

SWANAGE AREA FORUM

INCLUDING SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020 - No. 7



Welcome to The December 2020 Newsletter with season's greetings to all, from the production team of Bob Field, Gerry, Kim and myself.

This newsletter (as previous issues) illustrates and celebrates our wonderful and diverse community organisations and all that they have done for us.

2020 has been a historic year. In future years many of our children, grandchildren and other descendants will probably ask Mum/Dad, Nan/Grandad: *"What did you do during the great pandemic?"* Some of us may say: *"Not much."* Key emergency, health workers, care home workers, or carers, teachers, local government employees, or shop, warehouse and transport workers - the list is endless - can answer with great pride: *"We helped to keep things going and kept many people safe and well"*. However, we have to remember that in the UK alone over 60,000 people have lost their lives directly attributed to Covid-19 and approximately another 20,000 folk have died from 'excess deaths' and it is not over yet. As in sport, it's never over until the final whistle blows!

The Christmas period and winter still face us, so please don't drop your guard, don't get complacent. **At least** keep to the advised safety guidelines and remember this virus does not recognise Christmas. It doesn't take time off.

If we keep vigilant, we can all happily survive Christmas 2020 and this winter. After a successful vaccination programme, hopefully we can then really look forward to a normal MERRY Christmas in 2021.

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



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



The Swanage Medical Practice

Happy Christmas to all!

SWANAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWS - DECEMBER

In October I said that was the time to act and to review our activities due to the resurgence of Corona virus. This was followed with a 4 week Lock-down and now we have come out of that in Tier 2. Back then we had between 1-5 cases in the Swanage area at any one time. By 14th October this had risen to between 10 and 20; through Lock-down we have been varying above and below 10 cases and are now just back in the 5-10 active cases in our area.

Clearly, without all the measures the rates would have risen much higher, so many thanks to all for playing their part in starting to turn things around. Nevertheless, as we still have the winter weather ahead of us, unless measures are maintained the rates will start to rise again. I am therefore glad we are in Tier 2 as this will greatly help to keep us safe and enable the NHS to provide more normal care.

Certainly, this time round, I've had several older patients who have contracted the virus in their own homes or somewhere in the town. Most schools seem to have had a few cases, including my grandson, and now his parents in Hampshire. To help monitor 'at risk' patients at home we now have access to the '**COVID Oximetry at Home Service**'. A simple device is supplied by the service to check a patient's oxygen levels 3 times a day. This is important as a slight drop is a good predictor of who needs to be admitted to hospital for enhanced care at a time when this will be more effective and before the patient may feel very unwell. Please contact the surgery if you feel you may need this service.

The Flu Vaccine

The Government are now confident they have secured enough extra flu vaccine to additionally offer it to those 50 – 65 year olds who were not called previously due to them having other risk factors. We hope to start sending out invitation letters shortly, potentially starting on 15th December.

The Corona Virus Vaccine

A late Christmas present does seem to be looming in terms of the COVID vaccination, with 6 vaccines looking for approval.

The Practice has signed up to be part of the team that will be delivering this on a strictly prioritised basis according to National protocol. This will seek to protect the eldest and most vulnerable first. As I write, health care staff are in the first group followed by care home residents and staff and then over 80s, next by 5 year age groups down to 65, then all those under 65 who are extremely clinically vulnerable or vulnerable; then by 5 year age groups down to 50.

The Purbeck Primary Care Network (PCN) of which we are a part, have been asked to coordinate the local delivery and nominate one site suitable for large scale vaccinations. In order to enable normal Practice activity to continue, **Wareham Hospital** site has been chosen for this; delivery to the house-bound and nursing homes will also be enabled. More local delivery will be provided if possible.

The group to be vaccinated is a much larger one than usually get the flu vaccination; they will need 2 doses, and the vaccine is much more complex to store and give, so we will need to make use of new resources to ensure a speedy delivery. As soon as we are given details of availability, appropriate patients will be contacted to book an appointment. This may be by letter, phone, or text. Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details including address, landline and mobile phone numbers.



The Swanage Medical Practice

Continued from previous page

Christmas

For our older patients and those that were shielding there are still a few dark months to get through until the vaccine and warmth of the summer drive the virus away. We have all been given the freedom to choose individual priorities for meeting over the five day Christmas period, but this relies on all in the 3 different households considering the risks and wishes of all members before agreeing to spend time together. Prior to this we are still allowed to meet up outside in groups of up to 6 and are encouraged to get outside to exercise. The risk of passing on the virus is very much less outside. If the weather looks suitable, give someone you think may be lonely a call, to go for a short walk together. It will be good exercise and help to keep you warm and cheer spirits.

Shielding Patients

In Tier 2, even if you were previously advised to shield or are extremely clinically vulnerable, you're now still advised to go outside to exercise and access all the NHS services you need. However, you should keep the number of different people you meet consistently low, only go out for essential services and make good use of deliveries, and categorically, keep 2 metres away from anyone visiting your home. Those who were previously on the shielding list should be receiving a personal update letter explaining this from the government very soon.

Our renamed **Medically Urgent Telephone (sit & wait) Service** seems to be settling in with increasing capacity from our Paramedic and Advanced Nurses supporting your GPs. Many thanks to those who have submitted an E-Consult when the Medically Urgent Telephone Service is over-subscribed, as this enables the workload to be kept to a safe level while still ensuring everyone will be assessed by the end of the following day.

The Purbeck-wide extra GP clinics mentioned last time have started and are gradually starting to fill up a bit more. From 7th December we will also have access to a new service for patients with potential COVID-19 to be assessed about that or any other problem. This will keep our sites safe for routine patients, provide more expert COVID assessment and synchronisation with the **COVID Oximetry at Home Service** and good access to acute services. This service is based in **Oakdale** and will be a valuable addition to the services we can offer, for those who can travel.

To finish, the entire practice team and I would like to thank you all for adapting so well to our changed working environment and protocols. We know it's felt upsetting for some, but our entire reason for being, is to keep you safe and well.

It's been an extraordinary year; I very much hope that with a high uptake of the corona virus vaccine, 2021 will be a much better one.

Remember: "HANDS (wash), FACE (mask), SPACE (2m)"

Dr Jason Clark, Senior Partner

Swanage Medical Practice website: www.swanagemedical.org.uk

Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Councils move to Tier 2 *from Wednesday 2nd December 2020*

The Government has announced that the national lockdown measures ended on 2 December and the BCP Council and Dorset Council areas are now in Tier 2, as from Wednesday 2 December - until further notice.

For residents this means we can only mix with our own households or support bubbles indoors but, can meet with up to six people outdoors.

Sam Crowe Director of Public Health for Dorset and BCP Councils said:

"These measures are designed to help us bring infection and transmission rates down as quickly as possible. Over the last few months, we have seen rising cases where household mixing has led to more positive cases of COVID-19. To help stop the spread we need everyone to do their bit and limiting social mixing is one of the most effective ways to do this."

Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council, said:

"I am disappointed that the Dorset Council area will be in Tier 2 following the end of national restrictions on Wednesday 2 December. The rate of COVID infection here is falling and is one of the lowest in the country. The people of Dorset have worked hard and made sacrifices to comply with COVID restrictions over many months. As a result, the number of COVID cases here has been relatively low. However, I am optimistic that by continuing to observe measures to reduce spread of the virus we can return to Tier 1 when the Government conducts its review on 16 December. Once again, thank you for everything everyone is doing to stop the spread of the virus."


Tier 2 - High Alert: what it means for you

Meeting with others	You can see people from different households outside in groups of up to 6 people but you can only meet inside with those in your household or support bubble. You should maintain social distancing from anyone not in your household or support bubble.
Travel and transport	Journeys should be limited where possible, but you can still travel and use transport to go to the shops, work and hospitality venues that are open. You should still wear a face covering. Avoid travelling to tier 3 areas unless where necessary for example for work, medical reasons, caring or education. If you travel into a tier 3 then you will need to follow the rules of Tier 3.
Staying overnight	You can only stay overnight somewhere if it's with those in your household or support bubble.
Going to work	You should work from home where possible. Where this isn't possible, workplaces should be Coronavirus secure.
Shops	All shops can be open.

Hospitality	<p>Pubs and bars can open as long as they are able to serve a substantial meal, restaurants can open but should be table service only. Alcohol can only be served with a substantial meal. Venues should close by 11pm and take last orders at 10pm.</p> <p><i>You can only go to these places with people from your household or support bubble unless you're able to sit outside, which you may be able to do with a maximum group of 6 people.</i></p>
Personal care	Businesses such as hair, nail and beauty salons can open.
Exercise and sporting activity	<p>Gyms, pools, and leisure facilities can open.</p> <p>Organised sport and licensed physical activity are allowed in outdoor settings but may be subject to certain rules. Any indoor physical activity can only take place where there's no interaction between different households.</p> <p>Sporting events are allowed but with limited capacity or a maximum of 2000 people outdoors and 1000 indoors and where social distancing is possible.</p>
Places of worship	They can open as long as households don't mix indoors, but it's best to check with your place of worship. There are exceptions for weddings and funerals.
Weddings and civil partnerships	Up to 15 people can attend a ceremony and a coronavirus secure sit-down reception.
Funerals	Up to 30 people can attend someone's funeral and up to 15 people can attend someone's wake, ash spreading or other linked events. This can't be held in someone's home.
Care home visits	<p>Visiting can take place if a care home is able to make coronavirus-secure arrangements such as screens in an indoor space, visiting pods or window visits. Each care home will have their own policy in place, so it's best to check with yours before you visit.</p> <p>By Christmas, the Government has said care homes will be able to regularly test two visitors for every resident to ensure visitors can have physical contact with their loved one, but we're awaiting further guidance on when this will be implemented.</p>
Public buildings such as libraries	These can open.
Home visits by cleaners and tradespeople indoors	These can continue, ensure making clear social distancing from household members, who should vacate each room as it is cleaned, or where other trades work is carried out.
If you're clinically extremely vulnerable or were previously advised to shield	<p>Although you can meet in groups of up to 6 outside, it's a good idea to limit the number of different people you socialise with. Make sure you socially distance from people outside of your household or support bubble.</p> <p>Try to avoid travel where possible, unless for education, work, or essential shopping.</p> <p>You can go to shops or pharmacies, but you should do so at times where it will be less busy. If you can it's better to have online deliveries for food and prescriptions or to ask friends or family to pick things up for you.</p> <p>Any carers or visitors who support you with everyday needs should continue to come round.</p>
Christmas	From 23 December to 27 December the coronavirus rules are changing. Each household can form a 'Christmas bubble' with up to two other households. For full information, see elsewhere.

Everyone is advised against travelling to or from an area in very high alert level (Tier 3). There are some exceptions though such as if it's for work, education or caring responsibilities or you are passing through as part of a longer trip.

What are the coronavirus rules this Christmas?



This Christmas, from 23 December to 27 December we'll all be able to form a 'Christmas bubble'. **This bubble allows you to join up to two other households during this period. However, once you've decided which two households you want to spend time with you can't change them. Your bubble remains the same throughout this period. For example, you can't spend Christmas Eve with two households and then Christmas Day with two different households.**

You can spend time with the people in your bubble in someone's home, garden, places of worship or in an outside public space. In terms of hospitality settings such as bars and pubs, you have to follow the guidance for the highest alert level in your Christmas bubble. For example, if someone in your bubble is from a Tier 3 area, everyone in the bubble must follow the hospitality guidance for Tier 3.

If you have coronavirus symptoms then the rules don't change – you should still get tested and self-isolate. You shouldn't be part of a Christmas bubble if you have symptoms.

Are the rules the same for all three tiers?

Yes, no matter your local alert level these rules apply to everyone this Christmas but only from 23 December to 27 December.

I'm already in a support bubble or childcare bubble. Will this affect my Christmas bubble?

If you're already part of a support bubble then you and the people in this bubble will count as one household and can meet with up to two other households.

However, if you're in a childcare bubble, you and the others in this bubble will count as two separate households if you're in the same Christmas bubble and so can only meet with up to one other household.

Can I see people that aren't in my Christmas bubble?

You can't spend time indoors with anyone that isn't in your Christmas bubble from 23 December to 27 December but you can meet up with others outside in public spaces. However, this has to be done in line with the guidance in your local area.

Can I travel to form a Christmas bubble?

Yes, you can travel across the UK to form your Christmas bubble, regardless of tiers. Any travelling should also take place between 23 December and 27 December.

If you're travelling on public transport, it's a good idea to plan ahead as services are likely to be busier than normal. If you're driving, only travel in a car with people in your household or support bubble.

Can I stay overnight during the Christmas period?

Once you've formed your Christmas bubble, you can stay overnight at someone's house if they're in your bubble. If you need to stay overnight elsewhere, you can stay at a hotel but can only do so by yourself or with those in your household or support bubble – this doesn't include those in your Christmas bubble.



Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust



URGENT UPDATE: Swanage & Purbeck Paramedic Car

Following our message in the October Newsletter, we would reiterate that the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust are committed to taking steps to foster the wellbeing of Swanage residents, so we were extremely concerned to hear that the Car may be withdrawn at the end of December.

We very much support the Car continuing to be based in Swanage, and feel we have a compelling case to keep the Car – we need it

The Town Council asked Dorset Health Scrutiny to raise the withdrawal of the Car with Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG), and wrote to the Ambulance Trust. DCCG have not given any guarantee that the car is safe, but say that there has been no final decision to remove it. However the Ambulance Trust has not yet confirmed that the Car will not be withdrawn at the end of December.

It is a matter of life and death for us to retain this essential service:

The Swanage and Purbeck Ambulance Car + Paramedic:

- i) provides a rapid response (as nearer and faster) to save life in emergency pending arrival of the ambulance
- ii) treats the 50% of patients who do not need to go to hospital at the scene, avoiding unnecessary journeys to Poole, and protecting hospital resources
- iii) provides a replacement service when the Swanage Minor Injuries Unit is closed (8pm - 8am).
- iv) supports Purbeck GP home visits, helping to ensure that these are covered. Indeed we believe that the Purbeck GP's are open to looking at making a contribution towards retaining the Ambulance Car.

The need for the Car to stay in Swanage can only be reinforced by the plans to move our A&E, Maternity and Children's care from Poole Hospital to Bournemouth Hospital – a long way for us to go.

We see that the "Save Swanage Ambulance Car" petition started by Melvyn Norris is now over **4,300 signatures** – thank you!

We wholly support the retention of the Swanage and Purbeck Paramedic + Car in the vital interest of the future health and wellbeing of Swanage and Purbeck residents.

We again urge members of the community who haven't already done so to add their name to the Ambulance Car petition, by going to -

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

Please sign and share



FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

SOME VERY GOOD NEWS THIS SIDE OF CHRISTMAS

At last, we at The Friends are delighted to tell you that our major projects at our wonderful Swanage Hospital are finished!

The car park is now open for staff and visitors to the hospital, the new meeting room and staff room are greatly appreciated and the relatives' bed-sitting room is ready if needed.

The patient garden is really taking shape, as you will see from the photo here. Planting in the garden is going to be an ongoing process with much more to come in the spring, but we have a lawn, shrubs and climbers. We were able to plant nine trees thanks to the Swanage Town Band's donation and everyone is absolutely thrilled by the transformation.

We look forward to planning a formal opening of these new rooms and the garden so you can have a wander around it all – hopefully sometime in the spring when we've had our vaccinations and are allowed to gather again.

Meanwhile we can only thank our wonderful hospital staff for their care and vigilance and thank you all for your continued support which allows us to fund such worthwhile projects.

Jan Turnbull, Chair



"HELLO" FROM THE FRIENDS OF WAREHAM HOSPITAL

After what has been and is a very difficult time for us all with the coronavirus it is great to be able to report that Wareham Hospital and its staff have continued to provide many local services across the whole health locality of Purbeck.

Clinics have continued to run either virtually or face to face and we were delighted to hear that the Chemotherapy clinic which we have actively supported from the outset is to be increased from one day per week to five: Wareham Hospital providing the ideal setting for this locality-based service run by staff from Poole Hospital.

As a committee we have tried to work 'with' Statutory organisations for many years and I was really grateful to meet recently with Senior staff from Dorset Healthcare who manage Wareham Hospital and the Community services to hear of the recent service developments being made to care for us, when needed, in our own homes. A "transformational piece of work is being undertaken" I was told which will further enhance integration of services, a single point of access and a single "pool" of staff resource to support us at home.

As a Friends Group, we have extended our role to support local Community services as well as Wareham Hospital so look forward to even further development of this work which we hope will be coordinated through the planned Purbeck Hub on the old Middle School site which we are told is progressing positively. Our dream would now be that voluntary groups across the area could work more closely together to get the best for our unique local area.

We would like to thank all Purbeck staff for their ongoing hard work and also thank those within the community who are able to support us as a Friends Group. We would always welcome new members and or financial support which can be made through: Wareham Hospital Friends, Wareham Hospital, Streche Road, Wareham BH20 4RN.

With every best wish for Christmas and we hope a happier and healthier 2021.

MAGGIE HARDY, FRIENDS CHAIR

Charity number 252073



URGENT LOCAL HEALTH CONCERNS

UPDATE ON

THE CASE FOR DAYTIME 'A&E LOCAL' AT POOLE AND NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE AT DORCHESTER

Following this page in the October Newsletter regarding the fact that Poole and Bournemouth Hospitals are merging, it still seems that our community's long fight to keep Poole Hospital A&E and Specialist Care Maternity and Children's Units has been ignored, as, over the next few years, these vital services are set to disappear from Poole.

But **THERE IS STILL TIME** for Dorset CCG to consider how to mitigate the real risks for residents of Swanage and the villages to access care in emergencies. The clinical evidence is clear - longer journeys to and from probably the longest cul-de-sac in Dorset - increase the risk of loss of life, and of long-term medical complications.

A&E Local at Poole (daytime A&E) would at least address concerns about emergency medical and trauma journey times during the day, when the traffic is at its worst.

Newborn Intensive Care at Dorset County would mean that Swanage and Purbeck mums delivering under 32 weeks would not have to try to get to Bournemouth Hospital.

I'm pleased to report that the Town Council has formed a new 'Emergency Health Services' working party, with the remit: "*Working to ensure timely access to emergency health services for Swanage*". Letters have been sent to Dorset Council Health Scrutiny stressing the need for steps to be taken to mitigate our journey times in emergency, and the Town Council has also written to the Ambulance Trust to explain the remoteness of our location and how important it is to our community to retain the Paramedic Car.

So, as it will take a few years for the A&E, Maternity and Children's departments to move from Poole to Bournemouth Hospital, we have time to prepare and build a case for A&E Local at Poole, Newborn Intensive Care at Dorchester, and of course we are working urgently with our community to try to save our Paramedic Car.

**Debby Monkhouse,
Swanage Town Councillor and
Co-ordinator of Defend Dorset NHS Residents' Group.**

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary has been able to operate, albeit in a very different way, through the unique circumstances of the coronavirus.

Our support of the Friendly Food Club continued unabated through the summer right up to the October half term, providing bags full of tasty ingredients for local families to try their hand at cooking. We will now be preparing Christmas food bags in December, with a Yule Log recipe to help families with their festive preparations.

December is usually a very busy time for our Rotarians with a number of events and activities taking place. Despite the Coronavirus severely restricting these, we are still able to run a modified version of some of them:

Santa's Sleigh

Santa's Sleigh will be touring the area as ever, with our festive sleigh passing through as many of the streets as possible. Although we will have a smaller team escorting Santa and we can't hand out sweets this year, we hope that the community will still come out and see us as we pass. Donations for local good causes will, as ever, be very welcome, either by putting money in our collecting buckets or, preferably, by donating via our JustGiving site at www.justgiving.com/rotary-swanage-purbeck

Pop-Up Christmas Shop

The annual Christmas Market is sadly not able to go ahead in 2020, but undeterred we have now opened for the first time ever, our brand new Pop-Up Christmas shop in the former Swanage Mobility premises in Station Road. Come and browse all the festive goodies that we have for sale, all proceeds from which will also go towards our support of local good causes. Come and browse for your more unique gifts. We will also be selling cakes, jams and chutneys and a variety of other different gifts.

Further details of both of the above are available on our website at:

www.swanagerotary.org/christmas-with-rotary.

We are very keen to hear from anyone who would like to find out more about Rotary and/or join in some of our activities and events. We are particular keen to hear ideas for how we could engage further with our local community, so please just e-mail secretary@swanagerotary.org with your ideas and suggestions, or to find out more.

Steve Parsons

President, Swanage and Purbeck Rotary Club

Christmas Charity Mail

This December Swanage & Purbeck Rotary will again be offering its local Charity Mail service, delivering festive mail items to Swanage, Langton Matravers, Worth Matravers, Kingston, Harman's Cross, Corfe Castle, Church Knowle Studland and the local hamlets.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, we will be doing it slightly differently this year, taking into consideration all Government Guidelines in respect of the pandemic.

We can accept mail at our sorting office, accessed via the door to the right of the Pop Up Christmas Shop in Station Road, any day until Saturday 12th December (excluding Sunday 6th) between 9:30am and 2:30pm.

The cost will be 25p per card and payment can be made by cash or cheque. We will be hand delivering the mail between **17th and 24th December.**

CALLING ALL RESIDENTS OF OUR PURBECK COMMUNITY



Would any of you, your family or friends be prepared to share your experience of what using the Swanage Ambulance Car and Paramedic has meant to you? It might really help our case to keep the Car and get the important message across. If you are worried about your name being used, please don't worry. We will not include any of your personal details in any report we draw together. But it would really help if we can collect as many stories as we can to show the powers-that-be just how vital this wonderful service is to our Community.

please email:

cllrmonkhouse@swanagecouncillors.uk or

Tel: 01929 426127 to discuss

SWANAGE COMMUNITY HOUSING GROUP

The Community Housing group took a big step forward on the 18th November. There was a public meeting on Zoom to gather interested people to steer the creation of a **Community Land Committee**

This is the culmination of work done by the Council over the past few years to try and get some social housing built in Swanage for local people, and key workers, who otherwise would not be able to live here.

The Council was well represented at the meeting and Cllr Mayor Mike Bonfield made clear the support of Swanage Town Council for this initiative. The meeting was attended by over 30 people and the Community Housing Group will now have to identify a few people to be invited to become Trustees.

If you were unable to join the first Zoom meeting, but are interested and wish to be involved, then please let Emma Evans know and contact her:

Emma Evans at Swanage Town Council on:

e.evans@swanage.gov.uk

We will be delighted to hear from you.

Robin Sutcliffe



Photograph by Dave Corben



A message from the Mayor of Swanage, Councillor Mike Bonfield

As we come out of Lockdown 2 and enter Tier 2, it makes me think how different the two lockdowns have been. The first time we were so lucky to be able to spend a lot of the time outside. With the second lockdown, we had to spend a lot more time inside due to the weather and shorter days.

I feel for those that are on their own, or have again been isolating. We must all carry on thinking of others who need support in so many ways. During the last eight months we have been so fortunate with the local volunteers and organisations that have worked so hard supporting our community. 2020 has been a challenging year and I hope that the next few weeks see us supporting all things local.

It is good to see the town's Christmas lights on, hopefully giving us all something to smile about. Those that have been for a walk over the Recreation Ground will also have noticed that the playground is undergoing a full updating, which is due to be completed before Christmas.

We all need things to look forward to and hopefully 2021 will see the vaccine to help protect us from Covid 19 start to become available. Until then we must all do all we can to protect ourselves and those around us.

As we approach Christmas, which I believe is a time for families, we must continue to look out for each other. I feel for all those families that will be unable to be together this year so I ask again that we all take a minute to think if there are any people that we might be able to help and support.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and
a better year in 2021.

Cllr Mike Bonfield

Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



In September I wrote in the newsletter that our main objective now as a Partnership is to **sustain** the community project which a team of four of us started 5 years.

That objective does not change but it is now becoming more challenging as we are finding that some of our Defib cabinets are showing signs of wear which is to be accepted and understandable knowing the remote positions of some of them.

All defibs and cabinets are checked frequently by our wonderful team of Guardians who report to a central point (Deirdre Mersey), Deirdre will then advise the Ambulance Trust if defibs. are available, or not, for use. The Guardian team does an excellent job for the Partnership and we thank them all for their ongoing commitment, hard work and dedication.

We will however need to actively fundraise in 2021 to support the on- going maintenance and necessary replacement of batteries and pads for all kit.

At a time when it is likely that we will lose the Paramedic car in Purbeck it is even more important that we maintain the 35 defibs. strategically placed across the area and sustain this project.

We know that the defib. in Studland was used to shock an unconscious person, who got into difficulty in the sea, eight times before Emergency services arrived on the scene. Sadly, after an hour the person did not survive but the critical care team stated that he was given the best chance of survival by early CPR and the shocks. Our defib made a difference!

Once we are able we will resume our Defib familiarisation sessions for those wishing to know more about Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillators and how to use them in an emergency situation should you be the first 'on the scene'

We would like to thank our local community for the support we receive for this project and would also like to welcome back one of our Founder members Kyle Hickman. Kyle has been in Australia for the last few years and has returned with his family. He has maintained his interest and involvement in our project from afar and we are delighted that he is back.

Sending our kindest wishes to all during this difficult time and hoping 2021 will be better for us all.

Maggie Hardy, Ian Brown and Dave Corben,
SCDP Steering group members

SWANAGE FOOD BANK



DECEMBER UPDATE

Again, thank you to everyone who has donated food to SFB in the past month. Our supplies quickly diminish as the demand increases so these are urgent needs plus a list of items which may contribute towards the fifty Christmas Hampers we give our clients.

• Urgent needs:

- tins of cold meat (ham, luncheon meat, spam, corned beef, etc)
- Sugar
- Shop-bought marmalade, jam and honey
- Savoury spreads (peanut butter, marmite, etc)
- Deserts (sponge puddings, custard, jellies, whips, etc)

Christmas Hamper Items:

(ASAP please or we may have to buy)

- Tins or cartons of mixed chocolates (Roses, Quality Street etc)
- Chocolate coins and tubes of sweets for children
- Large tins of ham and salmon (for families)
- Christmas puddings and alternative sponge puddings
- Yule logs
- Savoury biscuits for cheese - mixed variety boxes
- Sweet biscuits - mixed variety packages
- Salted peanuts, Pringles, Twiglets
- Boxes of mincepies (**must have "best before" January date**)

Swanage Food Bank has a Facebook account and all contact numbers, updates and news can be found there:

[facebook.com/SwanageFoodBank/](https://www.facebook.com/SwanageFoodBank/).

If you know of people needing food (referrals - including self-referrals) please contact:

07759 230313.

For any other enquiries, eg donations, it's

07713 637208

Your support is greatly appreciated.
Keep safe everyone!

Pauline Werba (Chair of SFB)



DORSET NATIONAL PARK - FOR A GREENER FUTURE

In late November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stressed the need to protect and create new jobs – including in the green economy. This reflected the Government's recent 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Strategy. Included in that plan was the commitment in Point 9:

"We will protect our natural environment through the creation of new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We will start the process for designating more of England's beautiful and iconic landscapes as National Parks and AONBs, safeguarding these areas for future generations and bringing more people within closer reach of nature."

The Dorset National Park Team welcomes these statements and looks forward to a Dorset National Park playing a key role in partnership with the Dorset Council and others in the regeneration of Dorset's environment, communities and economy.

The Government has said it wants National Parks to work with partners to help address the nation's climate and ecological emergencies and increase natural capital, for example by supporting farmers to encourage biodiversity and wildlife, clean and healthy rivers and harbours, carbon capture in soils and woodlands, to promote local foods and products, and encourage access to green space for health and wellbeing. A National Park can help Dorset farmers to thrive and farm sustainably, including helping them to secure new farm funding, to market Dorset foods and products, and to diversify successfully.

Dorset's relevant comparator, the South Downs National Park, is leading a wide-ranging nature recovery partnership for the South East region and says: *"The SDNP and our partners are delighted that creating a healthier natural environment will bring economic benefits for the region, including reducing the financial burden on health and social care, increasing visitor spending and boosting the area's desirability as a location for business."* The SDNP also has a £375,000 recovery fund which it is using to support communities and businesses within and beyond the National Park. Dorset's communities and businesses would benefit from such resources.

The 2019 Glover Review recommended that Dorset be seriously evaluated for National Park designation and the National Park Team look forward to Natural England progressing this compelling case for the benefit of everyone who lives and works in Dorset or visits our very special area.



THE MOWLEM THEATRE DECEMBER UPDATE

The Mowlem re-opened on Friday 4 December with more magical musical delights!

November's shows have been moved to January because of the 4-week lockdown, but we have a host of seasonal screenings and our first live event since March for your entertainment!

As Swanage is now designated a Tier 2 area you must sit with members of your household or support bubble only. If you already have tickets booked with friends or family outside of your household or support bubble, please email us on boxoffice@themowlem.com and we will make any necessary changes to your booking.

All of our previous safety measures remain in place - social distancing in all parts of the building, hand sanitiser stations for your convenience, and a reminder that masks must be worn for the duration of your visit.

Booking in advance is essential as the number of tickets available are limited in order to provide room for social distancing - tickets can be booked through our website or call the:

Ticket Source box office on 0333 666 3366, Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm. If you'd prefer to book in person, the Box Office is open Monday & Friday 10:30am - 1:30pm. Booking fees apply.

We look forward to seeing you!



Swanage Pier Winter Raffle!

To enter answer one simple Pier question and purchase your raffle tickets online for a chance to win. Tickets are just £1 each.

All proceeds raised go towards the ongoing maintenance of Swanage Pier, and there are fabulous prizes to be won. To find out how to enter, please use one of the contact details below:

Email: activities@swanagepiertrust.com OR -
<https://www.swanagepiertrust.com/events> OR
<https://raffall.com/140608/enter-raffle-to-win-fabulous-prizes-hosted-by-swanage-pier-trust>

Also, there is a news article on our website, which give full details of the prizes to be won -
<https://www.swanagepiertrust.com/news-article/swanage-pier-big-winter-raffle>

We greatly appreciated your support.





Art4Action Auction Support Purbeck artists and craftspeople making a difference this Christmas

Art4Action is repeating its successful lockdown online auction and is holding a Timed Auction starting on Friday, 4th of December and closing on Sunday 13th December. 41 Purbeck artists and craftspeople are contributing over 300 lots for the Art4Action auction with proceeds being split between the artists and local charities and causes.

"Please do support Purbeck artists who make wonderful art, which is difficult to sell during these challenging times" says the Chair of Purbeck Art Weeks Festival. "Purbeck is full of talent and enthusiasm for art, please do take a bit of it home with you for Christmas, as a wonderful gift for yourself or others!"

To find out more and to take a sneak peek at some of the lots, please go to <http://www.art4action.co.uk/>.

See all the art for auction on www.art4action.co.uk



Support our amazing local online Art Auction
from the comfort of your own home!



Swanage Library re-opens

We are pleased to announce that we re-opened on Wednesday 2nd December, following the end of Lockdown 2. Our sessions will remain the same as they were pre-Lockdown 2.0 – **Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 9.30am-1pm.**

All customers (except those with medical exceptions) will be required to wear a face mask. A member of staff will be on 'door duty' to take your name and phone number for Track & Trace purposes, and we also have an NHS QR code if you have the app on your phone. You will also be asked to use our hand sanitiser.

The **Order and Collect** service is still running too and can be accessed by **phoning 01305 228400** or visiting the link: [Dorset libraries order and collect \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](http://dorsetlibrariesorderandcollect.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) This is a good way of getting books if you are unable to come into the library during our open sessions.

However, our occupancy rate is still very low so we feel confident that you can visit the library safely as there will be very few customers and staff in the building and we have regular cleaning of high touch points such as handrails and the self-service machines.

We have a great stock of new books on the shelves just waiting to be borrowed, as well as lots of Christmas-themed reads for children and adults.

The Swanage Library team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you very soon.





The Purbeck School
Achieving Excellence Together



The Purbeck School community supports local foodbanks

FOLLOWING A two-week harvest appeal, The Purbeck School community of staff, students and parents/carers collected a significant amount of food and household items to support two wonderful local charities. Three of our Year 7 students are pictured with a second car full (and it was a full car!) of produce set to help people in our catchment who need help, especially in these particularly difficult times. We were able to support the following food banks – please click on their details to find out more about how you can help further or indeed access their services:

Swanage food bank

<https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/service/40/Swanage-Food-Bank>

Wareham food bank

<https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/organisations/852/wareham-food-bank>

Virtual NHS Work Experience Event

DURING OCTOBER half term a selection of our year 12 and 13 students participated in a NHS Virtual Work Experience Event. This included a one-day introduction to midwifery, an insight into a career in medicine, and an introduction into Allied Health Professions (including paramedics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy). The virtual one-day opportunities were designed to provide some of the most important points students might have learnt in real-world work experience in the NHS. Over the course of the day students heard talks from a range of professionals and academics and gave students the opportunity to interact live and ask questions, and meet like-minded students.

"I thought it was very informative as there were multiple representatives from different areas of the healthcare sector so gave a lot of information on careers within each section. It was also interactive and working in smaller groups for activities helped to get students more involved." George Moore Year 13

"I found it useful as there were a variety of speakers that gave an insight into their field in work in very different ways, this helped me work out what sectors I personally want to go into and the benefits and disadvantages of each." Samuel Kaplan Year 13



Celebrating Pupils' Achievements at The Purbeck School

We've made some changes to the way we praise and reward our students at The Purbeck School.

Pupils can now expect to earn achievement points in lesson by displaying any of the new, nine positive learning behaviours. These behaviours are identified with new lesson praise statements and these statements provide teachers with more opportunity to celebrate the excellent learning characteristics of The Purbeck School pupils as well as continuing to promote our school principles.

Pupils will also now earn community house points when they positively contribute to the school as a whole. In addition to assisting staff members, helping new students settle in and filling up their 'Above and Beyond' cards, pupils will also earn community house points for attendance, punctuality and by meeting lesson expectations.



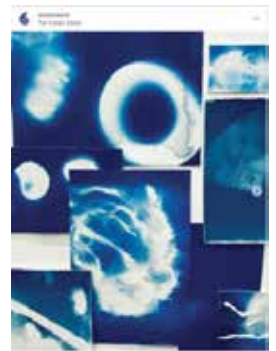
Fostering a Love of Reading

The Education Endowment Foundation has reported that “*young people who leave school without good literacy skills are held back at every stage of life. Their outcomes are poorer on almost every measure, from health and wellbeing, to employment and finance.*”

At Purbeck, we have created a reading canon which has been purposely constructed so that students not only develop a love of reading, but are also exposed to a range of reading sources that offer a high value of cultural capital and allow them to see how literature has developed and evolved in line with political and social change within British and global society.

Purbeck Art Online!

This term, the Art department has created a really stimulating showcase of student work on the social media platform Instagram. Please do feel free to visit (and follow!) The Purbeck School's Instagram Art page: [purbeckarts](https://www.instagram.com/purbeckarts)



Similarly, readers can keep up to date with all of the school's news by visiting the website:

(<https://www.purbeck.dorset.sch.uk/>) or following us on twitter. And if you do visit the website, you will find a whole range of informative videos that the staff have shot to create our Virtual Open Evening for future Year 7s and also the Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening. A great way to learn more about our 'Respect, Aspiration, Perseverance' ethos, and the wonderful learning environment and huge range of educational opportunities!



THE SWANAGE SCHOOL



It's (almost) business as usual at The Swanage School!

The Autumn Term is always busy but this has been a rather unusual one too. Our new students joined us having been in lock-down for their last term of primary school and so it's been great to see them settling in, as well as catching-up with all our other students again. We are delighted with the way everyone has adapted to new procedures in school – what with bubbles and zones and hand-gel (lots of that!) and masks – and we are thankful to be approaching the end of term without yet having had a positive case in school. This is great news on a personal level for our students and staff of course, but also as it means no student bubbles have been asked to stay home and self-isolate. As you might imagine, we have had a strong focus on student wellbeing during this period, as well as ensuring that we have identified any gaps in knowledge as a result of the lock-down period to be able to put in place “catch-up strategies” to complement normal teaching and learning.

Whilst education continues unbounded, naturally there have been some downsides to the decisions we have had to make to protect students and staff, comply with guidance, and mitigate the spread of the virus. For students, this has meant less trips and extracurricular activities than usual and for staff fewer opportunities to collaborate in person with local primary schools. It is also strange to be restricting visitors and those from the local community who make use of our wonderful facilities out-of-hours. We will miss putting on the annual Christmas Tea Party for senior residents of Swanage, but we hope to have an Easter or Summer Tea Party instead. The postponement of our annual production at The Mowlem Theatre is also a huge disappointment, but rest assured we will return with even more pizzazz than usual when the time is right!



It isn't all doom and gloom though! Some of our biology students took part in insect and fungi surveys on the Studland dunes with the National Trust as part of their “*Dynamic Dunescapes Project*”, our GCSE geographers will be back out conducting field work on the beach next week, our Student Council gained experience of interviewing in a meeting with Richard Drax MP; our virtual assemblies have enabled us to continue inspiring students and we are using our Interhouse Challenge this month to give students an opportunity to enter the **bp Ultimate STEM Challenge**



Our whole-school Christmas dinner has been renamed the “Christmas Bubble Dinner”, and with some logistical mastery we shall still be holding this staple of our annual calendar!

We are also delighted that the tree project is going very well indeed with the support of Trees for Dorset, Greening Swanage and Sustainable Swanage. In the early part of this year, over 100 students helped plant around 900 saplings and hedge plants on the school grounds and 20 oak trees have recently been planted by Dorset Council on the verge close to the school.



Like everyone, we look forward to more settled times ahead, but in the meantime I will take an opportunity to say publicly how very proud I am to be the Headteacher of this fantastic school, as much for the type of things mentioned above and the values we promote as I am of students' academic success under the guidance of my dedicated colleagues.

Please follow the school on social media to keep up with our news – we're active on Facebook and will soon be venturing to Instagram too.
With my best wishes for the festive season,

Jenny Maraspin - Head Teacher

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY

*This is an important message to all
Dorset residents:*

Because of the importance of tackling the climate and ecological emergency that we all find ourselves in, Dorset Council has done the research, listened to the ideas, had the discussions, and come up with a broad, ambitious and deliverable plan for how they propose to tackle these serious problems.

They now want to hear from as many people as possible to find out what residents and the communities think of it, and so have launched a formal consultation. The closing date for your responses is **Wednesday 20 January 2021.**

It is recommended taking the time to read the whole strategy before filling out the survey, but if it's simply too unwieldy and/or you don't have time, just read up on the sections you are interested in and only respond to the questions that cover those. However, for people who do not have access, or have problems with online facilities, then a hard copy may be obtained by: **Telephoning: 01305 221000 or contacting your local library who may be able to help.**

We need to work together to overcome this monumental challenge. What we all do – or don't do – to address this climate and ecological emergency will impact our children, grandchildren and every other generation for centuries to come.

Best wishes to you all.

**Cllr Noc. Lacey-Clarke
Dorset Council**

**Lead Member for Travel, The Environment and
Harbours Committee**

*The Climate and Ecological Emergency strategy and
a link to the survey is available at*

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-strategy.

The closing date for responses is:

[Wednesday 20 January 2021.](#)



Tom.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

A time to Reflect ... and look forward with Hope

AT LAST 2020 comes towards its end. A chance to reflect and look forward. Hopefully it will be a unique experience for all of us. It had better be!

It feels like Purbeck is more connected than it was at the start of the year. The amazing work of the local response groups to both galvanise and organise the community to support itself through the tough spring and summer is something that we should try to hold on to.

We've been involved in the various groups that have mobilised to the (only slightly) longer term threat of climate change. There are more groups, more networks, more ideas and more actions being developed than ever before.

This gives me hope that we will not just survive this, but try to come out of Covid better (as people keep saying). I'd urge you, if you have a bit of time and energy – perhaps in January – get involved a bit in what is happening on your doorstep.

To be honest, talking to colleagues and people involved in community organisations... we can't wait for a break over Christmas. It's been a long haul and energy is in short supply. I won't be resting up much though, as it's actually a great time to get out into the landscape... sunrises and sunsets are fantastic now.

I'll be up West Hill when the conditions are right (or I get lucky) to see the Castle emerge through the blanket of mist just as the sun comes up. Or seeing the sun set over the vale from Ballard Down. These are phenomenal experiences that lift the soul. They are free. They are yours. They may provide space for contemplation, for processing the past and resolving change in the future. Or they may just be nice. And we could probably all do with a bit of nice right now.

A big thanks to the Bob and Gerry duo for doing the hard yards and getting this newsletter together.

Here's to a far better 2021 for all of us!

**Tom Clarke,
Engagement Officer, NT Purbeck**





Pick up the Racket Habit

With Swanage Tennis Club

*It's safe, fun
and affordable
for ALL*

google Swanage Tennis Club or Call Ryan on 07886304114 or email swanagetenniscub@gmail.com

Looking back over the last 11 months, what a difficult time it has been for all of us. Having been closed under the spring lockdown, tennis was one of the first sports to be allowed to reopen. We were able to increase play as government advice permitted. It was good to see so many people safely taking part in this fun, healthy and safe activity. We have players of all ages and experience levels and encourage complete beginners through our extensive coaching programme. Then along came the second lockdown, which has just ended, but we hope to be able to restart as soon as lockdown eases, weather permitting! We will, as always, be guided by Government and Dorset Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) advice.

In the 'New Normal Times' our coaching team will run a variety of sessions for the full range of skill levels – from novice to competition level, just as we used to. Ryan Trickey, the club head coach, believes: "It is a cornerstone of the club to encourage more local children to take up the sport." Over 30 children attended summer holiday tennis camps this year, in a Covid secure way, and Ryan continues to undertake coaching sessions in most of the local primary schools when Covid restrictions permit.

Looking to the future, we started a recruitment campaign towards the end of the summer, including a banner on the clubhouse, with the support of Swanage Town Council, a Facebook campaign and car stickers promoting our club. This was funded by Dorset LTA, to help promote tennis locally and to get as many people as possible to return to playing tennis, or to try it for the first time.

We are fortunate to have 3 of our 6 courts floodlit. Two of these floodlit courts have AstroTurf surfaces. Installing these two new surfaces has been a great success with club members and we are now actively fundraising to convert the third floodlit court to AstroTurf. The Club is really delighted to have already received £4,000 from Dorset Council Leisure Services in support of this upgrade. The Coop has kindly included this appeal in their Community Fund for Swanage. The Coop donates 2p to your chosen Community Fund for every £1 that you spend. Please help us by adding Swanage Tennis Club as your chosen cause in your Membership Card account, which is easily done by signing into your Coop account online or by phoning the number on the back of your Coop card.

We are all looking forward to being able to use the courts again, in the 'new normal' and hope to see more people joining us very soon.

GREENPEACE

I've got to confess, I've been Greenpeace's Head of Finance for 8 years, but I've never sent an email like this. Usually I'm deep in spreadsheets! But, I have new and important news!

I've looked at the numbers -- and you're incredible. Already this week, more than **200 people have pledged to give a few pounds a month** to fund Greenpeace's work.

Together, you're making sure 2021 will be a historic year in the fight to save our climate, protect our oceans, and safeguard forests.

But we've not quite reached our goal yet.

So I'm emailing as I know first hand how monthly contributions help Greenpeace to plan effectively and to be the most strategic. In fact, almost **80% of our funding comes from monthly donations from people like you.**

In the 1970s, Greenpeace's *Save the Whales* campaign shone a spotlight on the cruel and unnecessary hunting of whales. As a result, **a global ban on commercial whaling was introduced in 1986.**

In the 2000s we took on the fossil industry, scaling a 200 metre high coal power plant in the process and **forcing a historic government U-turn on coal use.**

In the last decade, you've funded our work to take on the likes of Shell and BP. And together, we've made sure that climate change is finally getting the attention it has long deserved.

As this year comes to a close, **imagine what we could achieve together in 2021 and beyond** - and just how that would feel.

With all my thanks,

Andy Coates
Head of Finance, Greenpeace UK

Greenpeace relies on donations from generous individuals to carry out our work. Together, we can protect our natural world.

To find out how to make a monthly donation to Greenpeace please use the following email:

Team.uk@greenpeace.org

Worried about cancer?

If you have signs or symptoms that could suggest cancer, it is important you seek clinical advice. GPs can still make urgent referrals to specialists or for tests if they're worried you might have cancer. Your GP surgery may offer you an online consultation, so you do not have to go to the surgery unnecessarily.

Please contact your GP surgery directly if you are worried about a possible cancer symptom. You can telephone or you can go to your surgery's website and complete and submit an online form via e-Consult.

If you have been referred by your GP and have been offered a diagnostic appointment, this means you have been given a fast track referral and it's really important you go to your appointment. A leaflet to find out the fast track referral and the next steps is available here - but you can request the leaflet in an easier, different format. Please email: dcp@dorsetccg.nhs.uk.

Signs and Symptoms

Cancer is a condition where cells in a specific part of the body grow and reproduce uncontrollably. The cancerous cells can invade and destroy surrounding healthy tissue, including organs.

It's important to be aware of any unexplained changes to your body, such as blood in your pee or poo, changes to your bowel habits, a lump, persistent bloating or pain that does not go away. Also, unexplained bleeding when you cough, or in your vomit. Symptoms such as shortness of breath or chest pain may also be a sign of a severe (acute) condition, such as pneumonia. See your GP straight away if you experience these types of symptoms.

These symptoms are often caused by other, non-cancerous illnesses, but it's important to speak to your GP so they can investigate. Finding cancer early means it's easier to treat. If your GP suspects cancer, they'll refer you to a specialist – usually within 2 weeks.

The specialist will carry out further tests, such as a biopsy or X-ray, and plan any necessary treatment.

1 in 2 people will develop some form of cancer during their lifetime. In the UK, the 4 most common types of cancer are: **breast cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, bowel cancer.**

There are more than 200 different types of cancer, and each is diagnosed and treated in a different way. The following links have more useful information about cancer:

- [Cancer Research UK: cancer symptom checker](#)
- [Macmillan: signs and symptoms of cancer](#)
- [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\): referral for suspected cancer](#)



The Cinnamon Trust needs more dog walking volunteers in Swanage

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity whose wonderful volunteers help people over retirement age and those in the latter stages of a terminal illness by offering all kinds of pet care. We are looking for dog walking volunteers to help a resident of Swanage and their dear little dog who would love to go for a good walk.

Many elderly or ill pet owners worry about their ability to provide proper care for their animals and start looking to rehome what may be their only companion. This is where our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support enabling them to stay together. We'll walk the dog for a housebound owner, we'll foster pets when owners need hospital care, and even clean out the bird cage or litter trays.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can download our volunteer registration form from our web site www.cinnamon.org.uk or email us at appeals@cinnamon.org.uk. If you would like to have a more in-depth chat about becoming a volunteer, please call us during office hours (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm) on **01736 758 701**, or you can check out our website www.cinnamon.org.uk for more details.



The Cinnamon Trust is a Registered Charity No: 1134680. The Cinnamon Trust is a limited company registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: 10 Market Square, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4HE. Company Number 07004861



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Carers' Festival of Emotional and Mental Health

Thursday 17th & Friday 18th December 2020

10:30 – 16:45

HOSTED ON ZOOM

Pop in & out or stay all day

Are you supporting a loved one who is struggling with mental health matters or their emotional wellbeing at this really tough time?

Do you work with carers and family members?
Or are you just interested - and want to know more?

TO FIND OUT MORE AND JOIN THIS FESTIVAL

Full details of each session on each of the two days, can be found by going to:

carersupportdorset.co.uk/whats-on/carers-festival-of-emotional-and-mental-health/

Then you can register your interest by email stating which sessions you would like to attend:

Olivia.stevens@rethink.org or

carers@dorsetmentalhealthforum.org.uk

Link to Zoom will be given to you near the start date once you are registered



Purbeck

Need Advice?

Purbeck Citizens Advice is Here to Help when You Need To Find A Way Forward

We provide free, independent and confidential advice and information whatever your question.

Advisers are available 5 days a week to give advice on the phone or by email.

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 schemes- including helping you to Check, Switch and Save on your energy bills as part of Big Energy Saving Winter
- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to food banks

Purbeck residents needing advice can phone Dorset Adviceline on our new freephone line 0800 144 8848 (Textphone: 0800 144 8884), 10am-4pm weekdays to talk to an adviser.

Alternatively, you can use our webform at www.purbeckadvice.org.uk for email or telephone call-back, and access a wealth of self-help advice online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

SNIPPETS FROM STUDLAND



STUDLAND PARISH COUNCIL is objecting to the proposals by the ferry company to increase its toll fares. The Council is also objecting to the counter proposals from Dorset Council, Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council, plus Swanage Town Council, to implement the proposed increased fares over a longer time than is proposed by the ferry company.

Studland Parish Council is supporting a counter-proposal to the fare increases from the National Trust. The National Trust proposal includes significant discounts for its staff and Studland residents.

The Parish Council has recognised the challenges of managing the designated Marine Conservation Zone in Studland Bay. The council is keen to see any management arrangements that benefit all users of Studland Bay.

The Parish Council is developing a policy to assist with guidance for the replacement of felled trees. To date, many felled trees especially in the Studland Conservation Area have not been replaced. This has particularly been the case when properties have changed hands. An initial idea is to replace every significant tree felled with three new trees - one for replacement, one that may die, and one additional tree. The aim of the policy is to work with residents and to contribute to the emerging greening agenda.

For more info go to:

www.studlandparishcouncil.org

The Purbeck Society

THE PURBECK SOCIETY will be considering its potential response to the Main Modifications Consultation for the Purbeck Local Plan. There are 86 modifications for consultation. The outcome of the consultation will be a Local Plan for Purbeck, which in turn will form a part of the Dorset Local Plan due for completion in March 2024.

For more info go to:

www.purbeckociety.co.uk



Protecting Dorset
Campaign to Protect Rural England

THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND are supporting the community group, STAND, in its attempt to have the site of North Dorchester removed from the emerging Dorset Local Plan. The north Dorchester proposals are far greater than the whole of part-built Poundbury and represent harm to an environmentally-sensitive area associated with Thomas Hardy. In addition, Dorset CPRE are opposing the incinerator at Portland Harbour. This will be seen from the AONB and may well harm the area.

For more info go to: www.cpre.org.uk



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



Corfe Castle Parish Council

NOVEMBER AT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Corfe Castle Parish Council would like to thank each and every member of the Covid volunteer group for your wonderful offer to help others during the both Covid-19 National Lockdowns. Many of you have received calls asking for your assistance and we are so thankful to say parishioners have not struggled for long due to your help. Thank you.

Although the second lockdown has come to an end, we now find ourselves in "High Alert Tier 2". Our main concern is now that it is colder the most vulnerable should not necessarily be outside and therefore this could be a very lonely time.

We are asking please **SUPPORT EACH OTHER**: Contact family, friends, and neighbours. Is there anyone you know who doesn't have regular visitors e.g. those new to the area, those who live on their own? Please make contact and offer support and exchange telephone numbers for a chat.

One kind word can change someone's entire day.

You can join the Covid Volunteers Group by contacting the Clerk - Michelle via email corfecastlepc@aol.com or phone 01202 670105.

Thank you

Cllr Mike Blinkhorn was co-opted onto the Corfe Castle Parish Council during the November Council meeting. We would like to thank Mike for this application and look forward to working alongside him.

Dorset Council have decided to **extend Car Parking charging hours** for DC car parks from 8am to 8pm. The Council needs additional revenue to fund winter maintenance. This will affect users of the West Street Car park including those visiting the surgery and Corfe Castle residents who shop early in Wareham.

The Council agreed to go out to tender **for grass cutting** for the old part of the God's Acre extension and full details can be found on our website

www.corfecastlepc.org.uk.

The Council discussed the possible role for a **Village Warden** and a decision will be made on this at the December meeting.

Corfe Castle Parish Council have finally joined Facebook. For all the latest updates please like / follow the page at:

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

The next Council meeting will be on the 14th December 2020 at 7pm via Zoom. The Council will set its budget and precept for 2021-2022. The Public is welcome to attend and participate in the public half hour at the start of the Council meeting.

Details will be posted on the website & on Facebook by Tuesday 8th December. For further information please contact the Parish Clerk Michelle Harrington, e-mail Corfecastlepc@aol.com – 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ, or call **01202 670105**. Full minutes of the meetings are available on the Website www.corfecastlepc.org.uk. A postal copy can be requested through the Parish Clerk.



David Kemp at Gallows Corner

St Edward's Way Sponsored walk in aid of 'Children in Need' and Corfe Castle Village Hall

see next page



St Edwards Way Sponsored Walk in aid of 'Children in Need' & Corfe Castle Village Hall

David Kemp of Corfe Castle was looking for a useful way to gain permitted daily exercise! Having exhausted local footpaths he came across St. Edward's Way, a new trail connecting Corfe Castle to Shaftesbury. This looked varied and interesting, linking the Dorset scenery to the dramatic story of St. Edward King and Martyr, who was murdered in Corfe Castle in 978 AD. After a modest burial at Wareham the King's body was moved to Shaftesbury Abbey for a more royal interment. David felt the route could be walked in a series of 15 stages, each being part of a circular walk back to their starting points.

He decided to seek sponsorship for donations to good causes, to be shared equally by 'Children in Need' and Corfe Castle Village Hall improvements towards completion of flooring the attic.

David is walking the sections each appropriate day, depending on weather and other factors, accompanied by another member of 'Double Act', as Covid guidelines allow. He aims to complete the whole route, about 70 miles, by the end of this year.

Any contributions you are able to make will be gratefully received online via – www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/david-kemp-3

For those wishing to pay by cash or cheques please contact David on 01929 480007 or email davimukem@aol.com or use the sponsorship forms based in local village shops.

TOGETHER WE CAN! / Be Kind Stay Safe!

Watch this space for further Corfe Castle Village Hall and Double Act events.

Supported by Corfe Castle's



DOUBLE ACT drama group

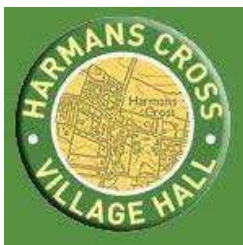


DoubleActCorfeCastle

www.double-act.org.uk

Double Act drama group are always open to new members, so if you are interested in joining us please contact Mike (chairman – 01929 480323) or Cherry (secretary – 07972 799300) or email info@double-act.org.uk





Harmans Cross Village Hall Mobile Post Office Services

Just a reminder that the Mobile Post Office is in the Village Hall on Thursday mornings for your postal needs.

It is open from **9.30am - 11.30am** for the next two Thursdays (**10, and 17th December**) then returns on Thursdays in the New Year.

**This is a very useful service
WE NEED TO USE - OR WE MAY LOSE IT!**

If you are interested in getting involved in our activities and would like to know more please contact Alison Clough on alison.an.clough@btinternet.com or ring **07768 558341**.



OLLIE, A CONCERNED PURBECK RESIDENT ASKS:

Are you voting for the new merged Hospital Trust Governors?

Are you concerned about travel times to emergency care, given the plans to move A&E, Maternity and Paediatric care, and Oncology beds, from Poole to Bournemouth Hospital? If you have a vote in the current Hospital Governors election, please consider using one of your 6 votes for **David Senior**. David lives in Purbeck, in Langton. A campaigner has spoken to him, and he understands the concern about long journeys in emergency. He believes it is important to give serious consideration to A&E Local – daytime A&E care – at Poole.

David is also a Director and Trustee of the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance. He hopes that that service might be expanded, which could also support remote communities.

Voting is open now, and closes on 12th December.



'Aquarius', the ladies club based in Corfe Castle, had a second successful Zoom members meeting in November which was a very engaging double act from Archery enthusiasts, husband John and wife Ronnie. We were shown all sorts of different bows and arrows including a very menacing American one that gets used frequently in the USA now, for killing animals. The others were more conventional and we saw how they were used both in competitions now and in days of yore for fighting. John and Ronnie chose to donate their fee to their local Zoo – Whipsnade, which is suffering severely from financial loss and therefore a decline in its ability to conserve endangered animals!

Our Dec. 1st Members Meeting, unfortunately still needing to use Zoom, should be fun and uplifting when Carole is leading us in making Festive Garlands and members are reading out their Christmas Covid - related limericks and rhymes!

Of course all the satellite group activities have been on hold again but continue via Zoom and we hope to resume face to face just as soon as that is possible! However, excitingly, the Sewing Group has launched our Community Project making Twiddle Blankets for people with dementia, having found some outlets for taking them, just as soon as they are finished. It would be nice to use our March AGM as a display possibility for them if we are allowed to meet up.

In the meantime our Jan. and Feb. Meetings will be talks from a local Medical Herbalist and Home Computer Help. The latter one might enable more members to feel able to join us on Zoom although by then we hope that enough people will have been vaccinated to allow us to return to the Village Hall! Fingers crossed!!

'Aquarius' hopes that everyone has a Happy and Safe Christmas, however folk choose to celebrate it, and that 2021 will be a greatly improved year to 2020!

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

CHRISTINE KEMP (Aquarius Joint Chair)





Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Would you like to host or participate in Telephone Friendship Groups?



Our NEW Telephone Friendship Groups mean you can talk to others just like you. We often have a theme or a topic, or just have a normal chat with a few friends so that you don't feel on your own.

Phone groups can take place any day at any time. They are very easy to set up and join. We don't share your number with others, ensuring that you have a safe and fun experience.

To find out more call Keith on 01202 804914

We are also looking for volunteers to host for these meet ups. You will need access to a laptop or PC and be online.

Full 'in person' training is provided with ongoing support. Your commitment could be as little as 90 minutes per month. It's fun - and will make a big difference to people in your community.



keith.gubbins@pramalife.org
www.pramalife.org



Let's Make Everyone Happy
Support your local shops and businesses Today -
So they can be here for us all Tomorrow

Buy a gift from our virtual Christmas Market and you'll be supporting our local businesses ... AND Helping to raise money, for both our Community Homeless Charity,

RoutesTo Roots, and St Martin's Church Fabric Fund

This turbulent year, you can still buy wonderful, innovative presents - without leaving the warmth of your home

Supported by Wareham Town Council and Wareham Church Family

Wareham Tower Chimes magazine organised this virtual Wareham Christmas Market

For what's on offer - Go to

www.WAREHAMCHRISTMASMARKET.co.uk

Want to take part and pitch a Virtual Stall?

Please do so - contact us today for full details on:

info@lovewareham.co.uk

All monies raised will go to Wareham PCC for dispersal to the charities concerned



Photograph by Dave Corben



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 a very unusual 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



Harm Reduction advice for people who use Alcohol

This advice is important during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. If you are drinking heavily, you are at increased risk of the health impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). You may want to cut down or stop drinking to help improve your immunity, or because your supply of alcohol is running out.

Self-isolation may lead some people to drink more alcohol than usual.

If you are worried about your drinking levels increasing, you can contact any one of the following for help and support:

LiveWell Dorset to talk about how to reduce the **amount of alcohol you are drinking.**

Call **0800 840 1628** or **01305 233 105**

www.livewelldorset.co.uk.

Local alcohol treatment services are open and can provide further advice and support:

Dorset including Christchurch (REACH):
0800 043 4656

Poole (EDAS/SMART): 01202 735777

Drinkline the national alcohol helpline
Call **0300 123 1110**

weekdays 9am-8pm week end 11am-4pm

Drinkaware -

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-support-services/>



**DOMESTIC ABUSE
CAN
AFFECT ANYONE**

WE ARE HERE TO HELP:

YOU FIRST (Dorset Council)

0800 032 5204

OUTREACH (POOLE-BOURNEMOUTH)

01202 710 777

WOMEN'S AID

email – helpline@womensaid.org.uk

**24HR NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE -
HELPLINE 0808 2000 247**

DORSET POLICE in an emergency **CALL 999**

or go to

www.dorset.police.uk/abuse-help

LOCAL SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, AND BUSINESSES SAY: “WE’RE STILL HERE FOR YOU”

Although local shops, restaurants, businesses etc, are now open again under government Tier 2 guidelines, some are continuing to offer special services, allowing residents to phone with their orders, pay over phone, and then either collect at an agreed time and in some cases, Free Delivery is still offered.

So, still worth trying those listed below, if you require their help

BUDGENS SUPERMARKET Station Rd - baked, fresh, packaged goods **01929 422478**

(order by phone, pay over phone, can be picked up from store with assistance)

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

COUNTRY FOODS, 37 Station Rd - Shop open Mon-Sat 9am-4pm. **07789 289289**

THURS ONLY FREE DELIVERY (Orders over £25) to Swanage area only

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

FOLEYS GARAGE SPAR SHOP HX – Grocery Orders taken 10am-12noon **FREE DELIVERY**

to: HX, Corfe, Langton, Kingston, Swanage, Studland **Tel to place order 01929 480097**

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

www.masalaswanage.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Open for breakfast, lunches and dinners

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

SWANAGE & PURBECK TAXIS - **07969 927424**

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



SWANAGE COMMUNITY CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION WEBPAGE:
<https://www.swanage.gov.uk/Community-information.aspx>