

SWANAGE AREA FORUM NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Welcome to the March issue of The Swanage Area Forum and The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust Newsletter.

Just when it seemed that the Covid crisis was probably quietly ebbing away and at last there were things to look forward to, particularly with Spring just around the corner, we are confronted with a disaster unfolding in the Ukraine, which though well away from our homes here in Purbeck is near enough to worry us all. With the recent increase in the number of nationalistic regimes in the world, whether they be of the populist or authoritarian types, it is no wonder that there are increasing world tensions and the risks of wars that accompany same. For those amongst us who are old enough to have witnessed the effects of World War 2, or had our close families' experiences passed onto us regarding the awful destruction and carnage of that war it is even more of a shock. It's almost unbearable to think of the horror that all those desperate people and families are going through as I write. Let us hope that things in Eastern Europe - and indeed the rest of the world - improve before our next issue.

Mel Norris

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

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Gerry and Jenny of our little team would really appreciate it if you could please note the preferred deadline for your contributions/photos/news for the April issue of this newsletter will be **17th MARCH.**



Pleasure Grounds Project Update



We are now in the final year of our Durlston Pleasure Grounds project and will be spending the next few months completing the final parts of the project. Just a few of the upcoming plans include;

- **Restoration of the Egyptian Seat (pictured)**

The bench was commissioned by George Burt in 1887. It's thought to have been inspired by a trip he took to Egypt, where he repeatedly took to the Great Pyramids with a hammer and chisel to take his own specimens!

- **New gates at Tilly Whim Caves**

These will allow visitors to peer through the lower gate into the cave. The main cave will remain closed for safety reasons and to not disturb the bats. We will also close the upper gate during the adder season - I've seen them fall from here one too many times!

- **Planting Black Pines throughout the woodland**

Black Pine trees were once a prominent feature of what was once known as the 'Pine-cliff walk'. However, most of these pines have been lost over the years, with very few new ones having naturally regenerated. Planting new saplings will conserve this aspect of the park's heritage.



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS in the project include:

- **978m of dry stone wall has been rebuilt since 2018**

Originally built in the late 1800s, George Burt hoped that the walls lining walks through the Pleasure Grounds would provide a unique selling point for a housing development, but the scheme was largely unsuccessful. Over time, most of walls had collapsed and the stone taken away, so it's quite the achievement to have nearly finished restoring this important feature of the landscape.

- **Over £200 was raised at our 'Shed' Crafts Stall**

Thank you to everyone who donated or made items for the stall. The top selling items were Plants, Daffodils, Bird Boxes, and Gerald's wood-carved dolphins. The money raised goes towards the Shed and all of the great work being done across the Pleasure Grounds Project.



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

With all the physical work going on around the park, let us not forget to mention some of our other volunteers, such as those at Durlston Castle. Our lovely counter volunteers are always ready to greet you on arrival at the Visitor Centre, help give information and answer any questions you might have. Behind the scenes, they are always busy helping with admin, managing the shop and assisting the rangers. A massive thankyou to them all!

WHERE ARE THE COWS?

We have 14 of last years calves currently grazing in the Lighthouse Field. The 'mums' are still back at the farm and expected back (with new littl'uns) in April.

PARKRUN

We have been discussing a 'Parkrun' here at Durlston. Working with the Parkrun organisation, we are very close to finalising a route and ensuring all the required guidelines are in place. The route will follow the surfaced paths through the wood and along the cliff, avoiding the more delicate habitats of the meadows and downs and is set to be one of the hardest-going Parkrun's yet! For those not sure what it is - Parkrun is a 5km route which is 'run, jogged, walked' every Saturday morning starting 9am by anybody and everybody! We hope these will begin in the spring.

55 Years: Proud to be Friends



Wareham Hospital Friends have supported the hospital, its services and - very importantly - its staff for well over 55 years and have been very proud of that association with such an important asset to local health services in the wider Purbeck.

Sadly over the years the hospital has not received the recognition it deserves for its in-patient care (until October 2018 when all beds were closed) and for the many out-patient services it continues to provide and until Covid hit and the Hospital used as the Purbeck Vaccination Centre, many did not even know there was a hospital in Wareham! This situation has changed but we were disappointed to see that the hospital does not feature on a new map of Wareham recently unveiled by the Wareham Mayor at the Railway Station.

Since 2015 the Friends have taken a very proactive approach aiming to work "with" the Statutory organisations. We recognised that health care would be provided in a different way in future; in our own homes when possible, with the support of community teams. We changed our Constitution to also support the Purbeck community services based at Bonnets Lane in Wareham. Staff here work as an Integrated team with social care colleagues aiming to 'join up' our care.

Established links enable us to hear of the many initiatives being developed and hopefully extended in Purbeck including Community Support Workers (the yellow Angels) who provide much valued and appreciated community palliative /end of life care.

Our Friends membership has remained stable during Covid but we would welcome new members to help strengthen our voice. Our membership Secretary Di Goff will be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help us. Di can be contacted through the hospital in Streche Road, Wareham.

We are grateful for all the support we receive to help us promote, acknowledge and support our local services in Purbeck and send our sincere thanks.

Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair



Need Advice? Citizens Advice is now OPEN for drop-ins

We are here to help whenever you need advice to find a way forward. No appointment is necessary. Whatever your problem, our advice is free, confidential and impartial. Drop-ins are now available at:

Wareham Office - Tuesday & Thursday
10.30am-1pm

Wimborne Office - Monday & Wednesday
10.30am-1pm

The Centre, Barns Road, Ferndown - Thursday
10am-2pm

Ferndown Library - Tuesday & Thursday
10am-2pm

Or you can talk to an adviser, by phoning **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 www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk 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 Statutory Sick Pay and rights when laid off work
- Advice for the self-employed including the Income Support Scheme
- Energy and water advice, and support schemes available
- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to a food bank

www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk



A message from the Mayor of Swanage - Councillor Avril Harris

As I write this, we're at the end of the second day of Storm Eunice. Horizontal rain has given way to sunshine but we still have very strong winds and I'm wondering what damage there will have been in the town by the end of the storm. We're told this is a "once in a hundred years" event but it's clear we're seeing more gales and "weather events" than a few years ago.

One of the projects involving the Town Council is joint working with Dorset Council on flood prevention proposals for the Lower High Street and along the Mowlem end of Shore Road, raising the level of the sea wall a little. It's hoped that this stretch of Shore Road will eventually be pedestrianised, though this will take some years to achieve.

Covid 19 apart, climate change is the greatest challenge we face. Along with many, if not most, other councils, the Town council declared a Climate Crisis in September 2019 (including the intention to "use its best endeavours to make Swanage Town Council carbon neutral by 2030") and formed an Environment Policy with an Action Plan which is updated as items are completed. Recently, a decision was made to engage an energy consultant to support council staff in continuing the development of a 'Carbon Neutral 2030' plan.

Pandemic precautions are now reducing so a "mayoral engagement" earlier this month was a visit to the Swanage Ladies' Club which was celebrating its fifth birthday with a very grand cake (I enjoyed a very tasty slice). Formed by members of a former branch of the Women's Institute, this sociable group meets monthly at All Saints' Church Hall to enjoy a get-together and a contribution from a guest speaker.

It's pleasing to see that the #Willdoes mobile youth bus, to help the mental and physical wellbeing of young people, will be in Swanage at Main Beach Car Park regularly. This specially fitted out double-decker bus is the result of a tremendous fund-raising campaign led by Lesley Paddy in memory of her son, Will.

As the days lengthen and we see signs of spring, at last we can look forward to the return of our many regular events starting with the Swanage Classic Car Show the weekend after Easter. This will be the last organised by Jenny Lazenbury who is bowing out after an amazing nearly 30 years! This event is the first in a very long list – and it's an increasing list too, particularly with a number of sports events having arrived in the last few years.

Cllr Avril Harris



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



Calling All Jazz Lovers!



IF YOU ARE interested in Jazz music, why not join other jazz lovers at the **Swanage Jazz Club** who meet regularly on the last Thursday of each month? We meet at the Centre at Chapel Lane, High Street, Swanage (just behind the Swanage Day Centre.)

You will be most welcome, refreshments are provided and entrance is free. Each month, we usually have a speaker who gives a talk with the aid of CDs or DVDs on jazz music of every persuasion.

For more information phone 01929 426127.



'Aquarius', the ladies club based in Corfe Castle, held on the first Tuesday of each month, continues to thrive and welcomes new members.

Our February meeting saw us nearly back to the usual numbers that attend our meetings. It was lovely that so many people felt able and keen to come and meet one another once again in a friendly and safe environment. There was a very convivial atmosphere. Hopefully this will now continue into the future.

Anne Bond gave us a very entertaining talk about being 'A High Sheriff's Wife' for the County of Dorset, for the year 2000. This involved some interesting experiences including going to Buckingham Palace but also some very funny moments. She showed us a picture of the garb her husband had to wear for formal occasions and brought along a selection of the hats that she wore to events, having bargained with Michael that she would wear a different hat each time, as he had to wear the very 'fetching' black stockings that he loathed!

At this meeting we also voted on the 2 local charities that were proposed by members as deserving our support for the coming year. The voting was extremely close between the 'Friends of Corfe Surgery', as a means of providing funds for any equipment that might be needed

for use in the Community and 'Livability' an organisation based in Holton Lea. This charity gives support to physically and mentally disabled people, by providing them with activities in a relaxed and beneficial environment, to help improve their wellbeing and life styles and become more independent. As the voting was so close we decided to share the proceeds that will be raised, equally, as we have done before.

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 be doing!!! After that the new Committee will turn their attention to assisting with the April Party for members and their partners. This usually happens in January but due to Covid has been delayed. The theme this year is the Wild West which should be fun.

Our meetings for April will include a talk about Costa Rica and in May an insight into the use and value of Hearing Dogs. Special Aquarius porcelain mugs have been ordered for members to purchase to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

Our satellite groups of walkers, strollers and book clubs have all continued outside or on Zoom and our Lunch Club is again meeting monthly in local hostels. The textile group should restart after Easter and may be looking to work on some sort of Platinum Jubilee commemorative display for the Village Hall but the technique to be used is as yet undecided.

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

Christine Kemp (Aquarius Joint Chair)

Singing for Pleasure
Every Thursday 2pm



at Emmanuel
Baptist Church

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



Dorset National Park – for a Thriving, Greener Future

A Director of the Dorset Wildlife Trust recently noted the continued decline in biodiversity across Dorset. For example, there has been a 51% decline in bees, with 23 lost species, a 42% decline in butterflies, and 24 moth species are now extinct. Other species in Dorset are on the edge of extinction. Some 60% of unimproved grassland and flower rich meadows has been lost in the last 30 years. Despite the AONBs covering 52% of rural Dorset, the areas designated for nature amount to much less. Only 8% are “sites of special scientific interest” (SSSIs) and less than half of these are in favourable condition.

The Environment Agency has noted that Dorset’s streams and rivers are also not in great shape. As a result, the important saltmarsh areas in Poole Harbour continue to decline.

We all want a thriving, successful, greener future for our communities and economy. A National Park can help make a greener future a reality. It would bring additional resources and expertise to help nature recover, bring people closer to nature, and benefit health and wellbeing, working closely with local communities.

Dorset’s unique environment is a great asset of local, national and international importance. Farmers and land managers are vital to its future. A National Park would help them secure opportunities for new farm funding that will benefit the environment and help them diversify their sources of income. The South Downs National Park, in its Local Plan, has a specific aim to support and improve farm viability, and works in close partnership with the NFU, CLA and others.

There’s growing agreement that we need positive approaches and new thinking (sometimes combined with old wisdom) to help achieve a more sustainable future. A Dorset National Park can help deliver these positive solutions, and work in partnership with communities, the Dorset Council, businesses, farmers and land managers to build prosperity and a sustainable, greener economy.

Sign up for e-newsletters or like the Facebook page at: www.dorsetnationalpark.com

Best wishes from the Dorset National Park Team



Woodlark, by Jan Svetlik



Marsh gentian, by Mike Childs



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



Uplifting News following theft of Defibrillator

LAST MONTH we wrote with the sad news that the defibrillator and trauma kit located at the Swanage Rowing club had been stolen. This was an unexpected “blow” to SCDP; we have been so wonderfully supported by our local community since starting this project, that it made it difficult to comprehend why anyone would wish to steal a life-saving device, provided by the community, for the community.

We are, however, delighted and grateful that we have been offered support to replace the missing defibrillator by Swanage and Purbeck Rotary, who have kindly provided funding to cover the replacement costs. This follows Rotary’s successful fundraising at Christmastime enabling support of community initiatives. Other individuals and groups have also offered fundraising support to the SCDP estate which continues to grow.

A new defibrillator and cabinet are planned for Burlington Chine thanks to a group of local ladies who are actively fundraising so please look out for a raffle and a fundraising quiz in the near future and David and Louise Elm are planning a **quiz on Thursday 10th March at the British Legion** in support of SCDP funds. Maria Munn has also kindly offered support following her Christmas photographic fundraising. Thank you to you all.

We are receiving several requests to re-introduce defibrillator familiarisation sessions which we had stopped due to Covid. We are hoping to restart sessions from mid March and will be contacting organisations in the near future with dates.

Please do contact us on Facebook or through Corbens in Station Road, Swanage if you wish to know more.

Maggie Hardy



The Mowlem Free filmshows set to continue!

Swanage Area Dementia Friends group have been involved with Dawn Morley, a Trustee of the Mowlem Theatre, to provide dementia-friendly film shows. Dawn applied for funding to Dorset Council and also requested the help of a unit leader on the nursing programme at Bournemouth University to supply a group of student nurses to scope the idea as a community project. Fortunately, we attained the funding for a 6 month project running the trial café and film for those living with dementia and their families/carers. This was started in October 2021 and will finish 1st March 2022.

However, Swanage Area Dementia Friends have decided to try and continue these films and are to trial running a film/café on the first Tuesday of April, May, June and July. There will also be a drop-in café on the third Tuesday of the same months and these will open at 10am and be finished around midday. If successful and deemed worthwhile, we hope to increase the drop-in cafes from September. Our grateful thanks to all those that have volunteered to help with this new venture.

So please spread the word to anyone you think would enjoy meeting up with others. There will be a small charge of £1 per drink (tea or coffee) and cake, but entrance to see the films is FREE. The films will start at 11am and you are also welcome to join us for a cuppa beforehand at 10am.

- 1st March Café followed by film **The Wizard of Oz**
- 5th April Café & film **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers**
- 19th April Café
- 3rd May Café & film **Some Like It Hot**
- 17th May Café
- 7th June Café & film **Showboat**
- 21st June Café
- 5th July Café & film **Annie get your Gun**

All Enquiries to the Mowlem: 01929 422239 (Mon to Fri 10:30am - 1:30pm) or at the Box Office. If you would like to join us for the films then please book your tickets at the Mowlem Box Office (there is no charge for the film but numbers are required).

Mike Bonfield, Chairman

Swanage Area Dementia Friends

07774997974

Sadfmakingmemories@gmail.com

Swanage Medical Practice News

NHS Covid Pass for Travel

With travel restrictions being lifted in the UK and the rest of the world starting to open for travel, we would like to remind you about how to access your NHS Covid Pass to be able to prove your vaccination status.



If you're aged 12 or over - you can get a digital NHS COVID Pass for travel through the free NHS App. You can access the app through a mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet. Proof of your covid-19 vaccination status will be shown within the NHS App. We recommend that you register with the app before booking international travel. For access via the NHS app you do not need to contact your GP.

Travelling with children under 12 years of age - We have had a few enquiries from parents with children under 12 who have not been vaccinated but where some countries require vaccination for entry. We cannot help you with these enquiries; you will need to check the entry requirements for the country you are travelling to and in some cases, you might need to arrange a private PCR test for your child to be able to enter a country. Advice on travel restrictions for the country you are planning on visiting can be found on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Covid Vaccines

A reminder that you can still book your Covid vaccines at the Wareham Hospital. Vaccines for all eligible age groups aged 12+ are available and can be booked via the NHS National Booking system.

Travel Vaccinations

With travel restrictions starting to be lifted you might be considering travel to a country where you need travel vaccinations. Foreign travel may expose patients to certain infections, so it is important to be immunised. If you have a trip planned, at a minimum of 6 weeks in advance of travel, please collect a 'Foreign Travel Form' from reception or complete our online travel form at: <https://www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Travel-Vaccinations> Once completed this will be passed to a nurse who will contact you direct to book an appointment. Most travel vaccinations incur a charge. Please note we are no longer a Yellow Fever Centre.

Face covering required in our Practice

Please can we ask that you continue to wear a face covering when you attend the surgery. Face coverings remain a recommendation in Public Health England's infection prevention control guidelines for all staff and visitors in a healthcare setting. We would also ask that, where possible, you follow social distancing rules when visiting our surgery. Thank you for your support in helping us protect our patients and staff.

The Practice Patient Participation Group

The Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) is made up of patients registered with the Practice who have volunteered to work with the Practice Manager and the GPs to help improve and shape local health services. This small independent group, which used to be known as The Friends of the Practice, meets regularly and provides a way for patients to get involved with the Practice and to influence decisions about local services. Members are also kept informed about the Practice. The Group provides a forum to identify the needs of patients and to hear their views - the aim is to ensure the views and interests of all patients registered with the Practice are represented. It's all about making sure patients are put first.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the PPG or would like more information about the group contact the Practice Manager.



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Rotary needs you!

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary comprises a very active group of around 30 men and women with a variety of backgrounds and experience. As many Swanage residents will be aware we run several events throughout the year that are fixtures in the Swanage calendar. These include the Summer Fair and Craft Market, the Young Musicians Competition, Silver Saturday and a host of Christmas activities including the ever-popular Christmas Market.

In addition to our membership, we rely on a large group of Rotary Friends and other groups to make these events happen, though if we are going to be able to maintain our activities in the future, we also need to attract some new members.

We are keen to hear from anyone who would like to expand their circle of friends and get more involved in community activities. There are opportunities to get involved in a number of projects and to develop or apply your skills in a range of areas including:

- public relations and media liaison
- project and events management
- web page design
- expanding our social media presence
- education including schools liaison
- environment

Whilst Rotary – one of the largest voluntary service organisations in the world – is a membership organisation, it is possible to join without incurring any cost for at least a year. If you are interested in learning more get in touch!

More details are on our website <https://www.swanagerotary.org/> or send us an email.

Deirdre Selwyn, President



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Swanage and Purbeck Ambulance Car – the fight to keep it is now critical



IT IS NOW TWO YEARS since we first found out the Swanage Ambulance Car was going to be withdrawn. We still haven't seen any plan from health funders Dorset CCG to carry out the formal consultation of local residents that our MP Richard Drax has repeatedly promised. Formal consultation takes time, and **Dorset CCG themselves cease to exist on 1st July, when a new 'Integrated Care System' will take over our health care.** We've got a very strong case to retain the Swanage-based Paramedic Car which should be staffed 24/7:

The geography: The longest cul-de-sac in Purbeck:

- Once Poole A&E and Maternity close, local people here will face the longest journeys, of 30 miles to access emergency hospital care, much of it on winding country roads that are packed in the summer - and for much of the year as Purbeck has become a favourite for tourists to visit.
- Tethering: As the Car does not routinely take people to hospital, and because it supports GP Home Visits, it is 'tethered' to Swanage. So it is often first on the scene, preserving life until the ambulance comes, or for less serious emergencies, treating patients at the scene, saving scarce double-crewed ambulance resources.

The need:

- In 2019, when the Car was well staffed, it attended almost 1,000 (996) call outs to Swanage and Isle of Purbeck villages, 60% were Category 1-3 (the more serious emergencies). with over 400 (416) Categories 1 & 2 (risk to life calls).

The impact of reduced Car staffing:

- In October 2019, when the Car was staffed for 27 days, the average wait for a Category 1 Response

was within the 7 minute target, for Category 2, it was 36 minutes. In October 2021, when the Car was staffed for 11 days, the wait times doubled, meaning it would be unlikely that Category 1 patients could be resuscitated and around half of Category 2 patients might escalate to Category 1 - if not attended to in a timely way.

- Longer response times can't be attributed to more call-outs to this area, as call-outs declined between October 2019 and October 2021.

The promises:

- The Car was allocated here in perpetuity in 2008 when Swanage Cottage Hospital MIU first closed overnight, in recognition of the distance to Poole hospital. An example of how long it took to get from Swanage to Poole in an imminent danger of death emergency in 2017 - the average time for Category 1 Swanage and Isle of Purbeck emergencies, from the call being made to the Ambulance Trust to the arrival of the patient at Poole Hospital, was 1 hour, 43 minutes.
- With the decision to close Poole A&E, Maternity and Children's units, recognising we would have further still to go to access emergency hospital care, Dorset CCG made a minuted promise that Swanage ambulance station would remain open and our ambulances would be fully manned.

Will residents be duly consulted? If not, we will need Dorset Council to stand up for us. We are nearly at the 5,000 signatures needed to get to full Council: Please sign and Share!: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/dorset-council-save-swanage-ambulance-car-1>

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**



Photograph by David Corben

News from Swanage Library



So Much Going On!

We have lots going on in Swanage Library as Crochet Club (with Penny) and Books and More (with Andrea) have made a welcome return in 2022.

Books and More Group have come up with some very interesting topics of conversation, so if this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, please contact us. The group meets on the **third Wednesday of each month**.

Crochet Club meets on various Saturday afternoons, 2-3.30pm, again please get in touch to book yourself a place.

Author Rachel McClean coming to Swanage library on Saturday 19th March

The event is already sold out! Rachel has written several books, with some being based in and around the Purbecks - 'The Corfe Castle Murders' and 'The Clifftop Murders' being just two of them.

Finally, we are fortunate to welcome two very capable new members of staff - Esther and Tracy, so look out for them next time you are in the library.

Our team look forward to welcoming you into the library very soon.

Nathalie Carter, Manager

Tel: 01929 423485

Email: friendsofswanagelibrary@gmail.com



St John Passion

Bob Chilcott

St Mary's Church Swanage

Saturday 26th March 6.30pm

Conductor: David Fawcett

Admission £5 adults - students and U18s free

Tickets from Corbens or 01929 481419

www.purbeckartschoir.org

ST JOHN PASSION

BOB CHILCOTT

Saturday 26th March 6.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Swanage

Adults £5, Students and Under 18s Free

Tickets are limited so contact Liz (below) to reserve your place today!

The Purbeck Arts Choir are very much "on song" with a performance of Bob Chilcott's St John Passion where they will be joined by some of the younger voices of Swanage.

The **Purbeck Arts Choir** is a friendly group of 50+ non-auditioned SATB singers who meet on Thursdays at 7pm in the Swanage Methodist Church. Their Musical Director is David Fawcett and new members are always warmly welcomed.

If you would like to know more about the choir or would like to come along and "try us out" please contact Liz Roberts (Chair) on 01929 481419 or email lizcat55@yahoo.co.uk.

There is more information about the choir on their website - purbeckartschoir.org.uk

Trevor Chadwick statue unveiling postponed

It is with regret that John Corben, chair of the Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust, has announced that the scheduled unveiling of the statue on 2 June has had to be postponed due to the unforeseen additional cost of the plinth. A further £10,000 needs to be raised, but the Trust is confident of doing this with the help and support of the local community.

It is now anticipated that the unveiling will take place during August.

Trevor Chadwick, a former Swanage School teacher, known locally as The Purbeck Schindler, was directly instrumental in saving the lives of 669 refugee children from certain annihilation by the Nazis at the start of World War Two.

For further information please visit: trevorchadwick.uk





FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

Are you a 'real' Friend of Swanage Hospital?

We have recently checked our database and have found that we have just 427 'real' Friends of Swanage Hospital ie. members who have made a subscription in 2020/2021 and/or in 2021/2022 to date. Our Membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March and you remain an active Friend if you make an annual contribution (a minimum of £5 is suggested) during the year. We can only legitimately count people as a Friend of Swanage Hospital if an annual subscription/donation is made and therefore, have had to discount a lot of people who have not made a donation/subscription since March 2020.

The easiest way to become and remain a Friend is to do so via our website – www.friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk There is a downloadable form or, even, better, you can securely set up a regular donation online (this is done using Enthuse, formerly Charity Checkout). Using the online donation method means that Gift Aid can automatically be reclaimed, rather than a manual reclaim. This means that Gift Aid reclaim monies are received quicker and making the whole reclaim procedure easier for us. Any

existing Friends who currently use cheques or cash may also like to consider using this method.

For those who would prefer not to do things online, a Standing Order form (a Standing Order is an amount set by you which can only be altered by you with your bank) can be obtained from the hospital. Cash or Cheques made payable to "League of Friends of Swanage Hospital" - can be sent to the hospital. Online or standing order options are generally easier for members, as they happen automatically without you having to remember to send cash/cheque each year and you remain as members.

If you have any queries regarding membership, please do not hesitate to email: membership@friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk or leave a message at the hospital on 01929 422282.

Please also encourage your family, friends and neighbours to become and remain as Friends of Swanage Hospital. The more Friends we have, the more projects we are able to financially support at Swanage Hospital and the more strongly we are able to show that our hospital and its services are needed and valued by the community. The Committee always strive to ensure that Swanage Hospital is able to offer the best and most comprehensive services to the community and help support our wonderful staff and thanks to the support of the Friends and the community, we stand up and fight when we feel that any of the services are being compromised. We also help fund any improvements that are not fully funded by the NHS. We need everyone's help please to ensure that we can continue this vital work. Thank you all very much.

Kate Spurling and Pete Smith
Joint Membership Secretaries

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...





Herston Village Hall

Many apologies, because the typo gremlin visited us last month and the little tinker muddled up the details of the marvellous activities going on at Herston Village Hall, Jubilee Road. So, fingers crossed that I have sorted this out and you do not turn up for gymnastics when you are expecting a calming cuppa at the Community Café!

The Hall is also available for bookings. Please contact Jenny on 01929 424152 for more details.

Mondays: Community Café, 10-12 (Contact: Facebook- Herston Village Hall)

Tuesdays: WI, 7.30-9.30pm (1st Tues of the month. Contact: SwanageWI@dorsetwi.org)
HVH Games Group, 7-9pm (3rd Tues of the month. Contact: Facebook-Purbeck Board, Card & Jigsaw Monthly Games Night)

Wednesdays: Seahorses Playgroup, 9.30-11am (term time. Contact: Facebook- Herston Village Hall)

Fridays: Swanage Youth Club, 6.30-8.30pm (term time. Contact: Facebook- Herston Village Hall)

Saturdays: PreSchool Explore and Play, 8.45-9.30 (Contact: info@swanagegymnastics.co.uk)
Craft Circle 10-12 (first Saturday of the month. Contact: Facebook- Herston Village Hall)



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



HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

Latest News from Harmans Cross Village Hall

A QUICK UPDATE from the Committee on some of the key projects at the Hall. The new projector has now been installed, alongside the new sound system and some other technical upgrades, so we now have an absolutely fantastic system for movie nights, weddings and other events.

There are plans to fence off the playground area as soon as the field gets drier. We are doing this as a safety measure to ensure that the children's area is kept clear of dogs. BUT please be assured that dogs are still very much welcomed on the field, but please clear up after them and use the dog waste bins both in the field and on the other side of the road by the bridge.

The Committee are also investigating the possibilities and cost effectiveness of installing some solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall – we will keep you updated on the progress of that.

Finally, there is a new mobile number for David Hollister for Village Hall bookings – it is now **07384 848 419**. David's email address for bookings remains hxvh@btconnect.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MOVIE NIGHT – THE GOOD LIAR - TUESDAY 8TH MARCH

Career con artist Roy Courtnay (Ian McKellen) can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) online. As Betty opens her home and life to him, Roy is surprised to find himself caring about her. A brilliant film with two true greats of British cinema – really looking forward to seeing this. Doors open as always at 7pm.

MOVIE NIGHT – MRS LOWRY & SON - TUESDAY 12TH APRIL

A portrait of the artist L.S.Lowry and his relationship with his mother, who tries to dissuade him from pursuing his passion. It's an absolute masterclass in acting by another two greats of British cinema – this time Vanessa Redgrave and Mrs Lowry, and Timothy Spall as the aspiring and exceptionally talented and unique artist.

LIVE MUSIC – THE SPINOFFS on SATURDAY 14TH MAY

Playing music from The Beatles to Elbow with lots more in between and featuring our very own Sue Bunyar as guest vocalist. Tickets are already available online from the website <https://www.harmancrosshall.co.uk/Live-Music/> for £12.00

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE – PICNIC IN THE PARK (*well actually on the Village Hall field !*)

To commemorate HM The Queen's platinum jubilee, we are planning an 'everyone welcome' Picnic in the Park on the afternoon of Sunday 5th June. More details to follow but this will be a wonderful chance for us all to be together so please make it a date.

COFFEE JUNCTION

Cake, coffee and conversation every other Thursday from 10.30am in the Committee Room. Next dates are: **Thursday 10th March - Thursday 24th March - Thursday 7th April**

CHURCH AT HXVH

Please feel very welcome to join our friendly, informal church service on the third Sunday of every month, starting at 6pm. The next date is: **Sunday 20th March**

YOGA

Cathy's regular weekly yoga classes are as follows:

- **Monday 6.00-7.30pm – Hatha for all abilities**
- * **Monday 7.45-9.15pm – Intermediate Hatha flow**
- * **Tuesday 9.30-11.00am – Hatha for all abilities**
- * **Tuesday 11.15am-12.30pm – Gentle Hatha and mindful movement**
- * **Thursday 6.30-8.00pm – Hatha for all abilities**

Other regular activities include:

Mondays – Pins & Needles (pm)

Wednesdays –Harmony Rocks Choir (pm)

Thursday – Post Office outreach (am); Life Drawing classes (pm)

In addition, several U3A groups meet at the Hall throughout the month – please go to the website at <https://www.harmancrosshall.co.uk/U3A-Groups-HXVH/> to find out more.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

Alison and the HXVH Committee



HELLO EVERYONE

Just to remind you that Swanage Pier will be closed until the end of March 2022. This is to carry out pile replacement and major repair work, as part of the Swanage Pier Regeneration Project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

However, the good news is that The 1859 Pier Cafe & Bistro, Museum and Pier Shop will remain open during this period.

Best wishes,

Amanda Bowden

Volunteer & Events Co-ordinator, Swanage Pier Trust

Email : activities@swanagepiertrust.com

www.swanagepiertrust.com | Twitter : @SwanagePier

STUDLAND SNIPPETS

Studland Parish Council

Welcome news that the Knoll House planning application has been rejected due to environmental harm being greater than any economic benefits. Disappointment that the Dorset Council ward member and a Dorset councillor from Swanage seemed to overstate the economic benefits and almost bypass the environmental objections. Group TPO request for trees opposite the Knoll House not granted on the grounds that the National Trust is seen by Dorset Council as an adequate guardian for trees, despite in Purbeck having no dedicated tree management policy. Parish Council requesting a review. Growing concerns over inconsiderate parking on Beach Road – blocking access for residents and key service vehicles. Ongoing support for the “20 is Plenty Campaign”-speed limits through the village. More solar panels are being planned for properties in Studland Conservation Area, despite visual effects - take a look from Ballard Down. The Parish Council has joined the “Dorset Deserves Better” campaign. Major concerns about the cessation of tree work applications to Parish and Town Councils - strong case for restoring direct notifications weekly to Parish/Town clerks.

The Purbeck Society

Next meeting is on Friday 11th March, when there is a talk on “My Life in Dance” by Carlotta Barrow. Do try and come along. www.facebook.com/PurbeckSociety/

Dorset Campaign to Protect Rural England (the Countryside Charity)

Welcome statement by Dorset Council leader on requests to delay the Dorset Local Plan, and to pilot for an alternative approach reflecting the needs of Dorset - will the Secretary of State make a special case for Dorset? Watch out for consultations on a) Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan, and b) DEFRA Biodiversity Net Gain both due to close late March. Stour Valley Park - a new initiative with so little publicity yet has a huge impact. Supported tree planting with Hampshire CPRE and local schools.

Peter Bowyer



National Trust Purbeck needs YOU!

It's all happening with the National Trust this month... We are starting up new projects and there's plenty of ways to get involved. These volunteer opportunities are flexible and designed to be tailored to match your skills and interests, our aim to empower what you do best! Have a browse of the below opportunities, and if you would like to apply, please do so via the National Trust Volunteering page: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/find-an-opportunity>

Purbeck Nature Ambassadors:

Working with teams across the National Trust in Purbeck you will be creating and delivering a wide range of activities that suit your skills, interests and the needs of our visitors and communities. We need people who passionately want to connect other people with nature and for that you need to love both nature and people. We'll help you develop your skills, support you with training and enable you to take a lead and champion nature – ensuring that more people value and want to save it in the future.

Corfe Castle Events Assistant:

This role assists our visitor experience team with events that take place in the castle. You could be helping with a family activity trail, looking after our costume tent, marshalling an event, or simply providing information to visitors.

Corfe Castle Educational Learning Guide:

We need enthusiastic individuals to bring the history of the castle alive for children and young adults through our educational tours. You don't need teaching experience to join our friendly team, just a desire to give something back to the community and an interest in working with young people.

Young Adult Ranger Group:

This volunteering group is for young people and organised by young people (we say 'young' as around 18-25 years old). You will have a say in the activities and projects of the group. Some of the volunteering activities we will begin with include removing invasive species and vegetation, habitat creation for rare species, litter picking, species monitoring and conservation work with tools.

Julia Galbenu
Engagement Officer (Dorset), Dynamic Dunescapes – DuneLIFE
National Trust, Studland Bay
[@studlandbay_nt](#) • dynamicdunescapes.co.uk • [@dynamicdunes](#)



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



Healthwatch Dorset recently investigated why people are struggling to get dental care in the county, finding only three of Dorset's 99 NHS registered dental practices who were taking on new adult patients and only 13 who were accepting children as new patients.

Access to NHS dentistry has been one of the most significant issues raised with Healthwatch across England over the last 18 months since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over half the enquiries dealt with by Healthwatch Dorset this year have been about NHS dentistry. People have reported that they are unable to find a dentist to get routine or urgent dental care, with many experiencing significant and worsening pain due to delays in treatment. Over the last six months Healthwatch Dorset has seen an increase in enquiries from people trying to get dental care for their children. (see public comments in Notes at the end of this article)...

From September to November 2021, a team of Healthwatch Dorset volunteers contacted all 99 of Dorset's NHS registered dental practices to investigate the situation. 74 dental practices responded, six did not respond because they were no longer treating NHS patients and 19 did not respond, despite being called three or more times and being sent a letter about the research. All the findings are published in a new Healthwatch Dorset report: Accessing dental care in Dorset which clearly demonstrates why the public are raising concerns:

- **ONLY three of the 74 dental practices who responded were taking on new NHS patients, though six said they were taking on new NHS patients who were pregnant.**
- **ONLY four practices said they were taking on new NHS patients who were being treated for cancer. Another five said they would see people receiving cancer treatment, but only if they were referred and/or had additional needs, for example, a disability or diagnosed mental health condition, under the discretion of the dentist.**
- **ONLY 13 practices were taking on children as new NHS patients, and two of those only in emergencies. A further seven said they would see children, but only if their parents were registered as private patients.**
- **ONLY 18 (25%) of the dental practices that responded had a waiting list for NHS patients; 48 (65%) did not. Waiting times varied and some practices did not know when they would open their waiting list.**
- **66 (49%) of dental practices reached were seeing existing patients for routine appointments.**

In response, Healthwatch Dorset is calling on those responsible for dental care to improve the situation in the following ways:

- More urgent dental care should be made available.
- All NHS dentists should be advised to make places available for children without restrictions.
- All NHS dentists should be advised and funded to provide places for people who are pregnant and/or undergoing cancer treatment.
- Clearer public information and better communication is needed to help people understand why NHS dental care is limited and how they can find care when they need it.
- The charity Dentaid should continue to be funded to provide local dental care for people experiencing homelessness.
- The Government and NHS England should build on the recent one-off funding of £50 million for 350,000 extra NHS dental appointments by the end of March 2022, by speeding up dental contract reform and providing significant sustained funding to tackle the underlying problems of dental access and affordability (Healthwatch England Report, Recovery of NHS dental care too slow to help thousands left in pain - Dec 2021).

Healthwatch Dorset has shared its findings and recommendations with Dorset NHS commissioners, Dorset Local Dental Committee, dental care providers, local Councils, the South West Dental Commissioning Team, and NHS England, to highlight people's concerns.

The following are a selection of comments from the public about dental care in Dorset:

- "The tooth needs to be removed, but I was told to find a private dentist as NHS treatment was not possible. That is money I do not have."
- "My daughter needs to go to the dentist and the only way I seem to be able to do this, is to pay extortionate private fees."
- "My dentist has taken me off their caseload as I had not attended for a period of time. I am a nurse working full-time, currently pregnant and have not had time during COVID to book an appointment. I thought the practice should've given me notice of terminating me from their books."

You can get in touch with Healthwatch Dorset to share your views and experiences of dental care or any local health and social care service, by phone 0300 111 0102 or email: enquiries@healthwatchdorset.co.uk.

Which?

Scam Alert Service

At a time when the energy price cap is increasing and providers are going bust, we've been noticing more attempts to impersonate energy companies.

Eon bill refund scam

This fraudulent communication methods here claim to be from Eon and follows a typical story that all scammers use to worry you and pile on the urgency.

From an Eon phishing email to a phone call with a scammer, we carried out an investigation to expose the tricks and tactics used in this scam. Lucia Ariano, Which? senior presenter played along with a fraudster to show you how the scam works and the sneaky tricks used with this phishing attempt. We would never recommend doing this yourself.

[Stay one step ahead](#)

British Gas phishing email

A phishing email purporting to be from British Gas is circulating, stating that customers' bills are overdue and need paying. It attempts to extort the recipient's account details by urging them to click through to fake websites.

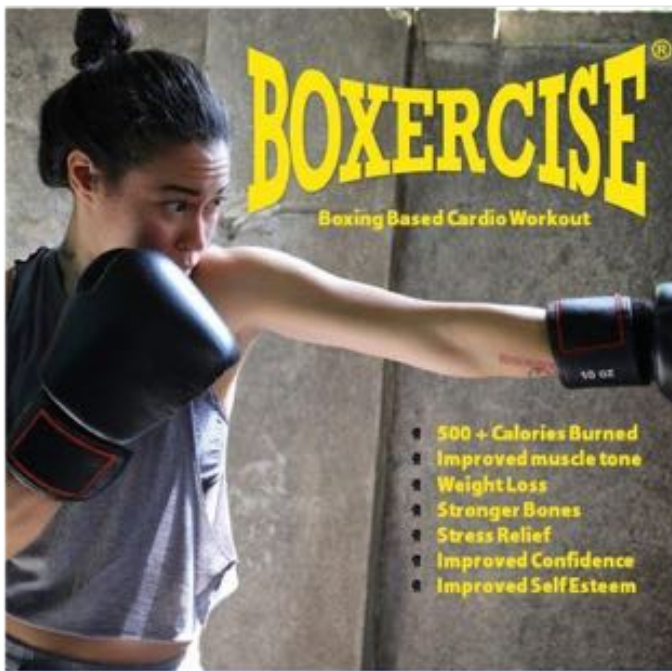
[Here are examples of the fake British Gas emails](#) – which the provider has confirmed has nothing to do with them – that have targeted customers and we explain how to deal with them.

From Which? scam alert team

PS Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbours – anyone who may find it helpful. Or they can [sign up here](#) to receive this directly to their inbox.

Swanage Emmanuel Baptist Church Centre

"We are again cautiously stepping up events and activities as Covid restrictions reduce. So anyone interested in coming along would be very welcome," says Janet Norley, the Administrator at Emmanuel Baptist Church Centre.



6 Week Course - 2nd March → 9:15am

Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage

£43 for 6 x 45 Minute sessions

Booking Essential

Suevansfitness 07716433577

suevansfitness@gmail.com



Fantastic exercise classes are returning to Swanage on 1st March at the All Saints Church Hall on Tuesday mornings.



At 10.15am there's the **EXERCISE TO ENERGIZE!**

It's dynamic, dance-based exercise classes that combine cardio fitness with core strength for a fabulous fun way to KEEP FIT! All ages and levels welcome.

At 11.30am there's **EXTEND!**

Chair-based classes for people who are less able to keep fit. Gentle activity with great music and a supportive atmosphere.

This class is intended to help improve strength, co-ordination, balance, circulation, flexibility, posture, heart health and so much more...

Both classes are pay-as-you-go.
FIRST SESSION FREE - COME AND TRY!

Contact Marion 01929 423923
carleofswanage@hotmail.com



Do you help or support someone?

Are you helping someone with everyday household tasks like shopping or cooking, or organising or transporting someone to medical appointments?

You may also be helping with medication, treatment, personal care and mobility, or you may be providing emotional support.

By doing these things you are considered to be an unpaid carer and there is a lot of support waiting for you in Dorset.

Support is available to unpaid carers in Dorset, finding the right help to support you at the right time when you need it is available in 2 easy steps:

1. Register with your GP Surgery.

2. Register with the carers support service.

Dorset Council residents:

☎ **0800 368 8349**

🖱 **www.carersupportdorset.co.uk**

Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole:

☎ **01202 128787**

✉ **carersupport@bcpcouncil.gov.uk**