **guided walks** over the summer, including a repeat of the Ailwood Manor walk and village trails: watch the website and upcoming newsletters for more details and booking.

**The Museum will re-open on April 2nd**, featuring the major exhibition which tells the story of the Purbeck Stone industry. In the ‘Local History’ room there will be a display to commemorate the D-Day Anniversary in June, with a Radar exhibit which explains the important role that Langton and the surrounding area played in its development, as well as documents and artefacts which show a little about what life was like for Langton people in WWII. We are assembling a range of blacksmith-made objects (locks, farm tools etc) which will go on display when the D-Day exhibition finishes on June 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are involved with any youth groups who might be interested in coming to see what blacksmiths got up to (or would like to come and see for yourself !), please get in touch via the website. The archive team will shortly begin sorting through all the textile items, ready for an exhibition of local clothing in August/September.

**We look forward to seeing you at the museum from April, every day between 10-12noon and 2 -4pm except Sundays: come and see what is going on! Entry is free, though donations would be much appreciated. You would be very welcome.**

*Daryle Pearson and Mary Sparks, Publicity and Communications, LMLHPS*





## Corfe Community Kitchen

### Soup 'n Pud

A choice of Soups and a Roll  
Followed by Puds with Custard

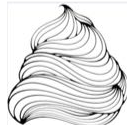
12.30 – 1.45pm

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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

Free Lunch



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

Our March Lunch was so well attended that we needed to lay up an additional table, which is a great indication of how the local Community are really enjoying Soup 'n Pud. This is also borne out by another comment recorded from our diners **“It provides an opportunity to meet folks I don't know. It's wonderful to have the chance to share a community meal.”**

We are hoping to hold a 'Kiddies Kitchen' session with the Toddler and Pre School Groups, their parents and staff on Tues. June 18<sup>th</sup> at 12.00 noon in the Village Hall which will be in the form of an age appropriate lunch. Lots of finger food!! We are very much looking forward to this venture, as are they. This should also give the Village Hall more support to pursue grant applications towards improving the kitchen facilities for all users.

The next Soup 'n Pud will be on Sat. April 6<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm and as always we welcome any extra in-date fruit, vegetables and tins and will use them wherever possible to avoid waste but regret that we can't accept any pre-frozen food as we are unsure of the relevant dates.

There will be the expected tasty food and friendly chat and we will have our happy band of volunteers helping with serving etc, without whom we would be unable to manage. If you would like to join them we would be very happy to see you. Remember that you get a lunch as well!



# Pop-In

Every Monday at Emmanuel

10.30am until 1.00pm

Especially for people who  
live on their own

including

hot drinks, games, jigsaws, crafty  
colouring, chat, donations only

and finishing  
with a light lunch



## Swanage Warm Welcomes

**Monday Pop-In Café Emmanuel Baptist Church**

10.30am - 1pm hot drinks, games and light lunch

**Citizens' Advice Community Café, Herston Hall**

10am-12pm coffee, cakes, advice, fair share pantry

**Swanage Library Cuppa and Company 10.30am - 12.30pm**

**Tuesday The Link Methodist Church 10am - 12noon**

**Wednesday T-Pot Rectory Classroom**

St Mary's Church 10am - 12.30pm tea and tasty cakes

**The Loft 17a Commercial Rd Community space**

12.30pm - 3.00pm chat and vegetarian meal

**Thursday Coffee Pot All Saints Church Ulwell**

10am - 3.00pm coffee and cake light lunch at 12.30pm

**The Link Methodist Church 10am - 12noon 103 High Street**

**Friday Coffee112 Swanage URC High Street**

9.30am - 12noon bacon butties, tea and cakes



**Come and join us very soon!**





## A DOUBLE CELEBRATION!

### Silver Saturday

Swanage and Purbeck Rotary were delighted to host their annual Silver Saturday event at the end of February, celebrating the older members of our lovely community.



A gathering of over 100 people, including guests, Rotarians and entertainers, assembled at the Emmanuel Church in Victoria Avenue, our usual venue for this event, to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea, with sandwiches, cakes and other goodies a-plenty, lovingly prepared by our catering dream-team!

Entertaining those present was a new musician duo called Old Hat who played sixties music on their guitars. Once again, we were delighted that Swanage Town Mayor Tina Foster was also able to join us and cut the cake celebrating the 119th birthday of the Rotary movement. Additional thanks to Jenny Huntley for the beautiful cake.

We also are indebted to the Emmanuel Baptist Church for all their help and support and for the Swanage Disabled Buses and Cumulus School bus for providing transport for guests in the area.

Generous donations amounting to over £300 were collected from the attendees, which will go towards local good causes supported by Rotary.

### Celebration evening at The Swanage School

The following Wednesday over 50 Rotarians and guests representing local businesses, clubs and other organisations spent an enjoyable evening hearing about Swanage Rotary's past year and plans for the future.

Opening the evening, President Chris Le Fevre explained the main purpose was to thank all those present for the help given both to Rotary and the community in Swanage and the surrounding area.

Chris went on to say *"During the last Rotary financial year we were able to donate over £36,000 to 25 organisations and projects both locally and internationally. None of what we do could be achieved without the help of many of you in the local community either in person or through your businesses: so again, a very big thank you."*

Short presentations followed on our international, community and youth projects. A major project in the latter category has been our support for Purbeck Youth Music with a £7,500 grant to send a woodwind orchestra into eight primary schools. The audience enjoyed a short video demonstrating the excellent work of this local charity.

A regular highlight of the evening is the presentation of the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowships (PHF), the "gold medal" of Rotary, to some of the many individuals who go above and beyond in our community. This year we were delighted to present PHFs to the founders of Swanage cancer charity Cancare: Vicki Fooks and Gill Norman.

At the Silver Saturday tea party we were able to present PHFs to Bob Payne and Daphne Saville. Bob and Daphne have both provided significant service to the Swanage Disabled Club and been long-time supporters of Swanage Rotary.

More recently we presented Jonathan Greetham, well known to many in Swanage as a first responder, with his well deserved PHF.



Paul Harris Fellows Cancare founders Vicki Fooks and Gill Norman with Chris Le Fevre



Paul Harris Fellows Daphne Saville and Bob Payne with Town Mayor Tina Foster and her consort, Leslie Foster



Paul Harris Fellow Jonathan Greetham with Chris Le Fevre

## MARCH FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm - Corfe Castle Village Hall

**NEW FORMAT – FREE TEA & COFFEE & BISCUITS.** This year the Parish Council are trying a new Parish meeting format. We are inviting local groups / organisations to have a **FREE** tabletop display, where they can sell small items, between 6 – 7pm. At 7pm there will then be a presentation from the Council on the Parish achievements over the last year, and what the future may hold. If you would like to exhibit, please contact the Clerk.

**Soup ‘n Pud Club:** The Parish council would like to send their congratulations to the organisers of the Soup ‘n’ Pud Club, for securing a grant for the second year running. Well done to all involved for hosting such wonderful community events.

**Thanks to Terry and Carole Birnie:** The Parish Council would like to send thanks to Terry & Carole for their dedication to the village over the last 10 years. We wish you safe travels.

**Sandbanks Ferry:** The Parish Council is objecting formally to the Ferry Company proposal to increase charges beyond the agreed levels. Other local Council are also objecting.

**Consultation:** The Parish Council will shortly be carrying out a consultation for various Highways issues around the Parish. Keep an eye out next month for further information.

**Residents Car Park:** Do you own a property in Corfe Castle, have no dedicated parking, and find it a struggle to park? The Parish Council may have the answer for you. On 1<sup>st</sup> April each year we renew are residents parking permits and this year we have a couple becoming available. If you would like to have a dedicated parking place guaranteed all year round, then contact the Clerk for further details.

**Planning application update:** The following applications have been received by Corfe Castle Parish Council, for full details including proposed works please see the Dorset Council website:

**Application No: P/HOU/2023/07255**, Location: 168 East Street, Corfe Castle BH20 5EH. Recommend No Objection

**Application No: P/VOC/2023/07522 & P/VOC/2023/07502 & P/FUL2023/07355**, Location: Downs Quarry, Kingston Road, Langton Matravers, Swanage BH19 3JP. Recommend Corfe Castle Parish Council “Object”, due to the visual impact from the Corfe Castle Parish, plus noting the area covered in the application is outside of the approved area as stated within the Mineral Strategy adopted in 2014 by Dorset Council

Full details for all planning applications can be found on the Dorset Council website, <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning>

**Dorset Council issues:** During our March meeting there was a lengthy discussion with Cllr Brooks about the recent flooding. Cllr Brooks is pursuing the issue and will report back.

**Purbeck Park Footpath:** A report received recently from Dorset Council stated further studies are being undertaken on possible routes.

**Council Tax on Empty Homes and Second Homes:** This month Dorset Council resolved to shorten the period to one year for the tax surcharge on empty properties starting April 2024. It will also double the Council tax on second homes from April 2025.

**Photo ID for the elections.** All Councils in Dorset are having elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. Voters will need photo ID such as an Older Person’s / Disabled person bus pass, driving licence or passport to cast their vote in person, a full list of approved ID can be found on the Dorset Council webpage <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/voting-in-person-at-a-polling-station>. If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

**Next Council Meeting:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at 7pm in the Corfe Castle Village Hall, Bill Carter Room. To start the meeting is a public half hour, so please come and join us and have your say.

**Parish Council contact details:** Clerk: Michelle Harrington, **Telephone:** 01202 670105,  
**Email:** [clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk), **Write:** 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ,  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC](http://www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC), **Website:** [www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## MARCH FOR LANGTON MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

**Asset of Community Value:** Langton Matravers Parish Council, were recently informed by Dorset Council that previously registered Assets of Community Value are coming to the end of their term. These assets are St Georges Playing Field, the Scout Hut, the Parish Council Office / Public Toilets & the Village Hall. The Parish Council act on behalf of the majority of the residents, and therefore if the Parish Council believes the majority of the community value these properties and the service or function they offer to the community the Parish Council should apply to have these assets relisted. There is no guarantee Dorset Council will approve the application. The Parish Council received a list of potential new assets of community value for consideration including the Allotments, the Museum, the Old Malthouse (tennis courts & walled garden / allotments), Putlake, the Kings Arms, the Timson Cottages, Speakers Corner, & the Woodland Trail / Orchard. During the February 2024 Langton Matravers Parish Council meeting, Councillors agreed that all these sites are greatly value by the community, for varying reasons, all linked to social well-being, and therefore applications should be submitted to Dorset council to have them listed as an Asset of Community Value.

**Get Ready to Cast Your Vote:** Local Elections Scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. Langton residents, mark your calendars! The local elections for all Dorset Town & Parish Councils, the Unitary Council, and the Police & Crime Commissioner have been officially scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. This is your chance to play an active role in shaping the future of our community and local governance.

To exercise your right to vote, it's crucial that your name is listed on the electoral register. Don't miss out on this opportunity - you can easily register online via the Dorset Council website. Whether you're a first-time voter or need to update your details due to recent changes, take a moment to ensure your voter registration is up-to-date.

On Election Day, remember to bring valid photo identification with you to the polling station. Accepted forms of ID include passports, driving licenses, or older persons' bus passes. This simple requirement helps ensure the integrity and security of the voting process, so be sure to have your ID ready when you head to the polls. If obtaining photo ID presents a challenge don't forget you can apply for a FREE voter ID via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

**Empty Homes and Second Home Owners:** Dorset Council have agreed to implement a additional 100% premium for second homes plus have change the rules for unoccupied homes, bringing in a 100% premium after one year of the property being empty instead of two. The change for properties classified as long-term empty and unoccupied will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, while the premium on second homes will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

**Planning Matters:** Application No. P/LBC/2024/00387 & P/FUL/2024/00386, Location: The Kings Arms, Langton Matravers BH19 3HA; Proposal: Alterations to erect a single story kitchen extension & minor internal alterations, including use of former coffee lounge as community shop & removal of temporary structures from garden Comment: Langton Matravers Parish Council have no objection, however would like to point out the immaterial error with leaving in the Shop, as this has now closed.

Full details for all planning applications can be found on the Dorset Council website, <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning>

**Council Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Langton Matravers Village Hall. During the meeting there is a public session, so please come and join us to have your say.

**Parish Council Contact Details:** (Please remember to give permission for your details to be shared with Councillors) Clerk: Michelle Harrington, Email: [clerk@langtonmatravers-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@langtonmatravers-pc.gov.uk), Telephone: 01929 425100, Write: 1A High Street, Langton Matravers Dorset BH19 3HA, Website: [www.langtonmatravers-pc.org](http://www.langtonmatravers-pc.org)

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## Care homes, third party

### Benefits you can claim while in a care home

Many people don't realise that you can claim some benefits during your stay in a care home if you pay for all of your care yourself. You may be eligible to start or continue claiming:

- [Attendance Allowance](#)
- the Severe Disability Payment part of [Pension Credit](#)
- the care and mobility parts of [Disability Living Allowance](#) (DLA)
- the daily living and mobility parts of [Personal Independence Payment](#) (PIP)

### Attendance Allowance

People over State Pension Age who have personal care needs due to a health condition or disability may be able to get Attendance Allowance. This will depend on their level of care and, if they are in a care home, how their place is paid for. Residents can claim Attendance Allowance during their stay in a care home if they pay for all of their own care. Attendance Allowance is not means tested and it can help meet the costs of paying for a care home. For more information go to Gov.uk, search for 'Attendance Allowance'.

### Going into a care home if you get benefits

People must tell the office that pays your benefit as soon as possible if they go into a care home for one night or longer. They should also tell DWP if they [stay in a hospital and get benefits](#). A friend or relative can make the call.

For more information go to Gov.uk, search for 'care home'.

*Mayday Singers*

*Springtime*

*Folk*

**3:30pm, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**St George's Church,**  
**Langton Matravers**  
**Tickets - £8 on the Door**  
**Followed by Tea and Cakes**

Cathy Murray – Soprano  
 John Watkins – Musical Director

**Charity**  
**Quiz Night**

For Corfe Castle Community Library  
 and Weldmar Hospicecare

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Corfe Castle Village Hall**  
 6.30pm for 7.00pm Start

Quiz Master Barry Stocks

**Tickets £8**

Bring your own drinks and glasses.  
 Nibbles provided

**Raffle Prizes**

Tables of a maximum of six people or roll up and be part  
 of a team.

Tickets will be available from the Library, the Village Stores and via email  
 at [CorfeCastleLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:CorfeCastleLibrary@gmail.com) from March 20th

**Our open meeting for microscopists in the South will be held in the village hall in Langton Matravers near Swanage on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Our members will have a display of microscopes and specimens. Come and see the displays and chat to the microscopists. Families with children welcome. We will be there from 10am to 3pm with a short lunch break.**

**We especially welcome members of geology, beekeeping and natural history groups who may also use microscopes. We are often asked for advice on types of microscopes, light sources, mountants and imaging systems.**

For details of the meeting contact [Outreach@quekett.org](mailto:Outreach@quekett.org)

Supported by the Quekett Microscopical Club and the Postal Microscopical Society

**Purbeck Ukrainian Learning Hub**  
*Vodohray*

*Purbeck Connect Ukraine*

**Free of charge to Ukrainian refugees**

**Lessons in Ukrainian for children**  
 Ukrainian language, history and culture

**English lessons for adults**  
 Advanced and basic classes

**Saturdays 10:00 - 12:00 hrs**  
 at  
**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
 160 Victoria Avenue  
 Swanage  
 BH19 1AZ

*Join us on for tea, coffee and a chat*

For more details of the programme each week, please contact:  
[purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com](mailto:purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com)  
 or see our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/PurbeckConnectUkraine>



## Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) works with the Practice Manager and the GPs at the Swanage Medical Practice to help improve and shape local health services. The Group is made up of patients registered with the Practice who have volunteered to get involved. We meet every two months - and we are always looking for new members!



Our next meeting is on 19 March 2024, when we will be joined by Ella Scrymgeour, Public Health Dorset's Locality Link for Purbeck. We will also be doing a Patient Survey at the Surgery in April.

You can find more information about the PPG, including Minutes of our meetings, on the Practice website at: [www.swanagemedical.org.uk](http://www.swanagemedical.org.uk).

If you are interested in joining the PPG, please contact **Natasha Ritchie**, the Practice Manager, or email the PPG directly at [ppgswanage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgswanage@gmail.com).

### Childhood Vaccinations

You may have heard that childhood infections like measles and whooping cough are rising - and that outbreaks are occurring across the country.

Such infections can have a huge impact on your child's life. They can miss out on school while they are unwell, they may need to be admitted to hospital - and they may even experience life-long complications and disability.

If your child isn't vaccinated, they're not protected.

We would like to encourage you to check whether your children's vaccinations are up to date and, if not, to speak to your GP Practice.

Vaccination saves lives. Each year in England, the Childhood Vaccination Programme prevents around 5,000 deaths and over 100,000 hospital admissions.

All childhood vaccinations offered by the NHS have been used in millions of children worldwide and have an excellent safety record.



### Breast Screening

We have heard that the Breast Screening Van Is now in Swanage.

Eligible women aged 50 to 70 registered with the Swanage Medical Practice and the Corfe Castle Surgery are being invited to attend for breast screening, so please look out for your invitation letter in the post.

Women who are aged 71 and over, who haven't had a mammogram in the last three years, can also make an appointment either by phoning **01202 65511** or by emailing [dbsu@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:dbsu@uhd.nhs.uk).



*Mrs Margaret Broadhurst (Dr Margaret Guy)  
Chair  
Swanage Medical Practice PPG  
March 2024*

Photograph reproduced with permission from Swanage.News



## Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024

We had our **AGM** where the Chairman's report highlighted the successes of the year, in particular the interesting speakers, the Spring Fayre and the Summer BBQ. The challenges facing the group were also mentioned, including the need to absorb higher costs and to maintain a healthy number of members. Our election of officers saw a change to our committee, and after many years of fantastic service to Aquarius, two have stood down. We cannot thank them enough for everything they have done for the group and all its members during this time. Two fairly new members have stepped up to replace them and there has been a slight swap of roles in the team to accommodate the changes, with the Chairman and Treasurer remaining the same. Our chosen Charity for this year will be the local branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Society



Presentation to one of our retiring Committee members by the Chairman and Secretary.

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

We are looking forward to a very informative talk from The Dorset Ginger Company. This company makes ginger based non-alcoholic drinks amongst other things. It will be great to know how this is done. There will be opportunities for tasting and buying samples, so make sure you have some cash available!

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Aquarius Spring Fayre in Corfe Castle Village Hall, 10.00 – 12.00.**

All are welcome to attend and join in the fun and if you wish to have a stall please use the **Aquarius email or phone number below** to book a table. The more the merrier!

**The Village May Fair – Bank Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May in the Castle Grounds**

After the success of last year, Aquarius will be hosting the refreshment tent again, providing cakes, sandwiches, teas and coffees etc. Shortly we will be asking for volunteers to bake cakes, make sandwiches and serve these on the day. Let's hope the weather is as beautiful as it was last year, as we welcome all the visitors to the Castle.

### Smart TV quilt cover

After an appeal for quilters and embroiderers in our March newsletter, we have set up a sewing group to make a beautiful cover for the new Smart TV in the Bill Carter Room at the Village Hall. For any of you that have visited the Corfe Castle Surgery you will have seen the outcome of a similar project. There will be a planning meeting for this on **Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am** in the George Preston Room of the Village Hall. All ideas welcome!

One of our chosen charities for 2022-2023, 'The friends of Corfe Castle Surgery' would welcome drivers with their own cars to volunteer to drive patients to the doctors or hospital. For more information either ring Kathy Morris on 01929 425890 or visit the website <https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/organisations/727/corfe-castle-friends-of-the-surgery>.

The other chosen charity for 2022-2023, 'Millie College at Holton Heath' would also welcome volunteers and to find out more about this please contact Millie College <https://www.livabilitymilliecollege.org.uk/contact-us/>

**New Members – we are a friendly lot so please come and join us!**

**Our Ladies Group is at Corfe Castle Village Hall every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm and we have a fun and sociable afternoon. Visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting.**

**We have a good selection of interesting speakers and our satellite groups include walkers, strollers, lunch club, 2 book groups and a textile group.**

**Email: [2008aquariusladies@gmail.com](mailto:2008aquariusladies@gmail.com) or phone Sue Sedgley at 01929 289102**

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## DEADLINE

for contributions to the May/June 2024 issue of the Newsletter

**MONDAY 15 APRIL 2024**