

SWANAGE AREA FORUM

INCLUDING SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021 - No. 11



Welcome to the May edition of The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's and Swanage Area Forum's Newsletter.

After suffering the losses of a much-valued volunteer colleague (John Page) in February, a dear partner of our Graphics Co-ordinator in March and then a very close friend (David Holman) in April, we needed a break to console ourselves and find the mental energy to get up and go again.

Now, hopefully, towards the end of the UK's Covid-19 pandemic, we should all be looking forward to a more active and enjoyable summer and then onwards. We are sure you are all aware of the many clubs, societies and voluntary organisations that there are in our beautiful Purbeck and in the area where you live. Why not join them - not all of them - but one of them at least?

They need you to participate and what is more, YOU can get a gigantic lift in your life just by joining other folk in the community, in an activity or an interest that appeals to you. You don't have to be a David Holman and assist in the work of a multitude of good causes; maybe just join one, or even two groups. You may be surprised and really enjoy yourself, as well as improving the lives of others.

Mel Norris,
Chair Swanage Area Forum and Swanage & Purbeck Development Trustee
melvyn.norris@icloud.com



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



The Swanage Medical Practice

13 MAY 2021, 15 MONTHS IN, STEP 3 OF 3RD LOCKDOWN - WE CAN SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!

The Virus and Vaccine

67% of the national adult population have had one vaccine, 34% have had two and nationally, the rate of infection is 21 people in 100,000.

The rate for Dorset is 7 per 100,000; however, some areas of Poole still have a rate of 58. These figures mean that for over half the time, there will still be someone in Swanage who has and can spread the virus. Our local vigilance and uptake of the vaccination have once again put us back in a below average risk area, but even local travel will change this.

The Wareham vaccination team, assisted by the local population, has now achieved an incredible 28,229 vaccinations; 19,182 first doses and 9,047 second doses, split equally between Pfizer and AstraZeneca. They should be congratulated for this achievement, which is in the top few out of over 1000 sites in the country, meaning Purbeck has now achieved nearly 90% first dose coverage of those over 18. Including second doses, we do still have another 20,000 vaccinations to do.

However, if you include those under 18 nationally, 40% of the population are still not vaccinated and most of these people are under 40. Last year as the good weather of summer came, this helped to suppress the virus as we came out of lock down.

This year, we are dealing with a much more transmissible variant that needs more stringent control to keep it in check. Now restrictions are easing, this under 40 group are likely to mix more, so further risking outbreaks.

Step 3 still limits us to only meeting inside in groups of 6, or outside in groups of 30, as well as maintenance of the **"Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air"** social distancing rules. Until this remaining cohort of the population have been vaccinated, I feel this is still vital, as the vaccine does not give full protection from catching the virus, passing it on, suffering or even, but very rarely, dying from it.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), have decided to be extremely cautious and have now announced that all those under 40 without additional risk factors, will be offered the Pfizer vaccine, due to the 1 in a million chance of unusual blood clots in this age group. At the vaccination hub, we are gearing up to prepare for this, as it means we need to use the supply within 3 days of receiving it; we need to observe for 30 mins after and it can't be moved to use in the community. They are also recommending all pregnant women to have the Pfizer vaccine when they are called, or if they have additional risk factors, as they are at higher risk from Covid in the last third of pregnancy.

My heart goes out to India. Three months ago, they were congratulating themselves as their lockdown had driven rates down and started to ease restrictions. Unfortunately, new variants arrived and without sufficient vaccine cover, their health resources are suffering severely.

Some of these variants are now in the UK, seem to be spreading and are being monitored very closely for vaccine resistance. We also do not know how long the immunity from our current vaccinations will last against current and new strains.

Because of this, a third Booster vaccination for all those over 50 this autumn has been announced, as well as increasing coverage of those below 18. We will be working to ensure this is available locally in the weeks to come.

21st June, Step 4 - Lifting of all restrictions?

Predicting the spread of the virus remains very uncertain and the new Indian variant is now spreading rapidly in Bolton and other areas, putting the end on restrictions on June 21 in doubt; with the suggestion that some second doses will be brought forward to 8 not 12 weeks. However, it currently looks as if we are going to achieve Step 4, with the government still working on what advice to give. It looks as if much will be

left up to us, to use what we have learnt from the last 15 months, to resume those things that are important to us, but continue to act to reduce transmission in other ways. Yes, we will be able to hug, but if you only ever hug those five most important to you rather than everyone you meet, then we will remain safer. Elbow bumping is a new trend to be recommended; have you tried to get your elbow in your mouth? (a sure way to catch the virus)! Not shaking hands could also stop flu and other diseases being transmitted.

So the more safe practices we can maintain, the slower spread should be. Regular testing will also help to pick up cases. Everyone at the health centre and vaccination hub continue to test twice a week to keep everyone safe.

Remember, free boxes of lateral flow testing are available to all from your local chemist.

It looks as if foreign travel is going to remain much reduced due to the risk of importing variants of concern into the UK. For Swanage, this will probably mean an even busier summer season; again more reason to get or complete your vaccinations at the first opportunity

Within the Practice

A recent review of general practice has shown we are now doing 20% more consultations than 18 months ago, before the pandemic. Each consultation is now taking longer, as it is more difficult to gather and impart information by phone or e consultations, than with face to face. We have now been fortunate in recruiting replacement staff members. There remain fewer GPs than before, so each has an increased administrative burden. So our now excellent nursing team are dealing with all urgent contacts in the first instance. The country has a huge backlog of delayed operations, medical care, and unsorted problems, but the NHS has now been working flat out for 15 months. It is going to take new processes and staff to work through this, as it takes at least 8 years to train a new GP.

eConsults are now being used widely. However, at times this is using up more practice resources than alternatives, especially for complex problems, medication issues or results. Speaking to our receptionists (who can advise on many of the services that are available through self-referral) such as physiotherapy, counselling and pharmacy, as well as booking you a routine GP phone call, may still be more appropriate. Alternatively, registering for online access, allows direct requesting of your repeat or previous medication and other medication requests. This gives a much better and faster response than asking your chemist to ask our receptionist to ask your doctor to do it. It also allows you to check your records and see all your latest results, so that you can start to understand these results better.

More and more we are communicating with patients by text message and assume patients are happy for simple messages to be sent. Please let us know if you do not wish this, as we can mark your health record as "no consent for text messages". If you are happy for more complex or personal messages to be sent and have confirmed your number, we can record you have actively consented for such.

At Swanage, we will do the best we can to deal with everyone's problems. The backlog in the NHS generally will also increase the pressures on our system, due to trying to help while waiting for a procedure to eventually happen.

It is not fair for those that push the hardest, push others down the queue and we do not have time to do this, so we ask our patients to respect this when making requests.

We welcome **Dr Linda Arthur** to our team who will be working 4 sessions a week.

Dr Watson is retiring at the end of May, after over 20 years with us in Swanage and we wish her well. It is planned that **Dr McIntosh**, who joined us recently, will be looking after most of her patients.

Having started working in Swanage in 1988, the pace of change and the challenges in the last 15 months have been unprecedented, as have the efforts, skill and determination given by all our staff. I would like to thank them for this and the support our patients have given us.

With the vaccine, new staff, excellent team, and town effort we seem to have got the virus under control and we are progressing the care we can offer to all. I look forward to Swanage Medical Practice continuing this after June 4th when I am hanging up my stethoscope as a partner in the Swanage Practice for the final time. It is planned that **Dr Arthur** will take over my remaining list of patients. Individual letters will be sent out explaining who your new named doctor will be.

I look forward to continuing to meet everyone during my ongoing retirement living in Swanage.

Dr Jason Clark, Senior Partner,
Swanage Medical Practice www.swanagemedical.org.uk

Swanage Paramedic Car - Latest News



New Booklet "We need our Paramedic Car!"

Stop Press! We have been working very hard on our booklet which includes the facts that demonstrate how much we need our Paramedic Car; It's history and the journey so far, people's stories about what the Car means to them, (including from a carer's and parents' perspective) the Town and Parish Council statements in support of the Car, children's illustrations and many photos of posters, stakes and banners across the Isle of Purbeck. We hope to have hard copies available from Monday 24th May.



Children's Colouring Competition

Entries welcome! We have art worksheets with a picture of our Ambulance Car on the Swanage seafront (for 4-7 year olds to colour in) and Karen's story about her 12 year old son having a diabetic crisis (for children aged 7-11 to illustrate). The art worksheets can be found here: <https://saveswanageambulancecar.org/colouring-for-the-community/>

We also have a 'freestyle' section where children and young adults can draw or paint a picture of what the Paramedic Car means to them, their family, or our community.

We expect to close the competition by mid June and there will be a £20 token for the winner in each section. The Chair of the Ambulance Trust has been asked to judge the entries.

Latest news

Our Isle of Purbeck community is standing up strongly for our Paramedic Car. The petition now has over 7,500 signatures, and we have hundreds of posters and garden stakes, and more than 25 banners, on display around Purbeck.

Negotiations

Following the motion passed on 15th March, the Town Council is working with the Clinical Commissioning Group and South West Ambulance Trust towards a meeting where ways to retain the Paramedic Car are discussed.

How can I help?

- Sign and share the petition: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-swanage-ambulance-car>
- Let us know if you would like a poster or a garden stake, share your story, or if you have any thoughts about how we can make our voices heard! swanageambulancecar@gmail.com
- Write to

The Clinical Commissioning Group at feedback@dorsetccg.nhs.uk

Richard Drax at richard.drax.mp@parliament.uk

The Ambulance Trust via their online contact form: <https://www.swast.nhs.uk/>

Check out the website: saveswanageambulancecar.org

Clr Debby Monkhouse,
Save Swanage Ambulance Car campaign Team



Swanage Paramedic Ambulance Car



Vicki Searle's Story

At the age of 19, Henry Searle was given 12 to 14 months to live, after being diagnosed with the most aggressive form of Brain Cancer. Aged 25, he died peacefully on 4th April 2021, twelve days before his 26th Birthday.

His defiance of the odds is a testament to his spirit and the love of his family.

On the day of his passing his family wrote that:

"The local ambulance car, and the assisting paramedic teams were fantastic and arrived on both days within minutes to try and save Henry. As a local community we need to pull together, sign the petitions and keep our services here in Swanage."

Here's Vicki Searle's story:

"I'm Vicki Searle, Henry's mum.

"It still upsets me to go over the calls we made when, on many occasions, our beautiful son, Henry, suffered a seizure. On most of these calls, the ambulance car and paramedic arrived in five minutes to assist Henry and perform vital medical treatment, while waiting on the nearest ambulance's arrival. On some of those occasions on busy mornings, this could be anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour, either on the drive round or across the ferry, or sometimes even coming from Salisbury and beyond. You have to ask yourself how you would feel in these desperate situations without our Ambulance Car.

"There is no doubt that in this instance with Henry (and so many like it) the ambulance car provides essential care, comfort and reassurance to those who need it the most. The rapid response of the paramedics on board the Swanage Ambulance Car can mean the difference between life and death for those we love.

"You never know when you or your loved ones, or family and friends, will require this service - until you are in the dreadful situations we, as a family, have faced over the years. With the COVID restrictions being lifted, Swanage will become the new holiday destination, with all the accommodation already fully booked. This will put more pressure on our already isolated town and services.

"I recap over the years, all the times as a family we have had to use emergency medical services and my personal experiences with colleagues at work on Swanage Railway as first aiders.

"Our youngest son, Oliver, now approaching 16 years, fell from the park slide as a young boy and an ambulance had to be called (and many a time for juvenile convulsions). On many occasions, we had to await the arrival of the ambulance to arrive back in Swanage.

"My daughter, Charlotte, along with a friend's daughter, Ellie, suffers from asthma. One damp carnival evening many years ago, my daughter suffered a severe asthma attack and was taken to Swanage Hospital (when it was fully open). The ambulance took over an hour to return to Swanage, due to heavy traffic and ferry queues, despite the ambulance receiving priority on the ferry.

"As a first aider for Swanage Railway, I have had to call the ambulance on many occasion; in one particular incident, we were told the ambulance would be two hours and despite our limited training experience, had to take a man with a serious head injury in a car to Swanage Hospital.

"A passenger collapsed outside the railway station, opposite the doctors' surgery and we called an ambulance on a busy summer afternoon. A colleague went across to the surgery, but unfortunately, as the passenger was not on the surgery's premises, they said they couldn't come across to attend him. So again, due to the long delay, we had to choose to arrange for the man to be carried across to the surgery, or leave him to wait without any medical intervention on the pavement.

"I can account many an incident outside where I have lived; far too many waiting for ambulance to arrive back in Swanage. When I lived in Bay Crescent an elderly man fell across the road from where we lived and had a serious head injury. We were told not to move him and await the ambulance. We wrapped him in duvets and blankets as his temperature dropped. Over an hour later, with him lying on the pavement, medical assistance finally arrived.

"There are so many incidents here on Swanage Railway and stories from family and friends, we are an isolated town and in the summer months or event days the wait is life-threatening and with the local surgery saying they cannot assist.

"We really need to all come together. As residents we pay so much locally for our limited services, it really should be provided as a lifesaving, crucial, permanent service. There are many more people in our community that need our support; people that need and deserve life-saving treatment within minutes, not hours."

Pull together. Sign the petitions. Keep our services.

Vicki Searle (Henry's Mother)

• Please sign the petition and visit the stand that will be at Henry's memorial concert at Albert Gardens, date to be confirmed

To sign the petition go to: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-swanage-ambulance-car>

Please add your voice to the fight to stop the ambulance car siren being silenced.



FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

HIGH HOPES FOR A GLORIOUS SUMMER EVENT IN OUR TRANSFORMED HOSPITAL GARDEN

Services in the hospital theatre were suspended last year and we have been anxiously awaiting news as to when they will start again. We know there's a terrific waiting list for endoscopies for example, **so if you are on that list then please do push to have your procedure at Swanage.**

The same applies to Outpatient Clinics – some patients are being told there aren't clinics here anymore – **that simply isn't true. Lots of our clinics are still running so please do insist on being seen at Swanage hospital if at all possible.**

Our patient garden now has a wonderful summerhouse and the gardens are coming to life, with lots more beautiful planting. We are so hoping to be able to hold an event in the hospital grounds in July with guided tours, so you can come and see the garden and all the other incredible work that has been done. It has truly been transformed. **Do look out for adverts about it nearer the time.**

We would like to express our grateful thanks to all our wonderful staff and volunteers for the demanding work they do and if you feel able to help us support them and the hospital, then do have a look at our website and join the Friends:

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

Jan Turnbull, Chair



A message from the Mayor of Swanage, Councillor Mike Bonfield

As we near the next crossroads (17th May) the government's roadmap to recovery from the latest lockdown, we are all hoping that our hospitality sector will be able to open further. Although this will allow people more freedom and will be good for the businesses we must remember those in our communities that may still feel uncomfortable with the masses of people. Anxiety is one of those things that is not visible but profoundly serious to anyone who suffers with it.

We are so lucky that the vaccinations seem to be proving affective, however I believe we should all still be taking our own precautions. I must say that I do not enjoy wearing a face covering, but knowing it not only protects me but also my family, friends and the public in general assures me I must continue to wear it. I also know we must all do all we can to prevent any further outbreaks of this virus. Please remember that it is us, people, that spread COVID: we all need to do our bit.

The town is slowly starting to recover, and as a council we must return to face-to-face meetings from May 7th, adhering to many new guidelines. The government have not extended legislation that was put in place last May to allow virtual meetings.

What a difference the weather has been so far this year! Last year we were so fortunate that we had such warm dry weather, in contrast May seems to be starting rather damply after a dry April. Hopefully, summer is just around the corner.

It was so good to see voters in person at the by-election on Thursday 6th May, I am pleased I was able to have a chat with so many of you.

Finally, I would ask you all to please think of others and do anything that you can to support each other and our community.

**HANDS, FACE, SPACE AND FRESH AIR ARE SO
IMPORTANT.**

Keep safe.

Cllr Mike Bonfield



“HELLO” FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FRIENDS OF WAREHAM HOSPITAL

I have been privileged to work alongside a committed team of Purbeck Primary Care Network (PCN) colleagues, health professionals and volunteers at the Purbeck Vaccination Centre held at Wareham Hospital for over three months now.

Over 26,000 vaccinations have already been given which equates to almost 600 vaccinations per day of operation of both Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines.

The procedures have become slicker and more efficient and Patient satisfaction remains very high for this excellent local service. It is commendable that the Purbeck Vaccination Centre is in the top 3 Nationally for the percentage of patients vaccinated.



Inside the Vaccination Centre



Purbeck Vaccination Centre, Wareham Hospital

As a Friends' Group we are very proud that such important work is being done at Wareham Hospital for the benefit of the whole Purbeck Community and we would welcome the support of new members and or financial support for our work within the community.

We are equally proud of the team of staff at Wareham Hospital who have kept services running at the hospital. Tom and Bruce, the hospital Receptionists offer a warm and friendly approach for all patients telephoning or attending the many clinics offered at the Hospital and the support team keep the hospital premises clean and tidy. We thank them all for their ongoing commitment and loyalty to Wareham Hospital during difficult times and would wish to give special thanks to Ros Strickland, Physiotherapist who has recently retired after 34 years of service at the hospital.



TOM - one of the hospital Receptionists

Whilst it has not been possible to actively fundraise, we have been able to purchase new equipment for the Physiotherapy department and out-patient clinics and we are in the process of funding bike stands at both ends of the hospital for the increasing number of people cycling to work or to clinics.

We would like to encourage all to attend for their second vaccinations when appointments are received- it will be good to see you!

Sending best wishes to all,

MAGGIE HARDY, FRIENDS CHAIR
Charity number 252073



The Purbeck Schindler - Our Unsung Hero

The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust has been established to bring long-overdue recognition to the inspirational work of Swanage school teacher and RNLI volunteer, Trevor Chadwick.

In early 1939, Trevor became one of a handful of mainly British volunteers seeking to organise the rescue of those children in Prague most threatened by an impending German occupation. The majority were Jewish, but others were the sons or daughters of Czech and Slovak anti-Nazis.

Trevor Chadwick's Legacy

Trevor has become known locally as The Purbeck Schindler for his extremely brave efforts in helping to save the lives of 669 refugees just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Trevor went to Prague and was the person at the sharp end arranging for the children to be evacuated by train under the very noses of the Gestapo, back to this country and safety. Sir Nicholas Winton, who was a part of the team based in London, looked after the placement of the children once they arrived in England.

It is just over a year ago that our Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust Committee was formed, to raise funds for a bronze statue to our local unsung hero and our appeal has generated a considerable amount of local interest.

Our appeal is aiming to raise £100,000 for the creation of the statue, which will be erected close to the children's playpark.

The lockdown hampered our efforts, but now that the restrictions are easing, we have been able to start fundraising again. A 'pop-up' shop in Station Road was opened in April, thanks to the generosity of the shop owners and a number of volunteers, who worked extremely hard in selling the donated items.

We are planning a breakout Gala Concert "Celebrating Freedom" at the Swanage Bandstand on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 26 June, starting at 4pm and running through until 10pm. Singer/Entertainer, Karen Grant, will be the star of the show, with other local acts supporting. (Please bring your own chairs).

For more information on the Concert, please contact Karen Grant on: 07802 466689.

The opening of the newly-named **CHADWICK PARK** will also be performed by the Town Mayor, at 3.30pm, prior to the Gala Concert.

Trevor Chadwick's story is extremely interesting and for anyone who wishes to find out more, please visit our website: trevorchadwick.uk

John Corben

Chair, Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust Committee



Town Mayor, Mike Bonfield, with Moira Purver (Sculptor) together with a maquette of the statue at the opening of the 'pop-up' shop in Station Road



Moira Purver at work with the Memorial Statue [Photo: Dave Jackson Photography]



Trevor Chadwick when young



The Maquette



Website: www.swanagemuseum.org.uk

e-mail address: museumswanage@gmail.com

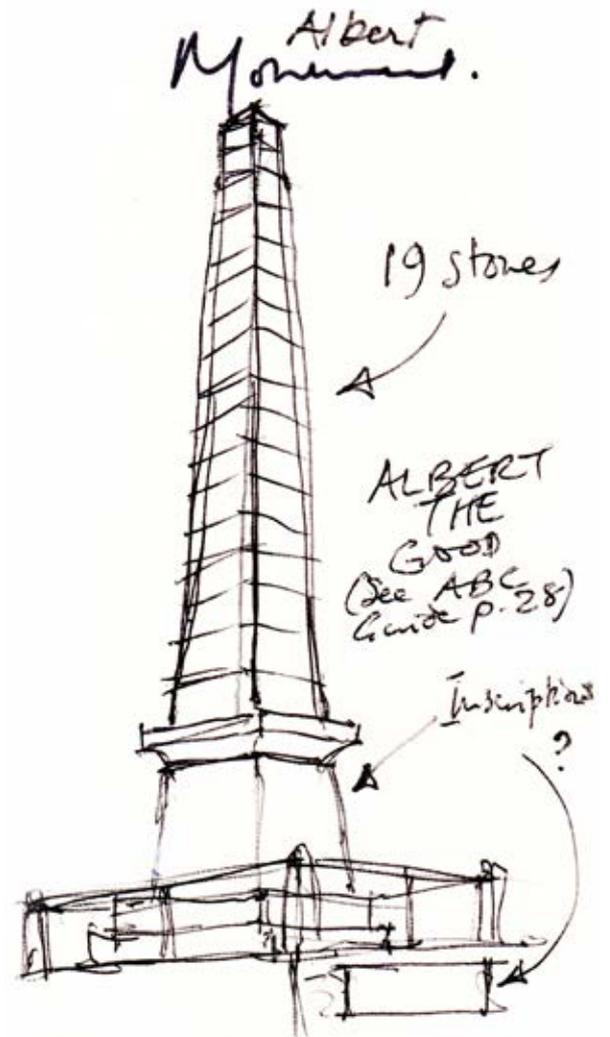
ALBERT RETURNS FROM A 50 YEAR EXILE



The work as at the 17th May, in early morning sun.



The memorial today (18th of May) after the scaffolding was heightened yesterday



David Lewer's sketch of the memorial.



The Albert Memorial is rapidly taking shape in Prince Albert Gardens. The replacement stones for the top eleven, which were taken down around 1930 and subsequently lost, have been completed. Also the entablature with cavetto moulding which had deteriorated beyond being able to be used.

The Planet Purbeck Festival 20-26 September 2021

Our aim is to bring everyone together, to have fun, celebrate our local environment and engage with local green sustainability projects.

Our ambition is for the festival to be a celebration of community spirit and to inspire people to take a more active role in enhancing and protecting our natural environment here in Purbeck.

So, put these dates your Diary NOW and join us for a week of exciting events across Purbeck celebrating our natural world



Run by the community, for the community

20 -26 Sept
2021

THE PLANET PURBECK FESTIVAL

Join us for a week of exciting events across the Purbecks celebrating our natural world

● Film Festival	● Nature Trails
● Family Events	● Sports Demonstrations
● Childrens Activities	● Fossil Hunting
● Beach Yoga	● Workshops
● Local Delicious Food & Drink	● Nature and Restoration Talks
● Live Music	

For more information visit PlanetPurbeck.org
If you would like to be part of this event please contact Doug: events@planetpurbeck.org






DURLSTON
COUNTRY PARK & NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

NEW: Sustainable Wareham is here to stay



A NEW environmental group born out of a Women's Institute has taken root in Wareham.

Sustainable Wareham is the brainchild of founder Mary Morris, who has been the Climate Ambassador for Stoborough WI for two years.

She decided to take things beyond the realms of the WI to launch an open-to-all unisex group based in Wareham but including surrounding villages, such as Stoborough and Sandford, to tackle the issues of climate change and sustainability.

She has already gathered a 20-strong team around her but hopes to attract many more.

Mary said: *"Wareham is very special. I believe there are so many people in the area who care deeply about the town and its environment but haven't had an outlet that will bring them all together so they can do something to help. I'm hoping Sustainable Wareham will be it."*

"We've had a lot of interest already through people who know members of the group and expect much more once word gets out."

The group's initial aims are to improve litter control, promote ecotourism and persuade local businesses, farms and residents to move towards sustainability and the use of renewable energy.

Mary said: *"For example we would like to try to influence companies to move away from plastic, particularly those that use bottles."*

"But we don't want to criticize them – we want to help them and work with them by doing things like investigating whether there would be any funding available."

"We will also be lobbying the town council but, again, in a spirit of cooperation."

On climate change, Mary added: *"It seems pretty obvious what's happening to our planet and the possible solutions are fairly clear and straightforward. Getting there is the difficult bit."*

"Sustainable Wareham will be doing what it can to improve the situation without overcomplicating things. Actions need to be doable in a reasonable timeframe. Many that we've seen are about targets in 2040 or 2050 but all that's doing is postponing everything. We will be focusing on actions as if we only have ten years to make a difference."

If you wish to get involved with **Sustainable Wareham** or just find out more, Mary is happy for you to email her at fmkmorris@gmail.com.



Greening Swanage - Tree maintenance and summer Surveys

Work over this summer will involve continual maintenance of the new trees planted at Prospect Green and other sites from last season. We are looking for new members for our sub-group to help deliver and manage new projects, if you are interested please get in touch. We are carrying out surveys on some of the sites we are involved in and supporting the Town Council in their plans to carry out 'biodiversity audits' of areas that they own and manage. We are working with volunteers and always looking for more experienced volunteers that can help with this.

Of note we are currently setting up a butterfly monitoring programme and training up a number of new volunteers to carry this out which is really exciting. We are also helping to set up a monitoring programme for Swifts this season to gather information so that we can help support the nesting sites for this summer visitor.

Active Travel group

Our new sub-group is off to a great start and members have been researching projects that could benefit the town and improve take up of active travel and the infrastructure and options to support this – further information next month. In the meantime, **May is National Walking Month**. Charity Living Streets are asking people to commit to walk as many of their short journeys as possible during May. We are supporting and promoting this campaign and would love to hear from you with your walking stories. Will you make pledges to walk more where you can? **Walking to school week** is also in May from 17th -21st and we are working with local schools to encourage more people to walk all or part of the way to school.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/national-walking-month>

Solar Streets

This solar panel installation initiative was launched in March and is still running if anyone is interested in finding out more about this opportunity. More information and the full article can be found on our website where there is also a link to the Swanage Solar streets webpage and a recording of the launch meeting.

<https://www.litterfreecoastandsea.co.uk/sustainable-sw-anage/>

Our next open meeting will be at the end of June and the topic will be organic gardening and vegetable growing.



CAN YOU HELP?

- Would you like to help address the greatest challenge of our lifetime: The Climate & Nature Crisis?
- Would you like to help create a sustainable future in Dorset?
- Would you like to be part of the fastest growing movement in Dorset and join an experienced, skilled and positive 'let's do this' team?

Dorset CAN needs volunteers to take on two vital, part-time roles that will help the organisation move onto a firmer footing and develop its resources and membership. If you can help we'd love to hear from you.

In both cases the role description is open to be changed once the role holders are in place, both roles are on an annual basis (no need to commit indefinitely) and can be job-shared. They are unpaid - but we're all doing this unpaid and we're starting to make a real difference!

If you, are interested, or if you know anyone else who might be, please ask then to get in touch with Vicki at: <mailto:vicki.elcoate@gmail.com>.

Rob Waitt and Vicki Elcoate
Action Team Co-ordinators



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



The Purbeck School
Achieving Excellence Together

Environmentally active at The Purbeck School

World Earth Day Competition

Each tutor group at Purbeck was asked to design their own Earth 2.0 as individuals or as a tutor group in line with the theme of restoring the Earth for World Earth Day.

Students were given criteria to follow, but could design any new Earth they wished focusing on how to improve the Earth.

We had over 100 entries, displaying a variety of ideas including recycling projects and caring for green spaces!

The Year 12 Geography Ambassadors (Lily, Nyika, Keira and Megan) sat down together to examine the entries, and although it was difficult to choose, they decided on Aris being the winner for his excellent restorative ideas! Well done Aris!



World Earth Day Competition winner: Aris Roman 7yEKY

Students at The Purbeck School are looking forward to a number of exciting enrichment activities this term, many of which concern the environment, and these include groups working with visitors from the RNLI, Wessex Water, DELL, The National Trust and RSPB.



Wellbeing Swanage April/May Updates

Wellbeing Swanage has had a busy (and exciting) couple of months. We are making great progress in pulling together our central directory of community, health and wellbeing groups and services in Swanage and the surrounding towns. Not only are we registering groups but we are also starting to build relationships with them and getting to see the extraordinary and varied things people are doing. We are also starting to identify areas in which we can help develop more – and so we have spent a large portion of our time this month working on setting up the Herston Hall Seahorses group. Please see below for more information on both projects and please do get in touch with us on contact@wellbeingswanage.org if you have any questions, ideas or thoughts.



Registered Charity. No: 1162662
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration No: 8743407
Registered Address:
Herston Cross House 230 High
Street Swanage BH19 2PQ.

Community Group Registration

Wellbeing Swanage would like to invite your group to register with us so that we can help people to find you! We know that Swanage and the surrounding villages already contain a huge number of excellent services and communities and we want to discover just what those strengths and assets are! These things could be as simple - and vital - as a lunch club, a carers support group, a playgroup, an outdoor activity group or a counselling service. Once we have your information we will place it in a central directory, accessible online, by telephone and through face-to-face conversations.

If you run a local group (for under £5 per session) please get in touch with us [HERE](#).

Herston Hall Seahorses

Thanks to some start-up funding from Swanage and Purbeck Rotary, as well as very generous donations of arts and crafts materials from Wordsworth House, and donations of all kinds of lovely toys and games from local families, our Seahorses group is getting off to a flying start! Initially, due to the restrictions that remain on numbers, the sessions will be by invitation (with local schools helping us with this) but as restrictions continue to ease we hope to be able to open up the group to all our community families. This may involve running additional sessions or even piloting a “community café” drop-in space that will be available to everyone! Watch this space!

About us

Wellbeing Swanage is a new project, coming about through the work of the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, it represents a collaboration between representatives of the Trust, Swanage Town Council, the Swanage Area Forum, Swanage Neighbours, Swanage and Purbeck Rotary, various local healthcare groups, interested individuals, as well as larger national groups with an interest in promoting health and wellbeing, like the National Trust. Taking as our inspiration the [Compassionate Communities](#) model developed in Frome, as well as the existing neighbourliness of Swanage and the surrounding villages, we want to build on this great togetherness as we move beyond COVID-19, supporting community connections, enabling good health and walking with people as they access the services they need when they need them.

Volunteers needed

Herston Hall
Seahorses



Herston hall Seahorses is a new playgroup, starting up after May half-term. It is aimed at local families who may particularly benefit from a safe, friendly and enriching play environment as we come out of this long year of restrictions. As a collaboration between The Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust and Wellbeing Swanage, the focus is on fun but also on building strong, supportive relationships in our community.

We are in need of a few volunteers to help with the running of the group. The main tasks would include –

- Welcoming Seahorses families into the space and making them feel comfortable
- Helping set up the hall and the various “play stations” in line with our risk assessment and COVID safe policies
- Helping prepare snacks and hot and cold drinks for those attending to enjoy
- Helping set up and facilitate craft activities and other creative or messy play – all ideas welcome!
- Helping clean and pack away equipment after the session has ended

Whilst experience working with children or families would be useful all you really need is a friendly face and a willingness to potentially undergo some basic training (food hygiene, first aid, safeguarding etc) or to be DBS checked. As this is not an unsupervised environment this may not be necessary but it would be best if volunteers were open to this if it becomes so.

If you would like to join us please get in touch with either
laurarowan@wellbeingswanage.org or with kim.gallagher2@yahoo.com



Photograph by Robert Field



In the last couple of months, Swanage Linking Lives has been trying to come up with constructive ways in which we can help lonely and vulnerable people of all ages. You may have noticed our new logo (above) which we hope, illustrates our aims.

We are now in contact with a 'Social Prescriber' based at the Swanage Medical Practice, who will be referring people who are lonely and would benefit from company and friendly chats, either in person, or over the phone. We always try to 'match' people with similar interests, life experiences, etc. So if you feel like joining us

We are also researching ways for those with hearing difficulties to communicate using new technology, which converts speech to texts.

With the slight easing of COVID restrictions, some of our regular 'Place of Welcome' visitors took to meeting on a Friday morning for coffee and cake at G.Whites, on the seafront. Earlier this month, masks depicting our new logo arrived and were proudly worn by Trisha and Brian (see photos).

The masks are available should you wish to 'keep a smile on your face' whilst wearing one! We simply ask for donations to Swanage Linking Lives.

Fingers crossed, the 'Place of Welcome' will reopen on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon at The Methodist Rooms, 105 High Street, Swanage - hopefully, from the 18th May. If you want to check beforehand that it is open, please telephone Sarah on 01929 423851. , Do come and join us for a friendly chat. We'd love to see you.

For any further information, and with any offers of help, please contact Roger Seaman at: ivs.volunteers@outlook.com or Sarah Bamber at: sarahmbamber@gmail.com or you can phone me on **01929 423851**.

Sarah Bamber, Chair



TRISHA proudly wearing her 'smiley' Swanage Linking Lives mask at G Whites



BRIAN proudly wearing his 'smiley' Swanage Linking Lives mask at G Whites



Swanage Library are delighted to see a steady stream of customers returning to us as each week goes by since our re-opening in April. However, we would love to welcome even more of our local community into the library and would like to assure you that we have plenty of hand sanitiser in use for both staff and customers as well as regular cleaning of handrails, self-service machines and computers, throughout the day.

Last week was **Mental Health Awareness Week** and we were very pleased to receive 3 boxes of books for all ages, from The Reading Agency and The Department of Culture, Media and Sport. The books are a mixture of fiction and non-fiction but all are based around the subject of mental health and emotions. We have several displays around the library so please do pop in and take a look.

STAFF VACANCY: Saturday Library Assistant, 4 hours a week, 10am-2pm. We're looking for a friendly, confident and outgoing person to join our team. If interested, please visit [Saturday Library Assistant \(4 hours per week\) \(Swanage\) \(External Applicants may apply\) \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk). Closing date is 23rd May. Online applications only.

Our opening hours are Monday 10am-6.30pm, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-5pm and Saturday 9.30am-4pm.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSING BETWEEN 1-2PM.

We hope to see you in the library very soon!

Nathalie
Swanage Library Manager



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Swanage Food Bank



COVID EFFECTS ARE STILL HERE - AND SO ARE WE

Many people like stats and ours show that in the first three months of this year, our number of clients doubled the number for the same period in 2020, so that we served 415 people or (in terms of meals) 8,715 meals.

April figures show a slight lessening of demand, although the same number of children have needed our food aid. We also give pet food if we have it in stock. Our priority is to relieve the food poverty of people, but we are aware that pet owners would rather go hungry than allow their animals to be unfed, so if we don't supply pet food, clients might well use their own provisions to feed their pets.

Chocolate Easter eggs have been donated to us in abundance this year, so adults as well as children have enjoyed these seasonal treats. Fortunately, the eggs are within 'best by' dates until July. Long may Easter joy continue!

However, we are aware that many of our clients are still suffering Covid effects with the financial worries of lost work, and ever-growing debts. The threat of homelessness, domestic strife and mental health deterioration seem to be increasing for a large proportion of those who have needed food aid.

With the possibility of further upsurges of Covid in the autumn or before, the Swanage Food Bank Team is maintaining all the recommended safeguarding precautions and most of us will have had our second jab before legal restrictions are ended in June.

So SFB works on undaunted in May, looking forward to warmer days and continued safety from Covid for our community, as visitors arrive to share our lovely town.

Pauline Werba Chair, Swanage Foodbank



This is an urgent appeal to anyone who could help us with volunteer driving of our buses. We desperately need more drivers, plus escorts, for the same.

Please consider our plea and if you would like to give some time to help Swanage Disabled Club with their valued support to the local community.

Full training will be given, and the more volunteers we can get for this particular vital part of our clubs, will make it much easier for everyone. The load can then be spread, thus making more free time for everyone.

Thank you again Swanage for all your support to Swanage Disabled Club.

Please contact **01929 423729** or **01929 425241** for further information.



Seen here: Bob Payne, Transport Manager and Sue Payne, Chair, Swanage Disabled Club



OUR LOCAL SERVICE HAS MERGED

The newly-formed Citizens Advice in East Dorset and Purbeck came from the merger between Purbeck's and East Dorset's Citizens Advice offices and enables us to provide even better support for local residents across this part of Dorset. We're an independent charity that provides free, confidential and impartial advice and support. Our goal continues to help everyone find a way forward, whatever your problem.

Our advisers are currently available 5 days a week to give advice on the phone or by email. Sadly, we are unable to offer face-to-face appointments in Swanage at present.

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

Alternatively, visit www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk to request email or telephone call-back, using the webform and to access a wealth of self-help advice online.

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
- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to food bank

Our work would not be possible without our fantastic volunteers to keep our service running. We are currently recruiting for volunteers to join our friendly team. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn as full training will be given.

For more information about volunteering opportunities visit www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk or email mandi.douglas@edpcitizensadvice.org.uk



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



THE SWANAGE SCHOOL

(Almost) Back to Normal

It's beginning to feel like we've never been away. In-class teaching is wonderful after such long periods of virtual interaction and COVID-related protocols are well established. Students are working hard and producing great work. GCSE students are sitting assessments to contribute to the evidence required for teacher assessed grades and staff are working tirelessly to ensure that grades are robustly and fairly awarded. After school clubs are resuming and rehearsals have started for a school production of "Little Shop of Horrors", coming to the Mowlem Theatre this July (more on this next month!).

Challenge Day

We had a fantastic Challenge Day on the theme of "healthy body". Students learnt first aid, cooked healthy snacks and participated in sessions on relationships, as well as hiking and playing sport.



Wellbeing

The mental health and wellbeing of young people is rightly a topic in the national spotlight at present. Some students have loved returning to school but others have found it more difficult. We are fortunate to work with a brilliant team of youth workers, who complement our in-house welfare team by providing students with support including "walk & talk" sessions.

Life & Employment Skills

Our approach to the acquisition of skills relevant to life and employment has been evolving over recent months and new models of embedding skills development into the curriculum and extra-curricular activities have been introduced. Students are encouraged to develop skills such as team working, communication, problem-solving and working to deadlines through accredited online courses the way they would in the world of work and given autonomy to use these skills when participating in activities. For example, to join the race-team, which will be structured as in the real world, students will first need to undertake training to support their application - whether for team management, technician, logistics or marketing. Gaining certificates in skills such as first aid, food hygiene and health & safety are also facilitated through the curriculum.

Festival on the Field

BREAKING NEWS – we are delighted to be planning a festival day on Saturday 17th July 2021. "Festival on the Field" will be a day of family entertainment for the whole community, particularly suitable for those with primary-school age children, so please save the date! Featuring music, arts & crafts, STEM workshops, inflatables, sporting activities and refreshments, the festival will also host Big Top Mania to provide circus entertainment and shows. Please follow @swanagefestivalonthefield on Facebook/Instagram!

If you are interested in being a trader at this event, please contact suefletcher@theswanageschool.co.uk or call **01929 428097**.



New Students

Last, but most certainly not least, we are delighted to be able to welcome our new students for September for a transition day on 8th July and are looking forward to meeting everyone. We will shortly be able to offer tours again and will be holding our Open Evening in September for those applying for secondary school this Autumn. Do give us a call or visit the website to find out more about The Swanage School:

www.theswanageschool.co.uk/prospectus.



The Mowlem

Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

The Mowlem Looks to the Future!

It's been a very busy Lockdown at **The Mowlem** – work has continued to improve our facilities and equipment; we carried out our community consultation in February and March and we're now recruiting for an Administrator as part of our restructure.

It has taken time to digest the responses, but we want to thank people for their support and feedback. The survey received 1,569 responses, a sample size of over 10% of the population of Swanage. People identified that particular facilities needed improving, including better access, toilet facilities, decor, seating and temperature control. Some of these we have been busy trying to upgrade during lockdown, but others are now on our list.

People also wanted **The Mowlem** to have a strong brand, better communication and advertising so people know what's on. During lockdown we updated the website to enable you to book seats online and we now regularly post on Facebook and Instagram.

The community want to get to know us at **The Mowlem** and learn who we are. We want to be an approachable venue, eager to listen and learn from our community. We'll put more details about the survey outcomes and what we'll be doing in response on our website at www.themowlem.com

Meanwhile, we're moving forward with reopening plans which include a full programme from late July. Watch this space!



SWANAGE PIER FULLY OPEN

We are delighted to say after a period of closure between January and April, due to Covid-19, the Pier is now fully open, along with Marine Villas shop, and the 1859 Café which is serving food and drinks.

As part of our program of events, we are offering a series of health and wellbeing activities starting in June over the summer.

We are excited to be working again with poet and creative facilitator, Sarah Acton, to offer **Write on the Pier** walks on Friday 16th July; and with Helen McCabe from Yoga at the Space who will be offering **Yoga on the Pier** from the middle of June. It is also our great pleasure to be offering a brand-new event, **Art and Nature Drawing** on the first Tuesday of the month starting on Tuesday 7th July hosted by Julie Herring, from Earth Art and Design Studio.

For full information on our events, please visit - <https://www.swanagepiertrust.com/events> or contact Amanda Bowden (Volunteer and Event Coordinator) on **01929 425 871**.



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



Dorset
National Park

It's time for Dorset's National Park

Happy Birthday Peak National Park - April was the 70th anniversary of England's first National Park in the Peak District. Dorset National Park Patron Professor Michael Dower CBE was its director from 1985 to 1992. He now lives in Dorset and works to help ensure a thriving, sustainable future for our communities and for Dorset's outstanding environment.

He notes how the Peak District National Park was actively committed to its main duties - to protect the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the area, and to promote outdoor recreation - and that it also took very seriously its duty to promote the social and economic well-being of local communities. *"I knew that the best way to look after a landscape and to welcome visitors was to work with the people who own and manage the land and who live in the villages. So, I helped the farmers in the Park to secure Government grants towards their work in maintaining drystone walls, woodlands, ponds and other features and helped them to diversify their income through tourism and other activities. Within two years, half of the Park's farmers were receiving significant grants while the Park's rangers also played an important role in troubleshooting between farmers and visitors."*

"In the villages, we worked with parish councils to identify the need for new affordable houses, to persuade local landowners to offer sites for that housing, and we pressed the government agency to provide funds for housing associations to build the houses. We set up an association of village shops and the Peak Park Producers Association so that member enterprises could publicise their products. We created small industrial estates to provide rental workshops for local enterprises. The Park was and is a thriving community, a living and working landscape."



Photograph by Deirdre Flegg.

"The Government has committed to establish new National Parks. When we see what the Government proposes, we can all work together to ensure that any Dorset National Park has the duty, the imagination, the resources, the staff and the appropriate democratic control to achieve true stewardship of the County's magnificent heritage, to welcome visitors to its countryside and historic towns and villages while addressing tourism pressures, and to promote the well-being of its local communities and economies."

For more information, see:

www.dorsetnationalpark.com

The Dorset National Park Team
It's time for Dorset's National Park



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



Spring News from the Isle of Purbeck Arts Club

Our club runs two art groups and a poetry group. It is also lucky enough to have funds to sponsor young people studying the Arts and to assist schools.

It's exciting that we are able to meet in person outside and very soon inside. Let's hope that the Autumn brings a return of our usual venues and activities. However, we have seen some advantages of meeting by zoom: it has allowed people in different parts of the country to meet up and we can enjoy fellow members' company in the comfort of our own homes. We also seem to have attracted new members, perhaps through our promotion of the club, but I also think that people have had time to take up new hobbies and reflect on their life balances. The strength of the club has shone through these difficult times.

The Studio Workshop Art Club has been meeting throughout most of lockdown on zoom but is now able to embark on the summer outdoor sketching programme held every Tuesday morning in varying locations. The Thursday evening art group started meeting on zoom a few months ago, reviving the enthusiasm of their members. They've been sharing work created during lockdown.

It must be over a year ago that the members painted spring flower pictures to inspire the poetry group who have also been meeting on zoom. They have written some beautiful responses to the flower artwork. There are some cards and printed off poems for sale in Purbeck New Wave Gallery, Swanage. The idea is "Pick a Card, Pick a Poem" so that customers can select the picture and poem that they think go well together. The cards cost £3.50 each.

The young bursary students have been studying hard during lockdown. Amelia Seaman is a talented musician, her forte being as a violinist. She plays with the National Youth Orchestra and recently gained a Distinction in her grade 8 exam.

Ed Marriott is an 18 year old artist, who is studying at Poole and Bournemouth College. He has been exhibiting and selling his work since the age of 7, taking part in Purbeck Art Weeks. He is hoping to have a full-time career as an artist. He is shortly going to be interviewed by BBC Radio Solent, so something to look out for. During Dorset Art Weeks he will take part in a young artists exhibition at Purbeck New Wave Gallery from 22nd May to 6th June. He will also exhibit at a 'pop up' exhibition in the Malthouse art gallery in Lyme Regis in August.

Verity Marlow is a ballet dancer studying at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts in Hertfordshire. She has found practising her ballet at home difficult during lockdown, so is excited to be back and is rehearsing for a show in July, Covid permitting. She also receives a singing bursary and has written a song. She made a beautiful recording whilst playing the guitar on the hills of Corfe Castle as the sun was setting. **The link is below, a true delight. - Bob it came separately and does not work so I've written back to Gina Marshall explaining to see if she can sort it out. Otherwise, this might have to come out.**

Lois Fletcher is also studying at Tring Park. She has found studying online surprisingly enjoyable with lots of work to do. Miro Vosper also received a singing bursary which supported her in gaining a place at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London.

Joe Marlow is a talented drummer. He is studying at Poole Grammar School. He is looking forward to playing the drums alongside other musicians, particularly school percussion and the Swanage Big Band once things start up again. He's keen to join any other bands that need a drummer so let us know if you have any ideas.

Purbeck Instrument Loan Scheme (PILS) has a collection of instruments for schools to borrow. With schools shut down for a significant time, 1:1 lessons being difficult and the sharing of instruments being impossible, PILS have been quiet. However zoom has been a saviour again with online cello teaching.

If you wish to join a group or want to apply for a bursary, please contact Gina Marshall. **07434814384** or isleofpurbeckartsclub@gmail.com.



Crocuses by Lizzie Guichard

We finish with an uplifting poem by Sarah Early just right as we come out of lockdown!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Spring has sprung
The birds sing for joy
Each hopes for a mate
And fledglings this summer.

Spring has sprung
Early flowers peep out
Rain or shine they greet us
Yellow white and red.

Spring has sprung
The nights grow shorter
I wake with the dawn
Hear the seagulls cry.

Spring has sprung
I think of sailing
I hope for swimming
When the sea is warm.

Spring has sprung
Hope for the future.
The worst is over
And we are alive

© Sarah Early March 2021





BURNGATE
STONE CARVING CENTRE

Burngate is changing!

We are excited to be reopening at the end of May - we're just working through a long 'to do' list to make the Centre one of the best places to visit in Purbeck and beyond for stone carving and other traditional crafts.

Fancy giving us a hand?

We're recruiting a new volunteer team to help run the centre, with roles from welcoming visitors and taking course bookings to updating our new website and social media to selling local crafts and running a re-vitalised tea room. And we'll have as much of your time as you want to offer - and no more...

You don't need to know anything about stone carving, and of course the bonus of working at Burngate is that it's just such a fabulous place to be, up on the hill amidst the fields overlooking Swanage Bay. It won't be long before the swallows are back too.

Our first priority is to find help to run the office every day during the three week craft show that is on site from 22nd May, in what would have been Purbeck Art Weeks - a role that will continue part time throughout the year.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help plan and run our re-imagined tea room during the season, starting in mid-June. We intend to be open throughout the week over the summer, with volunteers working half day shifts - but would appreciate any help.

If you're interested or just intrigued, and regardless of your experience, we would love you to get in touch for an informal chat with one of our new trustees - please email us at:

info@burngatestonecentre.co.uk and we will get back to you...



Photograph by Simon Wells



Photograph by Simon Wells



Spring is a fantastic time of year, with the constant thoughts of – what arrived today? What have I missed? And how dare someone else have seen the first Wheatear, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Swallow, Early Spider Orchid or Orange Tip. Now I think about it, spring is a really annoying time of year!

Do look at the Daily Diary on the website:

<https://www.durlston.co.uk/durlston-today.aspx>

to read our latest daily explorations. All of the Rangers contribute to these, all in our quite different styles! Some of the recent records – Common Whitethroat, Red Kite, Short-eared Owl, Swallows, House Martins and Swifts, Bottlenose Dolphins plus a Seal. Cowslips, Hairy Violets, Green Winged, Early Purple and Early Spider Orchids are all over the meadows.

Durlston Castle re-opens...

We are really looking forward to reopening Durlston Castle from the 17th May. The Castle will then be open every day from 10.30 – 5, with a fantastic mixture of exhibitions, displays and great food!

Our events programme also restarts on the 17th, with some fantastic events this summer, including exhibitions by Cathy Veale, Heather Gibbons, Antonia Phillips and the Guild of Glass Engravers. Other highlights include outdoor cinema, an outdoor performance of 'Macbeth', seabird boat trips and lots more! For full listings, have a look at our website, www.durlston.co.uk

Until then, the shop and café are open (for takeaways and outside dining) – looking forward to seeing you soon!



'Brushes with Colour Exhibition' with Cathy Veale, Heather Gibbons, Heather MacGregor and Dick Hewitson



Bird ringing season begins

Every spring and autumn volunteer bird ringers help tag birds (with a harmless loose leg ring) as part of a global scheme to monitor bird populations and provide information key to bird conservation. This week apprentices Sammy and Robin went along to help bird ringer Ian Lewis at Durlston and tell us about their experience:

"We first saw the bird ringers working last year, and both being keen on birds, wanted to help as soon as possible. It has been great fun so far – we are seeing a decent variety of birds coming through and each getting to work on ringing, measuring wing lengths, and sexing birds. It feels very slow to start with as you have to be so gentle with the birds so as not to harm or stress them but be confident enough to not release the birds before ringing or taking down any data. Nimble fingers are very much needed, and I certainly feel my dexterity could do with a bit of work.

It really is fascinating to see the birds so close and to start delving into the world of aging, sexing, and checking out their body fat and muscle. On some this is easy – a male and female bullfinch are easy to tell apart, whereas willow warblers are very difficult. Aging could come down to the colour variation of the very edges of their greater covert feathers. It is a lot to take in and process, but after a handful of sessions I feel I am making some progress. It's great that we are starting at a quieter time of year to get used to things at a relaxed pace, before the busy autumn migration." – Robin Spanner



Goodbye from Gwyneth

"Hello! For those of you who haven't seen me around, I'm Gwyneth and have been a residential volunteer here since October last year. As much as I'd love to remain firmly placed in the flat (or camping in Katie's garden if it came to it!), my time at Durlston has come to an end. I'd like to thank the Rangers, volunteers and everybody who has made the past 7 months an incredible experience.

There are simply too many highlights to count! I've loved getting involved with the orchid surveys and butterfly transects, and even now it still blows my mind seeing an Early Spider Orchid, whilst getting distracted by the odd bird here and there... The anticipation of the wildlife diary walk, hedge-laying all across the Park and the satisfaction of finally getting the pesky water troughs fixed (all the struggles stopping small leaks never seemed to go to plan!) are a small number of tasks I've enjoyed.

Although I've loved the variety of tasks Durlston has sent my way, I will not (perhaps controversially!) miss the struggle with bagging brash. It's safe to say I never quite mastered the art. One of the most testing days (which some volunteers may recall) was raking and bagging gorse in field 6. Battling strong winds, being battered by torrential rain which seemed to soak through every layer in no time... not even our fire seemed to make a difference!

The wildlife here has continued to amaze me from the moment I stepped foot onto Durlston, seeing lots of autumn migrants and a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in my first week to watching the gradual transition into Spring. Being surrounded by Skylarks as you work, the Cowslip meadows, watching the Fulmars, Razorbills and Guillemots by the clifftop, the list could go on! But the past week has delivered the best when it comes to wildlife sightings, getting a close look of dolphins by the Dolphin Watch Hut last Tuesday [Gwyneth took the incredible photo right] and after weeks of waiting and failing to find any, an Adder under one of the reptile sheets on Saturday!

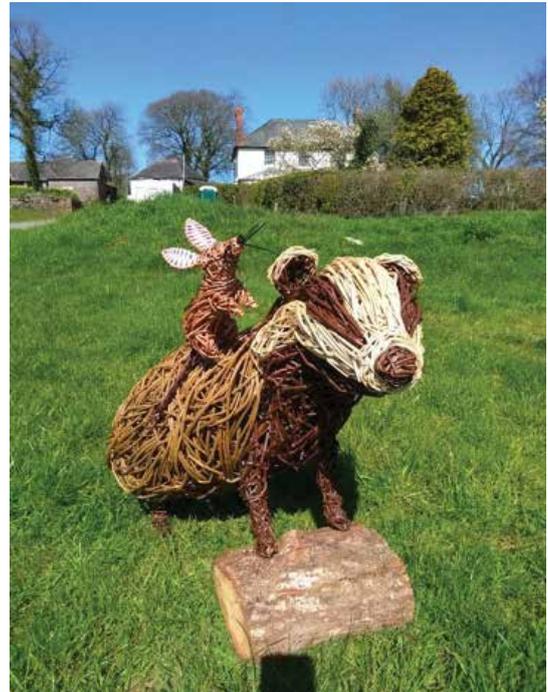
I definitely plan to come back and visit. Not least to appreciate the wildflower meadows in their full glory, and just maybe to see the calves and cows once they return. But for now, again I thank everyone for the best experience here at the Park, and hopefully I'll see some of you again in the future."

The Return of Park Yoga!

Come and enjoy free outdoor park yoga held in our spectacular Country Park. Sessions run every Sunday 9:30 – 10:30am until Sunday 29th August and to make sure everyone remains safe, following government guidelines we are asking you to pre-register at www.parkyoga.co/swanage



Join the Woodland Clan at Durlston!



From the 17 May – 27 June, kids can join a magical adventure through Durlston's woodland, meeting the characters from the book by Annie Herridge and Mark Page and helping save Purbeck's wildlife! The Woodland Clan Trail runs every day and costs £3, with a prize at the end.

Visit: www.thewoodlandclan.co.uk to find out more!



SNIPPETS FROM STUDLAND



STUDLAND PARISH COUNCIL

The council is concerned about the volume of summer traffic that comes into the area. Whilst residents welcome the new traffic regulations applied to the Ferry Road to ensure no parking on the highway, there is still scope for new arrangements to develop Park and Ride provision, the use of public transport, and green transport initiatives.

The yellow lines showing the prohibition of parking in the village have become badly worn and vegetation has grown over them. Dorset Council's financial constraints are leading to the Parish Council having to consider funding this work - one of the adverse effects of unitary local government.

As May is the month for maximum pollination, the Council is considering not mowing the grass on its own land. What about the other communities in Purbeck doing the same?

When you next pass through Studland, take a look at the sign crowded green triangle at the top of Beach Road. It is littered with illegal A Boards and indicator signs from Dorset Council - a case for review?

www.studlandparishcouncil.org

THE PURBECK SOCIETY

The Purbeck Society is requesting our MP, Richard Drax, to join the All Party Parliamentary Group on Civic Societies. Purbeck is rich in heritage buildings both listed and non-listed. These heritage assets deserve sound maintenance and wise stewardship. This group will enable voices to be heard at Westminster for all matters relating to the scope of Civic Societies. It would be welcomed if our MP were able to join and take part in this Group.

Objections have been lodged in respect of 5 Rabling Road and 1 Coastguard Cottages, Peveril Point Road. In the case of Rabling Road, the Society maintain that Swanage has sufficient supplies of flats and second homes and that further opportunistic developments in Rabling Road are unwarranted. The area has a significant amount of period houses with gardens. Squeezing more flats into the locality, compromises the pattern of development and adds little to the sustainability of Swanage. The Coastguard Cottages are set in the AONB and the Conservation Area. The proposed development including additional glass work and a glass walkway, are considered to be out of keeping with the area and damaging to the coherence of the cottages. www.purbeckociety.co.uk

DORSET CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE)

A national report on the state of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) shows how these precious designated areas are being compromised by housebuilding and allied development. Residents in Purbeck need to be aware that national and local policies do not, in practice, maximise the protective role of the AONBs. Hundreds of houses are planned for the AONB in Dorset under the Local Plan, including more than 200 in Swanage alone; every community in Dorset may have allocated up to 30 new houses even if they do not need them. Rather a strange system of local democracy? Where are the voices of elected representatives on this matter?

The recent planning decision on Crack Lane, Langton, illustrates the threat to the AONB when the Housing Delivery Test is applied to an area that does not have a five year land supply. Under these circumstances, it appears that the presumption in favour of development will apply, even regardless of the harm created by the development. Surely a threat to the Dorset AONB?

Read all about the position of Dorset CPRE on the Planning Proposals announced in the Queen's Speech. A system of zoning is likely to replace current arrangements. Residents and community groups will only normally be able to contribute at the initial stage of designating the zones. What this loss of local democracy means for Dorset is unclear, other than a huge rebalancing of decisions favouring developers. Dorset's landscapes and communities are threatened by these ideas.

A scheme of prizes for pupils in secondary schools in being launched in the autumn.

Copies of the CPRE Dorset Review will be made available at Swanage Tourism Information Centre and Swanage Museum. It is a good read and useful source of information.

If you care about the Dorset Countryside and the rural nature of the County, tell others about Dorset CPRE as new members are always welcome.

www.dorset-cpre.org.uk



Protecting Dorset
Campaign to Protect Rural England

Boilerhouse Gallery

Rob at Sandy Hill

Talented Local Musician and music teacher, Rob Mills, helped celebrate the **Boilerhouse Gallery's** reopening at the end of April, with an impromptu afternoon of incidental music. Improvising with sax, percussion and a bit of electronic wizardry, Rob beguiled visitors to the gallery - even getting a round of applause from railway passengers on the Corfe Station footbridge!



Photograph by Simon Wells



Photograph by Simon Wells



The Boilerhouse Gallery is just one part of the Sandy Hill Studios site, and it, too, is slowly coming back to life. As well as the gallery, there are some twenty artist studios and workshops on site, many of them open to visitors. Tony Viney has set up a new arts charity - **Sandy Hill Studios CIO** - to preserve the future of arts and craft on the old Corfe 'milk factory' site.

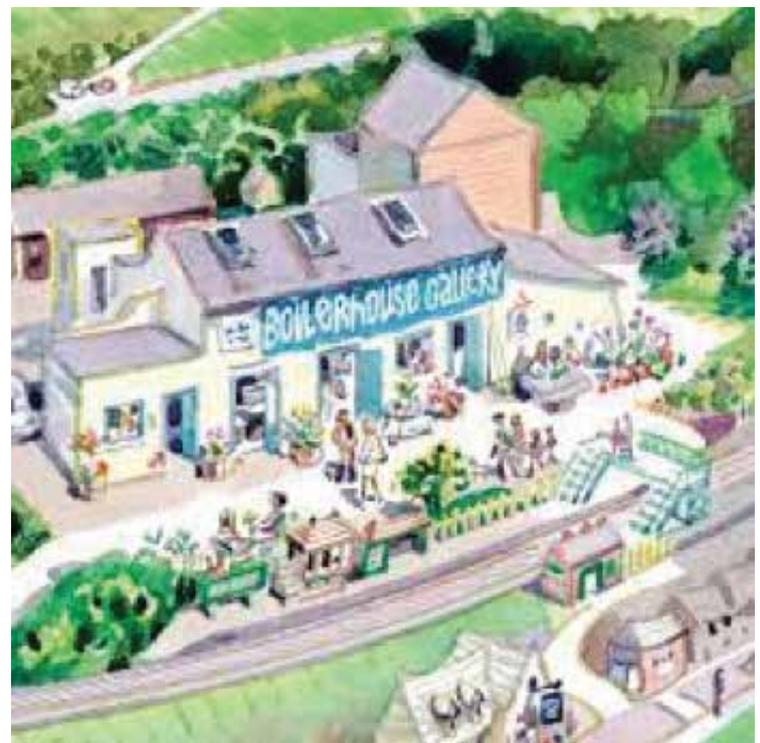
We are starting to plan now for a bright future of visual arts, craft and performance - music, film, dance, spoken word, story-telling ... First up is **Dorset Art Weeks** in late May, and then **Purbeck Art Weeks** in September.



We are really looking forward to joining **Planet Purbeck** at the end of September for their Arts and Environment Festival - probably our first real chance to plan for an event after this year of gloom and uncertainty.

Sandy Hill welcomes visitors throughout the year - it's a great place to just sit in the sun and listen to the birdsong - and you never know: you might find some unexpected treat like Rob just around a corner... Contact us: by phone **01929 481073** or at www.boilerhousegallery.co.uk

Richard Jeffrey, Boilerhouse Gallery





Dorset Council Update

The emphasis now is on opening Dorset up again. The local Resilience Forum (Council, NHS, Public Health, Police & Fire services) have been working together and putting together actions including targeting hotspots particularly Lulworth and Studland which will be tow away zones, more enforcement will be in place, the police will have more officers on the ground re-deployed from other areas; there will be signage around the area asking the public to help where possible, for example, by taking their litter home, black bin bags disposers will be given out to encourage people to help. A temporary Clearway between Winfrith and Lulworth will be in place and people will be turned round in Winfrith, Lulworth or Wareham depending on numbers.

Car parking charges - Phase 1 was implemented on the 1st April, phase 2 is now underway and DC will be talking to local groups to gather local information; DC has already gone public with the 3 levels, showing that it is aimed at visitors having to pay more than the local residents. DC has been advised that consultation is not required, and the charges are not for consultation.

Covid numbers are going down, but people are asked to still wear masks, and keep a social distance, so hopefully we don't go into another lockdown.

BBQ's - work is being undertaken at the moment to identify safe areas to have BBQ's. DC put up signs as last year, but there will not be a blanket ban, plus DC have asked local supermarkets to not have the BBQ's right by the doors.



National Trust Update

The Castle reopened on Monday 29th March and has had a slow but steady uptake of booked visitors. As the level of booked visitors is below the daily (and half hourly) capacity the National Trust (NT) is allowing visitors to enter if they have not booked. The tea-room and CV have reopened for takeaway orders only but will adjust on the relevant days to accommodate outside and inside seating. The shop reopened on the 12th April.

The Woodland Clan – The NT are working in partnership with Durlston Park and a local playwright, Annie Herridge, for the children's summer Trail. The Clan will be in Durlston in May and June and then coming over to Corfe for July and August, more can be found at <https://thewoodlandclan.co.uk>

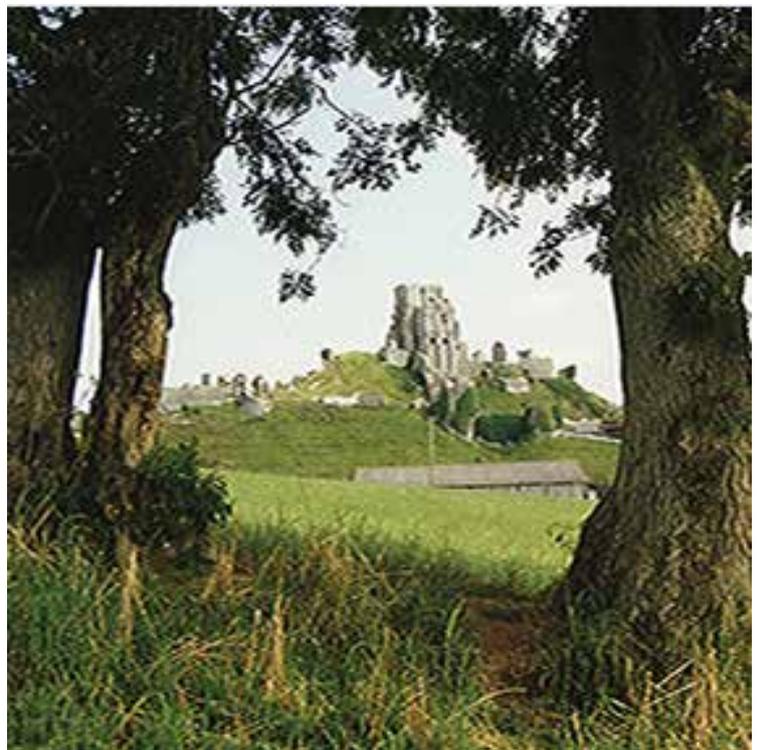
40-year Anniversary – Next year the NT will celebrate 40 years since the areas of the Isle of Purbeck were gifted from the Bankes family to the NT. Teams will be looking to how we can celebrate this.

Quinquennial works – Plans have been finalised for the Castle for the rest of the financial year. As no works took place in 2020 due to COVID, the NT have been able to secure additional funds in 2021 to complete more works this year.

RESET program – The reset program for Corfe has been completed for the staff and all adjustments to departments, line management changes, budget holders etc has been finalised. There is minimal impact on the running of the property and shouldn't have any effect on the visitor's time at Corfe.

Solar panels - As an organisation, the NT supports the use of renewable energy sources in helping to meet its target of achieving net zero carbon by 2030. While the NT are unable to provide a blanket response at this stage, they would be happy to consider these proposals on an individual basis, taking into account the context of each property, including any covenants or listed status where applicable.

The gate by the railway bridge – The NT Ranger Team have investigated the gate and noted that the issue isn't that the latch is broken; they have replaced the catch with an ordinary non 'long handled one' as the previous one had been hammered flat by a third party – for what reason we are unsure.





National Trust

tom.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Corfe's Game of Nature's Homes...

Corfe was at peace. The ravens were breeding. The jackdaws abundant. Little did anyone know change was coming.

The peregrines invaded as lockdown came. Maybe seduced by the newly quietened ruin, perhaps just desperate for anywhere to breed as their population continued to increase.

The ravens had finished breeding, so left the castle. The jackdaws put up a fairly poor fight and were either eaten or left for the woods.

Peregrines had taken over the castle.

But the peregrines had left the castle unguarded in the autumn, and the ravens returned. So did the jackdaws, under the cover of the ravens. When the peregrines returned in late march the displays started again. The standoff between the ravens and fastest animal on earth was tense. The jackdaws cowered.

And then, mid face-off, the Egyptian Geese invaded. Travelling across land and sea (albeit likely escapees from a U.K wildfowl collection), they came and the peregrines, ravens and jackdaws did not know what to make of their new enemy. They were big and bold, and out of nowhere, sat on the raven's throne refusing to be displaced. The ravens departed. The peregrines did not fancy breeding next to the geese, because they'd never seen anything like it in all their lives, So took out their vengeance upon a nearby kestrel, eating it high up on the castle walls, in the hope to scare the geese off. It failed. The jackdaws are ecstatic and Egyptian Geese rule the castle.

And so it was until mid May, when the Peregrines realised they were in fact faster and more nimble than a goose, albeit one from Egypt. So they started developing their nest, late in the season and fearful that winter will come before the offspring develop. The jackdaws, well the jackdaws are crestfallen.



Back in March, the well-attended Zoom AGM meeting for 'Aquarius' members, (the ladies club based in Corfe Castle) the main topic of conversation was how best to manage our new venture; a 50/50 club as a fund raiser for our charities that had sadly been affected by Covid 19, with an equal amount for the membership, to go towards some fun events once lockdown is fully lifted. This is now up and running with many members signed up. The first draw is being made at our meeting on Tuesday 1st June. We hope that this will see the return of a face-to-face session in the Village Hall (with all social distancing and other relevant protocols in place). This will be our first real get together since September last year and the talk will be accompanied by a cream tea!

In April we had an excellent talk, via Zoom, by the 53 year old sister-in-law of one of our members, on her journey towards getting a heart transplant in early 2020, in the Royal Papworth Hospital, just before the first lockdown. She emphasised how it had transformed her life, allowing her to take part in many activities that she could only have dreamt about before. It was very uplifting.

Our open air plant sale was a great success in the Village Hall car park. The sun shone and despite being cold, lots of plants changed hands, including free give away wildflower seeds to enhance our local biodiversity!

Regula Wright provided us with an amazing insight into how to improve our organic gardening techniques, at our May Zoom meeting. We learnt how to use ecological pest control methods and the value of sea weed as a fertilizer, amongst many other things. I think we will all be taking a trip to the beach in the autumn, as well as visiting Regula's gardening site in Swanage!

As previously stated, our hope is that June will see us back in the Village Hall listening to a speaker from the Footprints Charity for offenders, which should be very interesting. It aims to bring a stronger sense of community, hope and increased self worth to these often socially excluded people, thereby reducing reoffending.

Some of our satellite groups have continued, with the walkers, strollers and book clubs all thriving. The sewing group is hoping to meet in the Village Hall after the next lockdown easing, to join together the squares that have been sewn or knitted for the 'Twiddle Blankets' promised to care homes for people with dementia.

July should see us having a talk from Citizens Advice and we really hope to have a special outdoors get together in August, which is still in the planning phase.

We are always happy for occasional guests to our meetings and welcome new members, so just use the contact below if wishing to join at any time.

Christine Kemp (Aquarius Joint Chair)

Tel: 01929 480007

PPE is now
available for
unpaid carers

#DorsetTogether



call our helpline **01305 221000**



HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

Harmans Cross Village Hall opens to some of our regular group activities from 17th May. Please see our website for details www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk

Our AGM will be held at 3pm on Friday May 21st. Attendance is limited due to Covid restrictions, so please book a place by contacting our secretary Kathy Furlong at secretary@harmanscrosshall.co.uk.

HXVH FETE & FIELD DAY

Bank Holiday Monday 30th August
Gates Open at 12 Noon

With there at last being light at the end of this extended Covid tunnel, we are committed to running the Fete and Field Day this coming August Bank Holiday Monday, assuming there are no further restrictions. By then, we hope that many of us will have had our second jobs, and we expect summer here in beautiful Purbeck to be very busy. We hope to make this a very special day, full of fun and celebration for everyone - visitors, locals and helpers alike.

We plan to have all the usual fun activities: Flower and Produce Exhibition, Purbeck Icecream, a wide variety of community & local business stalls, Book Stall, Children's Games & Bouncy Castle, Raffle & Tombola, Handbags, Jewellery and Scarves stall, Dog Show, Bar, BBQ and Refreshments - all with Live Music.

For any local businesses or individuals wishing to book a stall at the Fete, please contact David Hollister by email at: hxvh@btconnect.com

The Fete and Field Day can't run without the support of our helpers, so if you can offer any time at all, please let Richard Purchase know by email: richard.purchase@btinternet.com

Donations: it's the time of year for clear-outs and spring cleaning, especially as charity shops have reopened. Please will you remember the Fete if you have any of the following items:

- Books - recent and in good condition;
- Bric-a-Brac - in good condition;
- Jewellery, scarfs, belts, handbags;
- Tombola prizes;
- Bottles.

Please leave in the foyer at the Hall if its open, or alternatively leave with Alison & Richard at 6 Flower Meadow Lane, HX



Photograph by Robert Field



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



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Swanage & Wareham Depression Support Group

Who Are We?

We are a group of local people in our communities who experience depression or anxiety.

We are not experts, but we know how it feels. At this terrible time with Covid and Lockdown we cannot meet face-to-face at the moment, but we find that a problem shared, is a problem halved.

Weekly Zoom Meetings

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

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

You will be very welcome.

Contact us with confidence

To get in touch please contact Nick on nickviney@hotmail.com
Or to find out more please call Nick on 01929 439121 or Mary on 01929 426896

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



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Which?

Scam Alert service

National Insurance number 'compromised' cold call

An official sounding voice usually claiming to be from the National Crime Agency or National Office for Serious Crimes has been cold calling unsuspecting members of the public, asking them to call back urgently. It may state that your National Insurance number has been compromised, but it's an attempt to get you to hand over your personal details.

You may receive it in the form of a pre-recorded message or phone call that sounds threatening, so please do ignore it.

If you've received a pre-recorded message or phone call claiming your National Insurance number has been compromised, you can safely ignore it. It's a scam.

We've been made aware that an official sounding voice usually claiming to be from the National Crime Agency or 'National Office for Serious Crimes' has been cold calling unsuspecting members of the public, asking them to call back urgently.

Fraudsters will then try to manipulate you into handing over personal information using a web of lies and threats.

We've heard from dozens of people targeted by this scam over the past few months. Action Fraud data shows it is the most reported phone scam of this year so far, having received more than 1,000 reports.

One victim told us that when he returned the call he was falsely told that someone had been using his National insurance number (NINo) to claim Universal Credit.

The scammer told him that if he didn't hand over his personal details so they could make a 'correction' he would be liable to repay thousands of pounds in fraudulently claimed benefits and could be sent to prison. At this point he realised something wasn't right and put the phone down, but the scammers continued to try and get in touch with him for more than a week.

Other victims have told us similar stories, all in which the scammers told them they had to hand over their personal information to be issued with a new NINo number.

Don't be pressured for your details

In reality, there's very little damage anyone could do with just your National Insurance number, even if someone had access to it. But your other personal details, such as your name, date of birth, address and bank details are much more valuable to criminals. They could use this information to target you with more personalised scams, or try to gain access to your accounts.

No government organisation would ever pressure you to hand over sensitive information, and if you're uncomfortable or unsure, just hang up the call. The National Crime Agency is unlikely to call consumers directly about their National Insurance numbers. Which? has contacted it about this cold call and will publish any response here.

If you have concerns about your National Insurance number you can [visit Gov.uk which offers contact numbers and web chat support](#).

How to protect yourself

If you've been tricked by this scam, don't worry. There are a few things you can do to protect yourself. Contact your bank if you're worried that you've given away your bank account or payment details.

You can also [sign up to Cifas](#). It's a not-for-profit fraud prevention service that monitors the use of your details to apply for bank accounts, credit cards or loans.