

SWANAGE AREA FORUM NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Welcome to the February issue of The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage Area Forum's Newsletter, our first issue of the new year. Re the Covid-19 situation, let us all hope that 2022 will be an improvement on the previous two years.

I sense a slightly more optimistic tone from many of the organisations that make such huge contributions to improving the lives and conditions of our communities, but I also detect a certain amount of caution, perhaps a feeling of déjà vu; fully understandable. Many folk are naturally keen to get back to some sort of normality (whatever that means), but having observed the existence of at least four Covid-19 variants in the world over the past 2 years, it is no wonder that most people are not clear what any new normal might be, at least for 2022.

However I am reasonably confident that most folk will be cautiously optimistic when making plans for new events, business activities, campaigns, social activities etc, while at the same time they will probably be keeping their fingers crossed. Despite the cautious air, may our communities look forward to the coming Spring and Summer when hopefully many things will spring back into life. Oh for the joys of our Purbeck when the winter is behind us!

Mel Norris

Trustee Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust and Chair of The Swanage Area Forum
melvyn.norris@icloud.com, tel: 01929 426127

FINAL DATES FOR COPY FOR OUR MARCH AND APRIL NEWSLETTERS

Please note that the closing dates for your copy/pics are as follows:

MARCH DEADLINE - 14th FEBRUARY

APRIL DEADLINE - 14th MARCH



Save Our Ambulance Car – Save Swanage and Purbeck Lives



I expect many people in our community are aware by now that over the last two years the staffing of our Ambulance Car has halved, and the amount of time we have to wait for a response has doubled. For category 1 emergencies – stopped breathing, heart stopped beating, or unconscious and unresponsive – the average wait has gone from just under the target time of 7 minutes, to 15 minutes, which can only be a death sentence for many of these patients.

What's being done?

Both Swanage and Wareham Town Councils have pledged to do all they can to save our Ambulance Car, and will be meeting the Ambulance Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group. Representatives of both Town Councils have also been liaising with Dorset Council, as Dorset has a statutory duty to address changes to health services that disadvantage residents. Furthermore, recognising that the closure of Poole A&E, Maternity and Children's units would mean long journeys from Swanage to access emergency hospital care, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group promised Dorset Health Scrutiny in 2018 that Swanage-based ambulance resources would be fully maintained.

Save Our Ambulance Car campaign: residents continue to make our voices heard at Ambulance Trust Board and Dorset Council Cabinet meetings, in the media, and to fight for our Car, including considering legal proceedings.

What can I do?

Although there are over 8,000 signatures on Mel Norris' petition to Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, it is not clear that these are being taken into account.

There is a separate petition to Dorset Council, where 5,000 signatures are needed to meet the bar for full Council. Dorset Council can ask Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group to carry out consultation in line with Gunning principles. If this is not done, or if the evidence does not support withdrawal of the Car, Dorset Council can send any plans to withdraw the Car back to the Secretary of

State for review. We have over 4,000 so please help us to reach the 5,000 if you have not signed this vital petition.

Please sign and share!

Search on the Internet for 'Dorset Council Save Swanage Ambulance Car'

Scan the QR code with your phone or tablet camera, or if you're reading online click on

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/dorset-council-save-swanage-ambulance-car-1>

CLlr Debby Monkhouse, Save Our Ambulance Car campaign

Nature, Art & the 5 Ways to Wellbeing

A free online course for winter 2022



Learn about the 5 Ways to Wellbeing Get outdoors! Get creative!

A gentle introductory course suitable for all levels of experience. Meet new people online and learn simple creative techniques. Set yourself goals for getting outside safely and enjoying our local parks and beaches.

No specialist materials required. Free to take part.

Tues 25th Jan	10.30am - 12.30pm	Connect
Tues 1st Feb	10.30am - 12.30pm	Learn
Tues 8th Feb	10.30am - 12.30pm	Give
Tues 15th Feb	10.30am - 12.30pm	Be Active
Tues 22nd Feb	10.30am - 12.30pm	Take Notice

To book your place email: peter@parksfoundation.org.uk



Parks in Mind
Healthy parks, healthy you





A message from the Mayor of Swanage

Councillor Avril Harris

With Christmas well over a month ago, we're having a spell of very cold weather with sparkling frosty mornings. The darkest days of winter seem past, spring is signalled by the green shoots of bulbs in gardens, and daylight hours are noticeably longer.

It's looking as though the spring and summer in Swanage, will see the welcome return of our many events and festivals and the prospect of more contact with our friends and families. With most of us being double vaccinated, and very many having had the booster, let's hope that we are seeing the end of the pandemic. Perhaps we should spare a moment to think about how fortunate we are to have such a vaccination programme provided by our NHS, when many poor countries have had very little vaccination provision.

The government has taken us back to "Plan A", with people back to their places of work and face coverings no longer required by law in any setting. However, Public Health guidance is that we should continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, where we come into contact with people we do not normally meet.

It's good to see the new planting done by Town Council staff along Shore Road. This interesting selection of plants should provide all-year interest and enhance the environment. The Town Council formed an Environmental Policy and Action Plan back in March 2020. The plan is "iterative"; this was a new word to me and I found it just means that the Plan is continues to develop and change as aims are achieved and new ones added. It covers items such as installing the solar panels that are planned, a single-use-plastic-free policy for events on STC land, drinking water taps on the seafront, managing The Downs in a way which increases biodiversity, and other initiatives. The Town Council works closely with Sustainable Swanage and an increasing number of volunteers are involved in that. We are fortunate to have such voluntary groups as Beach Buddies, who do much litter clearance on the beach and seafront, and Landers who, as the name suggests, clear from streets and verges. Thank you, Buddies and Landers, you enhance our town!

To end, here's what a friend, who often comes to Swanage, wrote in her Christmas card: "Swanage is looking well kept; the Mowlem is much improved, the Information Centre looks inviting and the bandstand looks pristine". What a great place to live in!

Exciting Times Ahead for our Community Theatre

THE MOWLEM
Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

Despite the best efforts of Omicron to thwart our programme, the Mowlem Team have managed to keep the building open throughout this outbreak. In doing so they have been rigorous in protecting both the public and staff from the disease or spreading it. In the run up to Christmas, understandably, numbers were significantly lower than usual, which led to a lossmaking situation and triggered the Crowdfunder to help cover the inevitable losses incurred. Happily, attendance has now improved and the pantomime was a great success and enjoyed equally by public, friends and staff alike.

The Crowdfunding has also been wonderfully well supported and is now approaching the target of £5000, we just need one more push to get us over the line. So if you have a few more pounds to contribute please do so now through our website www.themowlem.com

The support we have had for this and the changes we have already made are hugely encouraging and your responses to the questionnaire last year are now forming the basis for the business plan that we are developing.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that we have appointed three new Trustees:

Laura Dickens CDG, who is a casting Director and Producer with over 30 years of experience.

Kris Wingfield Bennet, a PR and Marketing Director of Future Friends Games and

James Kessler, Barrister with a passion for Film involved in saving the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley.

These three new Trustees will significantly increase the depth and breadth of Knowledge and experience within the Board. We all look forward to working with them for the future of our community.



Swanage Food Bank



Your Warm and Generous Hearts see us through Tough Times

After the December/Christmas frenetic pace, January has seemed relatively quiet in the first week. But we're not quite halfway through the month, and the bills have started to arrive and monthly benefits are awaited, so already we're in great demand and expect the busy surge for the rest of the winter.

As the cold weather continues into February, our clients (like the rest of us) are facing higher charges for gas/electricity. But they are doubly disadvantaged if they have been put on pre-paid energy meters as a result of arrears or in certain rented accommodation where these are already installed. Swanage Food Bank has been able to help clients to 'top up' their meters by £40, but we have had to restrict repeated calls on our funds by the same clients to once only within 28 days and perhaps to lesser amounts of aid. Our dilemma is that whilst we do not wish households to struggle excessively with fuel poverty, neither do we want to cause dependency on our top-ups. Unfortunately, some clients find it hard to prioritise fuel costs and need extra help in budgeting their finances.

Because of General Data Protection Regulations, we don't refer clients to other agencies which may help with their Benefits and debt-management, but we do signpost them to Citizens Advice, Turn 2 Us, First Point, etc which they may access or not. Pre-Covid, the majority of our clients were already receiving such support, and the Agencies would arrange for us to provide food aid when necessary by phoning us and supplying our vouchers. But since Covid began, it's mostly self-referrals and there isn't the same professional knowledge of actual needs. At Swanage Food Bank, we are not judgmental, but are aware that lifestyle choices may in part result in some food poverty today. However, the majority of our clients work very

hard to support themselves and their families, and it is not easy for them to ask for Food Bank assistance.

We are very grateful to our Swanage Community for the wonderful support which we receive, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year. We always have shelves to fill, but our baked bean supply is still more than adequate (thank you!). Our current list of needs includes : **soup, tinned macaroni cheese, tinned vegetables, pasta sauces (jars), sugar, small packets of savoury rice, marmalade, medium-sized breakfast cereals including oats, tins of meat (cold and for reheating), and desserts of all kind.**

Way we all continue to care for one another with warm and generous hearts no matter what the wintry weather and darkness around us at the start of 2022.

Pauline Werba,
Chairperson Swanage Food Bank



Photograph by David Corben



The Wellbeing Swanage website now hosts a diverse Directory of the excellent groups and services that run in Swanage and the surrounding area! Its Resources section also has a range of self help and self referral documents on a range of common issues like sleep, mental health, bereavement and parenting. As ever, it is a work in progress and we would encourage anyone who has spotted a gap to get on touch on contact@wellbeingswanage.org.

What now? Become a Community Connector!

Now that we have done some of the work of gathering these together we can start the next step of the project; signposting people towards them! This is where our Community Connector workshops come in! Becoming a Community Connector is a chance for all community members to get involved with the project in a light touch, yet really powerful, way.

At the workshop we will talk about:

Who we are and what inspired the project Wellbeing Swanage project.

What types of things you do to look after your wellbeing.

What community signposting looks like in practice.

How the project works and how you can get more involved if you wish.

At the end of the session you will go away with some cards that you can hand out to people you meet in your day to day life who might find the Wellbeing Swanage spaces, directory and resources useful. For example, you might meet a young mum on the beach who is new to town and looking for groups to attend with her toddler, instead of trying to remember and pass on group details off the top of your head you can hand her a Wellbeing Swanage card and she can then go online to our website at www.wellbeingswanage.org and see all that Swanage has to offer!

 This block contains four overlapping cards for community services:

- Parenting and Play:** Illustration of a man, a child, and a woman planting a tree. Text: "Parenting and Play".
- Rhyme Time - Swanage Library:** Text: "Rhyme Time at Swanage Library is happening again every Friday from 11.00 for 30 min. Join us with your baby or toddler for fun rhymes, stories and songs to sing and clap along with. Suitable for 0-5 years old. Please book one ticket per child - accor".
- Herston Hall Seahorses:** Text: "Weekly, term time playgroup for preschool children and snack and a story - all welcome. Wednesday 9.30am - 11".
- Swanage Breastfeeding Support Group:** Text: "We are a free support group for breastfeeding mothers, meeting Friday mornings, at Swanage Children's Centre, 9.30-11.30am." Contact: "07772151260 Deb Woodward" and "deborah@familiesandbabies.org.uk".

We will be hosting public sessions online and in person soon. We are also keen to deliver training sessions to local groups so please do get in touch on contact@wellbeingswanage.org if your group might be interested!

Herston Village Hall Community Hub: News and Events

Herston Hall is now host to a range of wonderful events, including our Seahorses Playgroup, the Community Café (run in partnership with Purbeck Coast FM), Swanage Youth Club, Craft Circle, Board games night, WI and Swanage Preschool Gymnastics. See below for days and contact information.



Herston Hall Community Cafe

Monday 10am - 12pm

Come along for tea, coffee, cake, toys, games and friendly chats!



Herston Hall Community Hub - Timetable of Events

MONDAY

COMMUNITY CAFÉ, Weekly term-time playgroup for pre-school children 9.30-11.30am, Contact@Wellbeingswanage.org

TUESDAY

TAI CHI, Contact: Carol Lander (01929 423898)

WI BOARDGAMES, Contact: Swanage WI@dorsetwi.org

WEDNESDAY

SEAHORSES, Contact@wellbeingswanage.org

FRIDAY

YOUTH CLUB, Contact@wellbeingswanage.org

RHYME TIME - SWANAGE LIBRARY, 11.00 -11.30 (for 0-5yrs) Contact: Swanage Library (01929 423485)

SWANAGE BREASTFEEDING FREE SUPPORT GROUP, Free support group for breastfeeding mothers, Swanage Children's Centre 9.30-11.30am, Contact Deb Woodward: (07772151269)

SATURDAY

CRAFT CIRCLE, Contact@wellbeingswanage.org

PRESCHOOL GYMNASTICS, The Children's Centre, Contact: (07486099563)

COLOUR GUIDE

BLUE - Weekly Term Time • GREEN - Monthly • RED - All the other Saturdays term time



FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

Remember the 'use it or lose it' phrase?

Well, we've recently heard that some of the Dorset community hospitals are temporarily losing their MIUs - *not* Swanage I hasten to say – but it made me think I should remind you all that we must make the best possible use of our hospital services.

This is what Dorset HealthCare say about MIUs on their website:

'If you require urgent care, please call 111 or [go online](#) for an assessment. This helps us to provide the right support/treatment as quickly as possible, and could save you an unnecessary journey.

'If you turn up unannounced at the MIU, you will be assessed but could be directed elsewhere or given an appointment later that day or the next.'

You might need to access our MIU if you need treatment for:

- injuries to upper and lower limbs
- broken bones, sprains, bruises and wounds to shoulder, upper limbs, knee, lower leg, ankle and foot
- bites – human, animal and insect
- burns and scalds
- wound infections
- minor head injuries
- foreign bodies in eyes, nose and ear
- minor asthma attacks.

They can also provide emergency contraception, and may be able to help with minor ailments.

I'm afraid our Outpatient Clinics are still not back to pre-Covid times but if you are referred to a consultant, **please do ask your GP if you can be seen at Swanage**. Let's put the pressure on to get old and new clinics up and running as soon as possible.

The Friends will continue to support our wonderful hospital and if you would like to help please join us:

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

Jan Turnbull, Chair



Happy New Year to all fellow members of the SPDT and all their friends and families.

Some of you may have seen our letter in the January Gazette asking for bigger premises as the current Place of Welcome has become very popular. In the event, the Methodist Church (103/5 High Street) have kindly offered us the use of the hall premises next-door to the church, which are slightly larger and mean we won't have to change all our address details on our publicity.

One of our most successful events last autumn was 'Stir Up Thursday' when everyone brought along an ingredient for our Christmas Pudding. We all had great fun using, our regular attendee, (Brian's) new washing up bowl as a mixing bowl. The ingredients were duly stirred by everyone and wishes made. The pudding was greatly enjoyed at our Christmas Day lunch at All Saints Hall, where there was great competition for left-overs.

The Christmas Day lunch was popular, both with volunteers and our 'guests'. Music was provided by 2 different but very talented musicians (who we hope to welcome again at our '**Fishy February' lunch on 20th February at Herston Hall**). A plus being that with the aid of our raffle and several people's generous donations we made a profit.

Holme Garden Centre gave us a friendly welcome and crackers when we went on a trip there in late last year. We were lucky to have the use of the EVA small vehicle from the disabled club, kindly driven by Dave, which enabled people with reduced mobility to join in and buy up Holme's stock of Christmas plants!

The Linking Lives Befriending service continues to get requests for visitors and help from at least four public organisations, emphasising the need to help lonely and isolated people. We are involved in both phone and 'actual' visiting. It can be challenging at times but the smile on the face of a housebound person whose only other visitors are delivery people is worth far more than a lottery win.

Helen, Alan and I are all chasing extra funding and hope to be involved both in the Carnival and the Jubilee celebrations.

Do come along on a Tuesday or Thursday to the Place of Welcome, you'll enjoy it!

Sarah M Bamber

Hon Chair Swanage Linking Lives

sarahmbamber@gmail.com



UKMT British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1



On December 2nd 2021, Joe Daly (seen here) participated in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1. This competition is a follow-on round to the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge. As well as challenging high-scorers from the Senior Mathematical Challenge, the British Mathematical Olympiad is an entry point to the training and selection programme for international competitions. It is a 3.5 hours challenge that involves students solving 6 questions in total. Full written solutions were required, with complete proofs of any assertions made. Marks were awarded based on the clarity of a student's mathematical presentation.

This week, Joe's results were released. He achieved a Certificate of Distinction for his efforts – a fantastic achievement. As a result, The Purbeck School have entered him into British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2 of the competition, takes place on 27th January. In this round, Joe will be provided four questions to solve within 3.5 hours!

Below is question 1 from the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 for you to attempt to solve...

We all wish Joe Daly the very best of luck in British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2.

Engaging with our wider world

The completion of 'Sophie's Room', Kigali, Rwanda

We were recently able to formally provide the full funding for the building of 'Sophie's Room' – see picture. It is actually much more than a room and rather a small building which houses a medical room and bathroom, both of which are comparatively luxurious for Rwanda. Girls at The Peace and Hope School in Kigali will really benefit from having this space to support their medical, especially sanitary-related, needs. The Peace and Hope Initiative and The Amakuru Trust are incredibly thankful for the help that our school has yet again given, with the 'Run to Rwanda' project providing a significant input.

Assistant Head Simon Holmes said: 'We are delighted to continue our support of our friends in Rwanda. The room, too, is a fitting tribute to Sophie Waylen – she would be very proud.'

Once again, our school community can be proud of helping those less fortunate.

For further news stories and Purbeck updates, please visit our [website](#).



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



TREVOR CHADWICK OUR LOCAL UNSUNG HERO

The community project to commission a full-size bronze statue to commemorate a local unsung hero, Swanage schoolteacher, Trevor Chadwick, is hoped to be completed by the middle of this year.

THE STORY SO FAR

The extraordinary story of Trevor's awe-inspiring life is both fascinating and incredible. He was directly instrumental in saving the lives of 669 refugee children from certain annihilation by the Nazis at the outbreak of the Second World War.

The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust has been ongoing for some two years and has received tremendous support from our community. The entire cost of the project is expected to be in the region of £85,000. Two thirds of that sum has already been raised but there is still some way to go. The Trustees are planning to hold a Charity Auction, so do look out for full details of this event in next month's edition.

TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Trustees have decided to dedicate the plinth of the statue on

MONDAY 2ND MAY a Bank Holiday

and to unveil the life-sized bronze statue on

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For anyone interested in the project please visit: trevorchadwick.uk

Online donations are always welcome and can be made via our Facebook Just Giving page, alternatively drop cheque donations into Cllr John Bishop at Corbens, made payable to Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust.



Who Are We?

We are a group of local people in our local Communities who experience depression or anxiety. We are not experts, but we know how it feels. For many people, this is still a very stressful time. And for many of us, we feel we still cannot safely meet face-to-face at the moment, but that may change ...

We find that a problem shared is a problem halved.

To find out more please contact us - with confidence

To get in touch please contact Nick at nickviney@hotmail.com or phone **01929 439121**, or Mary at mary.ann.bevis955@gmail.com or phone her on **01929 426896**

REMEMBER: THERE'S LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Swanage & Wareham
Depression Support Group

After a well-deserved Christmas break, students and staff are back in the swing of things for another busy term. Our GCSE students enter their final 6 months and are gearing up towards exam season, some of our geographers are getting ready for a field trip to Iceland, and we are starting to plan our events for Challenge Week, where all students are off timetable to be involved in opportunities outside of school. Our Year 7 students have completed their cross-curricular project on community heroes (watch out for their book being published later this year - you might be featured as a hero!) and are now researching how to shrink their carbon footprint. Year 8 are off to the Titanic Museum soon for their new project researching the evidence of why she sank.

Meanwhile, rehearsals are in full swing for our annual musical extravaganza! We are delighted to be back at The Mowlem soon and hope to see you all there!

BACK AT THE MOWLEM!



“Wow! A fabulous production!”

“What talent!”

“Like a West End show!”

We're excited to again be rocking the stage at The Mowlem for our talk-of-the-town annual production! This show promises to be even bigger than ever before, not to mention technicolour!

'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' is showing for four performances only, from 2nd-5th March. Please grab some tickets and show your support for the children of Swanage and surrounding area who are working incredibly hard to make sure every performance is a night out to remember!

Tickets are just £12.

'Superglue'

Students are also rehearsing 'Superglue' by Tim Crouch for a performance at The Mowlem on 19th March, tickets to be announced soon. This performance is part of National Connections, an annual showcase of plays by new writers, performed by schools and youth theatre companies, run by the National Theatre. One production of each play is chosen to perform at the National Theatre festival in London! Let's hope it's The Swanage School!

SWANAGE DISABLED CLUB

SWANAGE DISABLED CLUB IS BACK!



Our meetings are now at All Saints Church Hall - Every Monday afternoon 2-4pm. One week we have handicrafts/puzzles/dominos/scrabble; another week for 'friendship' and we also sometimes have speakers on various interesting topics.

Do get in touch if you would like to know more - call Daphne on 01929 425241

Did you know that we also have a vehicle suitable for a single wheelchair/plus 2 passengers which we can offer for appointments locally or to Poole /Bournemouth Hospitals? This must be a pre-booked service, and donations are gratefully received. We also have two specially adapted mini-buses for local hire. All vehicles are driven/escorted by our friendly caring volunteers.

Call Robert/Sue on 01929 423729 for further information

FAREWELL FROM OUR NICO: END OF AN ERA

I'd like to announce to you all that Lloyd and David Armishaw, publishers of the New Blackmore Vale and the New Stour & Avon, are the new owners of both the Purbeck Gazette and the Purbeck Guidette titles.

Lloyd has roots harking back to the Swanage and Wareham areas, so knows the area and understands the importance of community papers and ensuring local populations continue to have a voice in print. Lloyd and his son, David, are dedicated to the continuation of published community news and have had great success in their first year as publishers of the New Blackmore Vale and the New Stour & Avon magazines. I have no doubt that they will not only continue to publish the Purbeck Gazette, but that they will expand, enhance, and increase the reach of the paper, which is great news for both editorial contributors and advertisers alike.

The office at 17b Commercial Road, Swanage, is now closed and is no longer the office of the Purbeck Gazette. However, I am really delighted to let you know that the office will shortly be reopening as a community / charity / fundraising office, offering space and support for the whole community and the many charities who operate in Purbeck. The community office will be run by the newly opened community centre at 17a Commercial Road – 'The Loft'.

Contact details will remain the same for the Purbeck Gazette – the main phone number will continue to be 01929 424239 and the main email address will still be: ed@purbeckgazette.co.uk

I understand that the new owners plan to publish the Purbeck Gazette fortnightly from mid-March with increased pagination and, with the support of the community, I hope that the title will go on long into the future.

On a personal note, I have now worked at the Gazette for over twenty years – almost half of my life. There are a huge number of memories and emotions tied up with the title and office, and I have learnt an enormous amount about my community and the people we share our island with over the years.

I have loved my time working with you all and sincerely thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Together, we made the community paper what it is, and we successfully recorded more than two decades of our social history for future generations.

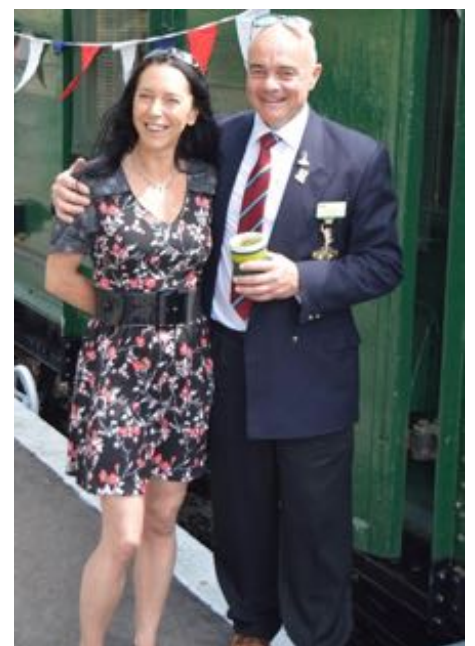
I urge you all to continue supporting the title well into the future and the paper will, in turn, be there to give our community a voice for decades to come.

Should anyone need to contact me directly, please do so by email on: researchdorset@gmail.com

Kindest regards, Nico Johnson



Nico with Dorset Journalistic Legend, 'The Prince of Purbeck' - the late George Willey



Nico seen here with Frank Roberts, an amazing member of our community who 'gets thing done' in many different roles.

Please find some useful information below from
Swanage Town Council which may be helpful to you



EXCESS CHARGE TICKETS (ECT)

If your enquiry relates to the payment of a parking fine, payments can be made by cheque or cash by post to Swanage Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Swanage, BH19 2NZ, or by bank transfer to Swanage Town Council at Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-12, Account Number 01275158. Please quote the 5-digit reference number in the top right hand corner of the ECT (without the reference we will be unable to match the payment to the ticket). Thank you.

If your enquiry relates to an appeal regarding an Excess Charge Ticket, please note that the reduced fee period is extended whilst your appeal is being processed and you will be informed of the outcome when our enquiries are complete.

RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMITS

If you would like to apply for a Residents' Parking Permit please click on the following link for instructions regarding how to apply and pay for a new permit:

[Residents Parking Info v15 June 2021 updated.pdf \(swanage.gov.uk\)](#)

[Swanage Town Council - Car Parking and Residents' Permits](#)

ENQUIRIES REGARDING HOUSEHOLD BIN SERVICES, LITTER/ STREET CLEANING, AND DOGS/DOG FOULING

Please contact Dorset Council via the following links:

[Contact the Dorset Council Waste Services - Dorset Council](#)

[Street cleaning - Dorset Council](#)

[Dog Warden Service - Dorset Council](#)

ENQUIRIES RE PLANNING + BUILDING CONTROL OR PLANNING APPS

Please contact Dorset Council's Planning Team, Purbeck Area:

[Contact Planning and Building Control - Dorset Council](#)

[The planning office for the Purbeck area \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

ENQUIRIES RE ROADS OR PAVEMENTS, HEDGES, TREES OR VERGES, STREET LIGHTING OR ROADWORKS

Please contact Dorset Council's Highways Team:

[Report a problem on a road or pavement - Dorset Council](#)

For further information please visit the Town Council's website: www.swanage.gov.uk or Facebook page: [Swanage Town Council | Facebook](#) or the Dorset Council website: [Home - Dorset Council](#)

Planning and the Dorset Local Plan

A number of Dorset Town and Parish councils, as well as community groups, have expressed concerns about the proposed Dorset Local Plan which will set the pattern for new housing development up to 2038.

What difference would a Dorset National Park make?

National Parks are not subject to central housing targets, and with a National Park the whole of the Dorset Council area need not be subject to these central targets. The National Planning Guidance says that where a local planning authority (in this case the Dorset Council) shares an area with a National Park, then a local approach may be used to assess housing need and numbers, rather than the standard approach with its resulting housing targets. So, the Dorset Council in partnership with the Dorset National Park could assess and agree on a level of housing development for the whole Dorset Council area that appropriately reflects Dorset's needs, taking account of household projections and economic aims.

National Parks plan in partnership with communities and respond to local housing needs, including for truly affordable homes. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) helped to fund and facilitate around 60 Neighbourhood Plans which then helped to inform the Local Plan.

With a National Park, working in close partnership with the Dorset Council and communities, all Dorset can benefit from a locally relevant and responsive, partnership approach to planning. The sooner Dorset can secure a National Park, the sooner this partnership approach can begin.

Review of Landscapes

The Government published on 15 January its consultation paper in response to the 2019 national report, the Glover Review of Landscapes. The Dorset National Park Team's initial response to that consultation is on the website: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/news> The consultation that the Government has launched seeks views on how National Parks and AONBs can do even more to bring people closer to nature, enhance the environment and boost biodiversity, improve mental and physical wellbeing and support local communities and economies.



January morning on the heath. Photo by Richard Brown



Purbeck sheep and lambs. Photo by Richard Brown

We know that many people support the ambition to ensure that Dorset's very special environment, wildlife and heritage will be cared for, for future generations. We welcome the government's proposal to help make National Parks even better places to live in and visit by giving National Park Partnerships, working with local authorities, increased powers to help manage visitor pressures, including traffic.

**Best wishes from
the Dorset National Park Team**

As I write today, 14th January 2022, Wareham Hospital has been the site of the Purbeck Vaccination Centre for one year. 70,700 vaccinations have been given in that time to our local community and occasionally for those outside Purbeck



We are very proud of the role Wareham Hospital has played in this important work (and is still playing until the end of March) and would like to acknowledge with sincere grateful thanks the hard work and organisation of the whole team led by Rafael Meta. The success of this programme has also been due to the many volunteers who have helped inside and outside the hospital - a wonderful Purbeck community response which has brought so many together and created new friendships whilst providing this important local service

The Friends are delighted to hear that services are returning to the hospital and new ones planned to add to the wide range of out-patient services already offered, but we also keep a keen interest on the future of the hospital and its many services after Covid. We are told that development proposals for the promised new community hub on the old Middle school site are still being considered; we have requested and have been granted a meeting with representatives from Dorset Council who are leading the work so we will welcome an update.

In the meantime, we would welcome new members to the Friends; Wareham Hospital has provided such a key role for us all in Purbeck not only in the last year but over many years - please do help us. We can be contacted through the Hospital.

Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair
Charity number 2520



MAKING MEMORIES

You may recall our successful campaign to raise funds and establish the post of a specialist Admiral nurse in Purbeck to help families cope with the special needs of people living with dementia. This was achieved by working in cooperation with Dementia UK and the NHS in 2017 and required an ongoing commitment from ourselves for a number of years.

In order to further support families, in 2019 we started a 'Buddy' visiting scheme. Following its forced closure in early 2020 we have been looking for other ways in which further support can be offered.

In October 2021, a group of student Nurses, with support from our group, the Mowlem trustees and Dorset Council (funding), set up **"Making Memories"** a monthly film with refreshments held at the Mowlem for families and individuals affected by dementia. This provided an opportunity to meet with others, enjoy the view, have a chat and watch a classic film. This was funded, as a trial, for six months and comes to an end after March 2022.

Now we have decided to attempt to continue and extend the **"Making Memories"** programme for a further period, by setting up a **drop-in Café** at the Mowlem.

This is to be twice a month on a **Tuesday from 10:30am until 12:30pm starting on 5th April** where we hope to meet and chat with families and other carers. Also, we will be **showing a film on the first Tuesday of April, May and June.**

There will be no charge, but any donations towards costs would be gratefully received.

Also, if you could spare a couple of hours to assist on some Tuesday mornings, to join us to chat with others and have a coffee, then we would be delighted to welcome you. We are planning to run one hour Dementia Awareness Courses for new helpers during February. These courses won't be 'mind-boggling'; just simple information and instructions of what's needed to help. Please contact our Chair (details below).

We invite anyone who is interested in helping take this venture forward to join us at **11.30am on Tuesday 1st February in the Show Bar at the Mowlem.**

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Mike Bonfield, Chair
Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Community

mikebonfield24@gmail.com 07774997974



SWANAGE MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

The Square, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1L1

Charity Registration No. 274200

Commemorating the brilliant work of John Page, dedicated Volunteer

OVER MANY years, countless visitors to The Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre at The Square would have noticed the mini arcade exhibition, showing a variety of Swanage businesses from yesteryear.

These wonderful representations were the products of the creative skills and imagination of one of our most dedicated volunteers, John Page, who unfortunately passed away last winter. John, besides being a Swanage Town Councillor since the last local elections, was a stalwart volunteer at both the Swanage Museum and the Swanage Pier for many years and his work for both organisations and his commitment generally to the wellbeing of the Swanage community, is now duly commemorated with a Rowan tree and plaque in his memory, at the site of the magnificent recently re-constructed Albert Memorial. Brendan Gallagher, a Swanage craftsman, created the plaque holder you can see there.



Two different views of the Rowan tree and plaque in memory of John Page (photos: Brendan Gallagher)



Singing for Pleasure
Every Thursday 2pm



Swanage Dementia Friendly

£2 per session



All Welcome



Pop in to



Emmanuel Baptist Church

every Monday between

10 am and 12 noon



join in a game, do a jigsaw

or have a drink, a cake and a chat



No charge



Amazing: Over £20,000 Raised

Rotary
Swanage & Purbeck CIO



Swanage & Purbeck Rotary had a very successful programme of activities over the Christmas period:

- The **Christmas Market** attracted a wide range of stalls and activities, which were well received by visitors.
- **Santa's Sleigh** brought much-needed festive cheer to the residents of Swanage, Langton Matravers and Corfe Castle as well visiting all the primary schools and pre-schools in the area.
- The **Pop-up Christmas Shop** (with thanks to owners, Derek and Julie Hancock) started in early December selling bric-a-brac and secondhand books and then moved into festive mode, selling jars of chutney, pickle, jams and marmalades, together with home-made Christmas cakes and puddings and a range of Christmas produce.
- **Charity Mail** took in, stamped, sorted, checked (at least three times!) and then finally delivered 3,400 Christmas cards.
- We sent over 300 completed **Christmas Shoeboxes** to children in Montenegro, Albania and Romania. This was an amazing result that was well supported by Rotary members, Rotary Friends and local schools.
- We helped the **Friendly Food Club** by funding the food and preparing 150 food bags with ingredients to make a gingerbread figure.
- **Christmas Stockings** filled by Rotary members were personally delivered to 34 Swanage residents spending Christmas Day on their own.

Support from our local community and visitors was incredible, raising over £20,000 which will go to local community groups and projects as well as some international projects that our Club supports as part of the Global Rotary Network.

Being mindful that many of our Friends have enjoyed working with us this year, we are looking at new ways of membership to encourage individuals to join us to ensure that we continue to be a vibrant, active part of our community ... your input into how Rotary develops is vital, so please let us know your thoughts to help shape our future.

To find out more or get involved please visit our website <https://www.swanagerotary.org/>

Deirdre Selwyn
President Swanage & Purbeck Rotary

Rotary Swanage & Purbeck

**Celebrate
Silver Saturday
with us**

Tea & Cakes with Entertainment
*Emmanuel Baptist Church
Victoria Avenue, Swanage
Saturday 26th February 2022
At 2.30pm*

**Booking is essential by
Saturday 19th February**
Transport can be arranged with prior notice
Book your place with
Robin - 07775 900263
Mo - 07907 728699

Swanage & Purbeck
Rotary
Charitable Incorporated
Organisation

Corbens



2022: Looking Forward with positive but cautious optimism

With the start of 2022, we are looking forward with some cautious optimism as to what the year ahead has in store for us.

Being positive, at the top of our agenda (as always it is) is further main repair works to the wooden Pier structure. We plan to start in mid-February with the renewal of a number of wooden piles near to the landward end of the wooden structure. This obviously requires the removal of decking and beams to permit the old piles to be removed, then the new ones being driven into the seabed, before beams and the decking is replaced.

Similar work will then be carried out within the vicinity of the intermediate landing stage, followed by work at the Pierhead. It is planned that this work will be completed by the start of the season in April 2022, though there may be some tidying up to be done for a short time after. Of course, you must consider that all these plans do depend upon the weather being favourable to us.

Whilst the piling works are going on, the Pier wooden structure will be closed and there will be no access for the public. However, the 1859 Café & Bistro, the Interpretation Centre and Gift Shop will be open for visitors to come and enjoy some refreshments in delightful surroundings and browse our quality selection of attractive merchandise.

For all the latest news please visit our web site www.swanagepiertrust.com, where you can also donate and/or join the Friends of Swanage Pier to help support the pier.



National
Trust

Young People's Wellbeing Day: Special Kind of Fun

It's a new year! Hopefully it'll be less covidy and more stable than last.

The end of 2021 was really positive for us at Studland. We welcomed Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 from the Swanage School for their Wellbeing Day. Being a young person is tough; I doubt any of us sailed through the teenage years. Going through the past couple of years, though... wow, can you imagine? For all the external pressures on our local young people, at least they are growing up in an amazing place that should enable them to live healthy active lives.

It probably comes as no surprise that we are all aware that this isn't really happening.

It was a great day, the weather was kind and, apart from a frisbee to the face that resulted in a trip to A&E, everyone had some kind of fun. Or at least a brownie. As part of the day we asked the pupils about their experiences of being outdoors in Purbeck and we will be working with them to help overcome some of the real and perceived barriers in the future.

We've got some exciting ideas... hopefully we can develop these over this coming year

Tom Clarke

Senior Community and Volunteering Manager,

National Trust, Isle of Purbeck

email: tom.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk



Durlston News

The two new arrivals, both baby girls met up at Durlston in early January – hopefully beginning a long association with the place! Apprentice Ranger Robin & fiancée Lottie, bought two-week old Alela Starling Chambers for a visit while Ranger Catherine & baby Rosemary Amaryllis made their second visit on the very same day!



Friends of Durlston

January's evening meeting saw the business of Friends of Durlston AGM being conducted. All members of the previous committee and newcomer Sophie were elected to the committee for 2022. Chair Catherine Olive and Ranger Katie gave short reports on the Friends over the year.

Ranger Paul provided a quick presentation on some of the more interesting natural records of the year which included: Caravan Terrace's Icicle formation; Common or Scarlet Rosefinch; White-tailed Eagle; Lesser Stag Beetle; Snow Bunting; Pallas's Warbler; Siberian Chiff Chaff; Pea Gall (Sputnik Gall Wasp) and the possibility of Mole's having arrived at Durlston. (Ray Hamilton's "Reptiles in Durlston" presentation had been rescheduled for later in the year – now 8th November). This was all washed down with a glass of wine, cups of tea and some nibbles.

Ongoing Events:

On **Sunday 30th January 2pm**, in the Gallery at the Castle, join our Senior Ranger Katie Black for a talk to share however wildlife highlights of her years working at Durlston (and there are many- both highlights and years!) please book (not that she is expecting a full house!) £3, £2 FODs.

Now on in the Galley the "**Naturally Beautiful Dorset Exhibition**", until February 2nd. Discover the landscape of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the people who live and work here. Includes seasonal stories from Stepping into Nature and Talking Tent.

2022 Friends of Durlston evening meetings for February and March

- Tuesday 1st February: to be held in the Castle's Fine Foundation Gallery - "**The amazing Life and Work of Naturalist and Artist, Maria Sibylla Merian**" by **Howard Oliver**. Maria Merian (1647-1717) is acknowledged as one of the greatest ever entomologists who played a major role in developing an understanding of the process of metamorphosis. She travelled in Europe and explored Surinam, producing many exceptional insect, plant, flower, and animal images for her various books. There will be a display of a wide range of examples of her work, including some original prints and a reproduction of her enormous Surinam folio. A selection of free prints will be available to those attending.
- Tuesday 1st March: "**Snakes in the Heather**" by **Owain Master** from Amphibian & Reptile Conservation.

Durlston Weather Records:

As part of the weather page review for the Durlston website revamp, Ranger Paul and Hilarie Lewis have been undertaking the annual analysis and summaries. And 2021 has sneaked into the Extreme table, sharing the highest maximum gust recorded at Durlston with 2006. The weather data has been recorded daily at Durlston since 1988, providing a large dataset. The records are all available to be downloaded from our website if you want to look further.

Email Address Change

Please note that the rangers email addresses have now changed to '@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk' rather than previous '@dorsetcc.gov.uk'. For all general park enquiries please contact durlston@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



May I wish you all a belated Happy New Year. **Sustainable Swanage** have had a busy start to the year and after a Christmas break, our working groups are meeting again to plan projects and events for the coming year.

These include tree planting, wildlife surveys and ID training, community fridge, repair cafes, clothes swaps, local energy clubs and more... With over 45 members of the community actively involved in these groups, we are hoping this will be a bumper year for all things sustainable! We would love to welcome new members to our groups to help make things happen and inspire us all, so if you are looking for some exciting things to get involved in locally, contact us about joining our greening group, or active travel, energy and/or survey groups, or, if you have a project of your own in mind then do get in touch.

In this third year of this decade of change, the decade where we need to see much more decisive action to address climate change, we are joining the race to zero as we find more ways to reduce carbon footprints and restore nature in our community.

We are really excited about our new Sustainable Swanage Business Forum. This group is also led by the community and aims to bring information, tools and support to our local networks as businesses work towards net zero targets, including halving carbon emissions by 2030. Look out for our events and

initiatives coming up soon including a launch event in March.

We are currently creating a new website but information can still be found here for the time being [Sustainable Swanage | Litter Free Coast and Sea – Dorset & East Devon](#) – also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

You will find us at Swanage Market on the first Friday of each month. We look forward to seeing you.

Sarah Spurling , Project Officer



Steering group member Dave - and Emma from Litter Free Dorset at our December market stall talking about food waste

STUDLAND SNIPPETS

Studland Parish Council is not increasing its Precept as there are more council tax payers than last year (maybe some second home owners decided to stay or holiday lets changed to residencies?). More than £40,000 is being raised, whilst there is approximately £90,000 in bank accounts. A little strange for a village with around 200 full-time residents? Future projects yet to be planned may explain the situation.

What should such a small village with an ageing population spend all this money on? Exercise equipment, footpath upkeep (Dorset Council duty), new pavements (Dorset Council), more tree planting and thicker hedges, allotments, a



continued on next page

Studland Snippets continued

Neighbourhood Plan, a 20mph speed limit (Dorset Council), blue plaques for George Bernard Shaw, John Maynard Keynes, Virginia Woolf, Bertrand Russell, HG Wells, John Poulson, Charles Voysey, Enid Blyton, Diana Spencer - let alone the wartime visitors to Fort Henry ?

A Jubilee tree is to be planted in the tranquility garden by the church. Restricted access?

Plenty of room in the gardens at Studland for everyone to plant a fruit tree this year. Make a Studland apple pie and cake celebration each autumn at a harvest supper? Fruit trees do not grow tall; are easy to prune, and are not subject to TPOs. Graft a Bramley onto a Quince stock and it will survive honey fungus. Food for action led by the councillors?

The Council is taking on the upkeep of the village pond at Beach Road. A neglected public area overgrown with weed and an over-green surface. Plenty of volunteers needed. Hope you notice the difference in a year.

Knoll House redevelopment plans are likely to go to Dorset Council in February. It is unclear how the significant rebuild will sit with the designated Heathlands, let alone accommodate additional car parking. Parking spaces at the beach are being threatened by erosion. The human footprint is impacting severely on this attractive area. Are the international designations to be protected? The Dorset Heathlands are rarer than the world's rain forests. A case for radical solutions: no cars; fewer cars; less visitors - certainly fresh thinking away from conventional wisdom.

Another sale of a former council house by Aster, the housing association capitalising on the increased capital value. House prices in Studland are way above any reasonable affordability ratio, especially with low local incomes. Surely Aster should be re-investing in the local communities where there are shortages of affordable and social housing?. Have the housing associations been subject to mission drift in that they are profit-making businesses by another name ?

Plans are afoot for a Jubilee celebration on Ballard Down with a beacon plus food and drinks. Watch out for this merriment.

Did anyone see the Fire on the heath by the golf course? Strange no one admits to starting it.

The Purbeck Society. A marvellous talk on 14.01.22 by Nick Jubber on a European Journey - full of the wonder of the oral tradition and the power of imagination via stories. Next talk by a Swanage artist and dancer and AGM on 11.02.22 at the Mowlem Institute at 14.30pm. All welcome.

The Purbeck Society objected to proposals to remove the provision of affordable housing from the planning permission granted for the former St Mary's school site. Since the planning permission was granted, the average price of a detached house in Dorset has increased by around 30% - more than enough for the developers to go ahead as required. The whole matter shows the extent of how the broken housing market is adversely affecting those wanting to enter the housing market, let alone to

have a place to live in the area where they grew up. More thinking and action may be required to stem the exclusion and outflow of local young people from living in the area. Maybe a second homes policy for all new builds like St. Alves and a tighter local connections policy. Over to our Dorset Councillors and the Dorset Local Plan? Is Swanage an open field for developers to plead viability, to pull down houses and build flats for second homes and Airbnbs?

Further concerns exist over the inability of residents to access the weekly planning lists and tree work applications. Why is local government at the unitary level becoming so distant from the residents of Dorset?

Currently, planning case officers responsible for planning applications are also responsible for enforcement. Is this not a potential conflict of interest, especially as Dorset Council states that it is there to facilitate development?

Updates are available at www.purbeckociety.co.uk.

CPRE Dorset supports a re-think of the Dorset Local Plan as advocated by Dorset Climate Action Network. This re-think argues for a) lower housing numbers b) more dedicated affordable housing for the residents of Dorset and c) compatibility of the Dorset Local Plan with the Dorset Council strategy for dealing with the climate and ecological emergencies. Maybe we should start with more solar panels on roofs other than listed buildings; net carbon zero for all new houses? Did you know that 96% of the buildings in Dorset have no solar panels?

Research is continuing into the exceptional circumstances of Dorset that limit the capacity to take the proposed 39,000 extra houses as advocated by Dorset Council. 9,000 of these houses have been offered to the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole conurbation as an overflow, even though they have not been asked for. Rather strange for Dorset, especially as the conurbations are questioning their housing numbers; in part due to international students leaving after their courses finish and less inward migration

Currently Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are holding an Issues and Options consultation on their Local Plan. Choices are being presented to residents and their views are being sought. What a contrast to Dorset Council where the residents are told of the nature of the developments rather than having an initial ability to shape the vision for the area. A most serious matter for everyone in Dorset.

Looking forward, Dorset CPRE is considering raising the profile of Dark Skies and addressing light pollution, including the need for filters on LED street lights. Additional work on flooding and nitrates in water courses are topics that will need to be addressed in and around the emerging Dorset Local Plan. The rivers of Dorset and Poole Harbour, let alone Swanage Bay, may well need action to clean them up rather than allow continuing pollution.

Have a look at www.dorset-cpre.org.uk and even think of joining the Purbeck and Poole group?

Peter Bowyer

Purbeck families ... to the dunes for half term!



This February half-term we have some really special events for families in Purbeck. So, whether you're feeling active, creative, or inquisitive, come on down to Studland! The below events are all free, no booking is necessary, and the meeting place is the picnic benches outside the Discovery Centre at Studland Bay. Do keep an eye on our website and social media too, for more details and events.

Save the sand lizards! Family volunteering

Tuesday 22nd February 10-12pm

Roll up your sleeves and bring your whole family to this array of conservation activities, including creating a giant sand lizard out of invasive plants!

Family wildlife & nature walks

Wednesday 23rd February – 10.00am and 11.15am (duration 45-60 mins)

Join us for a leisurely walk through the sand dunes to learn more about this special habitat. We will be visiting the wet woodland, 'Little Sea', the bird hide and more, climbing over the dunes to look for sika deer and strolling through the heath looking for different species of plants.

Wellbeing family stroll

Thursday 24th February 10-12pm

Join us for a relaxing wellness walk along the beach and into the dunes, where we will be engaging all our senses and taking part in some mindful movement!

Julia Galbenu

Engagement Officer (Dorset), Dynamic Dunescapes – DuneLIFE
National Trust, Studland Bay

[@studlandbay_nt](#) • dynamicdunescapes.co.uk • [@dynamicdunes](#)



Photograph by David Corben





Since the public meeting at the beginning of November a group of enthusiastic supporters have met and agreed to work together to take forward the shared vision of affordable housing in Swanage.

In addition to the usual offices of Finance and Company Secretary, the work has been divided into three areas, Development, Community Engagement and Web Site development. Following the Christmas break, all three are progressing and the next meeting will be held next week to update progress. At that meeting

we will also be appointing additional Trustees to help with this work.

With the help of Mark Carey, of Morgan Carey Architects, we are analysing the sites that have been suggested by Swanage Town Council to establish which might offer the best opportunity for social housing. Once our bank account has been opened and we have the received the grant promised from Dorset Council, we will then be able to progress to a more detailed feasibility.

We have been hugely encouraged by the general enthusiasm and support of the community and now have over 30 members. If you would like to be kept up to date and involved, we would welcome more members. In which case please go to our Website: <https://swanagecommunityhousing.org> and fill in the membership form.

Robin Sutcliffe
Swanage Community Housing Trust



‘Aquarius’, the ladies club based in Corfe Castle, held on the first Tuesday of each month, continues to thrive!

Since contributing last, we have had an ‘Understanding Yoga’ talk with practical advice and this was followed up (for those members that wished) with an hour of Yoga, also demonstrated on Zoom. We all felt much calmer and comfortable afterwards.

In December it was a great relief to actually meet up face-to-face again in Corfe Castle Village Hall for a fun, festive session which included making our own crackers while drinking mulled wine with appropriate nibbles. It was not a huge turnout, but those that came thoroughly enjoyed being able to converse properly with friends, despite being properly socially-distanced and with plenty of ventilation!

Our January meeting was to be a talk by Deirdre Selwyn on ‘Wellbeing Swanage’. Unfortunately at the last minute Deirdre had to step down due to illness, but her colleague stepped ably into the breach and delivered a very interesting power point presentation on it. This helped us to understand what is being progressed in Swanage and beyond, based on a concept first practised in Frome, Somerset, linking various

caring type organisations together to support people in difficulty and providing a signpost to help for the beleaguered GPs and other health professionals etc.

At the January meeting we had a much larger gathering as folk began to emerge having had their 3rd vaccinations, making them feel more able to meet others. We presented cheques to the 2 charities that we have supported over the last 2 years. We gave them each £1,500 to add to the £200 we gave last year. Both The Besom and The Dorset Children’s Foundation were very grateful and surprised at how much we had raised during a difficult 2 years. They were also interested to hear the talk about Wellbeing Swanage.

February will see us voting for the next local charities that we might support for the coming year. Also, we will be having a fun talk by Anne Bond on being ‘A High Sheriff’s Wife ‘ for a year, which involved some interesting and sometimes funny experiences. It should be very entertaining.

March is our AGM which we usually accompany with a fun activity. This year it falls on Pancake Day so you can imagine what we will doing!!!

Our satellite groups of walkers, strollers and book clubs have all continued outside or on Zoom and our Lunch Club reconvened in the autumn for the first time since the initial lockdown which is good news. Our textile group should restart after Easter.

If you are interested in joining us in the future please contact me on 01929 480007

Christine Kemp (Aquarius Joint Chair)



Need Advice?

Talk to our friendly Citizens Advice trained advisers. We are here to help whenever you need advice to find a way forward. Whatever your problem, our advice is free, confidential and impartial. We are able to help those facing financial difficulties, including debt issues and those having difficulty keeping warm this winter.

To talk to an adviser, simply phone **Dorset Adviceline on our freephone line 0800 144 8848 (Textphone: 0800 144 8884)**, 10am-4pm weekdays.

Alternatively, complete our online form at **www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/by-email** to request an email or telephone call-back.

There is also a wealth of self-help advice accessible through our website (**see below**).

Due to COVID restrictions we are currently able to help people at initial contact either by phone or email. We may be able to offer follow-up face-to-face appointments in certain circumstances and by arrangement.

We offer a full range of up to date advice - including help with:

- Benefits entitlement and claims
- Debt management, budgeting and income maximisation
- Employment advice including furlough, Statutory Sick Pay and rights when laid off work
- Advice for the self-employed including the Income Support Scheme
- Energy and water advice, support and winter schemes
- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to a food bank

CLICK HERE: www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk

Swanage Community

Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



Sad News to kick off 2022 as Defibrillator goes missing

Normally at the start of the year we would be writing to let you know about our plans and intentions for the year ahead; however, we start 2022 with some sad news. One of our defibrillators, which was located at Swanage Rowing Club, has gone missing. Originally we thought it had been deployed to an incident in good faith and it had somehow been forgotten to be returned. The Ambulance Service was contacted but had no knowledge of its deployment.

Following a social media campaign which reached over 10,000 people, we still have no knowledge of where our defibrillator and the accompanying trauma kit is. Consequently, we had to report the matter to Dorset Police and consider it has been stolen. The cost to replace the device and the trauma kit is in excess of £1,000 - not to mention the cost to someone's life should the missing device be needed in the meantime. Ultimately, it means we start our new year with an unforeseen fundraising campaign to replace the Sea Rowing Club defibrillator.

All our devices across Purbeck have been generously funded by local residents, visitors and organisations and it is to them we turn again for help. If you have any knowledge of the missing device or are able to assist with fundraising its replacement, please do get in touch. **Donations can be delivered to Corben's Estate Agents, Station Road, Swanage.**

In some positive news, the partnership continues to maintain and grow the estate, having recently been gifted a device for North Swanage. Discussion is currently underway with stakeholders with regards to its installation and we hope to have this completed in the first half of this year.

As a partnership, our focus has shifted from locating new devices (except where gaps in coverage have been identified) to maintaining and future-proofing the estate. Perishables such as batteries and pads require replacement and some cabinets are starting to show signs of ageing thanks to our sea air and coastal weather. Future fundraising will primarily be ring-fenced for this project over the next few years.

Kyle Hickman, SCDP

CHANGE DRAFT DORSET LOCAL PLAN



17 January saw the launch of the **Dorset Deserves Better** campaign.

This campaign aims to change the Dorset Local Plan, by which Dorset Council proposes to build over 39,000 new dwellings – plus roads, car parks & services – and encroach on our Green Belt, our famous Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – (AONB) – and other locally valued greenfield land. Thirty-eight (38) Dorset-based organisations – representing over 20,000 local people – have come together in a Campaign Alliance led by Dorset Climate Action Network (Dorset CAN) to press Dorset Council to **re-think** its damaging Local Plan. In an Open Letter delivered to the Leader of Dorset Council, Cllr. Spencer Flower, the Campaign Alliance states that the draft Local Plan would:

- Do great harm to Dorset, through adverse impact on its natural environment, landscape and historical character
- Fall short of meeting the needs of Dorset’s population for the right houses in the right place at the right price
- Fail to face up to the global challenges of climate change and reversing the loss of wildlife.

The Campaign Alliance notes that many respondents opposed the Local Plan. “91 per cent of those represented in the public consultation rejected the development strategy at the heart of the Plan.” Instead, the Alliance suggests ways to transform the Local Plan into a visionary programme that enriches the county and serves the people of Dorset – especially the young and those most in need.

Michael Dower, of Dorset CAN, said: “We sincerely hope to persuade Dorset Council to deliver an optimistic and forward-looking Local Plan that values our landscape, supports environmental regeneration, provides affordable housing for local families, reduces our carbon footprint and encourages a thriving green economy in Dorset. We believe this can be done within the existing regulations and without wholesale destruction of our green spaces. We hope to work with Dorset Council to achieve this.”:

DORSET DESERVES BETTER: To find out more and read the Open Letter to DC Cllr Spencer Flower:

For general enquiries and communications, email: dorsetdeservesbetter@gmail.com

Or go to Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/DorsetCAN> - or search for @DorsetCAN.

Young local journalist Daniel Shailer talks us through “How to Restore and Rewild our Wetlands”

Wetlands are a golden ticket in the fight against climate change. They absorb carbon, as well as providing a home for countless species: from iconic British birds like the curlew and recently reintroduced common-crane, to almost a third of the UK’s flowering plants, to any number of reptiles amphibians and fish. They are as biodiverse as Brazilian rainforests and tropical coral reefs, suck up more carbon than any terrestrial ecosystem in the UK and, yet, we have lost 90% of our wetlands in the last century alone. Here are some ways we can bring them back.

Natural Flood Management techniques (NFM) encompass any human intervention which slow water flow. Planting trees that spread a mesh of roots into a stream, building ‘leaky dams’ and even filling in river beds (called ‘Stage 0’ restoration) all encourages water to seep into the land surrounding rivers, creating wetlands. Trialled across the US and UK, NFM have seen more success than traditional water management strategies – like ‘hard’ concrete damming – but remain expensive to upkeep.

Another alternative may be re-introducing long-extinct, but native, beavers. Colin Thorne, geography Chair at Nottingham University, put it best: ‘[beavers] work 24/7, 365 days a year as if their lives depend on it (because they do) and you don’t have to pay them or nothing.’ By building lodges and dams, beavers engineer wetlands around them: ecosystems more resistant to flooding, wildfire and drought, like pockets of ecological Eden. Introduced in the right place with the right monitoring, beavers have proven the most cost-effective, long-term method of wetland restoration.

Wetlands alone won’t fix our climate crises, but they can be one part of the solution. However it happens, restoring wetlands has to be a priority for the UK’s environmental future.

Daniel Shailer

Please get in touch with any questions, queries or disagreements
[@danswimsMCS](https://twitter.com/danswimsMCS) (twitter)



“National Trust Images/John Miller”

Planet Purbeck Youth Group making it happen

The Planet Purbeck Youth Group (PPYG) is a group of passionate, young individuals committed to making a difference to our world. The group is facilitated by the Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation, the National Trust, and of course, Planet Purbeck. PPyG want to spread the word, engage other young people, and make change happen. This year they have committed to running six events, with the aim of connecting other local young people to nature and fighting the ecological and climate emergency. The group meets every Wednesday at the Wareham Youth Club from 6-8pm and are always welcoming to new members!

PPYG also had an incredibly successful Christmas event - have a read of their reflections below:

'The 'Green Christmas' Event was a gathering organised by Planet Purbeck Youth Group to try and engage more of the youth in environmental activities. We hosted a range of activities such as wreath making from natural willow, a 'natural' photo wall and put up some environmental quizzes'.

'We met up at 2 to divide into decorating the youth centre and collecting willow from the common. We had prepared everything, including a Christmas film, hot chocolate station and food tables. Once people came in they put pine cones in boxes for a survey and then walked round different stations, trying different things out and talking to everyone. Our aim was to have an informal 'get together' with a subtlety of awareness for the environment where people could hang out and enjoy getting ready for Christmas! We watched a short environmental piece before our own film, one in between and one at the end, but each only about 2 minute long. We then set up a walkout survey while people filtered out.'

'I think the event went really well and we achieved what we wanted to as there was quite a turnout of people, and we managed to make some visitors aware whilst also not overloading them.'

'I think that if we were ever to host another event, we have learnt that not pressuring people to do certain activities and letting them mingle worked quite well. Also, putting up activities that would interest teenagers more (eg the selfie wall) were very popular.'



Please spread the word about our community radio. It can be reassuring to know that there's somebody down the road listening to the same thing as you. It brings back a sense of community in isolation. So if you have a neighbour who is unaware of Purbeck Coast because they don't use a computer or are unable to tune in, you then perhaps you could offer to tune their radio into **101.2FM**.

Purbeck Coast has shows about sport, health and well-being, local history, gardening; shows that discuss fashion, food, the environment, current affairs with interviews from local people covering local events and topics, plus music from many different genres.

This is *your* local community Radio - so if you want to talk to someone at Purbeck Coast, or maybe have a story to share, you can contact us by telephoning 01929 424424. We'd love to hear from you...

Swanage
JAZZ
CLUB

IS PROUD TO PRESENT



SPATS LANGHAM 'HOT FINGERS' TRIO

TICKETS £10 - Licensed Bar

Tickets from:

Swanage Jazz Club Treasurer,
22 Streche Rd, Swanage BH19 1NF
Cheques made out to: Swanage Jazz Associates

(for full details Tel 01929 426127) or email
melvyn.norris@icloud.com

AT HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL*

SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

Licensed Bar opens at 7pm

Music starts at 7.30pm

TOM "SPATS" LANGHAM is one of the best guitarists and banjo players on the UK jazz scene; he's probably the best jazz entertainer too, with his humour, singing and unique ability to engage audiences in his love of the music.

His band features two very well-known figures in British jazz:

Malcolm Sked (bass and sousaphone)
Danny Blyth (guitar + other instruments)

*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

WE HAVE TO LIMIT THE NUMBERS WHO ATTEND BECAUSE OF COVID-19 SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO MAKE SURE OF YOUR SEATS

Hot Jazz is alive and well in Swanage!

SWANAGE JAZZ CLUB is proud to present Spats Langham's "Hot Fingers" Trio at the first of our new regular Swanage Jazz gigs at Harmans Cross Village Hall on 12th February, as we had to cancel our 8th January gig because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Hot Fingers" is an immensely talented and enjoyable trio. Their wide range of styles and rhythms - from the Hot Jazz of the 1920s to the swing of the 1930s and 1940s - has made them enormously popular on the jazz scene. Spats has played all over the world and with famous names in jazz, including Chris Barber, Acker Bilk and the Pasadena Roof Orchestra and many leading Americans. His virtuoso guitar and banjo playing, singing and humour help to make the trio's gigs great entertainment.

There will be a licensed bar, tickets are priced at £10 each and are available from Swanage Jazz Club Treasurer, Mel Norris. For more details call 01929 426127 or email melvyn.norris@icloud.com

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



The Bus Service Improvement Plan



The government's [National Bus Strategy – Bus Back Better](#) sets out the vision and opportunity to deliver better bus services for passengers across England.

In response, we are developing a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to make bus services:

- more attractive
- cheaper
- easier to use
- faster
- more reliable
- greener

Read the [2021 Bus Service Improvement Plan](#).

The BSIP will be updated annually.

We will deliver the BSIP through an Enhanced Partnership, which means we will work more closely with local bus operators to improve services. The Enhanced Partnership will be delivered by April 2022.

How you can help

We want to hear from people who already use buses and those who don't, to understand why.

We also want to hear from public, private and voluntary organisations who have an interest in making our bus services work better.

Email your comments, suggestions and ideas to busbackbetter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or write to us: c/o Transport Planning, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ.

What's happened so far

We are engaging with elected members, town and parish councils, neighbouring Local Authorities, special interest groups and transport operators.

A [public survey](#) was launched at the beginning of August last year. Further engagement work is planned ahead of publishing the first BSIP and starting the Enhanced Partnership.

The key milestones are:

- June 2021 – we published [Notice of Intent](#) to proceed with the development of an Enhanced Partnership
- October 2021 – publish first Bus Service Improvement Plan
- November 2021 – Enhanced Partnership Statutory consultation
- April 2022 – activate Enhanced Partnership

[View the latest news on the Bus Service Improvement Plan](#).

How the BSIP supports Dorset Council's plan

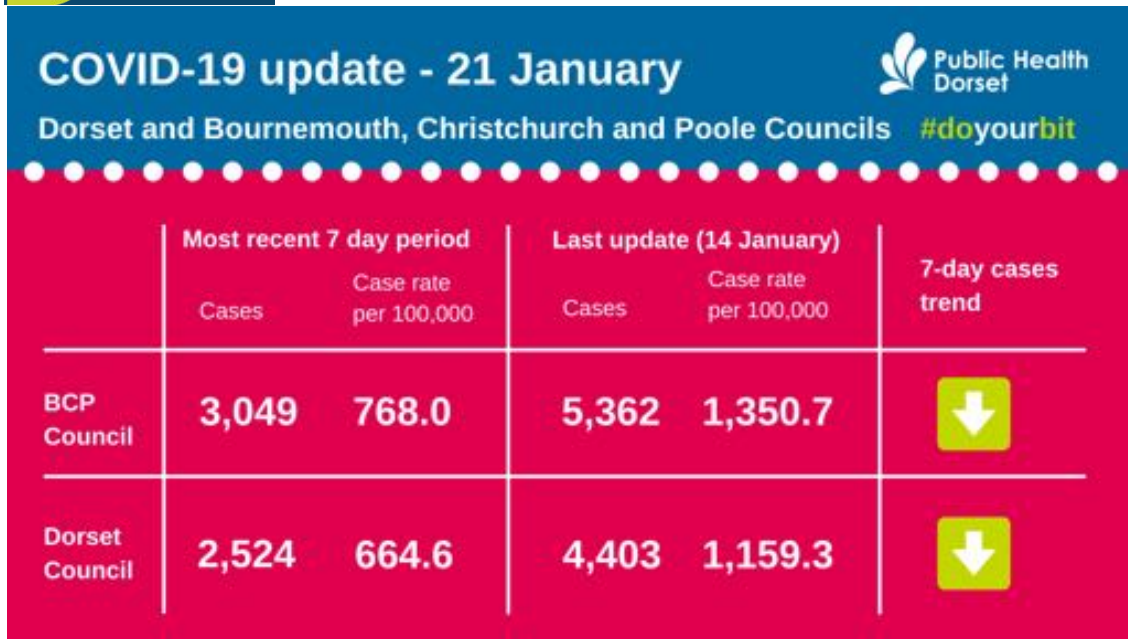
Bus service improvements support our [Local Transport Plan](#) policies and the [Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan](#), helping to tackle the climate and ecological emergency as well as reducing traffic congestion and improving accessibility for residents and visitors.

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



Covid-19 update from Public Health Dorset

Infection rates in Dorset have fallen steeply from a peak in early January. This is a similar picture to the national trend and case rates in Dorset are now below the average rates for England and the South West.

Infection rates remain high and there are still thousands of people catching COVID-19 across Dorset each week.

We've also seen a reduction in the number of people in hospital in Dorset with COVID-19 and the number of deaths related to the virus remains relatively stable.

Covid restrictions lifted

The government has announced that the measures put in place under plan B in England will be lifted from 27 January. You can choose to continue to follow these safer behaviours to protect yourself and others:

- [Get vaccinated](#) and get your [booster dose](#)
- Wear a face covering in most indoor public places and on public transport
- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors, meeting outdoors is safer
- [Get tested](#) and self-isolate if required
- Take lateral flow tests regularly, especially before meeting others
- Wear a face covering in indoor crowded spaces
- Get plenty of fresh air by meeting outdoors or opening doors + windows inside
- Self-isolate and get a PCR test if you develop any symptoms of COVID-19

