

## Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage Area Forum

# NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Welcome to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's February 2024 Newsletter. This issue covers news from the pre-Christmas period and also planned events for February from the many clubs, charities, societies and organisations in our local communities.

Though we may inhabit different towns, villages or hamlets, we all depend one way or another on each other by often sharing facilities, services, activities and even problems. We hope that this modest newsletter helps link the various communities across Purbeck and assists the many clubs, charities and public services in communicating with as many folk as possible. We ask you once again to please pass this newsletter onto your colleagues, friends and neighbours.

Mel Norris

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

[melvyn.norris@icloud.com](mailto:melvyn.norris@icloud.com), mobile: 07446 677924

find the newsletter at [www.sandpdt.org.uk](http://www.sandpdt.org.uk)

## DEADLINE

for contributions to the March 2024  
issue of the Newsletter

**FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2024**



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

# User Consultation Survey Reveals Local Hopes and Dreams for Swanage Skatepark!



During July - Sept 2023 The Swanage Skatepark Community Project (SSCP) ran a public user consultation survey inviting people to have their say on the design and development of new facilities at Swanage Skatepark. The responses to the survey have been collated, analysed and are now available for everyone to view on the Swanage Skatepark Community Project website.

The survey received 170 responses in total. 81% of people who responded are Swanage Skatepark users which means future designs will be influenced and guided by people who know the park and actively use the space.

*SSCP Secretary Heidi Florence said:*

*"Not only has the survey revealed the equipment people want to see in the park. For the first time users were asked what sort of events and activities they'd like to see taking place in future too. The skatepark has been an under-utilised resource in Swanage, but it presents one of the biggest opportunities to build community as skateparks are rare because they're the only truly intersectional and multigenerational spaces."*

It's for this reason that SSCP were one of the groups invited to attend the Swanage Youth Strategy Meeting held last week at Swanage Town Hall.

*Heidi added:*

*"35% of responses to our survey came from children and young people aged between 8 – 20. We were able to extract their responses and share exactly what they want to see happening at Swanage Skatepark with everyone who attended the Youth Strategy Meeting. The activities young people want vary from beginner lessons to art and photography workshops. You don't have to have wheels under your feet to get involved!"*

The survey also highlighted that skateboarding is the most popular method of using the skatepark and there's a community of older skaters in Swanage who would like to see meet-ups taking place for adults and over 50s.

Based on the survey results, SSCP circulated a design brief with several park builders and are now waiting for quotes to set a realistic fundraising goal for the project. SSCP hope to start fundraising from January 2024 as an agreement has been reached that SSCP will form a separate charity and project under the umbrella of Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust. The next opportunity for public consultation on the design will be at the point when the fundraising goal for the project has been met and the tender process is underway.

With the aid of funding and donations, SSCP hopes to make 2024 the year when events and activities start to take place more regularly at the skatepark. If there's anyone who can help with contributing to funding towards new equipment for the skatepark or funding for events and activities, please contact [swanageskatepark@gmail.com](mailto:swanageskatepark@gmail.com)

Find out more about Swanage Skatepark Community Project:

[www.swanageskateparkcommunityproject.com](http://www.swanageskateparkcommunityproject.com)



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
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Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

# THE MOWLEM

Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

## What's On in February 2024

[www.mowlem.com](http://www.mowlem.com)

### Live on Stage:

[www.themowlem.com](http://www.themowlem.com)

Artsreach presents: The Longest Johns

Born out of a mutual love of traditional folk songs and shanties, The Longest Johns are a Bristol-based acapella folk band covering everything from maritime songs to experimental contemporary folk.

Friday 9th February at 7:30pm

Matilda

The Swanage School returns with this classic story by Roald Dahl of an extraordinary little girl with extraordinary powers in the award winning show adapted for stage by Tim Minchin.

22nd-24th February at 7:30pm

24th February at 2:30pm

### Movies:

Wonka (PG)

Based on the extraordinary character at the center of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, "Wonka" tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today.

Starring Timothee Chalamet, Hugh Grant, Rowan Atkinson. Directed by Paul King.

22nd, 26th & 29th January at 2:30pm

22nd - 24th, 27th, 29th - 31st January & 1st Feb at 7:30pm

The Three Musketeers: Milady (12A)

Constance Bonacieux is kidnapped before D'Artagnan's very eyes. In a frantic quest to save her, the young musketeer, aided by Athos, Porthos and Aramis, is forced to join forces with the mysterious Milady de Winter. In French with subtitles.

Starring Eva Green, Lyna Khoudri, Francois Civil. Directed by Martin Bourboulon.

2nd, 3rd & 5th February at 2:30pm

5th-8th Feb at 7:30pm

### Events in The Showbar:

Galaxy Thief - Live at The Showbar

Join us for a night filled with indie rock tunes and eclectic vibes performed by the four piece indie rock band from the South Coast! Tickets are £8 plus booking fee from Eventbrite.

Friday 26th January at 7:30pm

50 Block

Live music. Free entry.

Friday 2nd February at 8:30pm

It's Vinyly Friday!

Live Jazz + DJ - Funky, jazzy grooves, live looping, saxophones, bongos and congas from Rob Mills and The Trackside Cooptimists, plus DJ Paul Angel with a vinyl mix of jazz and global beats!

Friday 16th February from 9pm

Oscar's Quiz Night

£1 per person, up to 6 people per team, prizes to be won! Wednesday 24th January and Wednesday 28th February at 8pm

The Showbar is open Monday - Saturday 5.30pm – 9.30pm and later for events.

### Mowlem Visual Arts Exhibitions:

Our current visual art exhibition will be until the 6th February featuring artist Jane Colquhoun with the title 'Cut from the Same Cloth'

Don't forget to follow us on social media and check our website for the latest update on what we have going on, timings and bookings.

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# How the wild weather affects our wildlife



Storm damage to footpath at Shep's Hollow, Swanage. Photo: Rebecca Eddy

Swanage and Studland suffered considerable damage in recent storms, with roads and storm drains collapsing, footpaths washed away and buildings flooded. But what impact might this extreme weather have had on wildlife in Purbeck?

Here are some observations from David Brown, lead ecologist for the National Trust in Purbeck, together with ways we are working to help mitigate the impacts.

Storm Henk brought a huge amount of rainfall in a short space of time. The massive surges in water flow in rivers and streams would have swept everything away. Some amphibians return to the water to breed as early as January, so any spawn already laid is likely to have been lost.

Fortunately, the rains were just early enough to avoid impacting breeding birds. But with milder winters, species start to nest earlier and earlier - woodlark are already singing and making territories. If we get rains like this in a month or two, we could lose a whole generation of these rare birds.

The high winds we've had recently accelerate the windfall of trees, particularly of ash where the disease, ash dieback, has already affected them. This is a big challenge in woods like Kingswood, off Nine Barrow Down.

We've seen considerable changes to the dune systems on the Studland peninsula following the storms. This isn't necessarily a bad thing as the dunes are a dynamic, everchanging environment, and new areas of dune create habitats for species such as sand lizards.



Peatland restoration at Greenlands Mire, Studland. Photo: Gen Crisford



Wall lizards are climate change winners. Photo: National Trust

Crucially, the storms have demonstrated the importance of restoring natural processes on the land, particularly water courses. Centuries of land drainage for farming has meant that after heavy rain, water is channelled straight into the main channels, and this exacerbates flooding downstream. By restoring natural wetlands and peatlands and slowing down the flow rates in the upper parts of catchments we can not only create great habitats for wildlife, but also smooth out the peaks and troughs in flow rates – reducing flooding in winter and reducing drought in summer.

We are working closely with all our farm tenants to find opportunities to do this within Purbeck, particularly in the River Corfe and Swan catchments. We're also beginning a project on Corfe Big

East Common in February to 'slow the flow'. Some of the most incised drainage channels will be infilled, and we'll create small-scale leaky dams, both of which will help store more water in the landscape.

There will always be winners and losers with climate change and extreme weather. New species will colonise, while some European species like the wall lizard will extend northwards. Other more specialised species will decline. Working with our partners and tenant farmers, we need to do all we can to create a bigger, better and more joined-up landscape where wildlife can spread and thrive.



Slepe Heath on the Purbeck Heaths NNR – a joined-up landscape where nature can thrive. Photo: Mark Singleton

# A STUNNING CHRISTMAS FOR SWANAGE ROTARY!

Like many of us, Christmas for Swanage & Purbeck Rotary is one of the busiest times of the year. This time was no exception when we have again been able to run a fantastic range of Christmas events:

- A very well attended Christmas Market that extended this year into Institute Road allowing over 50 stalls to participate.
- A full programme of visits by Santa's sleigh to the streets of Swanage, Langton and Corfe.
- The despatch of over 3,500 Christmas cards to local addresses through our Charity Mail Service.
- A highly popular pop-up shop selling a range of Christmas treats.
- Filling over 250 Christmas shoeboxes that have been sent to underprivileged children in Eastern Europe.

Swanage Rotary President Chris Le Fevre said:

*"We want to say a very big thank you to everyone who has supported the work of Swanage & Purbeck Rotary over Christmas and during the rest of 2023. This includes the hugely generous local community, the many Friends of Rotary who lend a hand with our various activities and events and our wonderful Rotary Business Partners. Grateful thanks are also due to Harlees for the free use of part of their premises on Station Road and to Swanage Town Council for their help and cooperation.*

*The events we run are not only a major source of fundraising but also play an important role in the community. For example, six of the stalls at the market were provided free of charge to local charities whilst Santa's visits are a source of great delight to both young and old. On the fundraising front I'm delighted to report that our Christmas activities have raised a stunning £15,771! This money forms a vital part of the support we provide both locally and further afield."*

Amongst the many events and projects we are planning for 2024 are the Rotary Young Musician competition which will be taking place at Swanage Methodist Church on Sunday 4th February and our very popular Silver Saturday afternoon tea for our community's senior citizens on the afternoon of Saturday 25th February. Anyone who you would like to attend either of these events or want to get involved in any other way do contact us via [secretary@swanagerotary.org](mailto:secretary@swanagerotary.org)

Swanage Rotary have also recently completed their Annual Report for the financial year ending 30th June 2023. This shows we raised a total of £36,602 over the period and donated to more than 25 different organisations and charities. In particular we donated more than £7,000 to the disaster charity founded by Rotary, ShelterBox, mainly to help those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Other significant donations were made to the following organisations:

- Purbeck Youth Music, giving young people in our community the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument.
- The Rotary Foundation End Polio Now campaign.
- Purbeck Community First Responders
- Wellbeing Swanage
- The Friendly Food Club
- The Community Larder
- Wessex Heartbeat, a charity providing support for families of people undergoing lifesaving cardiac treatment in Southampton Hospital.
- The Purple Community Fund, helping poverty stricken families and communities in the Philippines transform their own lives with our skills training, education, health and nutrition programmes.
- Primary schools and pre-schools in Swanage, Langton and Corfe.
- Médecins Sans Frontières, an international medical support charity.
- Generators4Ukraine, a charity providing emergency power to civilians caught up on the war in Ukraine.
- Water Aid, providing people in deprived areas of the world with access to clean water.

Chris Le Fevre  
President, Swanage & Purbeck Rotary CIO

## Celebrate Silver Saturday With Us



### Tea & Cakes on Rotary's Birthday Musical Entertainment from 'Old Hat'

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
**Victoria Avenue, Swanage**  
**Saturday 24th February 2024**

At 2.00pm

Booking is essential by  
Saturday 17th February

Transport can be arranged with prior notice

Book your place with  
Mo - 07907 728699 or  
Sarah - 07971 457931

Free of Charge but  
Donations taken towards Local Charities

## Swanage Pier Update

As a New Year starts, I just want to take a moment to look back and say a big thank you to everyone that has supported the Pier in 2023. Whether through the generosity of a donation, attending one of our many events or just to enjoy an activity such as strolling, fishing or diving. The Pier would not be here without your support.

Friends of Swanage Pier was formed in 1995 and was set up to support and promote the Pier and to help raise vital funds and by becoming a Friend, your annual membership supports the Pier on an on-going basis.

Membership includes unlimited access to the Pier to enjoy spectacular views all year round as well as a quarterly newsletter detailing the latest restoration news, updates and events. You will also receive a discount on both angling and diving, periodic discounts on purchases from our gift shop and on sailings from Swanage to Poole with City Cruises.

A year's membership costs a modest £24 per person or £46.00 for a joint annual membership (for two people living at the same address).

For full details and how to join visit -

[www.swanagepiertrust.com/friends-of-swanage-pier](http://www.swanagepiertrust.com/friends-of-swanage-pier)

Visit our website or follow us on social media to find out about all our events and activities happening in 2024.



### Message from the Mayor of Swanage, Cllr Tina Foster

Welcome to 2024. Hopefully we are entering the new year with a positive mental attitude although so far, the weather has already tested our resolve.

Every year I make the same resolution which is "to have more fun" which I find is much easier to carry through the year rather than "get fit" or "lose weight": a positive rather than a negative.

So with this in mind I intend "to hit the ground running" which is a very overused phrase but sums up my mood as I continue in my second term as Mayor.

We have a list as the Town Council to work through, and numerous aims and goals to achieve in the next year. In early May we have an election for the Town Council. While some current Councillors are not standing for the Council from the Spring, all will continue to give their time and experience to keep our Town the best it can be.

High on our priorities is setting the budgets for the financial year to ensure we have enough funds to carry out the important tasks, to keep up our responsibilities and duties to our town.

The Parking Order, Asset review, lease agreements and concessions all sound mundane but without such plans we cannot work to our commitments. Your councillors spend hours discussing repairs, maintenance, public safety and amenities, but I am proud to lead the meetings to make these decisions and am grateful to those who come to our Chamber to contribute.

I hope you all received the Annual report through your door and aim to continue to keep you updated regularly with what we are doing and hear your comments.

The Neighbourhood plan is well on its way and there are some tough decisions to make on the seafront and stabilisation schemes.

So a time for evaluation and development but nevertheless a year ahead for exciting opportunities and progress.

*Cllr Tina Foster*

# M.U.S.I.C. CHARITY EVENTS

(Music Unlimited for Swanage Independent Charities)



**LIVE MUSIC: SWING EASY TOO**  
(4-piece band, vocalists) plus Guests

DATE	VENUE	START TIME (usually for 2 hours...)
Fri 05 Jan 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 30 Jan 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 02 Feb 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 06 Feb 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 13 Feb 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 01 Mar 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 05 Mar 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 19 March 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 05 Apr 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 09 Apr 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 30 April 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 03 May 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Tue 07 May 24	Newton Manor Hall, Swanage **	2.00
Tue 21 May 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Tue 18 June 24	Grand Hotel Swanage	12.15
Fri 21 Jun 24	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30

\*\* VENUE FOR 4 DATES: **NEWTON MANOR HALL(170 High Street, Swanage)**  
ENTRANCE ON HIGH ST, OPP. COW LANE. **NOT THE MANOR !!** Tel: 07827-892893

# JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 17 Feb, 10-12



**Free Entry**



**Tea & Cake**

Herston Village Hall ,  
Jubilee Road, Herston,  
BH19 2SF

Drop off dates:

Thursday 15th Feb 5-7,  
Friday 16th Feb 3-6



Clean, good condition clothes & shoes, bric a brac,  
small household, jewellery/accessories, bags,  
fabric, toys, paperback books.



No electrical or broken  
items please



## Jazz at the Grand Hotel

Burlington Road, Swanage BH19 1LU 01929 423353  
Lunch is served between 12 - 2.00 pm (booking essential on Sundays)

### CHARITY FUND-RAISING CONCERTS

Local charities including  
The Friends of Swanage Hospital



**SWANAGE  
JAZZ  
MACHINE**

Swanage Jazz Machine  
2024 Dates **2pm Start**  
Sun 14 January  
Sun 04 February  
Sun 10 March, Sun 07 April  
Sun 19 May, Sun 02 June



**SWING EASY TOO**

Swing Easy Too  
2024 Dates **12.15pm Start**  
Tue 30 January  
Tue 13 February  
Tue 19 March, Tue 30 April  
Tue 21 May, Tue 18 June

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



### JAZZ MUSICIANS COLLECTING FOR CHARITY

Donations gratefully received, thank you !  
Contact the musicians: 01929 421401

## Eat and Meet Group

For a number of years, there has been a monthly meeting at the Royal British Legion in Swanage to provide an opportunity for residents (mostly elderly) to meet, have a lunch and some entertainment with two main aims:

- Firstly, to provide those attending an opportunity to meet or make friends and enjoy some conversation and company over a subsidised lunch,
- Secondly, over the course of the year, (through raffles, games and donations) to raise money for a local charity.

We have three generous local sponsors for the Swanage Eat and Meet Group who enable us to provide a subsidised two course dinner:

- James Smith Funeral Directors
- Capstone Inspections
- Sparkle Cleaning services

This year we have also received the following donations:

- Swanage and Purbeck Rotary £500
- Travis Perkins of Swanage £100
- Andrew Cannon (Musician and member) £240
- Shirley Albin (Member) £100

Some of the money raised this year helped fund our recent coach trip. Forty members of the Eat and Meet group visited the Seaton Tramway, and travelled on a tram to Colyton where we stopped for a buffet lunch, and then on to Sidmouth for an ice cream. We hope to be able to fund something similar for this year.

In 2023, the group raised a total of £1000 for local Swanage charity 'Heroes Haven', a purpose-built lodge which provides affordable holidays for disabled, injured and visually impaired serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces, their immediate family and carers.

To help us with our fundraising efforts this year, Swanage Eat and Meet Group is part of the Co-op Local Community Fund.

If you have a Co-op membership card, please see details at [coop.co.uk/membership](https://coop.co.uk/membership) to find out more and support our group.

If you do want any further information on the Eat and Meet group; whether you'd like to join, or find out how to sponsor us, please find us on Facebook (@Swanage Eat and Meet) or contact Roy Hoppe via email [rhoppe1063@aol.com](mailto:rhoppe1063@aol.com) or mobile 07930 425018.



L-R our sponsors David and Helen Hoppe from Sparkle Cleaning Services, Norma and Roy Hoppe, organisers of the Eat and Meet Group and Malcolm and Gail Green from James Smith Funeral Directors, pictured at our 2023 Christmas lunch.



Some of our group enjoying their tram ride in the sunshine at Seaton



L-R Norma Hoppe, Jo Walker from Heroes Haven and Roy Hoppe shown presenting this years' donation of £1000. Not pictured above, are Alison and Steve Leigh who help to run the Eat and Meet group with Roy and Norma.

## PLEASE LOCATE YOUR NEAREST DEFIBRILLATOR

Nationally and in the media there is much talk about Cardiac Resuscitation and the need for CPR training and public access defibrillators (AEDs)

Research is ongoing with the Resuscitation Council recently reporting that 2/3 of arrests occur in men, 80% happening in people's homes and 13% in public spaces.

Within SCDP we have aimed to provide wide coverage of public access defibrillators across the area for use in homes or public spaces whilst also providing the opportunity for 'familiarisation' sessions to help us all gain confidence if we need to use a defibrillator. Our work remains constant even after nearly 10 years with a committed steering group and more importantly a dedicated team of volunteers who act as 'Guardians' to each defib providing regular checks to the kit and reporting back through a central point so that the appliances are available in emergency situations .

We thank all the Guardians for their help and support (especially during recent poor weather) of what has become a very successful Community project.

**Sustainability** of our project remains our priority and by necessity fundraising will remain essential to maintain the 42 defibs we now have within SCDP.

We will continue to review the kit and the positions of defibs. modernising as required and wish to thank everyone for the support we receive for this important work asking everyone to note the locations of defibs across Purbeck and attend familiarisation sessions which will restart again in the Spring .

Maggie Hardy , SCDP

**Swanage Community  
Defibrillator Partnership**  
Keep the heart of Swanage beating



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662



Every Monday at Emmanuel

10.30am until 1.00pm

Especially for people who  
live on their own

including

hot drinks, games, jigsaws, crafty  
colouring, chat, donations only

and finishing with a light lunch

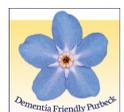


Singing for Pleasure  
Every Thursday 2pm



at Emmanuel  
Baptist Church

Supported by  
Dementia Friendly Purbeck



All Welcome

## Swanage Food Bank



In this first update for Swanage Food Bank in 2024, we should perhaps present New Year resolutions, as well as greetings to all who have supported our work with such generosity. One resolve is to help over-dependent clients to move on to Fare Share and greater self-reliance, or to gain financial/Benefits advice from Citizens Advice or Turn2Us. We can hardly imagine the hopelessness of being stuck in food poverty and being unwilling or unable to mitigate it. But that is the state of long-term (for over 5 years) clients of Food Banks like ours.

It's a relief when we have referrals from Agencies such as Dorset Council as they embark on another cold weather scheme to provide temporary accommodation to homeless adults. These are genuine cases requiring emergency food aid, which we can supply for 7 days at a time. New residents at Tudor Lodge Hotel are so grateful to be housed there after rough sleeping and minimal diet. Shirley, the Hotel proprietor, supplies the kindness and care which her residents have also lacked for too long. Heart-warming service we're glad to be part of.

Unfortunately, there is no improvement in Purbeck housing for local people in spite of the estates mushrooming on Northbrook Rd. Many new builds are bought as second homes for holiday lets whilst our clients have to endure winter in caravans at Herston Yard as a temporary means of accommodation.

As our Team works to provide for an increasing number of families, we have also suffered the icy conditions recently blown over Swanage by strong North-Easterly winds - without any heating in the Salvation Army Hall to keep us warm. The defunct boiler needed parts which the engineers could not provide immediately, so we suffered on for over 2 weeks. Our shelves were well-stocked at the start of January as our bins in the shops benefitted from donations of items possibly bought for Christmas. Thank you, Swanage!

But now we have some shortages to supply and would be grateful for donations of:

- Tinned tuna, tomatoes, chicken in white sauce, sweetcorn, baked beans, soup, fruit and rice pudding.
- Packets of microwaveable savoury rice, instant noodles, pasta in sauce, and jars of pasta sauce.
- We always welcome desserts such as jelly, instant custard, sponge puddings.
- Jam, marmalade, peanut butter, and savoury spreads are useful as is instant coffee (100g) and sugar.

I know there are purists who think we should not provide crisps, but they are a savoury snack which provides potatoes cooked in oil and can be low-salt and unflavoured for maximum benefit. The jury is out on these in 2024!

*Pauline Werba*



## A very Happy New Year to all in Purbeck from AQUARIUS in Corfe Castle!

### 9<sup>th</sup> January meeting

It was lovely to welcome back so many of our members to the village hall for our January meeting. It had been planned for Ann Whatmore, General Manager of "Why Jewellers" to deliver an eagerly awaited talk on diamonds. Sadly, due to circumstances beyond her control Ann had to withdraw, although we hope to welcome her at some point in the future. So, at extremely short notice our Chair, Sue Sedgley, stepped in with a very thought provoking and interesting talk on Buddhism. We were entertained with stunning photographs of temples, monasteries and a nunnery as well as key Buddhist teachers. Who knew that in Tibetan Buddhism women can have more than one husband, or that Buddhism is a philosophy rather than a religion? We learnt about a group of 30 Nuns that had to dine in two sittings of 15 as they didn't have enough bowls to go around and yet they still offered hospitality to visitors despite their own poverty. One of the highlights was the opportunity to try out some impromptu meditation, very relaxing it was too.

### 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Representatives of our two designated charities from 2023, 'Corfe Castle Surgery' and 'Livability', will be receiving cheques from Aquarius. In return they will be giving presentations about the work they do so that we are better able to understand the difference our donations will have made to the local community. Please feel free to come along as a guest if you are interested in this talk. See below for cost.

We will soon be choosing our next local charity/charities to support.

New Members – we are a friendly lot so come and join us!

Our Ladies Group is at Corfe Castle Village Hall every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm and we have a fun and sociable afternoon. Visitors welcome at £3 per meeting

We have a good selection of interesting speakers and our satellite groups include walkers, strollers, lunch club, 2 book groups and a textile group.

Email: [2008aquariusbodies@gmail.com](mailto:2008aquariusbodies@gmail.com) or telephone Sue Sedgley at 01929 289102



Are you living with bereavement or struggling to move forwards due to a loss? If so, you are invited to join our support groups, open to the community who feel they could benefit from meeting others and seeking professional, friendly support. Visit our events pages for further information:

- Wareham Bereavement group - <https://www.funeraldirector.co.uk/about/community/events/douch-family-bereavement-group-wareham-2/>
- Swanage Bereavement group - <https://www.funeraldirector.co.uk/about/community/events/douch-family-bereavement-group-swanage-4/>



## Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) works with the Practice Manager and the GPs at the Swanage Medical Practice to help improve and shape local health services. The Group is made up of patients registered with the Practice who have volunteered to get involved. We meet every two months - and we are always looking for new members!

The PPG met on 21 November 2023, when Ann Hadfield joined us to update us on the Steps2Wellbeing Service in Purbeck. We also met on 16 January 2024.

You can find more information about the PPG, including Minutes of our meetings, on the Practice website at: [www.swanagemedical.org.uk](http://www.swanagemedical.org.uk).

If you are interested in joining the PPG, please contact Natasha Ritchie, the Practice Manager, or email the PPG directly at [ppgswanage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgswanage@gmail.com).

### Flu Jabs and COVID Boosters

Flu jabs are still available at the Surgery for both those aged 65+ and those aged under 65 in at risk groups. You can book an appointment with the Receptionist Team.

It is also not too late to get your COVID booster - anyone eligible for a booster, who has yet to come forward, can still get their COVID booster at one of the remaining COVID Vaccination Clinics in Dorset. Further Community Pop-up Clinics are also being set up. To book an appointment, please go to: [www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-service](http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-service).

### NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check is a free check-up for those aged 40-74, which can tell you whether you're at higher risk of getting certain health problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease or stroke. Everyone who is eligible can have an NHS Health Check every five years. In Dorset, the NHS Health Checks Programme is overseen by Public Health Dorset - for more information, please see: [www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/nhs-health-check](http://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/nhs-health-check).

NHS Health Checks are now being offered by the Practice. Eligible patients are being invited to attend - so, when your invitation arrives, we urge you to take up this opportunity.

LiveWell Dorset is also offering Targeted NHS Health Checks at a number of locations across Dorset, including Swanage Hospital. To check if you are eligible for a

Health Check with LiveWell Dorset, please go to: [www.livewelldorset.co.uk/healthcare-professionals/nhs-health-check](http://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/healthcare-professionals/nhs-health-check).

### How to help yourself to keep warm and well during the cold weather

The local NHS has issued the following tips to keep you and your family warm and well during this cold weather:

- if you're not very mobile, are 65 or over, or have a health condition, such as heart or lung disease, heat your home to at least 18C
- keep your bedroom at 18C all night if you can - and keep bedroom windows closed
- if you're under 65, healthy and active, you can safely have your home cooler than 18C, as long as you're comfortable
- use a hot water bottle or electric blanket to keep warm in bed - but do not use both at the same time
- have at least 1 hot meal a day - eating regularly helps keep you warm
- have hot drinks regularly
- to reduce the risk of sudden infant, syndrome (SIDS), babies should sleep in rooms heated to between 16C and 20C
- draw curtains at dusk and keep doors closed to block out draughts
- get your heating system checked regularly by a qualified professional.

As well as looking after yourself, it is important to look in on vulnerable neighbours and relatives. If you're concerned for a person's health or worried they may have hypothermia, please contact [NHS 111](http://NHS111).

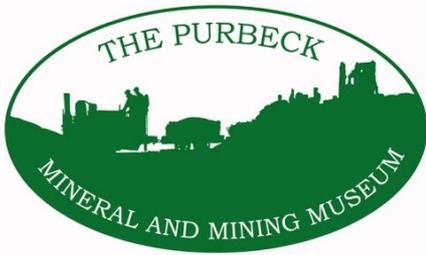
Be prepared for cold weather by keeping an eye on the forecast - for the latest updates, visit: [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk).

For more information, please see: [www.nhsdorset.nhs.uk/how-to-help-yourself-and-others-as-cold-weather-is-forecast](http://www.nhsdorset.nhs.uk/how-to-help-yourself-and-others-as-cold-weather-is-forecast).

Mrs Margaret Broadhurst (Dr Margaret Guy)  
Chair, Swanage Medical Practice PPG  
January 2024



Photograph reproduced with permission from Swanage.News



## From clay works to wood walks!

Keen to mark the museum's tenth anniversary by building on the successes of last year, volunteers and contractors at the Purbeck Mining Museum are continuing with preparations and groundworks in advance of reopening to visitors at Easter. The new woodland trails around the museum will certainly add to the visitor experience in 2024. Volunteers, staff and trustees of the Swanage Railway were recently able to see the progress with the new footpaths and viewing points for themselves as the museum's Chairman, Peter Sills, hosted a guided walk around the 25-acres of the Norden Woodland site. This included a visit to the area of a new view point over Blackwater Lake, a haven for local wildlife.

The new footpaths are the culmination of a lot of hard work and detailed discussions with Natural England and Dorset Council and will provide a gateway to longer walks to Corfe Castle and along Corfe ridge. Grant funding for the work has been provided as part of Dorset Council's wider Purbeck Access Management project.

Clearing the way for the new trails in this previously inaccessible woodland has proved quite challenging. In view of the area's association with Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology, extra care has also been taken to ensure any items of historic interest and mining artefacts from earlier mine workings unearthed during the works are carefully collected and recorded.

Norden Woodland was once a desolate and barren landscape as a result of earlier clay works. It is now a fully rewilded environment that has remained untouched for more than 50 years and is a home for many species of birds, mammals, insects and reptiles as well as a very wide range of fungi and a carpet of bluebells. The new trails intersect with existing public footpaths and will feature interpretation boards where there are specific points of interest. A refreshed clay trail is also being installed to enable visitors to access the trails directly from the car park. The work is expected to be completed in advance of the new visitor season.



Peter Sills (left), Chairman of the Purbeck Mining Museum, hosted a walk around the new woodland trails for volunteers, staff and trustees of the Swanage Railway. Photograph courtesy of Andrew PM Wright.

The Purbeck Mining Museum is always looking for new volunteers who have an interest in local history and the local ecology and who enjoy meeting people. For further information please take a look at the Museum's website at [www.purbeckminingmuseum.org](http://www.purbeckminingmuseum.org) or email [purbeckminingmuseum@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:purbeckminingmuseum@swanagerailway.co.uk).

For further information or any additional photos, please contact:

Ron Dyson: 01935 83622; [ron.dyson@auroracomms.net](mailto:ron.dyson@auroracomms.net)

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**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®** is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. ... Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.



This is still a very unsettling time. It is stressful for many people in many new ways. Some people turn to alcohol to help them cope and get through it. This can be more of a danger than a help to some of us. If you think you have a problem with alcohol we can help:

**IF DRINK IS COSTING YOU MORE THAN MONEY then we can help you.**  
**Please telephone our free Helpline today: 0800 917 7650**

# COFFEE MORNING



**CORFE CASTLE VILLAGE HALL**  
**10th FEBRUARY 2024 - 10.15am**  
**REFRESHMENTS - RAFFLE**  
**BOOKS - BRIC A BRAC - CAKES**  
**UNWANTED PRESENTS**  
**& WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE?**  
**BOOK A TABLE FOR YOURSELF JUST £5 – 480007**  
**[doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com](mailto:doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com)**



**It's not too late! You can still join in!**



November 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 - Corfe Castle Village Hall, East St, BH20 5EE

It is never too late to join the team – particularly if you can look like a younger man or just fancy helping back stage!

We are carrying out preliminary rehearsals and blocking for this new play on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (till 9pm)

*If you want to get involved in any way, please come along on those nights or if you can't make those dates just let us know that you still want join in.*

If you are looking for a new hobby and would be interested in joining our friendly safe group for any event, please contact David (chairman – 01929 480007) or email [doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com](mailto:doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com), for more details. New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome!



## BALL & SOCKET

SAT 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

At Wareham Scout and Guide HQ,

North Bestwall Rd, Wareham

Humorous and gently satirical songs, in the style of Flanders & Swann with a local and topical flavour

Adults £10 Age 10-16 years £5

Tickets available from AF JOYS, North Street, Wareham or phone 01929 556104



Supporting Girlguiding Purbeck Division to fund members attending international trips. This year Zelig Long is going on a trip to Malaysia

In the interval there will be tea, coffee and squash available, plus a raffle. Please bring your own glasses and refreshments if preferred

Girlguiding is charity no. 306016

## The Shaftesbury Tales

# Short Story Writing Competition

FREE to enter  
 FIVE age categories  
 TEN x £50 cash prizes  
 OPEN to everyone living in Dorset  
 FREE Creative writing workshops

In just 500 words....  
 capture the characters and intrigue, fun and drama  
 of Dorset in the Dark Ages

Deadline for entries: Midday on Monday 18th March 2024

Full details and online entry:  
[www.treehousetheatre.com/shaftesburytales](http://www.treehousetheatre.com/shaftesburytales)  
 or email [louisa@treehousetheatre.com](mailto:louisa@treehousetheatre.com)





Some stories will be adapted for performance in July: 'The Shaftesbury Tales', staged in villages and towns whilst walking from Corfe to Shaftesbury






[www.treehousetheatre.com/shaftesburytales](http://www.treehousetheatre.com/shaftesburytales)



At a recent meeting of the Dorset Network of Community Hospital Friends Groups I was pleased to present what I believe is a positive picture for Wareham Hospital in 2024.

Our garden project is receiving support from an increased team of gardeners and we will be progressing our work even further with the support of Simon Goldsack from Holme Nursery in February. The lovely garden is an important area of the hospital which will gain greater importance for a service recently started at the hospital. The new Eating Disorder Clinic will support families and it is anticipated that the garden will be a good space to visit during sessions.

We are also embarking on a new project to support the Community Mental Health Team who are aiming to move their base to Wareham Hospital alongside other Mental Health colleagues already based in the hospital.

This move offers the opportunity for more joined up working which we fully support particularly when mental health problems are increasing. We will be launching an appeal for funding to support this move.

We were grateful to the Wareham Town Council for hosting a Volunteer event at the Corn exchange in mid January when we were delighted to receive interest and potential support from new members and gardeners.

Keeping up the profile of Wareham Hospital and promoting the many services provided at the hospital (over 30 clinics) remains a key priority for us and I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who do support the Friends and Wareham Hospital in any way. We are especially grateful to those who supported our recent raffle which raised £160 for our funds.

Sending kindest wishes from the Wareham Friends

*Maggie Hardy, Chair*



## Corfe Community Kitchen

### Soup 'n Pud

**A choice of Soups and a Roll  
Followed by Puds with Custard**

**12.30 – 1.45pm**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

**Corfe Castle Village Hall**

**Come and join local friends for a simple, healthy, filling and sustainable  
Free Lunch**

**This venture is provided by volunteers, on a not-for-profit basis, in a  
friendly environment for local residents and aims to increase community  
spirit.**

**If you wish to make a donation, either financial or of surplus food, feel free,  
but it is not obligatory.**

Our January Lunch was well attended despite being a 'low month' when the weather and post Christmas blues often reduce support for activities, but not a bit of it! Many regulars and some new faces attended and enjoyed both the food and company. Once again we had some local veg. and fruit donations of surplus food which augmented both the soup and puddings.

This month we asked attendees, both diners and voluntary supporters, to tell us the reason why they come to 'Soup 'n Pud' and we had some lovely answers. I will be adding a different comment to my missive each month. Below is the first one!

**"It's warm and welcoming. Everybody very friendly. Food is delicious. What a lovely event for Corfe Castle Village."**

The next Soup 'n Pud will be on Sat. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12.30pm straight after the Coffee Morning and as always we welcome any extra in-date fruit, vegetables and tins and will use them wherever possible to avoid waste but regret that we can't accept any pre-frozen food as we are unsure of the relevant dates.

There will be the expected tasty food and friendly chat accompanying the choice of soups and puds with bread rolls, as usual, from the Village Bakery and we will have our happy band of volunteers helping with serving etc, without whom we would be unable to manage. If you would like to join them we would be very happy to see you. Remember that you get a lunch as well!

**WHY DON'T YOU COME AND GIVE IT A TRY??**



# Purbeck Connect Ukraine



Two years since the invasion of Ukraine, Purbeck Connect Ukraine is still supporting refugees who have made their way to this part of Dorset.



Indeed, there are still Ukrainian women and children arriving in the area, as the bombing of Ukraine continues and life becomes increasingly challenging for those who have remained in the country.

We continue to provide free English lessons for the adult refugees. On Saturday mornings, our Ukrainian school is held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Swanage, where Ukrainian children can meet one another, have fun and keep up their knowledge of the Ukrainian language.

Volunteers are still needed, for example to help with transport to appointments, or to assist refugees as they relocate from host families to rental accommodation.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme is still running and host families are still required.

If you would like to join in the work of supporting Ukrainians in Purbeck, please contact:

[purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com](mailto:purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com)

## Fundraising in aid of Purbeck Connect Ukraine

### Keiths Live Music Gig

Thursday 18th January 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Featuring

7.45 Terry O'Callaghan

8.25 Bob Stephens

9 Eliza Alder

9.30 The Big Band

Newton Manor Hall

Keith's Live Music Gig

donations to go to

Purbeck Connect Ukraine



Plus  
Performance by local Ukrainian singer

**Thursday 18 January 2024**

Newton Manor Hall, 170 High St, Swanage, BH19 2PF

Come along – Enjoy the music – Soak in the atmosphere – Support our Ukrainian guests



**Also: Thursday 29th February - Open Mic**

## Wareham Whalers

### *The Shout*

Friday 23rd February, Durlston Castle, Swanage

Friday 1st March, St Mark's Church, Highcliffe

Friday 22nd March, Brownsword Hall, Poundbury

Concert starts 7.30pm



Celebrating 200 years of the RNLI with readings and songs.

For more information and tickets (£10) email:  
[wareham.whalers@gmail.com](mailto:wareham.whalers@gmail.com)



## ***Making Memories***

Dementia Friendly Café

meeting at the *Show Bar*

Mowlem Theatre, Swanage



from 10 am to 12 noon

on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month.

Meeting friends socially over a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cake with occasional entertainment a stimulating way to share memories and experiences with other people and their carers

**Dates for your Diary**

January 2nd & 16th

February 6th & 20th

March 5th & 19th

April 2nd & 16th



# DURLSTON NEWS

Belated Happy New Year to our fantastic Friends! January came around far too quickly and with the New Year, the weather decided to start off in a dramatic way. Will it ever stop raining?

We look forward to seeing you all very soon, all the best from The Durlston Rangers

## We are in need! Craft restock!

We would love to know if anyone has any 'crafty' items after the Christmas period that they would like to get rid of? With gifts comes ribbon and with Christmas cards comes great collage pictures!

Our Public Engagement Assistant Shannon is in the process of restocking our craft supplies for our many kids' activities through the year and if anyone has any 'crafty' bits and bobs, we would be very pleased to receive donations. From ribbon to stickers or unwanted pencils or crayons. Please drop any donations into the Castle or the Learning Centre.

## Water, Water Everywhere!

The Wildlife Area just next door to the Learning Centre is a lovely place to sit and look out across the pond and watch the birds on the feeders. However, the hide needs a bit of TLC, as after 20 years some of the boards have rotted which means leaks and water and over the last few weeks this has been particularly noticeable - we have a bucket under one hole, which is regularly filled! So we were wondering if there was anyone who fancied doing a repair job on the hide - we will provide the materials but just need someone to fix! Please get in touch if you might be interested in helping.

## Talking about Water....

The last three months we have seen 556mm of water dropping from the sky. This is more than usual in the winter (348mm is the 30year average). In 2023, only February and June were under the average amount of rain, and May and August about average; during the rest of the months an extra 40% or more was recorded, with March and July being almost twice as wet as the average. This makes the 2023 total 1279mm the wettest on record here at Durlston - that is in the last 36 years since measurements have been recorded.

All this water has led to the ground becoming very waterlogged and very soggy and in places very muddy! So to avoid most of this, the woodland, the clifftop and the tarmac to the Lighthouse are great alternatives to slipping around the meadows.



## Quarr Restoration

After almost 40 years the old Purbeck Quarr was in need of some refurbishment. Over the years it had replacements and running repairs - but not a wholesale refurbishment. So we were approached by Lynda Price about a restoration project (Linda was one of the early Durlston Wardens and was involved in the Quarr's original restoration in the 1980's).



A very bespoke project followed with Lynda involving a blacksmith, a sawmill, a woodworker and stone wallers - the Quarr now looks magnificent.

The funding for this came from the Friends of Durlston and the recent fundraising quiz at the Royal British Legion in Swanage. So a huge thanks to all those who supported. Also to Lynda (and her husband John) and her brother Alan who did all the woodwork bits and directed the lifting. For more of Lynda's original work pop to Tyneham to see what she did with the interpretation in the Old School classroom, Church and the surrounding farm buildings.

## Storage...

If you prefer an indoor construction opportunity, here it is. Storage is always a problem, and this is definitely the case at Durlston. So to get around this we are proposing to construct some cupboards in the Learning Centre Activity Room (which is used for meetings, talks, schools and activities) where we can put all that stuff nice and orderly. We have a PLAN; everyone needs a plan (so says Pooh Bear) but would be really pleased to have some expertise, skills assistance to build the wooden carcass with shelves and hinged doors.

## Volunteer help wanted for Stargazing events

We are looking for people to help the Rangers run the star gazing events over the next few months. You will be helping with selling tickets and serving people at the refreshment stand. It's helpful to have another pair of hands during the event and to keep the Rangers company! You will get free entry and can look through any of the telescopes and join Wessex Astronomy Society talk.

If you can help or for more info email Hannah on [Hannah.hastings@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.hastings@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

## Fancy being involved in the running of Durlston?

Each January the Friends of Durlston committee is elected and they are looking for new members. You do need to be a member of the Friends of Durlston. If you would like to know more, contact Katie Black (Senior Ranger) or Catherine Olive (FOD Chair) via [info@durlston.co.uk](mailto:info@durlston.co.uk)



## FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

December has been a fairly “quiet” month for the Friends but those of you who attended our AGM on a wet, blustery day in October last year will remember that several questions were raised by the Community relating to services at Poole Hospital. Dr Margaret Guy – who Chairs Dorset Healthwatch – offered to put the queries to University Hospitals Dorset and has recently been able to send me their response below which I am pleased to be able to share with you.

### Question:

Concerns raised that parking is difficult at Poole Hospital. “Are there any plans to increase the availability of parking at Poole Hospital? Could a floor/area of the car park be reserved for patients who have had to travel from Swanage and other more distant locations? Can parking prices be reduced, particularly for those who have to travel a long distance to get to the hospital?”

### Answer:

The number of car parking spaces on the Poole site is dictated by the Local Authority. We have recently reallocated staff spaces for patient use, in effect creating more patient parking. We link our car park charges to those set by the local authority and there is a formal agreement in place that does not allow us to discount the parking, as this would potentially take parking income away from the council car parks. We would not be able to dedicate spaces to a particular group of patients as there is

no mechanism by which we could reasonably administer this. We do expect more parking to become available once the reconfiguration of services starts in earnest in early 2025.

### Question:

Concerns raised about the out-patient booking centre at Poole Hospital including long waits to receive appointments after being referred; not being able to get through on the phone or being or being cut off when you do get through; not being able to request to be seen at other hospitals in Dorset.

### Answer:

Wait times differ between specialities but all patients are booked in turn. We now book across Dorset so as to even out wait times which may mean that people in Swanage are offered the next available appointment at any of the UHD sites. With regards to the phone lines, we aim to have 2 people logged into the phone lines at any one time as a minimum, but staff shortages do not always allow this. It is worth noting that when waiting on the lines, it does give patients another number to be able to text into should they wish to as an alternative method of communication.

The Friends Committee continue to “lobby” the Acute Hospitals and our NHS Commissioners for the return of clinics to Swanage Hospital and I will keep you updated on progress.

Within the Hospital we have commissioned a Feasibility study to look at options for the reconfiguration of the former Endoscopy Suite and look forward to working with Dorset HealthCare to make best use of the available space.

Take care, keep warm and please remember, for your outpatient appointments to ask if you can be seen at Swanage Hospital.

*Deirdre Selwyn. Chair, Swanage Hospital FSH*



## Citizens Advice Here to Help with Winter Worries

Swanage and Purbeck residents are reminded that there is help and support available this winter:

### Alternative Fuel Grant

You may be eligible for financial support to help with your energy costs if you

- Have no mains gas and use coal, oil, wood or gas bottles to heat your home
- Live in a park home
- Live in a house with multiple occupation (HMO)
- Are from the traveller community

Visit our website [www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk) for more information, or call into our outreaches and offices where an adviser can help. You can also visit our Advice Bus at Swanage Market, Friday 10am-12pm. No appointment is necessary.

## Energy Advice

Many people are feeling anxious and worried about paying their energy bills. Our energy advisers can help if you are struggling. We can check to see if you are eligible for extra income or benefits and we can also offer energy saving tips and advice. To speak to an energy adviser, call the Energy Line on 01929 775500, leave a message and someone will return your call. Or email: [energy@edpcitizensadvice.org.uk](mailto:energy@edpcitizensadvice.org.uk)

## Debt & Money Worries

If, like many, you have debts and find you can't afford to reduce these after paying your priority bills and essentials, seek advice as soon as possible. Don't feel you have to manage your situation alone. Our debt advice is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

We also hold free Income Maximisation advice sessions by appointment at locations across Dorset. Specialist advisers are able to advise on a range of money-related topics with the aim of helping people to budget and manage finances more confidently.

For more information about Citizens Advice services visit [www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk) or to speak to an adviser, call the Dorset Adviceline Freephone on 0800 144 8848, 10am-4pm weekdays.



We continued to thrive in the year 2022 to 2023 and we've done so much and that is all down to the fantastic group of volunteers that attend greengage every week.

We have managed to replant the old leylandii with a natural hedge and the majority of the plants are thriving; we are about to infill with new plants and weeding will continue to be vital this coming year. We have fully renovated all our plots, and they look the best they've ever looked. Our old raised beds have been cleared (thank you Town Council) and we will be having new ones soon. We now have a wonderful herb area, with many different species, and our bed with cut flowers has been very popular this year and people come in and pick them which is a wonderful link to community. Our wildflower garden looked lovely in spring and summer. developing year on year and Pete's pond is already colonised by allsorts of 'beasties' including newts and dragonflies!

We've had lots and lots of visitors. Many just pop in to have a chat, look at what we're doing, pick up plants and we've had our usual collection of veggie plants, annuals and perennials available for people who donate on a contribution basis and the income from these has been really helpful.

We were again invited to prepare the hanging baskets at Swanage Hospital. We also planted up the pots outside the hospital. These were very successful. We were also asked to help with planting outside the ambulance station. This is a job we expect to do this summer. We provided the town council with herbs on their displays - this is also a link we would like to see develop.

We were asked to host a garden session with Cubs and Beavers and these seemed to be very successful. This summer we hope to repeat them and do more if we can. At our Planet Purbeck open day we had a good number attend and there was a friendly, positive atmosphere as there was at the other open days we have had throughout the year. The Rotary Club and the Town Council also continue to be very supportive of Greengage and we appreciate their generosity both financially and otherwise. We are making good progress in raising the funds we need for the toilet refurbishment and the new building.

Back at Greengage the greenhouse has been heavily used right through the year growing tomatoes, peppers, house plants, starting off bedding plants beans, veggie plants etc and it is an amazing resource for us all.

We have a fully functioning website up and running and this has proved to be a very successful venture. We also have our Facebook page, and we use 'Swanage Matters' to advertise events. We also have lovely new postcards to give out to interested people.

I am sorry I have missed so much but there just isn't room to mention everyone and all the things we've done, but probably the most important aspects of Greengage are the friendships and mutual support which have really developed in the project particularly over the last year. In my view this is the way we go forward encouraging others to come and see us and in developing a real resource for Swanage.

What an amazing team of people you are and thank you for all you do to make Greengage Community Garden such a welcoming, positive and productive place...

In conclusion, the Christmas Fayre day raised over £800 and the wonderful Harmony Rocks choir donated £250 from their Christmas Concert to Greengage....Thank you everyone!

*Bob Walters Greengage Chair*



**DEADLINE**  
for contributions to the March 2024 issue  
of the Newsletter  
**FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2024**

*Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans*