

SWANAGE AREA FORUM

INCLUDING SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020 - No. 1



In these uniquely troubling times, The Swanage Area Forum and The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust have agreed to produce this first newsletter for the purpose of helping inform our local communities of the situation regarding local services and organisations.

As you will see on other pages many local organisations both statutory and voluntary have contributed to this edition. As a part of our community, you are invited to participate in further editions. We will provide this community newsletter for as long and in whatever format is needed.

In no way do we intend to replace - just supplement - the very important roles that the Purbeck Gazette and other organisations play.

If your organisation wishes to make a contribution in future editions by either providing material and/or news, you are welcome to but please keep your contribution to 200 words and provide your logo if not provided already. At the end of your article, please add your organisation's contact details including telephone number and email address. The newsletter will be produced in A4 format and be posted as an attachment for email circulation to organisations that operate in the Swanage area.

Send your organisation's contributions (no personal letters) to;-

melvyn.norris@talktalkbusiness.net

Mel Norris Chair Swanage Area Forum and Swanage & Purbeck Development Trustee





The Swanage Medical Practice

Message from Dr Jason Clark, Senior Partner

To all patients, staff and friends of Swanage Medical Practice

Having worked and lived in Swanage for over 30 years we are now facing a challenge unimaginable even 3 weeks ago. The Corona virus is spreading, and we are currently still on the same track as Italy was 2 weeks ago. Unfortunately, it is from those that caught the virus last weekend that the deaths in 10 days' time will come. I fear it is too late to stop us reaching the number of deaths Italy has recently been having.

Fortunately, our Prime Minister has now put in place measures that should start to reduce deaths in 2 weeks' time, by preventing the spread of the virus now from asymptomatic or moderately affected individuals to the healthy and vulnerable members of the population.

If this contact is reduced the deaths and virus will stop. China managed it and so can we - so long as we all stay at home.

Essential travel and contact must be interpreted with new meaning, it is your parents, families and vulnerable individuals that are put at risk if we don't. This is of extreme relevance to Swanage due to a very high proportion of older residents, the number of care homes and, of course, our local hospital.

I would like to thank the town's understanding so far, although the footfall in the practice has almost ceased, we are still very busy looking after our patients and have introduced new ways of working such as telephone consultations, telephone triage, eConsult and video consultations.

Everyone in the Practice team is working very hard and we continue to focus on providing the best possible care to all through these challenging and unprecedented times...

To read Dr Clark's message in full and for further coronavirus support please visit:

<https://www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Coronavirus-Support>



SWANAGE COMMUNITY CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GROUP

At Swanage Neighbours we are coordinating the Swanage Community Coronavirus Response group, which has been formed to share information and support each other in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

The group is made up of community members from Swanage and the surrounding villages, coming together to volunteer assistance to those self-isolating and who are at more risk if they contract coronavirus. Through our network we can help with shopping, running errands or a friendly chat!

We currently have over a hundred volunteers supporting a similar number of people and we would welcome more volunteers, similarly if you need community support, please get in touch!

You can find us on Facebook by searching for "Swanage Community Coronavirus Response" or our registration form is available through the town council or the Purbeck Development Trust websites

<http://www.sandpdt.org.uk>

<https://www.swanage.gov.uk>

If you don't have internet access please call the **Swanage Community Information telephone line: 01929 253108.**



PURBECK GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Due to the COVID-19 crisis and the increase in restrictions over the last few weeks, **Purbeck Good Neighbours' Volunteers** are no longer able to complete many of the one-off tasks requested, where we're proud to say we have completed over 700 small tasks for people in the past. We are sadly having to withdraw our services until further notice.

However, The **Swanage Community Corona Virus Response Team** have many volunteers in the Swanage area if you need help with shopping, prescriptions, etc. There are numerous other neighbourhood community projects in the Purbeck area ready to support people during this difficult period. **KEEP SAFE**

You will find full details of these different support groups elsewhere in this Newsletter.



FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL COVID-19 UPDATE:

In these extraordinary times, you should be aware that this virus is affecting the running of Swanage Hospital in the following ways: Our Minor Injuries Unit is still running, but by appointment only:

- You can no longer walk into this service. If you have an ailment or injury which requires urgent care, please call MIU on 01929 475009

Visiting Stanley Purser Ward:

- Only essential visits should be made to the ward, if you are the main carer of a patient there. Everyone else should avoid visiting – especially children and those who are frail or have underlying health conditions
- Visitors should wash their hands regularly and use alcohol rub when entering and leaving ward areas
- Visitors must follow staff advice at all times. The Day Surgery Unit and Outpatients are closed and staff are being redeployed.

Please remember that the staff are extremely busy at present dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. We are so appreciative of all they are doing to keep us safe.

JAN TURNBULL, CHAIR



A LITTLE BIRD TOLD US

... that a very kind couple arranged for a load of Easter eggs and chocolate from a local business to be delivered to Swanage Hospital on Good Friday ... plus a promise of a donation of a huge egg that can be raffled in the autumn ...

HOSPITAL WORKERS SORE HANDS NO MORE!

Staff at Swanage Hospital were absolutely delighted and really touched to receive tubes of specifically formulated hand cream for each and every member of staff, from The Friends of Swanage Hospital. Matron had reported that their hands have become really sore with all the non-stop hand-washing procedures they have to follow at the moment because of the virus and they were thrilled to receive such a kind and thoughtful gift.

SWANAGE SPECIAL AMBULANCE CAR

In the light of the Covid-19 emergency, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (GGC) have agreed to continue funding the Swanage ambulance car, after South West Ambulance Trust (SWAST) had decided to withdraw it. It will remain working from Swanage Ambulance Station, at least for the duration of this emergency.



**Dorset
Community
Foundation**

Raising funds for those most in need

The **Dorset Coronavirus Community Fund** has been launched to support local charities and voluntary organisations that are assisting some of Dorset's most vulnerable people during the Coronavirus epidemic.

Donations raised through the Foundation's own local Dorset Coronavirus Community Appeal, as well as funds from the National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal will support community and voluntary organisations providing vital support to people and communities in response to the Coronavirus outbreak

Fund Criteria

The aim of the Fund is to effectively and efficiently support local voluntary and community organisations that are helping vulnerable people impacted by the Covid-19 crisis; easing the immediate difficulties communities are facing and to support their recovery over the coming weeks and months. All applicant organisations should adhere to government guidelines regarding social distancing, self-isolation and shielding.

To see the rest of this article or to find our more please go to:

admin@swanage.gov.uk or

www.swanage.gov.uk or

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/...coronavirus

Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES

On behalf of the Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership I would like to thank the Steering Group members and all our Guardians involved in monitoring and maintaining the 35 public access defibrillators we have in place. Our normal routine is that we check defibs every two weeks and report to a central point but to ensure we work to Government guidance by staying at home during the coronavirus we have a reduced team in place who check defibs and cabinets monthly ensuring that equipment is ready and available for us.

We have made our team aware that because of the possibility that any person needing a defib. may have COVID-19, The Resuscitation Council UK offers the following advice:

- Recognise cardiac arrest by looking for the absence of signs of life and absence of normal breathing. **Do NOT** listen or feel for breathing by placing your ear and cheek close to the patient's mouth
- If in any doubt about confirming cardiac arrest, the default position is to start cardiac compressions.
- Make sure an ambulance is on its way. If COVID-19 is suspected tell them when you call 999.
- If there is a perceived risk of infection rescuers should place a cloth/towel over the victim's mouth and nose and attempt compression only CPR until the Ambulance arrives
- Put hands together in the middle of the chest and push hard and fast.
- Early use of a defibrillator significantly increases the person's chance of survival and does not increase the risk of infection.

SCDP thanks everyone within our local community for their care and support at this difficult time especially those involved in health and social care.

Maggie Hardy for SCDP



A message from the Mayor of Swanage, Councillor Mike Bonfield

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. I would like to thank the people of Swanage for all that they are doing in this trying time. We are so fortunate to have such a caring community.

The Town Council team are working alongside our many voluntary groups, local businesses and other organisations, including the health centre, police and Dorset Council, to share information and provide the best service for you all at this difficult time. The newly formed Swanage Community Coronavirus Group and all of their volunteers are doing a fantastic job, as is everyone else who is helping to look out to those most vulnerable in our town. The NHS, care workers and everyone on the frontline are also doing a brilliant job - please give them all your support.

An emergency council meeting was held on 20th March. It was agreed to cancel or postpone all council meetings for the time being. Alternative arrangements have been put in place to make decisions, ensuring that officers and councillors continue to work together to do the best for the people of our town.

Finally, I must stress that we should all be following the government guidelines and staying at home apart from essential work or exercise. Remember that we all need to take our daily exercise as close to home as possible and not drive to places. We can all help our emergency services by doing our bit to avoid spreading this invisible virus and overloading the hospitals and their workers. We must all work together and help each other to get through this hard time.

Thank you.

information on Town Council services is available on the council's website www.swanage.gov.uk and Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/swanagetowncouncil/posts/>

For detailed help and advice you can call Dorset Council's helpline between 8am-8pm seven days a week on **01305 221000**.



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

DCA is committed to helping your charity, community group or social enterprise through these unsettled times. Call our dedicated Helpline to answer questions you may have regarding Coronavirus and your Organisation – **01202 847609** – 11am - 4pm



COMMUNICARE COMING TO TERMS WITH COVID-19

COMMUNICARE would like to help the people of Swanage and the villages in this time of awful virus crisis.

In normal times, as many of you know, our organisation does many things in the community, including taking people to and from hospital and other important appointments. Sadly, we cannot do this at the moment.

Our community has many people living on their own who will be very anxious at the moment; as none of us are being allowed to mix with friends, neighbours and family. So COMMUNICARE and LINK got together and have decided that we will become:

“A LISTENING EAR”

A trouble shared, is a trouble halved.

Jenny Lazenbury, Director has this message:
Don't go 'up the wall' in this time of crisis. Please, ring one of our wonderful volunteers and have a chat. Call COMMUNICARE if you are worried, lonely or in need of neighbourly kindness. Whatever your problem, WE CARE and we can offer practical help. Just call any of the local numbers below and we will try to help you feel better. If you receive no reply from the first number, then please try any of the others.

480932 427576 423747 422951

477114 422118 288177 427346

Mobile: 07531 811375



NEW FRIENDS OF PURBECK MS GROUP

FOLLOWING the closure of the Wareham & Purbeck MS Society in March, we would like to introduce you to the newly formed Friends of Purbeck MS Group. We will try, as far as possible, to carry out all the roles undertaken by our predecessors, with the same objectives. We are the same Committee and will do our best to help those in our area living with MS to live as normal a life as possible. Of course with the COVID-19 restrictions, this is very difficult at the moment. But we just want to stress to MS sufferers and their families - we're here for you.

We will endeavour to support families and individuals with help in attending clinics, physio, socials (as and when they commence once more) with telephone contact and in time with financial assistance in the purchase of equipment etc. At this troubled time however (as with all charities and groups) we are finding it difficult to raise funds through our normal channels and are therefore unable to help as we would previously have liked. Rest assured however that as soon as the restrictions are eased the Committee will come together once again to organise events for this purpose. In the meantime keep well and keep safe.

Our Contact Details:

Carol Turner Chair 01929 556761

email: turnermc07@gmail.com

John Smith Deputy Chair

email john52wsmith@yahoo.co.uk

Gail Taylor Secretary

email gailtaylorulwell@hotmail.co.uk

Debbie Dunford Welfare Officer

email debbiedunford148@gmail.com



We are living through a strange time of extreme isolation. One result of this is that our society is now demonstrating a wonderful tendency for co-operation and cohesion and many have automatically sought to check up on their neighbours who may be trapped at home, to make sure no one lacks essential support with food, medicines, to post a letter or phone them just to chat.

Link Visiting has for the last four years operated a local befriending service. Our volunteers are introduced to an elderly person who has become isolated and lonely often as a result of loss of their lifelong partner or possibly because of physical frailty that prevents them easily and routinely leaving the house. Our volunteer visits perhaps once a week or a fortnight just to say hello and have a chat and a cup of tea. Sometimes our volunteer visitor may take their Link friend out to a tea room or for a drive. Our visitors bring sunshine back into people's lives make a friend and take great pleasure in so doing.

At this time Link Visiting has of course had to suspend our visits and fall back on giving support and keeping in touch by phone.

When we are all able to assume a more normal existence you may think you'd like to visit someone who is isolated, on a weekly or fortnightly basis. You may also be able to identify an isolated neighbour who would welcome being put in contact with **Link Visiting**. Please then get in touch with **Roger Seaman on 07498 743036 or email at:**

ivs.volunteers@outlook.com We would love to hear from you.



Homeowner Trades

Although things are uncertain right now, there's one thing we are certain of. We must all do everything we can to stay home and stay safe. But, while we do our best to social distance and self-isolate, emergencies can still happen. You might find yourself needing to call out a trader, if you need emergency or urgent work, a tradesperson will be able to enter your home to complete it, providing they are healthy and no one in your household is unwell or isolating.

Coronavirus and emergency home repairs

Your safety and that of our traders is our utmost priority. That's why we've created a video and gathered the following advice to help you stay safe and minimise risk if a trader needs to come to your home.

1. How are you feeling?

Before a tradesperson comes to your home, think about how you're feeling. Are you feeling 100 per cent. If you're feeling a little under the weather, or you're concerned that you may have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), it might be best to delay the work if possible. Speak to your trader and let them know how you're feeling.

2. Be prepared

Preparation is key to minimising risk. Before your tradesperson arrives, prepare the entrance to your home, as well as the area they'll be working in. That means wiping down surfaces and moving any furniture or obstructions out of the way. As well as making it easier for your tradesperson to work, this will also help to minimise points of contact between you both. Of course, it's important that you don't try to move anything that's too large, bulky, or heavy – just do what you can.

3. Keep your distance

As per the government's social distancing guidelines, try to stay at least two metres away from your tradesperson at all times. This might be challenging, especially if the space they're working in is small, but it's really important that you keep your distance. If your space is limited, this might mean discussing the issue with your tradesperson before they enter the house.

TRAVEL BY STEAM TRAIN



SOS: SWANAGE RAILWAY

The Swanage Railway is facing the most urgent and potentially devastating challenge in its history, thanks to extraordinary circumstances beyond its control: the COVID-19 virus.

With the Railway closed, on Government advice, it has no income for the duration of the current emergency. Without income in the coming months our heritage railway cannot survive.

The majority of our paid staff are being asked to make a personal sacrifice for the Railway by taking furlough under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. We are retaining a small group of employees to ensure the safety of the Railway and undertake essential tasks.

Please help now and support the Swanage Railway by giving generously to ensure that we survive.

To make a donation please go to
www.saveourservice.co.uk

THANK YOU!

Gavin Johns

Chairman, Swanage Railway Trust

Liz Sellen

Chairman, Swanage Railway Company

info@swanagerailway.co.uk

Tel 01929 425800



e-mail address: museumswanage@gmail.com

First, and looking ahead to better times, a warm welcome to the 'Museum in The Square' to visit and share your experience with our many visitors each season. This year, our band of volunteers has been carrying out a major refurbishment to improve this Visitor experience.

This was (and still is) the plan – until with the completion of the 'Project' only days away - we all had to retire to our bunkers!

The Museum relies on its volunteers and visitors to keep it solvent and viable. The Project has focussed on the improved display of our main and hidden collections, with a dedicated team of architects making our historic archives more accessible. The Museum itself and our retail outlet, has been extensively refurbished as our main source of income in making the Museum a success.

We are a thriving and important element of Swanage tourism; but, as with every local business and organisation at this time, we are fearful for our future. Please think ahead to better times when you can again visit and volunteer with us. In the meantime, you may well be sorting out your own archives to share with us when we do re-open.

The refurbishment has come at considerable cost. As the 2020 season could well be a financial disaster, we have decided to ask our members and supporters to help us. We are asking if you can possibly make a donation to keep us going through these terrible times. If you wish to help, or want to know more, please go to our new embryo website www.swanagemuseum.org.uk OR send a cheque to Swanage Museum Treasurer at 11b Argyle Road. BH19 1HZ Telephone: 01929 422215

Reflecting everywhere else it's very strange times at the National Trust. 80% of the staff in Purbeck have been furloughed (about the same nationally), and the few who are left are only out and about for essential security and animal welfare checks.

I was looking forward to my first run of checks yesterday, a chance to fill my lungs and eyes with Purbeck (I live in Poole) for the first time in three weeks, but actually instead found the whole experience unsettling. Nature will benefit (as well as the NHS and society as a whole) from us all staying at home, reducing the amount of disturbance we cause by our mere presence. Yet I found it a thoroughly unexpectedly sad day, having Purbeck to myself... I missed my colleagues, I missed the contact with visitors and I missed sharing the landscape and nature with people more than I expected. Yet this necessarily enforced solitude will be over, in the past soon enough, and hopefully we'll all be around to share our beautiful landscape together.

In the meantime we're thinking of ways of being creative and sharing our knowledge, skills and expertise. If you have any ideas to help us, please get in touch, and we're more than happy to deliver talks etc via zoom to any local groups. Drop me an email:

tom.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk Stay well everyone...

SNIPPETS FROM STUDLAND



Studland Parish Council A group of community volunteers is assisting currently vulnerable residents. Monthly meetings are planned to be virtual. An objection to the ferry toll increases is being finalised –no dedicated trust fund for the replacement ferry and proposed tolls in excess of statutory obligations.

FOR MORE CONTACT:

www.studlandparishcouncil.org

The Purbeck Society Meetings postponed. Publication of the non-listed heritage assets near completion. Civic Voice has raised concerns over planning decisions by virtual methods. David Garrity of Dorset Council welcomes comments on democratic process for virtual planning.

FOR MORE CONTACT:

www.purbeckociety.co.uk

www.civicvoice.org.uk

The Campaign to Protect Rural England The County branch is supporting a campaign against a waste incinerator at Portland-so is Richard Drax MP. A Dorset Housing Needs report will be available in May. The Dorset AONB is likely to suffer with damage associated with the judicial review of Vearse Farm, Bridport.

FOR MORE CONTACT:

www.dorset-cpre.org.uk www.advearse.org.uk

The Jazz Club is now in its thirty second year. It began and continues as a group of friends who enjoy listening to some of our favourite recorded music in a sociable environment. In addition throughout many years of its history (1996-2006 and 2017- to date) we've enjoyed presenting a very wide variety of live jazz for local jazz fans, with many leading national and local bands and musicians.

In the past six months: virtuoso guitarist and brilliant humourist Spats Langham, the Amy Roberts-Richard Exall Quintet, and the amazing young guitarist Remi Harris. Some of you will have heard them at the annual Jazz Festival, which the Jazz Club established and ran from 1990 to 2017.

The planned April 30th gig featuring the Afro style THOKOZILE Band has had to be postponed for obvious reasons and will take place as soon as possible once the covid-19 curfew is lifted.

If you're interested in joining us, in normal times we meet on the last Thursday of every month at the Swanage Day Centre.

For more info contact **Fred Lindop on 425371**.



Purbeck Citizens Advice is Still Open

We continue to provide free, independent and confidential advice and information whatever your question. We have advisers working 5 days a week providing advice on the phone or by email.

We offer a full range of advice including help with:

- Benefits entitlement and claims
- Debt management and budgeting
- Employment advice including Statutory Sick Pay and rights when laid off work
- Advice for the self employed
- Help to reduce essential expenditure - eg reducing energy costs/applying for support to pay water bills
- Referrals for charitable support or to food banks

Purbeck residents can contact us on **01929 551913**, leave a name and contact phone number and an adviser will call back as soon as possible. Alternatively send an email to adviser@purbeck.cabnet.org.uk or use our webform at <http://www.purbeckadvice.org.uk/contact-us.html>



HELLO! We are the **Swanage Indies Delivery Service** here to help support anyone self-isolating and social distancing in Purbeck with food deliveries from your favourite Swanage shops.

PROPOSED DELIVERY TIMETABLE: (Which we will work on depending on demand)

DAILY (Mon-Sat) SWANAGE **THURSDAY:** CORFE/HARMANS CROSS
TUESDAYS: LANGTON/WORTH/KINGSTON **SATURDAYS:** STUDLAND

HOW TO ORDER

1. Call each shop to place your order and pay them directly
2. Order before **NOON** the day before you want your delivery
3. We will then work together to sort out logistics of delivering it to your doorstep!
4. Where you see ** below against the shop name, this means Swanage Indies deliver

WHO YOU CAN ORDER FROM – SO FAR – SURE MORE TO COME!

SWANAGE BAY FISH** – Wet fish **01929 422288**

JJ MOORES BUTCHERS – Meat, frozen ready meals, fresh fruit & veg **01929 424891**

HAYMANS BAKERY** – bread, cakes, pasties, sandwiches **01929 422594**

PURBECK DELI** - cheese, chutney, savouries, local beer, cider, gin **01929 422344**

CHOCOCO** – chocolates and sweet treats **01929 408288**

MASALA INDIAN CUISINE - Indian takeaway offering delivery website **01929 427299**

www.masalaswanage.co.uk

THE SALT PIG – Butchers, ready meals, eggs, veg, fish (Tel: orders) **01929 423616**

THE FISH & CHIP SHOP FREE DELIVERY Mon-Fri 12pm-5pm **01929 423668**

CEDAR ORGANIC – Organic meat FREE DELIVERY within Purbeck **01929 481393**

COURT HILL STORES - Ordering & accept payment for goods on phone **01929 424796**

NORDEN FARM – Range of vegetables and many other products **01929 480098**

JAVA IND.COFFEE HOUSE – Del of quiche, veg.cottage pie,cakes,scones **CASH ONLY**
(FACEBOOK Delivery)

FOLEYS GARAGE SPAR SHOP HX – FREE DELIVERY Groceries to:

HX, Corfe, Langton, Kingston, Swanage, Studland **Tel to place order 01929 48009**

CRAB APPPLE CATERING – Fruit and Veg boxes julia@crabapplecatering.co.uk

PET-LUV – Pet food, fish food, rabbit food, much more FREE DELIVERY **01929 426227**

SWANAGE & PURBECK TAXIS - **01929 927424**

Pick up and deliver grocery orders for free – order and pay directly from supplier
by phone then phone our taxi company

PURBECK VALET – Dry cleaners & launderette -collection/del.service **01929 424900**

BANKES ARMS HOTEL, CORFE – Meals – FREE DEL WITHIN C.CASTLE **01929 28818**

Swanage Community Coronavirus

Information webpage:

<https://www.swanage.gov.uk/Community-information.aspx>

Shops & Pharmacies in Swanage

opening times webpage:

<https://www.swanage.gov.uk/Openingtimes.aspx>

PHARMACIES

Boots

1 Station Road

Monday to Saturday: 9am – 5.30pm

Sunday: 10am – 4pm

BANK HOLIDAY

8th May/25th May 11am – 5pm

Well Pharmacy (Day Lewis)

40 Station Road

Monday to Friday:

10am – 12pm, 2pm – 4pm, and then 4.30pm - 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

Well Pharmacy

22 Station Road

Monday to Friday:

9.30am – 12.30pm then 2pm - 6.30pm

Saturday: 9am – 1pm

Sunday: **CLOSED**

BANKS

Lloyds Bank

41 High Street

Monday: 10am – 4pm

Wednesday: 10am – 4pm

Friday: 10am – 4pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: CLOSED

Main Post Office

23-25 Kings Road West

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday: 9am to 5pm

Sunday: CLOSED

Times are subject to change.

Nationwide

29 Station Road

Monday to Friday: 10am – 2pm

Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED

**WE HONOUR OUR NHS WORKERS
BUT LET'S ALSO REMEMBER OUR
OTHER ARMY OF HEROES**



Refuse Collectors



“Care at Home”
Nurses



Bus Drivers



Postmen and
women



Nursing & Care
Home staff



Supermarket and other
essential shop workers



Home Delivery Drivers
and volunteers



Schools &
Nursery staff

AND MANY, MANY, MORE