

# SWANAGE AREA FORUM NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



*Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans*

When you read through the newsletter this month you cannot fail to notice that most organisations in our community have got back on their feet and have had a successful year, despite all the odds. There have been setbacks, of course, as many of our community groups have experienced a loss of volunteers and for businesses and services there have been difficulties with recruiting sufficient skilled staff. Despite these problems, Purbeck has flourished this year with what seems to have been record numbers of visitors to the area. To cap it all, our key towns and villages have switched on the Christmas lights, which should help keep our spirits up during the coming winter period. Let's hope that the report of a new Covid variant appearing will not depress and afflict our wonderful communities during the next period.

Our next Newsletter will be **FEBRUARY 2022**. This is because we in our Newsletter team are all very busy, either with community matters, or getting ready with family or friends preparing for Christmas and the New Year. So it would be appreciated if we could have your contributions by **14<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**.

Finally, the small team of Jenny, Gerry and myself wish all readers a wonderful festive season, and a happy and healthy 2022.

Mel Norris

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

[melvyn.norris@icloud.com](mailto:melvyn.norris@icloud.com)

Tel: 01929 426127



# Swanage Food Bank



## Our Christmas Appeal

Thank you all for your generous gifts of food in 2021 which have helped Swanage Food Bank supply 1,155 people with 3 meals a day for 7 days between January and October (28,875 meals!). Since then, we have had a very busy November with an increasing number of large families requiring food aid.

I mentioned in the November newsletter our needs for Christmas edible treats for our clients, but as Christmas shopping starts, a reminder of some seasonal items that Swanage Food Bank normally supply, and would appreciate as donations :

**Tubs and cartons of chocolates (e.g. Roses, Quality Street)**

**Chocolate coins and children's chocolate  
Christmas tree decorations**

**Christmas puddings and sponge alternatives**

**Boxes of mixed biscuits**

**Savoury biscuits for cheese**

**Christmas cakes and mincepies**

**Yule logs**

**Savoury snacks including salted nuts**

**Sparkling apple/grape juice**

**Instant hot chocolate drinks**

Many, many thanks on behalf of our clients whose prospects of Christmas may be very bleak this year. And we wish you all a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year.

**Pauline Werba (Chairperson, SFB)**



## A Splendid Swanage Summer

### Thank you from Swanage Town Council

A brief look back to one of our busiest summers shows how the town has thrived under the pressure of thousands of visitors.

The Town Council would like to thank all those who were involved with the smooth running of the town under the pressure of thousands of extra tourists. Even without the usual events such as Carnival and RNLI festival, the town was crowded. The seafront and parks rang with the sound of children playing in the playgrounds, on the beach and splashing in the sea. Happy families, couples and groups came to enjoy the wonderful countryside and coastline and were not disappointed.

This was due to the endless hard work of the staff and volunteers who kept the streets and green spaces safe and litter free. With the added pressure of the change in rubbish collections and size of litter bins, the town has been remarkably clean and tidy.

Our appreciation goes to all those who worked over and above their normal duties to present Swanage as a premier holiday destination.



Credit also goes to all the businesses, shops and restaurants who played their part in making the season a success.

So, a big thank you from those of us who love Swanage and want our town to continue to be a splendid resort for all ages.



# SWANAGE MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

The Square, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1L1

*Charity Registration No. 274200*

FROM THE very uncertain start to 2021 due to Covid-19, the year has turned out to be much more successful than could have possibly been hoped for at The Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre. We opened in the middle of July and we were surprised and pleased to welcome a large number of visitors, mainly because of the 'staycation' that was going on in the summer. Many visitors had not been to Swanage before, and were delighted with what they found here. They loved what was on offer at the Museum and swelled the takings accordingly. Many regular visitors commented favourably on the excellent refurbishment organised by our rather special Heritage Centre volunteer Manager and her team.



Our dedicated Research Group are now meeting twice a week at the Swanage Museum's History Centre, to service the many historic enquiries that the public throw their way. They also continue to work; examining, restoring and listing the many records, artefacts and works of art that are in store at The History Centre. Exciting times.



## Albert The Good

Besides our premises-located activities, some of our volunteer members were part of the team (including Swanage Town Council, The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and a very generous benefactor) that successfully completed the long-awaited reconstruction of The Prince Albert Memorial, which now proudly stands overlooking the town and the coast.

## Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust

Museum members have also been involved with and supportive of The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust. Trevor, a Swanage School teacher who taught at Forres School, is known as the Purbeck Schindler, as he was instrumental in saving the lives of 669 refugee children from certain death at the hands of the Nazis. Local resident, Lynn Coleman, won the special draw for the beautiful bronze maquette (seen here). This is a miniature of the life-size statue (by local artist, Moira Purver) which will be placed on the children's recreation ground when finished, hopefully next year. Lynn has generously offered the statue to Swanage Museum on permanent loan as custodians. We were honoured to accept on behalf of the local community. The maquette will be displayed there for all to see.



We look forward to another successful year in 2022 when we are expectant that our monthly speaker-led meetings and our guided town walks will restart after a two year absence. Watch this space!

*Mel Norris, Chair*



## Join us for some Festive Fun!

### Some Dates for your Diary

#### 9 Dec - Willow Weaving Taster 2pm-4pm

Drop-in to try your hand at making something from Willow.

£3. In The Shed

#### 18 Dec - 2 January 2022 - Rudolph's Reindeer Roundup - 10am-3pm

Santa's cheeky reindeer are hiding around the park! Can you help find them all? You might just win a prize! Collect your map from the Castle - £3.

#### 19 Dec - Join the Rangers for Festive 3K Run - Arrive 9.30am - 10am start

Run through the park and earn your festive treat! For all ages.

Booking recommended: £3. Meet at The Learning Centre.

#### 12 Jan - 2 Feb 2022 - Naturally Beautiful Dorset Exhibition - 10am - 4pm

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'.

FREE ENTRANCE: Daily - in the Fine Foundation Gallery.

### Important Note:

Events are subject to change or cancellation at short notice if government guidance regarding COVID-19 changes. Please check our website or for any further info re events contact us on

01929 424443 or email

[durlston@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:durlston@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Our art club is emerging from the pandemic with a programme of activities.

Currently running is the art club section (known as the **Studio Workshop**) who meet weekly on a Tuesday morning from 9.30am at the **Catholic Church Hall** in Rempstone Road, Swanage.

Ahead they have a tutored workshop where the members will be inspired by Christmas poems written by our Poetry section members. This is a great way of collaborating between the different sections of our club! The resultant artworks will be made into cards which will be sold at the club base: **Purbeck New Wave Gallery**, 43a High St, Swanage.

Another section of the club organises group outings to places and events of artistic interest, including visual arts and music. In time for Christmas is a trip to **The Lighthouse** in Poole to see the **Northern Lights Concert** on 8th December. Join the club for £10 per year to benefit from group booking discounts. Into the New Year, there will be more concerts booked, so please call into the Purbeck New Wave Gallery for a full programme.

Club members are feeling very positive and uplifted by the opportunities offered by the club. Art and poetry are excellent "mindful" activities, and, along with social interaction, are very beneficial towards our mental health.

To find out more either call into the gallery or join us for coffee on Thursday mornings from 10.30am upstairs at **McAllister's Café**, Institute Rd, Swanage.

Please Contact Gina Marshall:

[isleofpurbeckartsclub@gmail.com](mailto:isleofpurbeckartsclub@gmail.com) or 07434814384

**Durlston Country Park** is a fabulous 320 acre countryside paradise. With stunning views, walking trails, the historic Great Globe, superb geology, fascinating wildlife and Durlston Castle, there is always something different to see and do. There are daily and monthly wildlife sightings, information about the geology of the park, live camera images and regularly changing Exhibitions and Art in our gallery. The Park is also home to 'Seventhwave' Café & Restaurant and our shop (selling books, souvenirs and locally made gifts and jewellery.) Fantastic sea views, beautiful picnic spots, signposted walking trails and lots of space for the kids to burn off some energy and connect with nature.





## Community news from The Swanage School

Another busy term here at The Swanage School for students and staff alike! Here's just a taster of what we've been up to with our fantastic local community:

**Out and about:** Trips to support learning are regularly departing again and we are incredibly grateful to local partners who help make these such valuable experiences.

**The Pig on The Beach** hosted our Year 10 Food & Nutrition GCSE students for a tour of their kitchen and grounds and a delicious lunch, providing invaluable information on how they grow and source their food and run their operation. Students came back inspired to develop their own kitchen garden at school, to start composting food waste from cooking lessons and to plan a 3-course meal for special guests.

Biology students have again been working with the **National Trust** on the Dunescapes Project and on a scheme to reintroduce beavers. Our upcoming Healthy Mind Challenge Day will also be supported by the National Trust.

Students did us proud at the **Greengage Community Garden**, teaching propagation techniques as part of the **Planet Purbeck Festival**. The same weekend, our 'Little Shop of Horrors' cast performed at the **Sandy Hills Studios**.

Year 9 students have been working with **Purbeck Coast FM**, learning media and production skills, working towards a live 'on-air' takeover on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 11am!



**Sports news:** Clubs are back up and running, fixtures are on again and we are delighted to have teamed up with local company **Cumulus Outdoors** to offer water sports as part of our PE curriculum, making the most of our fantastic Jurassic Coast location and giving children the opportunity to try new sports and become confident on (and in!) the water.



**Wellbeing matters:** **Cumulus** are also working with us on a project to help boost self-esteem for selected students; a similar scheme has also been running with the **Bovington Saddle Club** - last week, the students involved met jockey and former Olympic cyclist Victoria Pendleton!

**Racing ahead:** Our Race Team met and secured a deal with the **Purbeck Media Group** to be their Primary Sponsor!



**The Swanage Enrichment Programme:** Our primary outreach programme was re-imagined this year, with four projects offered to **local primary schools**. We were delighted to host primary students for sessions in sports journalism, sustainable fashion, musical theatre and 'becoming an artist', and welcomed some amazing speakers including The Times Sports Reporter Matt Lawton, Geeky Blinders (celebrity shoe customiser) and collage artist Jodie House.

**Project-based learning (PBL):** PBL has gone 'bigger and better' for our Year 7 and 8 students who have immersed themselves in projects on community heroes and plastic waste in our oceans. They've welcomed local speakers from the **Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust**, **Surfers Against Sewage**, the **district nursing team**, the **local recycling & waste officer** and had a Zoom call with the **RNLI**! Students will be creating portfolios, artworks and books to complete their work.

**And finally, we're back at The Mowlem soon!** Tickets will soon be on sale for our next musical extravaganza 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' which plays at **The Mowlem** in March 2022. If you've not been to a Swanage School production before, please grab a ticket and come and see what all the fuss is about. We really don't do these shows by halves, students display incredible talent each year, and our reviews usually include the words 'like a West End show!'



John Corben spoke to students about Trevor Chadwick, Swanage's own local hero

# ♥ Save our Ambulance Car ♥

## *Please Sign the Petition to Dorset Council*

Here are two of the most recent stories of the value of the speedy response of the Swanage-based Ambulance Car, which we are still at risk of losing.

**Valerie Blogg's story:** "I was feeling incredibly ill. My arms were a dead weight and my chest felt so, so tight, I was too out of breath on the High Street to walk home. I called a taxi, unfortunately none were available. Luckily my friend called her husband who drove me home 5 minutes away. I was so puffed out I thought I'd call 111. I told them my symptoms, they then called for an ambulance. The Swanage Ambulance Car turned up within 10 minutes. The lovely ambulance paramedic put me on a portable ECG (electrocardiogram)



## **That man probably saved my life** ♥

"He called for an ambulance to take me to Poole, then in turn I was taken to Bournemouth where I had an emergency stent put in. Without the Swanage Ambulance Car I will forever wonder what could have been as the ambulance took 2 hours to get to me. The ambulance car paramedic was called - Mr Prouten - (definitely my hero and I hope he reads this)."

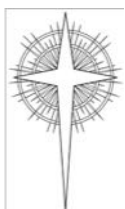
## **Please, please sign the petition to keep it here** ♥

**Thelma Deacon's story:** Seeing Thelma very disorientated, her husband Andrew called 999, and was so relieved to see paramedic Martin Prouten arrive promptly in the Ambulance Car. Thelma was quickly assessed as having red flag stroke symptoms, and needing to get to hospital. An ambulance was called but the ambulance had to come from Shaftesbury. Thelma says:

"I was frightened, disorientated and lost my memory for at least 10 minutes. When Martin walked through the door the feelings of comfort and relief were quite overwhelming to myself and my very distressed husband. For him, it was like time had stood still whilst he was waiting for help to come. Martin immediately put me at ease, and, as I knew I was in safe hands, his thorough assessment allowed the fear to disappear. Saying thanks is not enough and words cannot really express how this is very much more than a service; it's vital, and it would be criminal if it were removed."

## **We need 5,000 signatures to the Dorset Council petition** ♥

We need 5,000 signatures to get the petition to a Dorset Council full council meeting. Dorset Council could try to enforce Dorset CCGs promise to fully maintain Swanage-based ambulances, and Dorset Council has statutory powers to send any plan to withdraw the Car back to the Secretary of State. So please sign and share! The petition can be found by clicking on the green bar near the top of every page of our website <https://saveswanageambulancecar.org/> by googling 'Dorset Council Save Swanage Ambulance Car' or by scanning the QR code here:



## **Christmas at Emmanuel Baptist Church**

We have decided under the present circumstances that it was not advisable to hold the Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival this year.



We are however, putting up a large Christmas Tree in the grounds as a **Tree of Remembrance** where people are invited to name and then tie a ribbon onto the tree and on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm** we are holding the **Lights of Love service of remembrance**.

On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm** we will hold '**Carols in the Car Park**' a Christmas Celebration with Carols and Readings followed by seasonal refreshments.

In the week beginning **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December every morning** Preschool groups and all the preschool children are invited to Emmanuel for '**Stories in the Stable**' which will include a craft activity, songs and stories based on the Nativity story. Booking is essential for this.

**We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**

In addition to demonstrating a real commitment to their learning, not least with Years 11 and 13 just completing their respective GCSE and A Level trial exams, Purbeck students have been fully engaged with our wider communities.

### Climate workshop – Year 9 at Leeson House

On Wednesday 10th November, 28 Year 9 geographers went to **Leeson House** to attend their first ever Climate Change Workshop. The students took part in a range of activities including measuring how much carbon the trees in the Leeson House grounds contain, working out their personal carbon footprints as well as investigating where food comes from and its subsequent impact on the environment. The students were fantastic and finished the workshop with personal pledges to reduce their impacts on the planet.



We were lucky enough to have BBC Radio Solent attending the workshop and a short report about the workshop was on Steve Harris Dorset Breakfast show on Monday 15th November. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09z63f1> (The Purbeck School piece is from 16min 30 seconds).

### Harvest and Christmas donations

Following last year's Harvest collections for foodbanks in Swanage and Wareham, this term The Purbeck School was proud to support the excellent work of another local charity, Hope for Food.



*Hope for Food trustees and a small portion of the school's donation*

Once again, through the kindness of our students, their parents and the staff, we were able to provide a sizeable donation of tinned and packet foods, tea and coffee etc. in addition to cleaning and washing products. The charity was delighted with our community's support which will help both homeless people and those who visit the foodbank.

Hope for Food would like to provide a selection box for every child whose family receive a Christmas food parcel this year – they provide around 500, so this is approximately 1000 selection boxes.

Purbeck staff have taken up the challenge of providing at least half of these, and, as you will see in the picture, we are well on our way to this target – although Jess and David were quite tempted to dip in as they posed for the photo! Some students have also helped by donating a selection box themselves.

If any member of the public would like to help by dropping a selection box (about £1 in most supermarkets) into school they can do so in Reception. Of course, any individual help that any of us can give to our local foodbanks is particularly welcome at this time of year.



*Jess and David pictured with just a selection of our... selection boxes!!*



# HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

## Festive News from Harmans Cross Village Hall

There is plenty to look forward to at the Village Hall in the lead up to Christmas and in the early part of 2022, so hopefully some of the following dates can find their way into your diaries.

We have a couple of brilliant films to look forward to on our monthly **Movie Nights** in December and January:

On **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, we are screening *To Olivia*. It's 1962 and Roald Dahl (Hugh Bonneville), an eccentric, burgeoning children's author and his wife, Patricia Neal, a glamorous Hollywood movie star, have retreated to the English countryside to bring up their expanding young family. Tragically, their lives are turned upside down by the devastating death of their daughter Olivia and as the couple struggle through the unimaginable loss, their shared grief becomes a source of redemption and strength which changes their lives forever through the creation of the amazing Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Then on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022**, we will be showing *Nomadland*. This multi-award winning film is about a new phenomenon: America's 60- and 70-something generation whose economic future was shattered by the 2008 crash. They are grey-haired middle-class strivers reduced to poverty who can't afford to retire but can't afford to work while maintaining a home. So they have become nomads, a new American tribe roaming the country in camper vans in which they sleep, looking for seasonal work in bars, restaurants and – in this film – in a gigantic Amazon warehouse in Nevada, which takes the place of the agricultural work searched for by itinerant workers in stories such as *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Trailers for both films can be seen on our website at [www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/movie-nights](http://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/movie-nights). Tickets are £5 on the doors, which open at 7.00pm with the film showing at 7.30pm. The bar will also be open.

And as a quick future 'spoiler', we are also eagerly awaiting the availability of the latest Bond film and will squeeze that into the schedule when we can !!

Amongst all the wonderful regular events at the Hall, **Coffee Junction** has also re-started and is thriving. Please come along for coffee (or tea), cake and conversation on the mornings of **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am**.

A very special festive **Christmas Carol Service** with minced pies and mulled wine will be taking place on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm**. Put on a coat because, weather permitting, we will have doors open to ensure we have a Covid-safe environment to allow us at last to sing all your favourite carols with gusto! What a lovely way for the whole community to ready ourselves for a very special Christmas.

And finally, a **Live Music** date for your diaries for the New Year. The Churchfitters will be back again at the Hall by popular demand on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Tickets are £15 available from the website at [www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/live-music](http://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/live-music) and are already on sale and going quickly.

In addition, we have all our usual activities back, including amongst others:

**Mondays – U3A Table Tennis; Pins & Needles; Yoga with Cathy**

**Tuesdays – Yoga with Cathy; Art with Judy Robson**

**Wednesdays – U3A French Class; Harmony Rocks Choir**

**Thursdays – Post Office outreach; U3A Patchwork Quilting; Yoga with Cathy**

More details, as always, on the website.

*Alison Clough, Chair of Harmans Cross Village Hall*

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## FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

### Safe and Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year



We were so pleased we could actually hold our Autumn Fayre again last month, even if it meant being in The Centre and not the hospital. But what a great venue The Centre is with plenty of space for stalls and a super little kitchen upstairs so we could serve tea and coffee. Many thanks to all of you who came and supported us and also to our Rotary friends who came to help. It was a successful morning with a lovely atmosphere and we raised over £800.

We are still waiting to hear about the reorganisation of the Theatre area of the hospital, where we need a new ventilation system so we can restart the Endoscopy Service. It is hard to be patient when we know what is needed, but there are procedures to go through and we just have to keep making our voices heard.

If you would like to add your voice and join the Friends please have a look at the website: <https://www.friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk/>

Have a safe Christmas and let's hope for a return to something nearer normality in the new year.

**Jan Turnbull (Chair, Friends of Swanage Hospital)**



The draw for the Trevor Chadwick bronze maquette (a miniature of the life size statue to be placed on the recreation ground) was made on Tuesday 9th November at the Mowlem Theatre.

The lucky prize winner was local resident Lynn Coleman, (see photo) who has generously decided to loan the statue to the Swanage Museum on a permanent basis thus enabling Trevor's brave exploits to continue to be publicised in the town.

The full life size bronzed statue is currently being cast at the Talos Art Foundry, which is based in Andover.

It is still the Trust's ambition to have the unveiling ceremony during the course of next year. Full up to date details of the trust can be obtained at <https://trevorchadwick.uk/>



*Pictured at the Draw: (L-R): Avril Harris Swanage Town Council Mayor, Annie Bridger, Lynn Coleman and John Corben, Chairman of the Trevor Chadwick Trust*

**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...





*Photograph by David Corben*

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### *It's that time of year when things start to wind down... right? Become reflective. Pause?*

Doesn't feel like that within the Trust at the moment (and that's a good thing). We've got (assuming the weather plays nice) all of Swanage School coming to Studland just before Christmas for their wellbeing day, and we're really excited about it.

The increase in visitors to Purbeck since March 2020 (30% up for us) has highlighted the tensions between visitors and local people. How many kids in Swanage actually think of Studland/Dancing Ledge/Corfe as part of their lives? How many view these destinations as for others? Does that matter?

I grew up in London; you'll know the tourist attractions far better than me (but I bet I knew my neighbourhood better than you). It still doesn't matter to me. But 'missing out' on set pieces heritage visits to towers, palaces and waxworks... doesn't have the same impact on mental health as missing out on access to your local green spaces.

As I've mentioned before, we're working with others across the Purbeck Heaths to create a sustainable tourism plan, and that involves ensuring that those impacted by visits have access to the same experiences. If there are barriers there (whether physical, perceptual or financial) we need to look at how to overcome them.

Our visit from Swanage School gives us an opportunity to develop ideas with young people locally about what we can do to remove these barriers. And then actually do it.

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

**Tom Clarke**

*Senior Community and Volunteering Manager,  
National Trust, Isle of Purbeck [tom.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:tom.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)*



# Young People Volunteering to start in the New Year!



My name is Charlie Stockley, and I am a 20-year-old ecology student from Bournemouth University. I undertook my placement with the National Trust in June 2021, and I found it to be such an amazing experience that I decided to carry on working with the National Trust as an engagement volunteer.

From January 2022, I will be leading the Young People Volunteering Group at Studland. I volunteered for this project as I want to help set up and lead other likeminded young people, so they too can get involved in conservation, learn new skills, and gain experience that will help improve their skill set. Gaining experience in this industry is vital in advancing your career, however finding the right kind of experience can be difficult especially for younger people post lockdown. This is the reason why I want to make this volunteering group **for young people and organised by young people**. You will have your say in the activities and projects for the group. Some of the volunteering activities we will begin on include, removing invasive species and vegetation, habitat creation for rare species, litter picking, species monitoring and conservation work with tools.

**We will be launching this on the 2nd of January 2022 and meeting every Sunday, at Discovery Centre. Sessions will start at 10am and finish at 3pm with a lunch break halfway through so bring lunch, water and dress appropriately.** For more information visit: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering)

Charlie Stockley, Engagement Volunteer



## Swanage Library News



Christmas has arrived at the library as of this week! All our festive books are out, and we have a colourful window display to brighten up the dark winter nights. Staff have been working hard to come up with Saturday events for families to enjoy throughout December so please put these dates in your diary:

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December – make a tree decoration and listen to a Christmas story*

*Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December – make a votive candle holder and listen to a Christmas story*

*Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December – make a stained-glass window and listen to a Christmas story*

Book your free place by phoning the library on 01929 423485 or through Eventbrite online.

From Nathalie and all the staff at Swanage Library



As we approach the end of 2021 it is very satisfying for the Friends to record that Wareham Hospital has been the site of the successful Purbeck Vaccination Centre since January 2021 where to date over 56,000 vaccines have been given by a committed team of Health professionals and Volunteers in a building that has lent itself well to the unexpected task presented by Covid 19.



The organisation required to do this work has been massive and often unseen so our grateful thanks go to all members of the PCN Covid Vaccination Programme and the staff of the 6 GP Surgeries across Purbeck who against an ever-changing, almost daily, programme, have managed to provide so many appointments for us all in Purbeck. The last few weeks have not been easy, as the National Booking system allowed people from outside our area to book appointments but I know first-hand that staff have worked tirelessly to maximise local appointments and should be congratulated - as should the wonderful volunteer team who have maintained an essential presence of stewards, helpers and vaccinators - "Thank you" to everyone involved.

As a Friends group, we have been disheartened to hear that the 'promised' plans for a fully Integrated Community Hub on the old Middle school site are unlikely to be as we had expected, but we will maintain our interest in the future of health service provision across Purbeck and support local services as best we can, particularly those many valued out-patient services provided at the hospital. Who knows, perhaps the 'powers that be' will recognise the important central position of Wareham Hospital in Purbeck and at long last value it as an important asset to the local community, highlighted by the Covid work, and develop it and its services further!

I would like to close by thanking the core staff of Wareham Hospital who have maintained services throughout the year - a small hardworking team who have dedicated themselves to the hospital over a difficult year; we are grateful to you and salute you all. **Sending every best wish for Christmas and we hope for a healthier 2022.**

**Maggie Hardy, Chair Friends of Wareham Hospital**



## Lighting Up Lives on Swanage Pier Shine a light on someone special

This December on Swanage Pier you are invited to dedicate a light to someone special or a group of people you want to show your appreciation to. With a £10.00 sponsorship, you can dedicate a light to celebrate, commemorate, show thanks, remember loved ones or to simply wish someone a Happy Christmas.

Make your dedication today and your light will shine brightly along the railings as part of a stunning installation on Swanage Pier from **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**. Your tribute will feature on the online 'Lighting Up Lives' page, and you will receive an electronic copy of your certificate.

## Big Winter Raffle

Take part in our Big Winter Raffle where you can win fabulous prizes. Tickets can be purchased online or at the Pier. On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December**, come along and visit our stall at the Swanage Christmas Market and participate in our tombola and purchase your raffle tickets.

**For further information on 'Lighting Up Lives' and all our events this December visit [swanagepiertrust.com/events](https://swanagepiertrust.com/events)**

**Amanda Bowden, Volunteer and Event Coordinator**  
[activities@swanagepiertrust.com](mailto:activities@swanagepiertrust.com)

*Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans*



**Swanage & Purbeck Rotary** were very pleased to be able to send 314 Christmas Shoeboxes to deprived children in Montenegro, Albania and Romania. This beat our target of 300 boxes and last year's total of 286. We would like to thank the fantastic community support from schools, individuals and Rotarians.

We are now looking forward to providing some festive cheer and to raise much-needed money for Rotary-supported projects this Christmas:

- The popular **Christmas Market** is to be held **Saturday 4th December**. It will include a wide range of stalls and attractions, including Santa in his grotto.
- The **Rotary Christmas Shop** will open again at 10 Station Road **from 1 December**, selling Christmas crafts and produce.
- The **Christmas Charity Mail** provides a valuable service to those wishing to send cards locally. Cards are 25p each and you can send your cards between 1-11 December. (*Please see separate box elsewhere for details*).
- **Santa's Sleigh** is ready to travel the streets of Swanage, Langton Matravers and Corfe Castle between 1 and 18 December. Routes and times will be included in the **December edition** of the **Purbeck Gazette** in December and via social media.
- We will again be delivering **Christmas Stockings** on Christmas eve to those we would normally have invited to our Christmas Breakfast.

Looking ahead to January the popular **Rotary Young Musician competition** local heat will be held on **Sunday 23 January at the Methodist Church**.

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

*Deirdre Selwyn*

*President, Swanage and Purbeck Rotary*



## Rotary Christmas Charity Mail



This provides a valuable service to those wishing to send cards locally. Take your cards to our collection point adjacent to the Rotary Christmas Shop at 10 Station Road which will be open between 9:30 and 3:00 (not Sundays). Additional posting boxes will be located at Langton Matravers (Kings Arms), Harmans Cross (Foley's Garage), Corfe Castle (Dragon's Bakery), Studland Stores and Ballard Stores (Ullwell). Cards are 25p each and you can send your cards between 1 and 11 December. Cards will be delivered by Christmas Eve.

### 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 we still cannot safely meet face-to-face at the moment, but we find that a problem shared is a problem halved.

### Weekly Zoom Meetings

Swanage & Wareham Depression Support Group meet weekly, on WEDNESDAYS at 7.00PM.

For those of you who have never used this new way of communicating in these lonely and isolated times, please do not be put off. We can easily set you up with a link through your email address. **You will be very welcome.**

### Contact us with confidence

To get in touch please contact Nick on [nickviney@hotmail.com](mailto:nickviney@hotmail.com). Or to find out more please call Nick on **01929 439121** or Mary on **01929 426896**

Swanage & Wareham  
Depression Support Group

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



The Wellbeing Swanage directory is coming together really well now – a huge thank you to everyone who has signed up their group, activity or service! We are so pleased that we will soon be able to start running our Community Connector sessions and work together to build healthier, happier and more connected lives!

So far we have entries from a hugely diverse range of organisations, including: Swanage Library, Durlston Country Park, Herston Hall Seahorses, Swanage Youth Club, Swanage Guiding, Swanage Depression Support, Litter Free Purbeck, Greengage Community Garden, Swanage Cricket Club, the National Trust, the Place of Welcome – Linking Lives, Swanage Volunteer Bureau, Swanage Croquet Club, Purbeck U3A, Dorset Blind Association, Swanage & Langton Matravers Folk Dance Club, Isle of Purbeck Arts Club, Belvedere Singers, Singing for Pleasure, Swanage Jazz Club, Swanage FC Young Kickers, Swanage Walking for Health, Swanage Salvation Army, Swanage Painting Club Women’s Institute (WI) Swanage, AndyKnillArt Studio, Photography for Well-being, Studland History Group, Swanage Breastfeeding Support Group and Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership(SCDP).

Below is an example of what an entry to the directory looks like:



We have kept things simple and searchable, so that people can quickly find the information they need. If you run a local group (for under £5 per session) that you would like to register you can fill in our directory googleform here - <https://forms.gle/vwdvLEctzVLSuK1t8> or email [contact@wellbeingswanage.org](mailto:contact@wellbeingswanage.org) for more information. You can also join our Facebook community, which has over two thousand members, the Wellbeing Swanage Community Response group.

# BOARD GAMES CARD GAMES JIGSAWS

## Herston Village Hall Games Group

All welcome!

The third Tuesday of the month! 7 - 9pm  
January 18th, February 15th and March 15th

Please do bring your own favourite games, jigsaws, cards!  
We all love learning new ones! Children are welcome but those under 16 years must have an adult with them.

Suggested donation £2 to cover hall hire and refreshments

If you have any questions contact Sarah at [seasilverton@gmail.com](mailto:seasilverton@gmail.com) or call 07939612982



## Herston Hall Community Cafe



**Mondays - 10am - 12pm**

Come along for a cup of tea and a slice of cake!  
We want to open up Herston Hall to wider community use, helping create more community connections and a cosy space to relax! A selection of toys will be available for children and food and drink items will have a "suggested donation" price to cover the cost of the ingredients and to contribute towards the hire of the hall. The space will be well ventilated and mask wearing is welcome.





## A message from the Mayor of Swanage Councillor Avril Harris

November was a busy month. I had the pleasure of visiting *Coffee Pot*, an informal get-together at All Saints' Church Hall each Thursday morning where I met some of our older residents. I also attended the new venture, a neighbourly drop-in *Community Café* which runs from 10am to 12 noon every Monday at Herston Hall, which is looking very welcoming after the refurbishments carried out by the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and their volunteers. There are long-term plans to demolish and rebuild the Hall. A weekly Youth club is now running at Herston Hall and its popularity means that it will be open on a second evening each week.

The Youth Club has the use of the hard court on the former St Mark's School Playing Field. Swanage Town Council obtained a 21-year lease of this green space in August and a public meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> November to sound out how local people want this open green space to be used.

Another public meeting took place by Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> November – the newly-formed Swanage Community Housing, which is a community land trust formed to build social rent housing for local people. This need has become even more pressing in view of the rise in housing rents and house prices over the last year. A recent press report said that Purbeck has had the highest rent increases in the country and most of us will be aware that many of our young people have had to move to areas where rents and housing are less expensive.

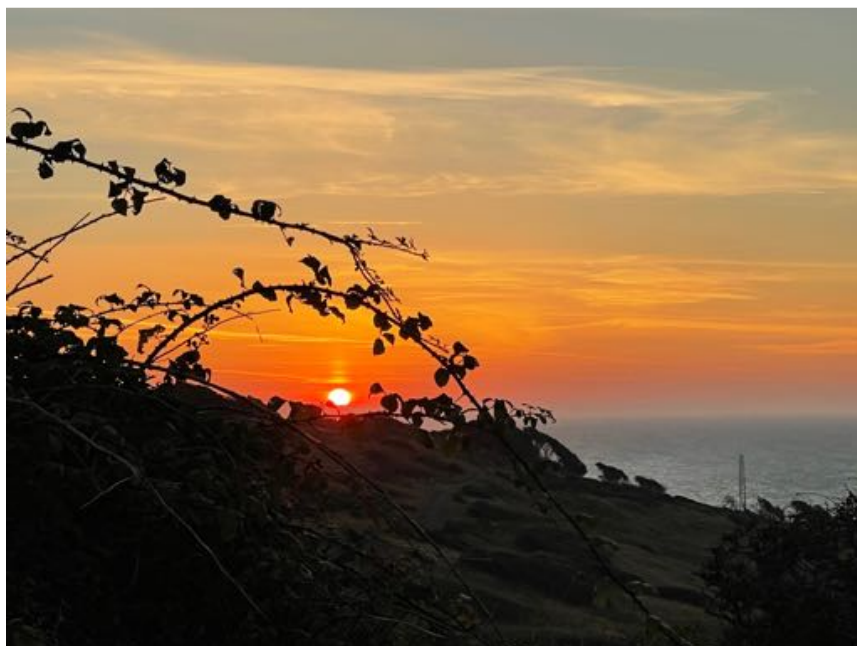
After the scaled-down events of 2020, Armistice Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November saw the usual commemoration at our War Memorial, followed by the return of the Remembrance Sunday parade and Town Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church, where the tall poppies made at the Veterans' forge were once again displayed across the churchyard. Grateful thanks to all those who worked so hard to organise these events!

The Covid 19 Risk Assessment of the Town hall Chamber indicated that there was insufficient space for councillors, officers, and any local residents who wished to attend meetings. After serious discussion, it was decided that full council Meetings in November and December – and potentially January – would be in a larger venue and, accordingly, the November Full Council Meeting took place at the Swanage School. Larger STC committees are meeting informally on Zoom, but smaller committees and groups meet in the Town Hall as normal. Zoom access is available on request, but the quality of the internet cannot be guaranteed. STC meeting agendas and papers are published on the STC website in advance of meetings.

Dates for your diary - The Rotary Christmas Fair will take place in Station Road on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December with *Artisans on the Beach* in the beach huts on Shore Road. The Town Carols by Candlelight Service will be at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December - it's a relief to be able to say "as usual". That said, Covid 19 is still with us, so please be careful to protect yourself and others from this airborne virus by using a face mask when in crowded indoor spaces and shops.

I wish everyone a happy festive season and a peaceful - and healthy - New Year 2022.

*Cllr Avril Harris*



Photograph by David Corben

We have been attending more events and meeting people face to face again in the last few months and we are really enjoying it! We now have a regular monthly stall at Swanage market on the first Friday of the month and have resumed our open meetings, we also have a few upcoming projects that you could be involved with. Here are a few updates, as always get in touch if you are interested in finding out more about any of them:



### News from active travel group

- We have launched a survey to establish interest in the idea of a car club for Swanage, this idea helps reduce unnecessary car ownership and allows people to register to access cars on pay as you go basis – we really need to find out if this idea is feasible in Swanage - for more information and to complete the survey visit our website and/or this link <https://forms.gle/Nad43W7Vu7z3YXAu5>
- 3 bike racks have been installed thanks to a survey carried out by active travel group members in conjunction with Swanage Town Council – these were funded by Dorset Council's 'Welcome Back Fund'
- The active travel group is supporting the Town Councils Rights of Way survey and hosted an online Open meeting on the topic on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### New projects

- We are in the early stages of setting up a new community fridge for Swanage this is to help redistribute food from shops that would otherwise go to waste, we have 5 volunteers so far and will also look at promoting other initiatives that reduce waste.
- There has been some interest in setting up a repair shop and/ or a network locally - we had our first meeting to bring together interested parties that can contribute to making this happen and promoting a repair culture.

In the wake of COP26, and with all the attention the climate and ecological crisis has been receiving I am even more motivated and empowered to work harder to bring positive change and energy to our community. We have made fantastic progress so far and I am really feeling the energy amongst the people I have been meeting in the last few weeks!

What we can do now is continue to join forces, reach more members of our community, and keep the huge momentum of the ground-up movement going. We can all make small changes but as a group these changes all add up and it snowballs! Will you 'sign up for small changes?' Swanage alone has a population of around 10,000 imagine the impact for example of us all reducing our waste by just one bag a week?! It's not about a few people being perfect but lots of us being imperfect but improving that makes the big difference.

In the meantime - I hope you all have a lovely Christmas time and can get a chance to relax and enjoy the festivities. See you in the new year!

**Sarah Spurling, Sustainable Swanage Project Officer**



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



# STUDLAND SNIPPETS



## Studland Parish Council

Parish councillors and local volunteers successfully planted bulbs on the road verges. This extended the initial planting conducted last year. You will see the difference as you drive or preferably walk through the village.

Residents in Beach Road are experiencing difficulties with inconsiderate parking and limited traffic regulations. Dog walkers, staff at a local hotel and early morning walkers are encouraged to reschedule their activities and to make use of the National Trust car parks. The Parish Council are approaching Dorset Council to extend the hours and dates of the existing Traffic Regulation Order.

The motion from the Parish Council to the AGM of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils was successfully carried and supported by 96% of the councils at the AGM. The motion called for Dorset Council to return to issuing yellow notices and neighbours' notices for planning applications and to return to issuing the weekly lists of planning applications and tree works applications.

The issue of road safety at the village cross roads will be subject to a site visit with the new portfolio holder of Dorset Council responsible for highways.

The Parish Council has a new lengthsman whose job will contribute towards the appearance of the village.

## The Purbeck Society

The survey of non-listed heritage assets in Swanage has now been published. This is an important survey and a fascinating read for anyone interested in Swanage. Find it on the Purbeck Society website. <https://www.facebook.com/PurbeckSociety/>.

The Christmas meeting will be held at Newton Manor on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 14.30pm. Mince pies etc plus a brief talk. The AGM will be held on 14.01.21 at 14.30pm in the community room of the Mowlem Theatre, where there will be a talk on "European Adventures".

## CPRE Campaign to Protect Rural England

(CPRE) the countryside charity. Support is being given for two projects relating to hedges. Hedges are seen as important contributions towards actions on climate change. Let's have more and thicker hedges and even a gurt great Dorset hedge!

Dorset CPRE are working with DorsetCAN (Climate Action Network) to develop with other organisations. (ie, community groups and local councils) - a re-think of the Dorset Local Plan. Any such re-think will press for much lower levels of housing, priority for local and affordable housing and for the maintenance and enhancement of the green spaces including the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Green Belt in Dorset. Dorset CPRE claim that the county does not have the capacity to accommodate the 39,000 houses as set out in the Dorset Local Plan. Enhancement and protection of the ecological, historic, and natural assets in the county should be a priority in the Dorset Local Plan. It is hoped that readers agree.

**A post 16 school and college prize scheme has been started for pupils and students interested in matters relating to nature and the environment in Dorset.**

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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**

**SWANAGE JAZZ CLUB** is back in business! We will, once again, be holding our monthly meetings on the last Thursday in each month, starting on **27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**, with a talk on the music of **Andre Previn**. The venue will be in The Centre, Chapel Lane BH19 2PW, which is off the High Street, behind the Swanage Day Centre. Everyone is welcome.

WE ARE ALSO proud to present the **Spats Langham-Mike Piggott Trio** for our first gig since February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020, at **Harman's Cross Village Hall at 7.30pm on January 8 2022**.

**Tom 'Spats' Langham** is an immensely talented and enjoyable musician, who combines the gypsy swing of Django Reinhardt and the blues guitars of Eddie Lang and Lonnie Johnson. **Mike Piggott** is one of the best jazz violinists who plays his own modified and electric instruments. The rhythm section of the Trio is **Malcolm Sked**, playing acoustic bass and sousaphone and some other instruments of his own invention.

From the hot jazz of the Twenties to the swing of the thirties and forties, from the Charleston to the Bossa-Nova, the Trio plays in a wide range of styles and rhythms. Spats' singing, jazz history knowledge and humour add greatly to audience enjoyment

There will be a licensed bar and tickets are priced at **£10** each and are available from Swanage Jazz Club Treasurer, c/o 22 Streche Road, Swanage BH19 1NF. For more details call Mel on 01929 426127.

 <p>IS PROUD TO PRESENT</p>  <p><b>SPATS LANGHAM TRIO</b></p> <p><b>TICKETS £10 - Licensed Bar</b></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:melvyn.norris@icloud.com">melvyn.norris@icloud.com</a></p>	<p><b>AT HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL*</b> <b>SATURDAY 8 JANUARY - 7.30PM</b></p> <p><i>Licensed Bar opens at 7pm</i> <i>Music starts at 7.30pm</i></p> <p><b>TOM "SPATS" LANGHAM</b> 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.</p> <p>His band features two very well-known figures in British jazz:</p> <p><b>Malcolm Sked (bass and sousaphone) and Mike Piggott (Violin)</b></p> <p><b>*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</b></p> <p><b>PLENTY OF PARKING ON SITE</b></p> <p><b>WE HAVE TO LIMIT THE NUMBERS WHO ATTEND BECAUSE OF COVID-19 - SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO MAKE SURE OF YOUR SEATS!</b></p>
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## Need Advice?

**Citizens Advice's trained friendly advisers are here to help whenever you need advice to find a way forward. At this time, we are particularly able to help those facing financial difficulties, including those in 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, visit [www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk) to request email or telephone call-back. There is also a wealth of self-help advice accessible through our website at [www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/online](http://www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/online)

We are able to help most people either by phone or email. However, when required we can offer follow-up face-to-face appointments with specialist advisers at various locations across Purbeck, including our Swanage outreach.

**Help to Claim Universal Credit** – a limited number of face-to-face appointments are now available in Wareham

**In addition, 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 food bank

## Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



## Defibrillator knowledge can help save a life!

In recent months there has been much National media coverage about the significant benefit of having a defibrillator available in the event of a cardiac arrest.

In Swanage we recognised the 'needs' and the 'benefits' and in 2015 formed the Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership with the initial intention of providing 4 public access defibrillators across the town .

Six years on and thanks to amazing community support, Swanage and the surrounding villages now have 35 AED's ( Automated External Defibrillators ) positioned strategically across the local area.

Ensuring the sustainability of this community project has always been a major aim of the 4 Steering group members where monitoring and maintaining of the equipment is a key requirement. To do this, SCDP is so very fortunate to have the support of a wonderful team of 'Defib Guardians' who look after the cabinets and make sure the defibrillators are in working order, reporting back to a central point linked to the local Ambulance Trust. We thank them all for their commitment and dedication to this project- none of us knowing when we may be the person needing a defibrillator!

Fundraising has been limited because of COVID but we have been very grateful to receive a small grant from Swanage and Purbeck Rotary and more recently we have been delighted to receive £400 from a fundraising event held by Alan and Anne Fry at Kingston Country Courtyard .

Any financial support is always welcomed to replace batteries and pads and can be made through Corbens in Station Road, Swanage.

When COVID allows we will be restarting our Defib familiarisation sessions but in the meantime please do look out for the green/ yellow boxes containing a defibrillator - your knowledge could help to save a life !

**Maggie Hardy , SCDP**



## The Dorset National Park would answer the call of nature

*The Dorset National Park Team wishes you a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy, thriving New Year.*

The Government has confirmed its commitment to create new National Parks for England. It sees National Parks playing a vital role:

- promoting nature recovery
- bringing people closer to nature for its benefits to health and well-being
- securing a greener, prosperous and thriving future for our communities and economy
- and helping us all to address the climate and nature emergencies.

Dorset deserves and needs a National Park, and all the benefits this would bring for our county, communities, economy, environment and heritage. Dorset is the outstanding National Park candidate. Government Ministers want new-style National Parks. Dorset has the opportunity to propose a National Park which is tailored to meet the future needs of our county and communities.

As COP26 recognised, the climate and nature emergencies present a huge challenge to us all. Stressing the link between the crises of climate and nature, the conclusion of COP26 emphasised the importance of “protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems” to help achieve the goal of the Paris Agreement to limit warming to well below 2 degrees C. A Dorset National Park can help the county and the country achieve these aims.

We hope you enjoy the Dorset National Park Team’s Winter 2021 Newsletter: <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/post/winter-2021-newsletter>. This:

- Notes how National Parks are addressing the linked climate and nature emergencies

- Suggests how a Dorset National Park would help address the challenges facing Dorset
- Outlines a partnership-based, community-led, streamlined approach to planning, with a Dorset National Park
- Summarises how a National Park would bring benefits to all of Dorset and have national appeal.

Dorset’s National Park would work in partnership with the Dorset Council and local communities for a thriving future. We look forward to the further discussions with Natural England on the proposal.

Please sign up for the latest news and join us at <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com> or via Facebook.

With best wishes

*The Dorset National Park Team*



*Winter Purbeck - by Richard Brown*



*Corfe Castle in sunset message - by Mike White*



# SWANAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS

## Covid Boosters

Purbeck Primary Care Networks (PCN) vaccination centre at Wareham Hospital continues to run a mix of booking systems in an attempt to efficiently fill the clinics and make sure a high percentage of the slots are used for Purbeck residents. Initially the National Booking System (NBS) was resulting in large numbers of out of area patients using Wareham, but in recent weeks locals have booked more of the NBS slots. They have also run parallel 'booked by surgeries' slots but this is quite intensive on surgery staff time and they are extremely busy.

**From the end of November, surgeries have swapped to using a local text booking system. If the surgery has a mobile phone number for the patient, patients are sent a text with a link to book at Wareham. The text says:**

*"Dear....*

*You have been invited to book your COVID-19 booster vaccination. If you already have an appointment, please ignore this message.*

*Please click on the link to book*

***Swanage Medical Practice on behalf of  
Purbeck Primary Care Network"***

**If you do not have a mobile phone, our surgery will contact you direct so you should still get an appointment. Hopefully this system will allow locals to book a convenient slot at Wareham and we will fill empty slots by continuing to release NBS slots on a rolling basis.**

All existing bookings by surgeries or on NBS are still valid so please do NOT book an extra appointment if you already have one! The Wareham vaccine centre are currently vaccinating about 2,000 patients a week.

## Flu Vaccinations

We are working hard on our flu campaign with over 3500 patients already vaccinated. It has been a challenging year, with disruption to deliveries (nationally) which has caused delays and frustration.

All eligible patients will now have had a vaccine or been invited to our flu clinics. If you did not receive an invite by either letter or text, please contact the surgery to arrange your appointment.

## Practice News

We thought it might be helpful for you to see how our team have been looking after patients at our practice.

**Face-to-Face appointments & Telephone Consultations** – in just ten working days in October our team of GPs, Advanced Nurse practitioners Primary Care Paramedics, Pharmacists and treatment room staff have consulted with **2414** patients. We continue to offer telephone triage with our GPs, Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Primary Care Paramedic, with the clinician arranging a face to face appointment for you if appropriate.

**Prescriptions** – in just ten working days in October our team processed 4710 prescriptions items. Did you know, you can order your prescriptions using Online Access? For more information about this please visit our website: <https://www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Online-Access>

**Clinical Correspondence** – during just five working days in October, our team of GPs and admin staff dealt with over 1200 letters received into our Practice. This was a mixture of consultant letters, discharge summaries and letters from patients etc. All have to be reviewed, coded and actioned accordingly.

**Phone calls received by the Practice** – in an eight week period up to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021, our team answered just over 19,000 calls from patients. We recognise that this volume of calls means that some patients are waiting longer than we would like, however, we would like to reassure you that our team are working hard to answer all calls, extra provision has been put in place during peak times and that we are currently reviewing the call data available to us to help with planning and decision making for the future.

**Safety Measures within the surgery** – As you can see, we are very busy and with Covid positive numbers still high and increasing in our area, we need to protect our workforce to ensure we can maintain services for our patients. Unfortunately access to locum (temp) GPs and other temporary clinicians and admin staff is extremely challenging and there is just not the availability in our area. Many of our team have had to self-isolate as a precautionary measure due to Covid and while we aim to keep disruption to a minimum for our patients, staff missing from any part of our team impacts on what we can offer patients.

With this in mind, the following safety measures remain in our surgery:

**Screening questions at the front door via an intercom \* Face coverings must be worn \* Social distancing in the building \* Telephone triage will remain, with clinicians booking the face-to-face appointment, if appropriate.**

## Hello and Goodbye...

We are currently recruiting for a GP Partner or Salaried GP. If you know of a GP who might be looking to move to the area, please let them know about our current vacancy [www.swanagemedical.org.uk](http://www.swanagemedical.org.uk)

We welcome **Holly Coombs** who has joined our Medical Secretary and Admin team and **Janice Budd** who is new in post in our receptionist team.

In December we say goodbye to **Dr Kate Thompson**, our GP Registrar, as she continues with her medical training. Patients and staff will miss her and we wish her all the best in her career as a military doctor.

We are also saying goodbye to **Liz Pond** who has worked at the Practice since 2010. Liz has worked in different areas of the Practice and in more recent years has been the Treatment Room admin lead. We would like to thank Liz for all her years of hard work and dedication, we will miss her from our team.

## THANK YOU

*We know this is a difficult time for our community and we thank you for your understanding and for the messages of support we have received from many of our patients, it really means a lot to our team who are working hard to continue to provide an excellent services for our patients.*

## The most appropriate way to seek help

**AT SWANAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE** our receptionists are trained care navigators; their role is to actively listen, to signpost people to sources of help, advocacy and support. They are supported and guided by the GPs at the Practice and will arrange for you to speak to a clinician or team member appropriate to your needs:

**Advanced Nurse Practitioner** –The conditions they see and treat, cover from head to toe, both acute and chronic conditions. They diagnose a wide range of conditions including diabetes, hypertension, urinary tract infections, respiratory infections and common skin conditions. They can refer to secondary care either for emergency admission or to clinics such as the rapid access chest pain clinic. Many patients also attend for advice about starting contraception, menopause and pre-pregnancy planning. Part of their day is allocated for checking test results and reviewing treatment plans. This may involve reviewing medicines, or referring to specialist nurses such as diabetes, heart failure or respiratory Nurse Specialists.

**Primary Care Paramedic** - Our Paramedic came to the practice 18 months ago after working as a Paramedic for 15 years for South Western Ambulance Service, including the Swanage Car. She now works as an Advanced Clinical Practitioner as part of the Duty team with the Duty Doctors and Advanced Nurse Practitioners to provide care for patient's presenting with acute problems that need help that day. She phones, sees, examines, diagnoses, and treats patients at the surgery and also visits patients at home who are too sick to attend the surgery and may need hospital admission.

**Practice Nurses** – Our Practice Nurses all have specialist skills, this could be INR monitoring, Asthma, Diabetes, Chronic leg ulcers, smear taking, child immunisations and vaccinations and other general Practice nurse skills.

**GPs** – our team of GPs are here to offer patients telephone consultations and if appropriate, they will arrange for you to be seen face-to-face by either them, another clinician - such as one of our Advanced Nurse Practitioners - or they will signpost you to another service for support.

**Clinical Pharmacists** – are experts in medicines and are very much part of our core Practice team. They can prescribe, so can issue your medication, answer complex queries about your medication. They can review your medication so you don't need to see a GP. They can also signpost you to other specialists or services, can complete hospital discharge reviews and manage medication for long term conditions.

**Pharmacists at Local Chemists** – As qualified healthcare professionals, they can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines for a range of minor illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, tummy trouble and aches and pains. If symptoms suggest it's something more serious, pharmacists have the right training to make sure you get the help you need. For example, they will tell you if you need to see a GP, nurse or other healthcare professional. All pharmacists train for 5 years in the use of medicines. They are also trained in managing minor illnesses and providing health and wellbeing advice.

**Social Prescribers** - Social prescribing is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs. Those who could benefit from social prescribing include people with mild or long-term mental health problems, people with complex needs, people who are socially isolated and those with multiple long-term conditions. The social prescribers will help you with all non-clinical aspects. You can self-refer to our social prescribers by calling 03033 030153 or visit: [www.helpandcare.org.uk/services/self-management](http://www.helpandcare.org.uk/services/self-management).

**Call NHS 111** - if you have an urgent medical problem, but you're not sure what to do.

# EAST DORSET HEALTH & WELLBEING GROUP

## Information Update 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### New COVID-19 Health Behaviours Campaign

A new public health behaviours campaign '[Stop COVID-19 hanging around](#)' has launched demonstrating the importance of simple actions, and how they reduce the risks of catching COVID-19.

With fewer restrictions in place this winter following the success of the vaccination programme, it is important for everyone to [keep doing their bit](#) to keep infection rates down, this includes; the act of refreshing air in the home when people have visitors, testing before higher risk events and wearing face coverings in enclosed spaces.

### Make Sure You Have Rapid Test Kits At Home

Public Health Dorset are asking everyone to take part in twice weekly rapid COVID-19 testing to check you're not infectious.

If you've got children in school, make sure that you have enough lateral flow tests at home just in case you're asked by the school or NHS Test and Trace to carry out extra testing. Cases are high in Dorset, so we've asked schools to take extra measures where necessary.

You should do a rapid test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days) to check if you have the virus. If you or your family test positive and self-isolate, it helps to stop the virus spreading. Even if you're vaccinated, there's still a chance you can pass COVID-19 on, so you should keep getting tested regularly. Around one in three people with COVID-19 don't have symptoms but can still infect other people. Tests are free and you can get them in the following ways:

- Order Lateral Flow Device tests from the [Government website](#) to be delivered to your home
- Collect tests from participating local pharmacies: [Find a pharmacy near you](#). Remember, you now need to [get a collect code](#) or call 119 (free from landlines between 7am and 11pm) for a code to be able to pick up your tests.

It's important to report your result [HERE](#) within 24 hours (positive, negative or void) every time you do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test at home.

### COVID-19 Booster Vaccine

People can now book their [COVID-19 booster appointment](#) five months (152 days) after their second dose, meaning they could receive their top up vaccine on the day they become eligible at six months (182 days). Booster vaccines can still only be given after a six-month interval (at least six months after your second vaccine dose), but allowing appointments to be booked at five months means people can get their jabs booked in ahead.

Those who are eligible can book their COVID-19 booster appointment by visiting [national booking system website](#) or calling 119.

As well as booking an appointment, people can benefit from a small number of walk in sites. For more information please visit the [NHS website](#).

### Dorset Council's Residents Survey

It's not too late to give us your views about where you live and how you feel about Dorset Council. The residents' survey is important to help us understand residents' priorities and experiences and will help us make improvements to council services. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

This survey is being conducted by Information by Design (IbyD) on behalf of Dorset Council. IbyD are an independent market research company, are members of the Market Research Society (MRS) and abide by the MRS Code of Conduct.

### Enter the prize draw!

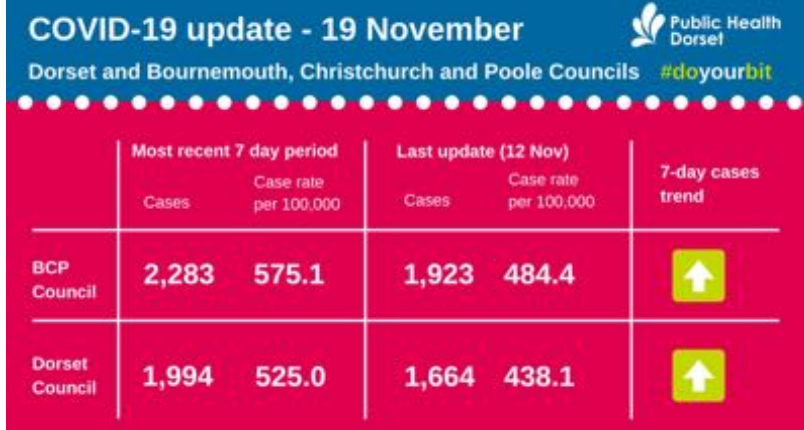
If you complete the questionnaire, we will enter you into a prize draw for the chance to win a top prize of £100 in shopping/Amazon vouchers or one of three free garden waste collection vouchers.

### How to take part in the survey

If you have any questions about how to complete the survey, please telephone Information by Design on 01482 467467

If you have any concerns about this questionnaire you can contact Dorset Council Customer Services on 01305 221000.

COVID-19 cases are rising across both Dorset Council areas and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council areas. We're also seeing an increase in the number of COVID patients in hospitals. Read more in our [latest update](#).



# CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

*“Success isn’t always about greatness, it’s about consistency. Consistent hard work gains success, greatness will come.”*

**Corfe Castle Charities** – Corfe Castle Parish Council(CCCP) is proud to announce their support to re-nominate Katy Bennett as a Corfe Castle Charities trustee.

**Adult Fitness Equipment** – You may have noticed that the adult fitness equipment is cordoned off, this is due to an item failing internally. Due to the age of the equipment, it was deemed unsafe to allow the public to carry on using the equipment.

**Lights on the West Street Toilet Block** – In October a resident contacted the clerk to inform the council that the lights outside the toilet block are on all night, and shine through resident’s windows. In November the issue was raised at the full council meeting, and it was decided that the lights couldn’t be turned off at night, but that sensors could be fitted. It was also decided that the bulbs would be changed to low wattage LED bulbs to help reduce costs.

*If you have any issue no matter how big or small, please contact the Clerk and the Parish Council will investigate.*

**2022/23 Budget** – Corfe Castle Parish Council is looking to set the budget for 2022/23 and have a legal obligation to set the Precept in January 2022. As the Parish Council budget affects your council tax please come along to the December full council meeting to hear the proposed budget.

**Extraordinary Council Meeting** - On 22<sup>nd</sup> October Corfe Castle Parish Council held this well-attended meeting to discuss the proposed Corfe Castle Community Land Trust housing development in West Street for 20 houses (16 affordable homes and 4 for sale at market value).

The Parish Council and attendees heard presentations from the Community Land Trust and a group of objectors, followed by 11 members of the public sharing their views. After a small adjournment, Cllrs had time to ask more questions, before having a further discussion on whether CCCP supported or objected to the application. The Council resolved by 5 votes to 1, with three abstentions, to support the application.

The Parish Council requested Dorset Council to impose several conditions including:

- No increase in the proportion of market housing,
- Exceptional controls on the vehicular access to the site, time of year, and hours of work during the construction period,
- The houses to be as zero carbon as possible,
- The specialist landscaping advice should be followed,
- Street lighting should be minimised and lastly,
- That Dorset Council carry out a safety and traffic assessment on West Street and the entrance to the square. A number of suggestions for improving safety were put forward.

The Parish Council in October requested, through Cllr C Brooks, that Dorset Council consider this application via committee rather than via a delegated officer.

A full record of the meeting is on the Council website. The decision on the application will be made by Dorset Council later this year or early next year.

## Planning Applications:

- **P/FUL/2021/03237** - Roadside Verges Hartland and Norden, Middlebere Heath and New Mills Heath, Wareham, BH20 5DN - **Recommendation:** No Objection
- **P/VOC/2021/02676** - The Potting Shed, Glebe House, Bucknowle, Wareham, BH20 5NS - **Recommendation:** No Objection
- **P/FUL/2021/03526 & P/LBC/2021/03683**- 49 East Street, Corfe Castle, Wareham, BH20 5EE - **Recommendation:** No Objection





- **P/VOC/2021/03333** - West Lynch Farm Kingston Hill, Kingston, Wareham, BH20 5LG - **Recommendation:** No Objection
- **P/CLP/2021/03485** - Sunnydale Higher Gardens, Corfe Castle, Wareham, BH20 5ES - **Recommendation:** No Objection

### Treeworks Applications:

- **P/TRC/2021/03995** - The Village Bakery The Square Corfe Castle Wareham BH20 5EZ - **Recommendation:** No Objection
- **P/TRC/2021/04306** - 85 West Street Corfe Castle Wareham BH20 5HB - **Recommendation:** No Objection
- **P/TRT/2021/03899** - 25 Colletts Close Corfe Castle Wareham BH20 5HG - **Recommendation:** Objection

Full details can be found on the Dorset Council website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning/planning-application-search-and-comment>.

## DORSET COUNCIL UPDATES

**Purbeck Park** – Dorset Council have agreed to charge £4 per day as a tier one car park, not £6, with the intention of trying to get a better bus service and possible park and ride.

**Norden Footpath** – The proceedings have been delayed for the footpath because of a survey that was required to inform whether an environmental impact assessment was needed.

## NATIONAL TRUST UPDATES

**Christmas Events** – There will be no late-night events this year at the castle, The National Trust (NT) has opted to take a different approach for 2021 mainly focusing around a daytime offer on the weekends and school holidays during December.

**Village Welcome Map** – This has gone off to the designers and the NT is waiting for a first draft to come through. Once the NT have this, they will start approaching the other businesses in the village to see if they wish to be involved. We would like to emphasise that there will be no costs for businesses in the village.

**Village Museum** - The National Trust and Town Trust committee have had their initial meeting about working in partnership to develop, update and enhance the Village Museum. It's an exciting partnership that both parties are looking forward to being part of. We have a tentative plan of action of where we would like to go and as more information comes to light we will share with the community.

**Next Council Meeting** – **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021** 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

## KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS – Cllr Louise Haywood

*"I have moved around a lot, both in the UK and abroad, but have now lived in Corfe for 14 years. I trained as an Art teacher, taught, and then joined the Army. I served for 6 years, came out on pregnancy, and then followed and assisted with my husband's career. I am a keen walker and tennis player, and I am passionate about local history. I am the Chairman of The Corfe Castle Town Trust which runs the Town Hall and Museum, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council for St Edwards, I sing in Purbeck Arts Choir at Swanage and until recently was a volunteer at Dorset History Centre helping them cataloguing their acquisitions. I also volunteer with the National Trust as a researcher."*



**Contact me** – Email [cllrlhaywoodccpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrlhaywoodccpc@gmail.com)

### Corfe Castle Parish Council contact details:

Clerk – Michelle Harrington, Telephone 01202 670105, email [corfecastlepc@aol.com](mailto:corfecastlepc@aol.com) or write to 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC>

Website - <https://www.corfecastlepc.org.uk>

## NOTICE OF CO-OPTION

### Corfe Castle Parish Council

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR THE POSITION OF COUNCILLOR

The Parish Council has a vacancy and is looking to hear from anyone interested in serving as a Councillor. Interested parties should submit a letter of application, explaining why they would like to be a Parish Councillor, and detailing what they would bring to the role.

To be able to stand as a Parish Councillor, an applicant must:

- Be at least 18 years old on the day of application:
- Be a British citizen, and eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union.

**Plus, you must meet at least one of the following four qualifications:**

- You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the Parish from the day of application onwards.
- Have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the Parish during the whole of the 12 months before the day of application.
- Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of application has been the parish.
- Have lived in the parish, or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of application.

Interested parties should write to the Parish Council by 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Candidates for co-option will be invited to attend the full Council meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall (Bill Carter Rm) to make a short, maximum 5 minutes address to the Parish Council giving your reasons for wishing to be considered as a Parish Councillor.

If you would like any further information, please contact Michelle Harrington, Clerk & RFO, Corfe Castle Parish Council, 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ, email [corfecastlepc@aol.com](mailto:corfecastlepc@aol.com), Telephone 01202 670105



*Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans*



# Christmas in Swanage

Swanage has a lot to offer at Christmas. Our wide range of independent shops and attractions offer you the chance to discover unique and individual gifts and have a fantastic family day out at the same time.



**£1 per day parking in Swanage for December**  
Main Beach and Broad Road Car Parks

## CHRISTMAS EVENT GUIDE 2021

### Artisans on the Beach

Every weekend from 27th November to 2nd January  
Local unique hand-crafted items presented for sale by the crafters themselves from the Swanage beach huts.

### Swanage Railway Steam and Lights

Various dates from 27th November to 31st December  
Festive, evocative, dramatic, and colourful steam and lights train journey with music through the Isle of Purbeck countryside.  
[www.swanagerailway.co.uk](http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk)

### Durlston at Christmas

From 18th November to 30th December  
Crafting events throughout December. Join Rudolph's Reindeer Roundup from the 18th December and try out seasonal fayra at Seventhwave.

### Christmas Lights Switch On

Saturday 27th November 3.00pm to 4.30pm  
Come and join us as we switch on our festive lights.

### Rotary Christmas Market

Saturday 4th December 10.00am to 4.00pm  
A traditional Christmas market on Station Road.

And don't forget that Swanage is famous for its wide range of independent shops selling items that you won't find anywhere else. Why not make a day of it and sample one of our cafés or restaurants, or maybe just have fish and chips on our award winning beach. Whatever you choose you can be assured that you'll have a fantastic day out.

For more information and a full list of daily events during the Christmas period, please contact the Swanage Information Centre on 01929 766018, [welcome@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:welcome@swanage.gov.uk) or visit us by the beach. We are open Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 4.30pm and we would love to give you a festive welcome to our town.

